

SALFORD

(Red jerseys, white shorts, red stockings)

1. DAVID WATKINS
 2. KEITH FIELDING
 3. SAM TURNBULL
 4. CHRIS HESKETH
 5. MAURICE RICHARDS
 6. JOHN BUTLER
 7. STEVE NASH
 8. MIKE COULMAN
 9. P. O'NEILL
 10. HAROLD HENNEY
 11. BOB IRVING
 12. COLIN DIXON
 13. ERIC PRESCOTT
- Subs. from GORDON GRAHAM
STEVE RULE
STUART WILLIAMS

OLDHAM

1. M. MURPHY
2. U. STONDIN
3. P. LARDER
4. P. WARD
5. K. JACKSON
6. J. BLAIR
7. A. BATES
8. C. CHARLES
9. R. O'MAHONEY
10. P. FRODSHAM
11. F. HALL
12. S. HERBERT
13. P. JEWITT
- 14.
- 15.

Referee: Mr. W. H. THOMPSON

Touch Judges: Mr. G. E. Lightfoot and J. Mannion

Half-time:

Attendance:

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SALFORD



15p

SCENE



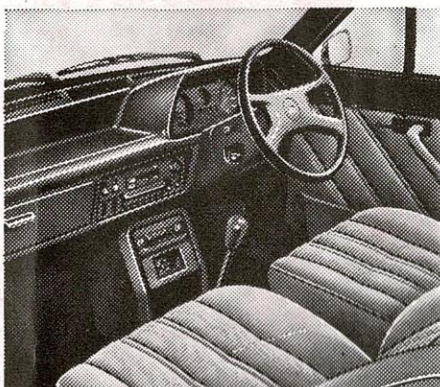
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ALEXANDER THE GREAT!



ALEX MURPHY rules O.K.—that's the message from Salford's new coach as the 1978-79 season swings into action tonight.

It's a season that promises so much and there is already an eager sense of anticipation at the Willows with the mercurial Alex at the helm.

Love him or hate him there can't be any Salford fan who can dispute Murphy's magic—and here's hoping some of his success rubs off on the Reds this season.

Salford's swoop for Murphy from Warrington was the biggest Rugby League sensation of the summer... even knocking the Test match and Wimbledon off the headlines!

Alex, who takes over from Stan McCormick as coach says earnestly, "I am really looking forward to the new challenge but I hope the fans will be patient. I haven't got a magic wand and there won't be instant success.

"Everybody will be given a chance and already I can see there is plenty of

ability at the club. But there will be no room for shirkers..."

Murphy has been one of Rugby League's greatest personalities since signing for St. Helens as a 16-year-old and, after a glittering career at Knowsley Road, moved to Leigh where he led them to a Wembley success over Leeds in 1971—picking up the Lance Todd Trophy for the man of the match in the bargain.

Alex moved to Warrington as player-coach after that final victory and spent seven seasons at Wilderspool until Salford persuaded him to take over at the Willows.

He becomes the eighth coach in recent seasons at Weaste following Cliff Evans, Les Bettinson (twice), Colin Dixon and Stan McCormick with Chris Hesketh and Alan McInnes acting in caretaker capacities.

Alex faces a tough job but one thing is certain... there should never be a dull moment for the next nine months!

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Secretary: G. ATKINSON

Coaching Staff

Coach: A. MURPHY. *Ass. Coach:* A. McINNES
 'A' Team: G. T. REES, Colts: I. EDWARDS, D. MOSES.

Physiotherapist: D. WRIGHT

Groundsmen

The Willows: D. MOSES Urmston: G. COPE

Professional Playing Staff

S. NASH, Captain

J. BUTLER, G. BAILEY, M. COULMAN, C. DIXON, K. FIELDING, G. GRAHAM, A. GRICE,
 D. HALLAS, C. HESKETH, D. HARRIS, S. HAY, H. HENNEY, R. IRVING, J. JONES,
 J. KNIGHTON, D. LANG, C. McGREAL, G. MAYOR, A. OLDHAM, D. OGLE, P. O'NEILL,
 E. PRESCOTT, M. RICHARDS, S. RULE, R. SMITH, S. TURNBULL, C. WAINWRIGHT,
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CLUB RECORDS

Highest win 78-0 v. Liverpool City.

Highest defeat: 0-59 v. St. Helens, 1952.

Highest attendance: 26,470 v. Warrington (R.L. Cup), 13th Feb., 1937.

CLUB RECORD HOLDERS

Points in club career: D. Watkins 2,599 (at the end of 1976/77 season).

