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8. Wally Jones
9. Alan McCurrie
10. Mick Morgan
11. Mick Worrall *COLE*
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13. Terry Flanagan

Subs:

14. T.B.A. *WILLIS*
15. T.B.A. *WADZEL*

Todays *mitre*
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Referee:
J. Mean (Leyland)

Touch Judges:
P.M. Oliver - Pink Flag
I. Ollerton - Orange Flag

LEIGH

Blue Jerseys,
White Shorts

- GOM*
STADINS 1. John Butler
2. Des Drummond
3. John Woods
4. John Henderson
5. Phil Fox
6. Steve Donlan
7. Shane Varley
8. Alf Wilkinson
9. Ray Tabern
10. Derek Pyke
11. Jeff Clarke
12. Tony Cotterill
13. *POTTER* ~~John Westhead~~

Subs:

14. T.B.A. *HENDERSON*
15. T.B.A. *ACEK*

| SCRUMS | | | | | PENALTIES | | | | | SCRUMS | | | | | PENALTIES | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |

NEXT MATCHES AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Thursday, 19th January, 1984, Oldham 'A' v. Wigan 'A' K.O. 7.30 p.m.
Sunday, 29th January, 1984, Oldham v. Castleford, K.O. 3.00 p.m.



Slalom
Lager

ABANDONED FOR FIGHTING?

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION ONE

OLDHAM

versus

LEIGH

SUNDAY
8th JANUARY, 1984
at
WATERSHEDDINGS
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory
Record defeat
Record attendance
Record receipts
Record transfer fee paid
Record transfer fee received
Record try scorer
Record goal scorer
Record point scorer
First game
Highest number of points scored
Most appearances
Most tries

67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
11-67 by Hull K. R. Sept. 78
28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
£9,100 v Wakefield 24th Feb. 1980
£18,500 to Hunslet for Mick Parrish Sept. 1980
£11,002, 10s. from Workington for Ike Southward Jan. 62
Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Bernard Ganley 28 points v Liverpool City April 59
October 21st, 1876 v Stalybridge
Bernard Ganley 2,881
Joe Ferguson 681
Pre 1900 Jack Hirst 233. Since 1900 Alan Davies 187

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55
First Division Champions: 1904-05
Second Division Champions: 1963-64 and 1981-82
Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27
Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69
Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55
Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76 and 1979-80
Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80

WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

A HAPPY New Year to you all as we look forward to this our first home game of 1984. The visit of Leigh recalls memories of how they won here in the first round of the John Player Trophy in November, which signalled the start of a rather disappointing run for the Oldham club.

However, there were signs at Leeds last Monday that we have perhaps started to climb up the ladder again. Though beaten 16-12 as Leeds chalked up their seventh consecutive victory under coach Maurice Bamford, we staged a remarkable rally in the second half to come back from 0-10 down and go into a 12-10 lead.

It took one flash of magic from John Holmes to finally beat us only ten minutes from the end as we showed the sort of form that served us so proudly in October.

Let us all hope that we have turned the corner and that we are now set fair for a good start to 1984.

The first round draw for the State Express Challenge Cup was due to be made on the BBC television sports programme, "Grandstand", yesterday afternoon, but it was clearly too late for inclusion in this programme.

We can merely hope the draw favoured us kindly when the balls came out for the first two preliminary round matches and the first-round proper. The tournament is worth £120,000 in sponsorship this season, £70,000 of which is put up as prize money.

Money is bound to occupy the attention of all clubs during 1984, and we are hoping the weather has been kind so that we can perhaps have a gate today to match the 6,000-plus that watched the November cup-tie between the clubs.

The postponement of the Featherstone game on December 11 means that we had only one home game during December — Salford on Boxing Day. The gate for that match, just under 4,000, was disappointing on a traditionally popular day such as Boxing Day.

As we have no game on January 15 and then we go to Wigan on January 22, we will have had only three senior games at Watersheddings between the visit of Hull KR on November 27 and the visit of Castleford on January 29.

Under such circumstances money does not come in too quickly and it is indeed vital that everyone associated with the club, and all who like to support it, tries to pull out a little bit extra to lend a hand.

One does not like to continually draw the attention of members and supporters to our various fund-raising activities, but it really is essential that they prove a success if we are to maintain our progress over the last few years.

