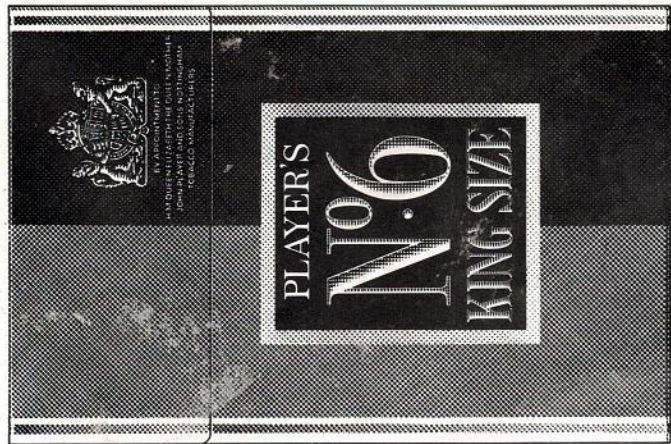


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SUNDAY 14th JANUARY
1979

15th April

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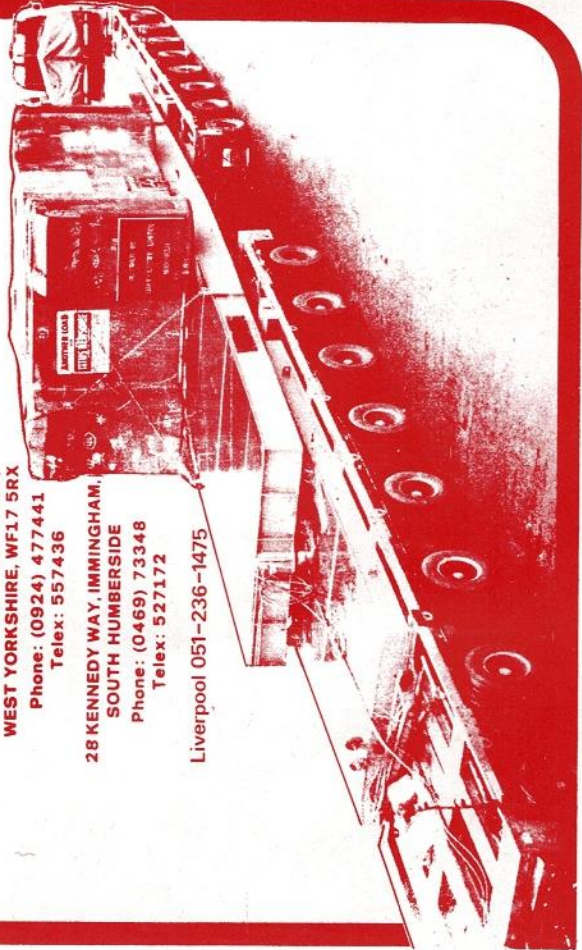
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Next Home League Match

BATLEY v HALIFAX

Sunday 21st January 1979

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

FOOTBALL TOPICS

WHEN the wintry conditions of the past fortnight struck — hard enough to wipe out the games against HULL here at Mount Pleasant and YORK away — it was the home postponed match which caused the headache, for having already missed a further home fixture with Keighley just before Christmas, due to their committed John Player tie with Widnes, a good gate was earnestly being looked to from the visit of the league leaders, with nothing forthcoming from turnstile revenue since the visit of YORK on November 26th.

Batley officials, after consultation with the Hull club on a possible re-arrangement date for the match, would have had to settle for a mid-week afternoon kick-off. The only alternative to this - which would have certainly been financial suicide if sticking to the mid-week home venue — was to assess any other options open. The outcome has resulted in a switch of ground advantage to the Boulevard, for Friday, January 26th, K.O. 7.30 p.m. when from this "home fixture" visit to the East Coast, the Mount Pleasant club will take the match receipts. It is a near identical situation to that experienced in December of 1967, when because of postponement of a scheduled league match here against Wigan due to frost, the Central Park club offered to play us at their home a second time in league football — we having been there before in October. This was to help us beat the league ruling of playing the original postponed game within 28 days; which would again have meant a mid-week 2.30 p.m. start, and also to assist our financial aspect which at the time had brought in gross receipts from three home games of only £230. This latest decision may not be acceptable to everyone, but in the light of circumstances, it is surely better to accept a possible five fold gate attendance in agreeing to it, than perhaps losing out altogether.

As of yesterday, the Challenge Cup draw was to take place. We have had the "bad luck" to draw several of the upper crust in recent years gone by. This time, if we have such a pairing, it could be quite important to us.