Points in a season: D. Watkins 493 in 1972-73.

Tries in a season: R. Brown 46 in 1933-34, K. J. Fielding 46 in 1973-74.

Tries in a season by a full-back: H. P. Charlton 33 (including 2 representative) in 1972-73
 (World Record).

Goals in a season: D. Watkins 221 in 1972-73 (World record).

Points in a match: J. Lomas 39 in 1907

Goals in a match: A. J. Risman 13 in 1933 and 1940; D. Watkins 13 in 1972.

Longest playing sequence: D. Watkins 140 matches from 12 Apr. 1971 to 25 Apr. 1974.

Longest scoring sequence: D. Watkins 92 matches from 18 Aug. 1972 to 25 Apr. 1974.
 (R.L. record)

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship: 1914, 1933, 1937, 1939, 1974, 1976. Runners-up 1902, 1903,
 1904, 1934.

Rugby League Challenge Cup: 1938. Runners-up: 1900, 1902, 1903, 1906, 1939, 1969.

Lancashire League Championship: 1933, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1939; Runners-up: 1914, 1930, 1970.

Lancashire County Challenge Cup: 1931, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1972; Runners-up: 1929, 1938,
 1973, 1974, 1975.

Player's No. 6 Trophy: Runners-up: 1973.

BBC 2 Floodlit Trophy: 1975.

Premiership: Runners-up: 1976.

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OLDHAM SCENE

by DON YATES

SALFORD'S quest for cup glory commences this evening with the visit of Oldham to the Willows in the opening round of the Lancashire Cup.

Oldham's recent record in this competition is far from impressive for they have not won a single Lancashire Cup-tie since reaching the final way back in 1968.

Only two members of Oldham's 1968 cup final team are likely to be included in tonight's line-up, they are full back Martin Murphy and centre Phil Larder. Murphy has just completed his benefit season with Oldham having been signed in December 1966 from Astley and Tyldesley Colliery amateurs. His tremendously distinguished career at Watersheddings has included two appearances for Lancashire and a trip to Perpignan in 1974 when he scored a try for England in their 11-9 victory over France.



Ex-Salford centre Phil Ward, whom Oldham bought from Swinton at the end of last season, scored seven tries in ten appearances

Picture: Oldham Chronicle

Although representative recognition has so far eluded Larder, he, too, has been a grand servant to Oldham since joining them from Sale RUFC in August 1968. He has been a prolific points scorer throughout his career and last season he was Oldham's top try scorer with 18 touchdowns.

Despite missing the second half of last season with a broken jaw collected on Boxing Day, winger Uri Stondin still ended the campaign as his club's top point scorer with five tries and 55 goals, 125 points from 19 appearances. Stondin is a strong running attacker who was signed from Oldham RUFC in March 1977.

Oldham's best signing of last season was that of Phil Ward, the speedy threequarter who began his professional career here at the Willows in September 1971 when Salford signed him from Loughborough Colleges RUFC. Twenty-eight year old Ward was later transferred to Bradford Northern and then Swinton before moving to Oldham last February when he displayed excellent form to score seven tries from ten appearances.

A feature of this evening's cup-tie is the clash of rival scrum-halves Steve Nash and Alan Bates for it is around Bates that many of the Oldham moves stem. Thirty-four-year-old Bates has spent most of his professional career with Dewsbury, winning a Championship medal with them in 1973 before gaining international honours and touring Australasia with Britain in 1974. In all Bates has played in four tests for Britain and in five matches for Yorkshire and this experience was one of the reasons why Oldham moved in to buy him last September.

There is also plenty of experience in the Oldham pack which includes at prop Chris Charles, the former St. Helens player whom Oldham signed last January in an effort to add weight and strength to their front row. Twenty-eight year old Charles began his rugby career with Llanelli RUFC, turning professional in August 1974 and gaining plenty of experience with Saints before joining Oldham for that bargain £1,500 fee.

The second former Salford player in the Oldham line-up is 29-year-old prop Peter Frodsham, a former West Park RUFC forward, who moved to Watersheddings 12 months ago for £1,000 after being unable to command a regular first team spot here at the Willows.



Prop Peter Frodsham... another former Salford man who will be returning to the Willows in the Oldham pack

Picture: Oldham Chronicle

Oldham's most consistent performer last season was second-row forward Fred Hall who proved without doubt that he has completely recovered from a crippling knee injury. Hall is a product of the Waterhead amateur club which is situated at Watersheddings' doorstep but it was with Blackpool Borough that he turned professional ten years ago, moving back to Oldham in January 1973 for a £700 transfer fee which he has since repaid several times over.