One accepts that in the last few weeks our results have been disappointing, but most teams go through lean spells and it is during those hard times that a club needs the loyal support and backing of its "team" on the terraces more than any other.

The second-half display at Leeds was very encouraging indeed and if we are to confirm that promise today and in the matches ahead we could do with as much support as possible, both vocally on the terraces and in the shape of help for the lottery and the other fund-raising functions.

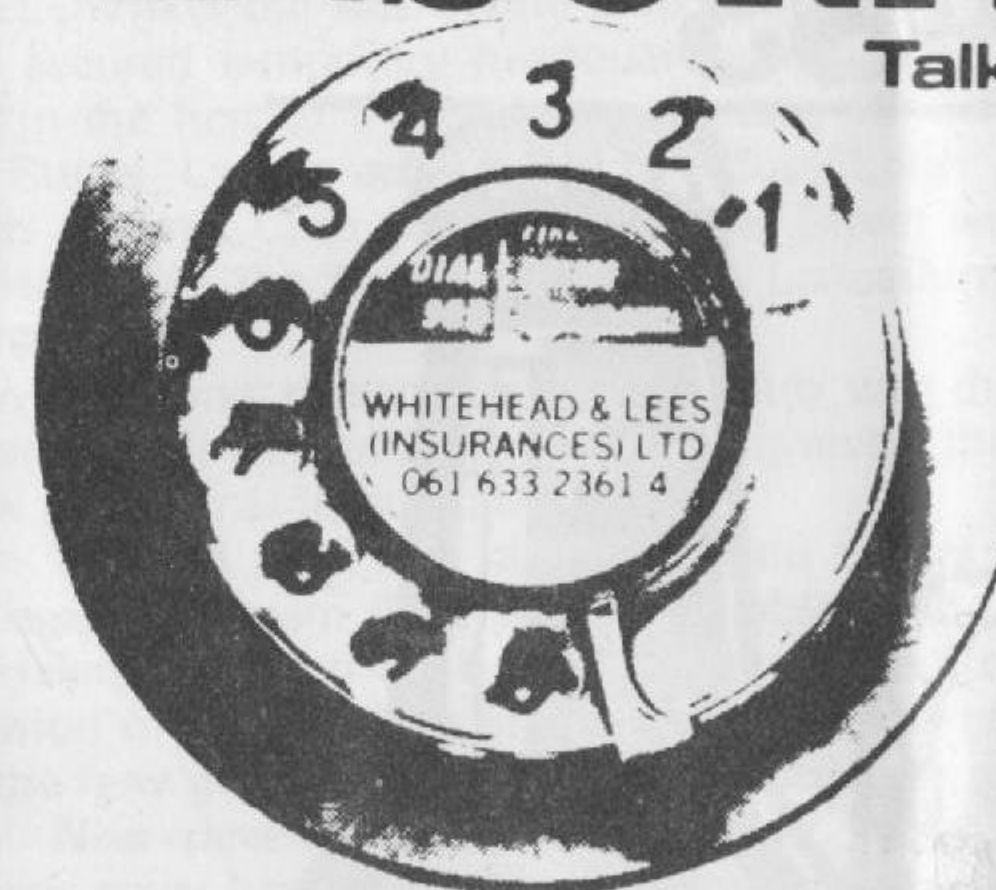
Our next home game is against Castleford on January 29 — the same week-end as Great Britain play France at Avignon in the first of the two Tests. As we have Andy Goodway, Mick Worrall and Des Foy in the squad for that Test, we might have to do without all three of them when we seek to pull off a notable double against the championship-chasers.

To make matters worse, Nick Wright might still be under suspension and Mick Parrish also faces the threat of a one-match ban for the Castleford game following his sin-binning at Leeds.

It was his third trip to the bin this season, each for a ten-minute spell, and that gives him six disciplinary points which is liable to earn him an automatic one-match suspension.

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HISTORICAL NOTES ON LEIGH

by Tom Webb

FOLLOWING the loss of the club's ground at Mather Lane during the last war, the Leigh club secured temporary headquarters during 1946-47 after being debarred from taking part in the first of the post war-seasons, 1945-46. Lack of a suitable ground had caused the Rugby League authorities to refuse Leigh admission to the league. Meanwhile the Leigh Athletic Club ground at Charles Street was secured and in 1945-46 Leigh defeated St. Helens in the first round of the Lancashire Cup before losing in the next round to Oldham.