The last league outing was at Crown Flatt on Boxing Day, and although we were defeated in the end 25 - 5, Dewsbury did not have things as easy as they might have expected. Only in the last quarter of the match could they claim to have got on top, for we held them to five-nil at half-time and kept well in touch at 10 - 5 on the hour with a fine try set up by Brian Taylor, whose grand burst resulted in "back to the fold" full back Henry Oulton scoring a five-pointer under the bar from Taylor's astute inside pass. I wish the best of luck to the players and Dave Stockwell our coach in 1979, and hope that they will attempt to give their utmost towards arresting the run of defeats experienced to date.

We hope the weather holds fair following the quick thaw — enabling us this afternoon to welcome and entertain our friends from over the Pennines, OLDHAM R.L.F.C.

SUPER STAR NEIL SOARS TO THE TOP by Jack Bentley

Teenager Neil Holding is getting used to the Rugby League plaudits and honours being showered on him. But even the perk St. Helens scrum-half, still bright-eyed at his Under-24 Great Britain selection, became somewhat bewildered when he was the Daily Express/Hepworth Tailoring December Player of the Month.

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RUGBY LEAGUE COMMENT

by BRIAN BATTY of the "Daily Mail"

"They have continued to overpower the opposition by sheer physical fitness, a highly geared framework of team defence and constant physical pressure designed to create errors which they are trained to exploit."

This statement could quite simply have been applied to the recently successful tour of this country by the Kangaroos. But, in fact, it is an assessment of the qualities shown by the All Blacks on their equally victorious tour of the British Isles.

It may seem to many slightly absurd to introduce such a topic once again into League discussions but I feel it is rather significant in view of the reaction to Australia's Ashes triumph. So are the remarks on a two-hour training session directed by the All Blacks quietly-efficient coach John Gleeson — possibly a man out of the same mould as Australia's deep-thinking Frank Stanton — "It was a superb exercise in developing a physical machine in a peak match-winning effort."

And it must bring us to the same conclusion that Union, like League, in this country is getting left behind on the fitness level. There are a lot of arguments for maintaining that our players would find a harder training approach very unacceptable. Then there are claims that a lot of our players have jobs which vary greatly in the number of working hours and different timing, and do not leave them as free as the majority of Australian players during a season. We certainly do not want super-fit robots running around here devoid of skill and enterprise, and we must be grateful that generally there is a greater amount of skill witnessed in our games. Also our players are involved in a far heavier and more demanding programme in a longer season than that undergone by top Sydney clubs. This takes its toll in wear and tear, and also the mental aspect comes into it — but we have certainly got to make some improvements.

The age gap between the playing strengths of the countries in League also enters into it but this is something the Great Britain selectors can alter by striking a better balance.



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3. S. PRESLEY Right Centre
4. D. RIPPON Left Centre
5. A. TINGLE Left Wing
6. D. STOCKWELL Stand Off
7. J. PARKER Scrum Half
8. M. FRAIN Front Row Forward
9. Z. PIWINSKI Hooker
10. B. TAYLOR Front Row Forward
11. J. RANGELEY Second Row Forward
12. J. FOX Second Row Forward
13. A. WATTS Loose Forward
14. Substitute Back
15. Substitute Forward

Referee : MR. P. A. MASSEY (Manchester)

COLOURS : Blue and White

1. MURPHY M. Full Back
2. ELLIOTT M. Right Wing
3. LARDER P. Right Centre
4. LUND S. Left Centre
5. FITZSIMONS E. Left Wing
6. FRICKER D. Stand Off
7. OGDEN I. Scrum Half
8. CONNOR B. Front Row Forward
9. O'MAHONEY R. Hooker
10. HALL F. Front Row Forward
11. FORSTER A. Second Row Forward
12. HAWKYARE C. Second Row Forward
13. JEWITT P. Loose Forward
14. Substitute Back
15. Substitute Forward

Touch Judges : MR. N. CLARK (Bradford); MR. B. ROBINSON (Leeds)

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Batley Fixtures 1978-79 Season