Alongside Hall Oldham have the speedy Steve Herbert, an outstanding 21-year-old prospect who was signed from Leigh Colts in February 1975. He is a former England schoolboy star about whom plenty should be heard in the not too distant future.

As can be seen the Oldham management have spent wisely during the past 12 months or so with the result that the Oldham line-up is certainly much stronger than their Second Division status would indicate. Salford therefore must not underestimate the opposition in this match which promises to be a rousing start to the 1978-79 campaign.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

THE REFEREE for this evening's encounter is 44-year-old Billy Thompson from Linthwaite, Huddersfield, the 1977 and 1978 Trumanns Steel Referee of the Year and the man generally regarded as the World's No. 1 official. Mr Thompson has been refereeing since 1963 and he reached Grade One status in 1970. He officiated at the World Championship campaigns in Britain in 1970, France in 1975 and in Australasia in 1977 when he refereed the World Championship Final. He has also refereed 17 major domestic cup finals including eight Lancashire Cup Finals. Mr Thompson is married with three daughters and is employed as an engineer with David Brown Tractors.

OLDHAM STATISTICS

Founded: 1875

Ground: Watersheddings

Colours: Red and white hooped jerseys and white shorts

Attendance record: 28,000 v. Huddersfield in February 1912

Record win: 63-0 v. Goole in March 1899

Record defeat: 2-54 v Wigan in August 1934

Try scoring record: 49 by Reg Farrar in season 1921-22

Goal kicking record: 219 by Bernard Ganley in season 1957-58

Points scoring record: 463 by Bernard Ganley in season 1957-58

HONOURS

Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, and 1926-27

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59

Second Division Championship: 1963-64.

BACK IN BUSINESS

By BRIAN BATTY of the Daily Mail



AUSTRALIA'S eagerly awaited tour this autumn comes after the League has celebrated its most successful season for a decade.

there is a high note of optimism in the air which generated from Chapeltown Road as the game's officials, fans and players reflected on the encouraging aspects of a revival of enthusiasm and enterprise.

The mood, the response and the reasons for facing up to the future with more than mere hope was captured at the climax last May when the BBC 2 channel presented one of its best programmes on the game.

This overdue recognition was a fitting backcloth to the scenes of action on and off the field beginning in the vigorous roots of the British Amateur Rugby League to the polish applied by the professionals.

League secretary David Oxley was able to take both a happy look over his shoulder and a healthy look into the future and what most of us hope is on the horizon.

"There has been an encouraging rise in the standard of football, the crowds have kept pace with increases in every competition and things look a lot healthier," he reflected.

We have new champions in most of the competitions and I think that the main reason for the revival is that players and fans have adapted to the six-tackle rule.

"It was a radical change when we threw out the unlimited tackle and there was the unsettled spell with four tackles but now we are reaping the benefits of six tackle football.

"We can now look ahead to Australia's visit with hope and confidence. We have not won a Test series against Australia since 1970 but this could be our year."

Wembley again gave the season a tremendous boost with a brilliantly contested final between the holders Leeds and St. Helens and then came Bradford Northern making history to win the Premiership Trophy for the first time with their success over Widnes, First Division champions after a 104-year wait.

Bradford Northern's Harry Womersley bowed out as League chairman after two active and important years in which he played a big part in the scrapping of the ill-fated World championship with a move back to the more popular tours.

Wigan's well-travelled and dedicated director Sumner Baxendale takes over the role of chairman, anxious and determined to see the progress maintained and the game flourish.

There is no doubt that Great Britain are handsome favourites on home soil and can continue the revival by regaining the Ashes and success would be reflected in building towards the tour of Australia next summer.

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WELCOME ALEX



*From Salford Chairman
Keith Snape*

As Chairman of the Salford club, I should like to take this opportunity to welcome Alex Murphy to The Willows.

It was most apparent, following the disappointing events of the last twelve months, that we needed a personality of some distinction to take over. On hearing that Alex might be available, we did not hesitate in inviting him to join us.

The Board will be fully behind Alex to strengthen the team, but I should emphasise that much needed success from Cup Competitions has to be forthcoming to provide revenue for new signings. However, money will be found for the right type of player, should he become available.

Our Coach, despite his proven ability, will not wave a magic wand to bring immediate success, and I do ask you to be patient in giving him, and his team, your full support.

Skipper Steve takes charge

PINT-sized Steve Nash has been handed a giant task by new boss Alex Murphy... taking over as Salford's captain.



Steve replaces Chris Hesketh who has led the side since taking over from David Watkins.