In that first season the revived club was the last unbeaten one in the League, not suffering a defeat until November. However, the club only finished around the half way mark in the final league table.

In 1947-48 the Leigh club was again the last to surrender its unbeaten league record, and again the team finished in mid table at the end of the season. In the Lancashire Cup St. Helens provided the opposition in the first round of the competition, and this was the occasion of the opening of the Kirkhall Lane ground, now known as Hilton Park. Work on the new ground continued and permission was sought to provide covered accommodation. New developments still suffered from war-time restrictions and permission to provide cover had to be obtained from government bodies.

Tommy Sale was club captain at the time and he led the supporters in tremendous efforts to prepare the ground and after the opening game, to improve it and bring it up to the highest standards.

Following the resumption of the club's career, steps were taken to sign new players. Todd, Miller, Ackers, Woods and Kerwick were among the first new recruits when they joined Tommy Sale, Riley, Aldred, Pendlebury, Ryan, Daley and Coffey.

After Ackers was injured, Leigh signed Jim Ledgard of Dewsbury. The Leigh programme once described him as "Gentleman Jim, the 'Boot' ". Jim had started to play Rugby League football at the Sandal Council School, Wakefield when he was nine years of age. He did not start kicking goals until a couple of years later. He played for the Yorkshire Schoolboys and gained a county championship medal.

Joining the Wakefield Trinity Supporters' Club 15-16 side he then switched to Rugby Union. He was given trials at Leeds where Eddie Waring was the manager but the club decided not to sign him. Dewsbury obtained his services and after four years at Crown Flatt he moved to Leigh for a fee of £2,650, the then record transfer fee. He played his first game against Featherstone Rovers in that 1947-48 season kicking 13 goals, becoming an instant favourite at his new club. He later kicked 15 goals in a game for Great Britain against Wide Bay (Queensland) in 1950.

Other great stars joined the club, Trevor Allen the famous Australian Rugby Union star costing £5,000. He had followed Jeff Burke another Australian and Ken Beattie from New Zealand.

Rex Mossop, now a famous broadcaster in Australia also joined Leigh playing alongside Allen, Ledgard, Bill Kindon, Charlie Pawsey, Tommy Bradshaw and Owen Bevan, brother of the Warrington flier.

One outstanding signing caused more publicity for the Rugby League game than most others and his career was shorter than the rest. MacDonald Bailey, the great athlete was signed and the new floodlights were used for the first time for his debut with the club. However, other signings such as Malcolm Davies, Peter Davies, Foster, Breare, Kitchen, Hoskings, Robinson and company were to prove great successes with the club.

OUT FOR REVENGE

THE Oldham club will today be out to avenge their 20-12 defeat by Leigh in the first round of the John Player Trophy at the beginning of November.

John Woods and Steve Donlan put the skids under us on that occasion as Leigh knocked us out at the first hurdle, just as they had done at Hilton Park in the previous season.

Certainly, there is a keen and competitive atmosphere about Oldham-Leigh clashes these days, possibly the result of Peter Smethurst having coached both clubs in recent times.

An added tit-bit now could be the appearance of Adrian Alexander, who is at Hilton Park under Oldham's rent-a-player scheme.

Alexander played a big part in Leigh's march to the semi-final of the John Player Trophy, in which they were beaten by a Leeds team which we almost toppled at Headingley last Sunday.

The big Londoner was not in the Leigh side that beat Wakefield last week-end — Wally Lewis and all — but there is always a chance that he could make an appearance in the Leigh squad today, and that would certainly cause a lot of interest among our fans.

Since the cup-tie between the two clubs in November, Leigh have also obtained the services on loan of St. Helens and former Salford and Rochdale player John Butler, who played at full back against Trinity.

Des Drummond and John Woods form an all-international right flank while local lad John Henderson teams up with Phil Fox on the left wing.

Steve Donlan is proving a very useful stand-off half, indeed, and is certainly proving the wisdom of coach Tommy Bishop's decision to switch him and Woods around earlier in the season.

Donlan has a vastly-experienced and hard-tackling half-back partner in New Zealand Test scrum-half Shane Varley, who brought with him Jeff Clarke for trials.