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|---------|--|------------------|------|
| Aug. 20 | HALIFAX (E.Y.C.) — lost 24 pts. to 8 pts. | (H) | 3.00 |
| Sept. 3 | HUYTON — drew 6 pts. each | (H) | 3.00 |
| 10 | NEW HUNSLET — lost 13 pts. to 11 pts. | (A) | 3.30 |
| 17 | BLACKPOOL B. — lost 6 pts. to 12 pts. | (H) | 3.00 |
| 24 | JOHN PLAYER COMPETITION WAKEFIELD T. — lost 27 pts. to 2 pts. | 1st Round (A) | 3.30 |
| Oct. 1 | HULL — lost 42 pts. to 9 pts. | (A) | 3.00 |
| 8 | DEWSBURY — lost 30 pts. to 3 pts. | (H) | 3.00 |
| 15 | KEIGHLEY — lost 6 pts. to 24 pts. | (A) | 3.15 |
| 22 | WHITEHAVEN — won 8 pts. to 7 pts. | (H) | 3.00 |
| 29 | OLDHAM — lost 24 pts. to nil | (A) | 3.00 |
| Nov. 12 | BRAMLEY — lost 21 pts. to 2 pts. | (H) | 2.30 |
| 19 | DONCASTER — lost 18 pts. to 5 pts. | (A) | 2.30 |
| 26 | YORK — lost 33 pts. to 5 pts. | (H) | 2.30 |
| Dec. 3 | JOHN PLAYER COMPETITION | 2nd Round | |
| 10 | BLACKPOOL B. — lost 28 pts. to 10 pts. | (A) | 2.30 |
| 17 | KEIGHLEY — postponed | (H) | 2.30 |
| 26 | DEWSBURY — lost 25 pts. to 5 pts. | (A) | 2.30 |
| 31 | HULL — postponed | (H) | 2.30 |
| Jan. 7 | YORK — postponed | (A) | 2.30 |
| 14 | OLDHAM | (H) | 2.30 |
| 21 | HALIFAX | (H) | 2.30 |
| 26 | HULL | (A) | 7.30 |
| 28 | SWINTON | (A) | 3.00 |
| Feb. 4 | WHITEHAVEN | (A) | 3.00 |
| 11 | CHALLENGE CUP | 1st Round | |
| 18 | DONCASTER | (H) | 3.00 |
| 25 | CHALLENGE CUP | 2nd Round | |
| March 4 | HALIFAX | (A) | 3.30 |
| 18 | SWINTON | (H) | 3.00 |
| 25 | HUYTON | (A) | 2.30 |
| Apr. 1 | BRAMLEY | (A) | 3.30 |
| 8 | NEW HUNSLET | (H) | 3.00 |

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OUR VISITORS

With a home result last October reading a favourable 24 - nil, our Oldham guests will be confident of a similar reversal perhaps here today at Mount Pleasant, for they have a good record of league victories at our expense over the post-war seasons. Graham Starkey is at the moment seeing to things for the Watersheddings Club, following yet another "retirement" by David Cox. Graham has given great service to several senior clubs in his time as a player of course, and is a true Rugby League fanatic who encourages the juniors' popularity through his also being a qualified Coach.

Oldham had injuries galore at the time of our last meeting — and apart from one or two players who are no longer with them, there could be quite a few changes in today's side from that which gained victory on October 29th last, and which was as follows:- M. Murphy; U. Stordin, G. Munro, C. O'Brien, S. Lund; A. Bates, I. Ogden; C. Charles, R. O'Mahoney, I. Taylor, J. Reynolds, P. Frodsham and K. Flanagan. Our former colleague Colin North was sub back, with number fifteen being Barry Connor.

Oldham's record in the league reads:- P14; W7, D1, L6; points for 158, Against 226; League place 7th.

To add to that win against us, Oldham have had further league successes at home over Keighley, Dewsbury, York and Swinton — drawing also with N. Hunslet. Away wins have been recorded at Doncaster and Huyton. Heavy defeats by both Humber-side clubs were experienced at Hull K.R. - (67-11 in the John Player cup), while Hull won 61-10 in a further league game.

As to league games with us; some of the following particulars should stir memories for quite a few people.

AT MOUNT PLEASANT:

Season 1944-45, Batley 7 v Oldham 3; Season 1948-49, Batley 18 v Oldham 10; Season 1950-51, Batley 15 v Oldham 7; Season 1954-55, Batley 3 v Oldham 27; Season 1963-64, Batley 4 v Oldham 9; Season 1969-70, Batley 13 v Oldham 5; Season 1970-71, Batley 9 v Oldham 9; Season 1974-75, Batley 5 v Oldham 31; Season 1977-78, Batley 9 v Oldham 18.

Total: Batley 4 wins, 1 draw; Oldham 4 wins, 1 draw.

AT WATERSHEDDINGS:

Season 1944-45, Oldham 16 v Batley nil; Season 1948-49, Oldham 2 v Batley 5; Season 1950-51, Oldham 5 v Batley 3; Season 1954-55, Oldham 16 v Batley 3; Season 1963-64, Oldham 44 v Batley 7; Season 1969-70, Oldham 9 v Batley 7; Season 1970-71, Oldham 7 v Batley 10; Season 1974-75, Oldham 17 v Batley 2; Season 1977-78, Oldham 28 v Batley 13.

Total: Oldham 7 wins, Batley 2 wins.

Our biggest ever win against Oldham was in a home top-four play-off championship Semi-final match in 1924, 38 pts to nil - Harry Rees having a field day with 7 goals and a try to his name, and Batley moving on to become eventual R.L. Champions!

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