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TALK OF THE TOWN

They say that luck runs in threes. If that's true fortune should change today!

If one's first reaction to the result at Keighley was one of disappointment, then by a strange paradox one can look back on the first half of the season with a fair amount of satisfaction. The form we established during the first three months of the campaign compares favourably with that of any other team in the R.L., and was based on solid defence, allied to at times, pacey skillful attacking rugby.

So what's gone wrong? Loss of form in certain areas has no doubt been a contributing factor. Injuries too, have not lent themselves to selection continuity. Whatever the combination of reasons, the trend is alarming and its essential that the problems are rectified with haste.

All is not gloom and doom however, and a result today would help to alleviate a few of the painful memories of the past three weeks. Despite our shortcomings we do have a squad of players with the potential to clinch home advantage in the play-offs. The main objective at present would appear to be restoring pride and confidence, so a good performance now would certainly lift the psychological pressure.

It could be said that the season really begins this afternoon. With eleven matches outstanding (six at home, five away) and with the possible exception of Whitehaven, all are against sides with a realistic chance of making the play-offs. At the moment only 2 points separate Barrow, currently eighth and Mansfield occupying 12th place. So every game will take on cup-tie proportions, Featherstone, Wakefield and Oldham look safe bets, leaving a minimum of nine lubs to fight for the remaining five premiership positions.

We have shown what can be achieved through professional aptitude, we must now repeat those performances every week from now until the end of the season. It won't be easy but it's a challenge we must rise to meet.

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Western Division Championship Winners 1962/63.
Wigan Sevens Winners 1978.
Forshaw Lancashire Cup Winners 1977, Finalists 1976, 1978, 1979.
John Player Sevens Winners 1968.
National Sevens Winners 1958.
Lancashire Shield Winners 1966/67, 1967/68, 1971/72.
Record Attendance: (Derwent Park) 17,741 v. Wigan (RL Cup) 3/3/65.
Record Victory: 62-15 v. Hunslet, 20/4/64.
Record Defeat: 4-64 v. Castleford, 24/2/85.
Tries in a Match: 7, I. Southward v. Blackpool, 17/9/55.
Goals in a Match: 11, I. MacCorquodale v. Blackpool B., 6/11/73.
Points in a Match: 33, I. Southward v. Blackpool B., 17/9/55.
Tries in a Season: 49, J. Lawrenson, 1951/52.
Goals in a Season: 186, L. Hopkins, 1981/82.
Points in a Season: 438, L. Hopkins, 1981/82.
Tries in a Career: 274, I. Southward, 1952-1959 & 1960-1968.
Goals in a Career: 809, I. MacCorquodale 1972-1980.
Points in a Career: 1800, I. MacCorquodale, 1972-1980.
Appearances in a Career: 415+8, P. Charlton, 1961-69 & 1975-80.

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TERRACE TALK

ALLIANCE LEAGUE REVIEW

Town's fast emerging youth could
count themselves most unfortunate
to lose out to neighbours Whitehaven
in last Sunday's tough no-quarter-
given Alliance League derby clash
at Derwent Park.

In conditions more suited to wind sur-
fing than rugby league, both sides
endeavoured to entertain with flowing
rugby. However, with handling prov-
ing difficult in the swirling wind,
several promising movements were
not surprisingly halted at crucial
stages of play.

Town kept their more experienced
opponents at full stretch for much
of the first half and were rewarded
for their labours with a 7-2 interval
advantage - Glen Burgess (try and
drop-goal) and Iain Denny conversion
being Town's reply to an early Willie
Richardson penalty.

Haven's introduction of veteran Alan
McCurrie after the break saw a change
in the visitors' play pattern, and they
eventually clawed their way back when
full-back Tony D'Leny found a gap
in the home defence after a period
of sustained pressure. Willie Richard-
son's conversion attempt came back
off an upright.

With time running out and Town look-
ing set for a deserved victory over
their old adversaries, Shooter barged
over in the corner for Haven's second
try to seal the points by 10 points
to seven.

Incidentally, referee Bob Wright of
Blackpool completed a unique double
when he took charge of the game.
He had on a previous occasion appear-
ed at Derwent Park as a player with
Blackpool Borough several years ago -
and that can't have happened too oft-
en. Does anyone know of another such
instance?