Clarke quickly impressed at Hilton Park and now commands a regular spot in the second-row of the pack.

Alf Wilkinson, Derek Pyke and Alexander are chief rivals for the two prop places while local lad Gary Ainsworth and Former Fylde RU man Ray Tabern battle it out for the No. 9 position.

Tony Cottrell, signed from Leigh Miners, made his senior debut in the second-row against Trinity, partnered by Clarke.

At loose-forward, Leigh possess a teenager who looks to have a big future ahead of him, 17-year-old schoolboy John Westhead.

Points are vital for both clubs today and the result should be a keenly-contested encounter in which Oldham will be anxious to get their own back for the cup defeat, and also pick up First Division points after a run of only two wins in their last seven outings.

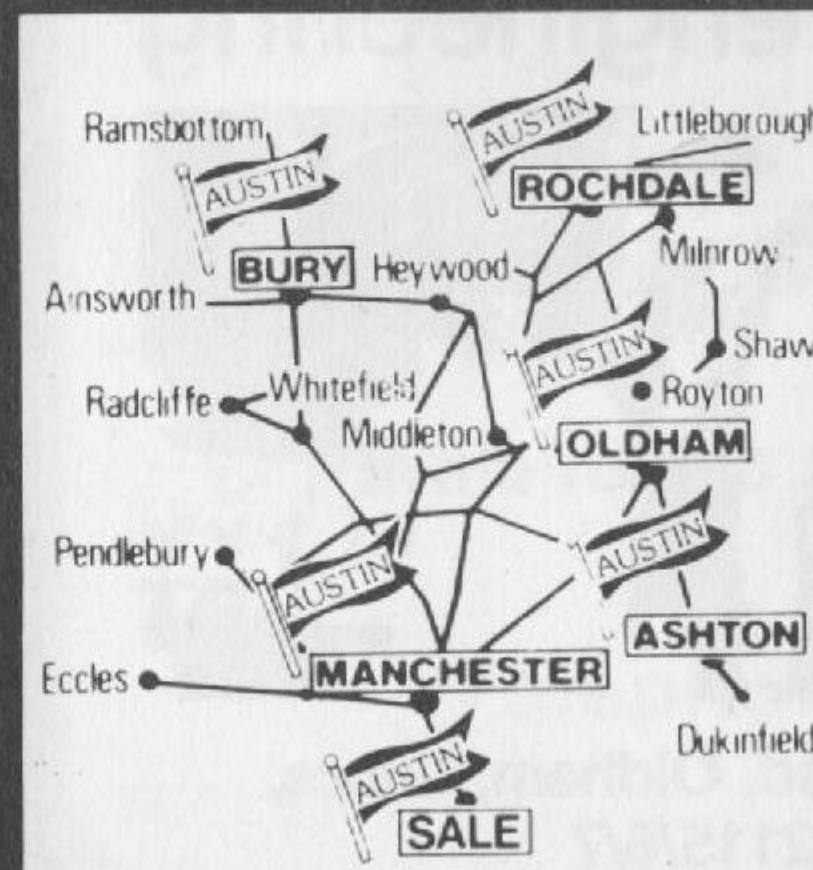


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The Supporters Club would like to extend to all its members a very happy and a prosperous New Year and to all supporters, players and committee members attending today's game with Leigh. A very special welcome to our visitors from Leigh. We extend to them all a very warm Oldham welcome and invite them to all our canteens and souvenir shop situated at different parts of the ground.

OLDHAM SUPPORTERS CLUB

AWAY TRAVEL

on

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unclass and in 200 yds. turn right
into Schofield Lane. In ¼m over
crossroads into Greenhaugh St. ¼m
farther cross river Bear then 1st
right into Hilton St. for Central
Park and Wigan R.L. Ground.

Our souvenir shop is situated at the pavilion end of the ground for the sale of Sweaters, £10.00 each; Sweatshirts, £8.50 adults, juniors £6.50; Scarves (Oldham), £2.75; Bar Scarves, £2.50; Ties, £3.50; Label Badges, 65p; Blazer Badges, £8.50; Bob Hats £1.25. Oldham red and white shirts with club badge on at different prices according to sizes.

Buy your SUPA-MATCH LOTTERY TICKETS at all our canteens on match days and try to win the top prize of £1,000.