Chris, the former Great Britain tour leader, will be vice-captain in a move that coach Alex describes as "looking into the future."

"Chris is a dedicated professional and has been a fine skipper but I was looking for a player who can captain the side for a number of years," explained Alex.

Certainly Steve is popular among the

players and his reaction to his new role? "I'm delighted and let's hope I finish the season by leading the lads up for a winners' medal at Wembley!"

GOOD EVANS! You can't keep globe-trotting Cliff Evans out of the news.

The former Salford coach moved during the summer to a new home—miles from Rugby League territory.

Cliff and his wife Mary left their home in Moorfield Road, the Height, for a retirement cottage in Pewsey, Wiltshire, to be nearer their children who all work in London.

Cliff, who joined Salford in the Red Devils era from Welsh RU, finished his playing career at Leeds before emigrating to America.

He returned to guide Swinton to a double championship success in their golden 60's and moved to St. Helens before taking over at Salford until ill-health forced him to quit.

Both Cliff and Mary taught at St. Luke's Primary School, the Height, until their retirement and last word from the jovial Welshman, "I'll always remember the many friends I made in Salford—but I hope to see the Reds in action again."



Mike's back in business

MIKE'S back and rarin' to go! The Salford international prop, who missed most of last season with knee trouble is fit again—and that could be bad news for the rest of Rugby League.

Mike returns with an added responsibility as pack-leader with Bob Irving as his deputy—and it's a move that could bring out the best in the giant prop.

Mike, who has played almost 300 games since signing from Moseley RU, appeared in only seven matches last season and his absence was one of the reasons Salford were able to finish only in sixth position.

But he has been training hard during the summer and suffered no reaction on his comeback in the warm-up at Leigh.

He had a cartilage operation in January but broke down in a comeback bid in the A team at St. Helens near the end of the season.



Reds swoop for trio looking to future

SALFORD'S plunge into the transfer market during the summer suffered an unusual reaction from the newspapers—they didn't hit the headlines!

But it should not be long before the Press boys are sitting up and taking notice of the trio of youngsters who have arrived at the Willows.

Paul O'Neill, Graham Jones and Ron Smith have soon settled in and look exciting prospects.

Hooker Paul, aged 18, has already tasted first team action since signing on the dotted line from crack amateurs Wigan St. Patrick's. He made his debut in the 21-2 victory over Swinton and impressed with his hooking and ball-handling ability.

Ron, 18, was also snapped up from Wigan St. Pat's and is a second row of great potential.

Loose-forward Graham Jones played a leading role in guiding Widnes Tigers to the final of the Barla Youth Cup at Blackpool and, within days of signing for Salford, was celebrating again—after being named the Barla youth player-of-the-year.

HOOKEER Dick Evans has decided to retire after being given a free transfer at the end of the season.

Dick, 33, was Salford's only ever-present last season and did not miss a match since signing from neighbours Swinton about 18 months ago.

Welsh international Dick was a popular figure at the Willows and we wish him all the best for the future.

H.C. COOKE

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TOM BERGIN

in the

'SALFORD CITY REPORTER'

New signings on the board

PLENTY of activity backstage at the Willows during the summer. Following Mr Brian Snape's "emigration" to the Isle of Man, his brother Keith has taken over as chairman and two new directors have been appointed.

Albert White is back for his second stint at Weaste. The former chief scout, who spotted Ken Gill, Ellis Devlin and Frank Stead in his earlier spell at the club, returned after occupying a similar post at Warrington.

Albert is joined by Stan Brierley, JP, a local businessman who played professional soccer in his younger days for Tranmere, West Brom and Mansfield.

DRAW for the first round of the Lancashire Combination County Shield for "A" teams (all two legs)—Salford v Wigan, Warrington v Leigh, Barrow v Swinton, Blackpool v St. Helens, Workington v Widnes, Oldham v Rochdale.

THE winners of tonight's cup clash will meet second division opponents in the second round next week. The reward for the victors is a trip to Whitehaven or Blackpool who also play tonight.

The full second round draw is—Barrow or Leigh v St. Helens or Rochdale; Whitehaven or Blackpool v Salford or Oldham; Huyton or Widnes v Warrington or Swinton. Workington or Wigan bye.

YOUNGSTERS interested in playing for the Colts this season are invited to attend training on Tuesday and Thursday nights and should meet at the Willows at 6 p.m. Ivor Edwards is again the coach and is looking for more local talent to try and emulate the recent spate of Colts who have signed pro. for Salford.