TOWN: L. Plate; A. Clewes, G. Burgess,
I. Denny; P. Gorge; S. Priestley,
J. Newell; G. Phillips, T. Bone, R. Shear-
man, K. Lynch, A. Law. Subs: T. Tyme,
S. Bailey (Both Played)

HAVEN: T. D'Leny; D. Wright, N. House,
W. Richardson, P. Shooter; G. Cameron,
C. Hall; W. Tarry, F. Johnston, M. Gaf-
fney, T. Ditchburn, T. Bell, P. Podd.
Subs: A. Cunningham, A. McCurrie
(Both played)

As from today, Sunday 7th February,
supporters will be able to obtain their
copies of the superb 'OPEN RUGBY'
magazine from the souvenir shop.
The magazine published by Cumbrian
born Harry Edgar, covers every asp-
ect of the the rugby league scene,
and is a must for all followers of the
game.

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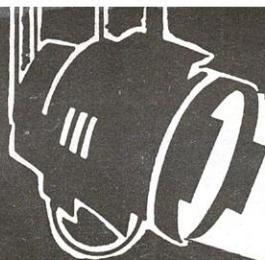
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SPOTLIGHT ON



OLDHAM



Everyone's favourites for promotion, Oldham, look certain to make a quick return "upstairs" despite the hic-cup against promotion challengers Wakefield Trinity at the Watersheddings a fortnight ago.

On view today will be former Widnes and Great Britain Test Full-Back MICK BURKE who has won every major honour the game can bestow.

On the wings should be ex-St Helens and Town Loanees Kevin Meadows who once ran in four tries for Lancashire at Derwent Park; and recent acquisition CHARLIE McALISTER - a Maori in national and "All Blacks" trialist secured from Bradford and Bingley R.U. Club.

The middle-backs could well be Aussie GARY WARNECKE, signed from the Wests Club in September 1985, and DES FOY, a local lad who scaled the heights with Wigan and Widnes before returning home to gain Test recognition.

At half-back the 'Roughyeds' will have the ubiquitous Aussie PETER WALSH, signed in July from the N.S.W. Country Club Lakes United; an able goal-kicker who has added vital experience to the key stand-off role. His partner, the equally experienced, if youthful, MICHAEL FORD returned to his native Oldham after representing both Wigan and Leigh.

Packing down at open-side-prop will be giant forward NEIL CLAWSON, picked-up last May for a give-away £6,000 from Featherstone Rovers. The

industrious IAN SANDERSON, a junior capture from Firsways A.R.L.C. in September 1983, is the likely occupant of the number nine shirt, while enterprising Gt Britain Test newcomer, HUGH WADDLE - signed from Blackpool Borough - completes the front three.

In the second-row Oldham possess Division Two's costliest ever player, in the shape of PAUL ROUND, bought from St Helens during the summer for a club record £65,000. Also Australian MAL GRAHAM, player-coach and former team-mate of joint coach Eric Fitzsimmons at Hunslet, signed originally from Wests in September '85.

The suspension of Steve Paters should see the re-introduction of TERRY 'Flash' FLANAGAN at loose-forward. The former Saddleworth Rangers junior still possesses the ball playing skills that gained him his Test ticket in 1984. His father, Bill, and brother, Kevin, have both worn Oldham's colours.

Looking for inclusion this afternoon also will be Canterbury-Bankstown back BRIAN McCARTHY who arrived in England as part of a European holiday...and stayed! Ex-Tameside amateur MIKE BARDSLEY, signed in October 1985, COLIN HAWKYARD, who settled at the Watersheddings in December 1978 from Huddersfield A.R.L.C. Bradley and former Stanley Rangers winger PAUL LORD will also stand amongst the hopefuls.

Last Time at Derwent Park

Sunday 9th September, 1984

First Division Championship

Workington Town 2 ... Oldham 44

TOWN: Tubman (g); Roper, Thompson, Beattie, Beck; Todd, Thurlow; Wallbanks, Banks, Lightfoot, W.Pattinson, Lewis, Dobie, (R.Pattinson). Sub-Smith (NU)

OLDHAM: A.Taylor; Vigo (t), Sherman (t), Parrish (6g,t), Hornby; Birkby, Kiirwan (2t); Ogden, McCurrie (t), Morgan (M.Taylor), Hawkyard (t), Goodway (t), Platt (Naidole).