On behalf of the Chairman, Committee and Players, we wish our Supporters a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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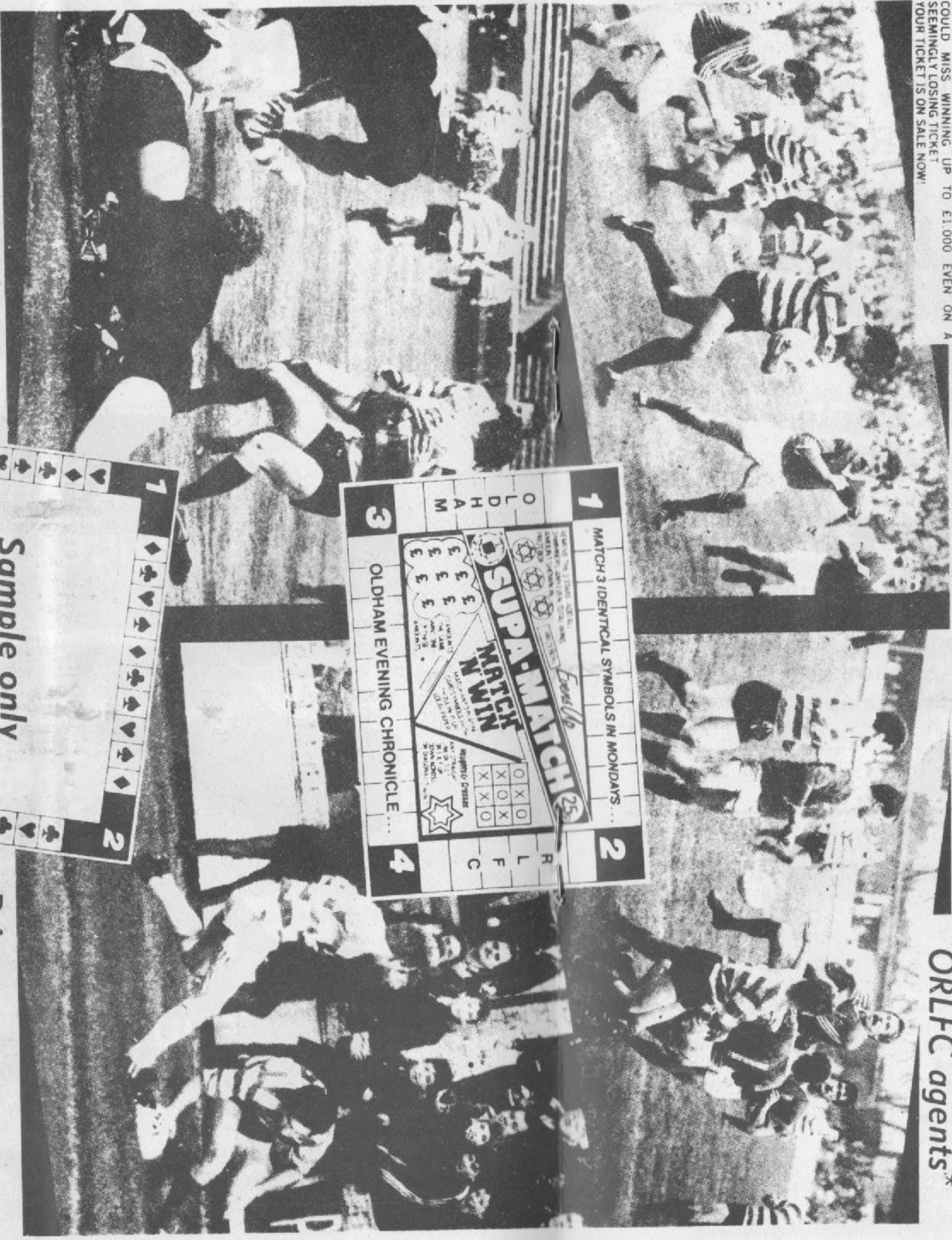
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FLASHBACK by Tom Webb*How many of our supporters remember the corresponding day 5, 10, 15 years ago?***FIVE YEARS AGO**

January 8th, 1979

Oldham had no matches from Boxing Day when Swinton were defeated 11-8 until February 28th when Ace Amateurs (Hull) were beaten at Salford. Oldham's ground was still unplayable until March 11th when Oldham defeated Huyton 22-5.