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FIXTURES

FIRST TEAM

1978		
Aug.	6 Sun.	Leigh (Charity)A
	8 Tues.	SWINTONH
	8 Tues.	SWINTON (Charity) ...H
	13 Sun.	Blackpool B. (Charity) .A
	18 Fri.	OLDHAM (7.30)H
		(Lancs. Cup 1st Rd.)
Sept.	1 Fri.	FEATHERSTONE (7.30) H
	6 Wed.	Huddersfield (7.30) ...A
	9 Sat.	Leeds (3.00)A
	15 Fri.	WARRINGTON (7.30) .H
	29 Fri.	BRADFORD N. (7.30) .H
Oct.	8 Sun.	Widnes (3.00)A
	13 Fri.	HULL K.R. (7.30)H
	22 Sun.	Leigh (3.30)A
	27 Fri.	WORKINGTON (7.30) .H
Nov.	1 Wed.	AUSTRALIA (7.30)H
	12 Sun.	Wakefield (3.30)A
	17 Fri.	BARROW (7.30)H
	24 Fri.	Castleford (7.30)A
Dec.	10 Sun.	ST. HELENS (3.00)H

	17 Sun.	Wigan (3.00)A
	26 Tues.	WIDNES (3.00)H
	31 Sun.	Rochdale H. (3.00)A
1979		
Jan.	5 Fri.	CASTLEFORD (7.30) ..H
	14 Sun.	Workington (2.30)A
	19 Fri.	ROCHDALE H. (7.30) ..H
	28 Sun.	Featherstone R. (2.30) A
Feb.	2 Fri.	LEIGH (7.30)H
	11 Sun.	R.L. Cup—1st Rd.
	18 Sun.	St. Helens (3.00)A
	25 Sun.	R.L. Cup—2nd Rd.
Mar.	4 Sun.	Bradford N. (3.00)A
	9 Fri.	LEEDS (7.30)H
	18 Sun.	Hull K.R. (3.00)A
	23 Fri.	WAKEFIELD T. (7.30) .H
April	1 Sun.	Warrington (3.00)A
	6 Fri.	HUDDERSFIELD (7.30) H
	16 Mon.	WIGAN (3.00)H
	22 Sun.	Barrow (3.00)A

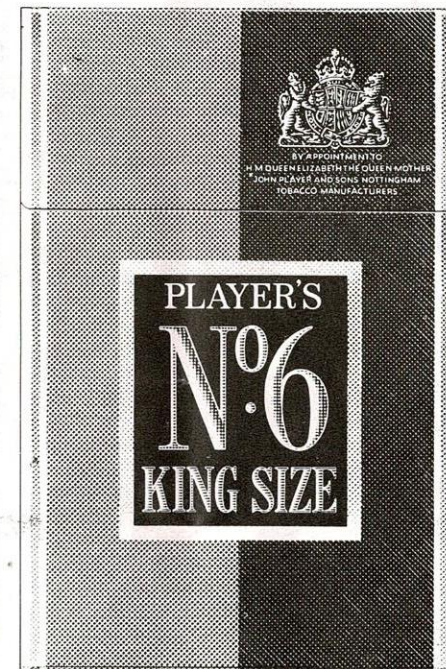
'A' TEAM

1978		
Aug.	25 Fri.	WIGAN (7.30)H
		(L.C.C.S. 2nd Leg)
Sept.	9 Sat.	Oldham (3.00)A
	16 Sat.	Warrington (3.00)A
	28 Thur.	Swinton (7.30)A
Oct.	6 Fri.	WIDNES (7.30)H
	11 Wed.	Wigan (7.30)A
		(L.C.C.S. 1st Leg)
	20 Fri.	LEIGH (7.30)H
	28 Sat.	Workington (3.00)A
Nov.	3 Fri.	WIGAN (7.30)H
	11 Sat.	BARROW (3.00)H
	18 Sat.	Barrow (3.00)A

	24 Fri.	OLDHAM (7.30)H
Dec.	1 Fri.	BLACKPOOL B. (7.30) .H
	8 Fri.	St. Helens (7.30)A
1979		
Jan.	13 Sat.	WORKINGTON (3.00) .H
	20 Sat.	Rochdale H. (3.00)A
	26 Fri.	Widnes (7.30)A
Feb.	3 Sat.	Leigh (3.00)A
	16 Fri.	ST. HELENS (7.30)H
	24 Sat.	Blackpool B. (3.00)A
Mar.	2 Fri.	ROCHDALE H. (7.30) ..H
	9 Fri.	Wigan (7.30)A
	16 Fri.	SWINTON (7.30)H
	30 Fri.	WARRINGTON (7.30) .H

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