The Pennine Amateur Rugby League then consisted of five divisions. Oldham teams in membership were Saddleworth Rangers, Waterhead, St. Annes, Ferranti, Higginshaw, Fitton Hill, Salem Hornets and Shaw. Saddleworth, Waterhead, St. Annes and Ferranti also had "A" teams in the league. The Oldham and Rochdale Junior League included four under 17 teams and five under 25 teams from Oldham.

TEN YEARS AGO

January 6th, 1974 (First Division)

Oldham 1 1 5 Hull Kingston Rovers 0 2 6

Oldham: Murphy; O'Brien, Larder (goal), Wainwright, Holland; Treasure (try), McCone; Clawson, Taylor, Hall, Gregory, McCracken, Peters. Substitutes, Elliott did not play and Ashcroft for Peters.

Hull K.R.: Hall; Birrell (try), Dunn, Moore, Leighton; Stephenson, Hudson; Ramshaw, Flanagan, Millington (try), Rose, Wiley, Fitzgibbon. Substitutes, Nuttall did not play and Barnard for Ramshaw.

Referee, R. Jackson, Halifax. Half-time score 5-3. Attendance 3,338.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

Wednesday, January 6th, 1969 (League was comprised of one division only)

Warrington 2 2 10 Oldham 5 3 19

Warrington: Aspinall; Hutchinson, Conroy (2 tries), Glover, Allen; Ayres, Gordon; Ashcroft, McIntyre, Jones, Parr, Bootle (2 goals), Briggs. Substitutes Coupe and Carrington did not play.

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott (try), Whitehead (3 goals), McCormack, Larder; Davies, Canning (2 tries and 1 goal); Ogden, Taylor, Fletcher (1 goal), Irving, McCourt, Clark. Substitutes Buckley and Wilson did not play.

Referee, J. Hebblethwaite, York. Half-time 2-5. Attendance 3,463.



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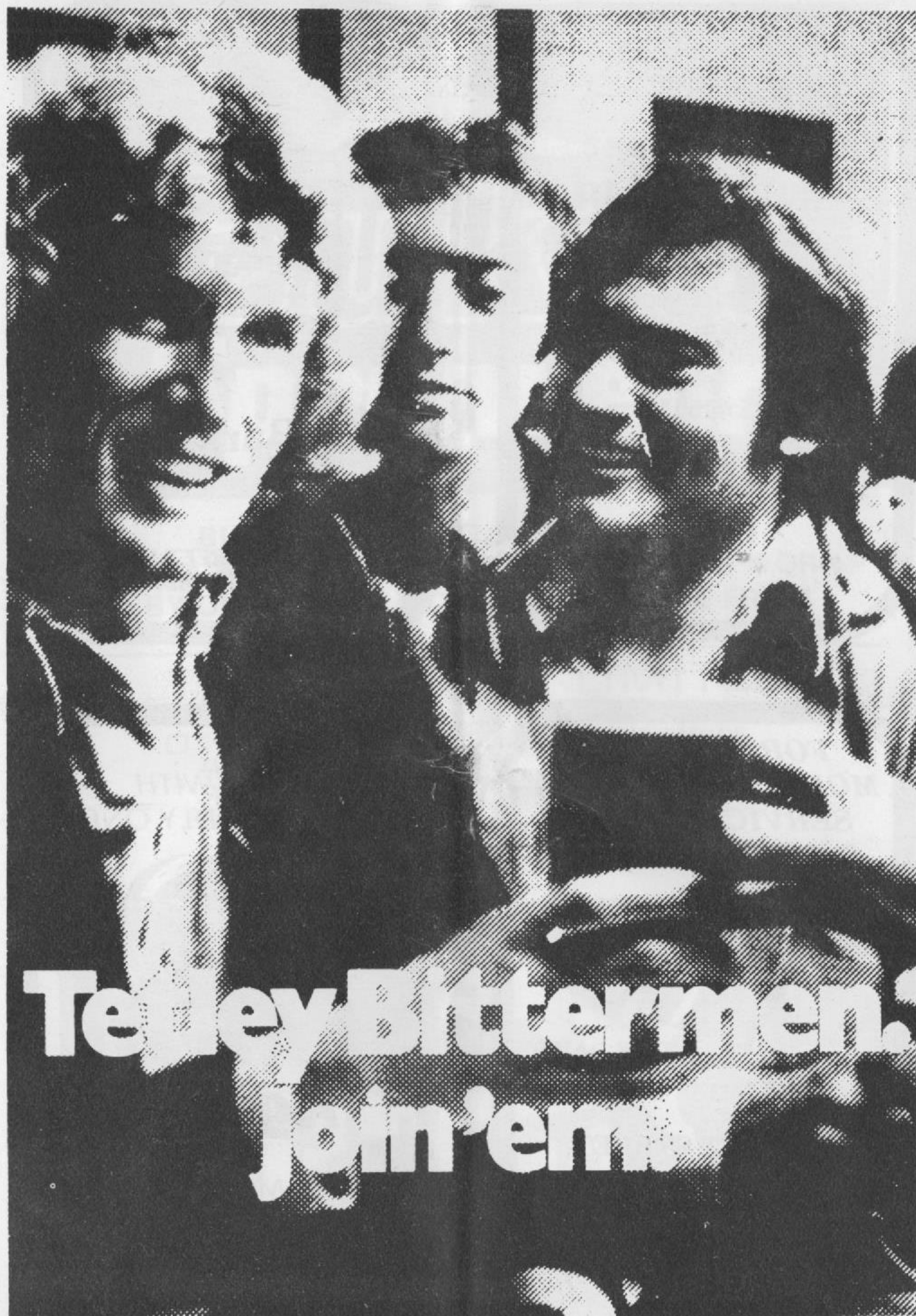
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BRIAN BATTY Daily Mail

IF you happened to blink when watching the BBC's Sportsman of the Year awards then you would have missed Rugby League's contribution to the programme.

There is even a possibility that you might have missed out altogether, having fallen asleep midway through the programme.

Now that most sports fans in this country — because of the growing recession — are down to their last yacht it was difficult to understand why so much time was devoted to the Americas Cup.

There were some pretty fine action replays of most sports but the boring interviews of Australia's crew in Sydney and Perth were out of proportion to the interest in such an event.

I hate to appear parochial yet again but Rugby League's moment of glory amounted to a miserly amount in comparison to that of Rugby Union and Soccer.

We all hailed Featherstone Rovers feat in the fairytale Wembley triumph. The BBC were glad to make a meal of the final on the day for the event caught the imagination of every type of sports fan among the millions of viewers.

Yet all we got on this programme was a flash of David Hobbs storming through for one of his two tries, Steve Quinn's winning goal and a glimpse of the Cup being collected.

That was it for the season or the year. What happened to the other many highlights of the season, including that Widnes win in the Premiership trophy with Tony Myler showing his magic and power.

The feat of Hull in lifting the Slalom Lager title and Henderson Gill's superb try to take Wigan to their John Player trophy success.

In comparison other sports, many considered in the minority bracket, got a fair showing.

Once again Rugby League fans, players and officials can regard this as a snub considering the coverage the BBC are happy to give on a Saturday afternoon.

I know that commentator Ray French is repeatedly putting up ideas to the BBC to promote aspects of the game and would have welcomed fairer and more just recognition of the sport.

OLDHAM R.L.F.C. FIXTURES 1983-84

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| 1983 | | |
| Aug. 14 | St. Helens (Friendly) (3.00) | H 10-32 |
| 21 | Leeds (3.00) | H 25-16 |
| 28 | Bradford N. (3.00) | A 8-14 |
| Sept. 4 | Lancs. Cup (1) Workington | H 26-20 |
| 11 | Featherstone R. (3.30) | A 24-16 |
| 14 | Lancs. Cup (2) Swinton | A 6-8 |
| 18 | Fulham (3.00) | H 30-12 |
| 25 | Hull K.R. (3.00) | A 18-18 |
| Oct. 2 | St. Helens (3.00) | H 32-6 |
| 9 | Widnes (3.00) | H 10-20 |
| 19 | Castleford (7.30) | A 18-16 |
| 23 | Hull (3.00) | H 18-12 |
| 30 | Warrington (3.00) | A 22-22 |
| Nov. 6 | JOHN PLAYER(1)(Leigh) | H 12-20 |
| 13 | Wigan (3.00) | H 8-4 |
| 20 | Fulham (3.00) | A 4-21 |
| 27 | Hull K.R. (3.00) | H 10-18 |
| Dec. 4 | Leigh (3.30) | A P |
| 11 | Featherstone R. (3.00) | H P |
| 18 | Wakefield T. (3.30) | A 22-28 |
| 26 | Salford (3.00) | H 18-6 |
| 1984 | | |
| Jan. 2 | Leeds (3.00) | A 12-16 |
| 8 | Leigh (3.00) | H |
| 22 | Wigan (3.00) | A |
| 29 | Castleford (3.00) | H |
| Feb. 5 | Hull (3.00) | A |
| 12 | STATE EXPRESS CHAL. CUP (1) | |
| 19 | Whitehaven (3.30) | A |
| 26 | STATE EXPRESS CHAL. CUP (2) | |
| Mar. 4 | Bradford Northern (3.00) | H |
| 11 | | |
| 18 | Warrington (3.00) | H |
| 25 | Whitehaven (3.00) | H |
| Apr. 1 | St. Helens (3.00) | A |
| 8 | Widnes (3.00) | A |
| 15 | Wakefield T. (3.00) | H |
| 20 | Salford (3.00) | A |

COLTS FIXTURES

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|---|
| 1983 | | |
| Aug. 20 | Leeds (3.00) | H |
| 27 | Bradford N. (3.00) | A |
| Sept. 3 | Wigan (3.00) | H |
| 10 | Cardiff C. (3.00) | A |
| 17 | Barrow (3.00) | H |
| 24 | Hull K.R. (3.00) | A |
| Oct. 1 | | |
| 8 | Bramley (3.00) | H |
| 15 | Castleford (3.00) | A |
| 22 | Hunslet (3.00) | H |
| 29 | Halifax (3.00) | A |
| Nov. 5 | Huddersfield (3.00) | H |
| 12 | Rochdale H. (2.30) | A |

A TEAM FIXTURES

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1983 | | |
| Aug. 11 | St. Helens (Friendly) (7.30) | A P |
| 17 | Oldham Amateur R.L. (7.30) | H 40-2 |
| 26 | Lancashire Amateur R.L. (7.30) | H P |
| Sept. 2 | | |
| 10 | Barrow (3.00) | H 20-16 |
| 15 | Swinton (LRCS 1st leg) (7.30) | A 26-16 |
| 23 | Salford (7.30) | H 30-24 |
| 29 | St. Helens (7.30) | A 8-28 |
| Oct. 7 | Widnes (7.30) | A 12-28 |
| 13 | Warrington (7.30) | H 30-12 |
| 20 | Swinton (LRCS 2nd Leg) (7.30) | H 8-0 |
| 27 | Lancs. Amateur R.L. (7.30) | H 22-9 |
| Nov. 4 | | |
| 9 | Wigan | A 30-32 |
| 17 | Saddleworth ARLFC | H 40-7 |
| 25 | | |
| Dec. 1 | Leigh (7.30) | A P |
| 9 | Widnes (7.30) (Lancs. Shield) | A 14-8 |
| 15 | Swinton (7.30) | H 12-12 |
| 21 | Widnes (7.30) (Lancs. Shield) | H 14-8 |
| 30 | | |
| 1984 | | |
| Jan. 5 | Leigh (7.30) | A |
| 12 | | |
| 19 | Wigan (7.30) | H |
| 26 | | |
| Feb. 3 | Warrington (7.30) | A |
| 9 | | |
| 16 | St. Helens (7.30) | H |
| 25 | Barrow (2.30) | A |
| Mar. 1 | Swinton (7.30) | A |
| 8 | | |
| 16 | Salford (7.30) | A |
| 22 | Widnes (7.30) | H |
| 29 | | |

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|
| 19 | Wakefield T. (2.30) | A |
| 25 | Hull (2.30) | H |
| Dec. 3 | St. Helens (2.30) | A |
| 10 | Salford (2.30) | H |
| 17 | York (2.30) | A |
| 24 | | |
| 31 | | |
| 1984 | | |
| Jan. 2 | | |
| 7 | Leigh (2.30) | A |
| 14 | Colts Chal. Cup, Prelim. Round | |
| 21 | Colts Chal. Cup, 1st Round | |
| Jan. 28 | | |
| to | | |
| Mar. 31 | Pool 'A' & Pool 'B' fixtures | |

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