H.T. 2-20

Attendance: 1,095

Referee: JWMean (Leyland)

DERWENT PARK DIARY - FACTS & FIGURES



30/08/87	Dewsbury	8- 6	Lowden G	Rooney	Penrice	Tubman	Beck	Smith	Rea	Key	Tabern	Frazer	Stoddart (dg)	Nixon (T)	Turley (DG)	Burns 11	Lewis 8
06/09/87	HUDDERSFIELD	19-10	Lowden 3G	Tubman	Penrice T	Mawson	Beck	Smith	Rea	Key	Tabern T	Frazer	Stoddart	Nixon T	Turley DG	Burns 10	Higgins 12
13/09/87	SPRINGFIELD	12-10	Lowden 2G	Tubman	Penrice	Mawson	Beck T	Smith T	Rea	Key	Tabern	Frazer	Stoddart	Nixon	Turley	Burns 7	Higgins 12
20/09/87	Carlisle	24-12	Lowden 5G	Tubman	Penrice 2T	Rooney	Beck	Smith	Burns T	Key	Tabern	Lynch	Stoddart	Higgins	Turley DG	Law 3	Sullivan 11
23/09/87	Warrington	10-50	Lowden G	Tubman	Penrice	Rooney	Beck	Smith	Burns 3T	Key	Tabern	Frazer	Stoddart	Higgins	Turley	Lynch 13	Sullivan 6
27/09/87	FULHAM	22-14	Lowden 4G	Tubman	Penrice	Rooney	Beck	Rea T	Burns T	Key	Tabern	Frazer	Stoddart	Higgins T	Turley 2DG		Lynch 11
04/10/87	Runcorn	4-41	Lowden	Tubman	Penrice	Rooney T	Beck	Rea	Burns	Key	Tabern	Frazer	Stoddart	Higgins	Turley DG	Smith 6	Nixon 11
11/10/87	BATLEY	11- 4	Lowden 3G	Tubman	Penrice	Rooney	Beck	Smith	Burns	Key	Falcon T	Lynch	Nixon	Higgins	Turley DG	Rea 5	Stoddart 11
18/10/87	Keighley	11-19	Lowden 3GT	Tubman	Penrice	Rooney	Beck	Smith DG	Rea	Key	Falcon	Lynch	Nixon	Higgins	Turley	Mawson 3	Stoddart 8
25/10/87	YORK	10-11	Lowden 3G	Mawson	Tubman	Smith	Beck	Penrice T	Burns	Key	Tabern	Nixon	Stoddart	Falcon	Turley	Burgess	Higgins 11
01/11/87	Batley	23-12	Lowden 5G	Tubman	Mawson T	Smith T	Beck	Penrice	Rea T	Key	Tabern	Nixon	Falcon	Higgins	Turley DG	Burgess 7	Stoddart
15/11/87	Hull	6-42	Lowden G	Tubman	Mawson	Smith	Beck	Penrice	Rea	Key	Tabern T	Nixon	Falcon	Higgins	Turley	Burgess 5	Stoddart 13
29/11/87	CARLISLE	14- 2	Lowden 3G	Tubman	Mawson T	Smith	Rooney	Penrice	Rea	Key	Tabern	Nixon	Falcon T	Higgins	Turley	Burgess NU	Riley 11
06/12/87	Fulham	12- 2	Lowden 3G	Tubman	Mawson T	Smith	Clewes	Penrice	Rea	Key T	Tabern	Nixon	Falcon	Higgins	Turley	Burgess 5	Riley 12
20/12/87	Huddersfield	15-12	Lowden G, DG	Tubman T	Mawson	Smith	Clewes	Penrice	Rea	Key T	Tabern	Nixon	Falcon	Higgins	Turley	Beck 6	Lynch 4
26/12/87	WHITEHAVEN	20-14	Lowden 3G	Clewes	Smith	Tubman	Beck	Penrice	Rea	Key	Tabern T	Nixon	Falcon T	Higgins T	Turley G	Stoddart 13	Riley NU
03/01/88	Barrow	6- 4	Lowden G	Clewes	Tubman	Rooney	Beck	Smith	Rea T	Key	Tabern	Nixon	Falcon	Higgins	Stoddart	Bower 13	Riley 9
10/01/88	DEWSBURY	38-16	Lowden 5G	Clewes T	Tubman T	Rooney T	Beck T	Smith T	Rea	Key	Falcon	Nixon T	Higgins	Riley	Stoddart	Bower(T) 13	Frazer 11
17/01/88	Rochdale H	8-18	Lowden	Mawson T	Tubman	Rooney	Beck	Smith	Rea	Key	Tabern	Nixon T	Falcon	Higgins	Stoddart	Bower 12	Penrice 1

DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?



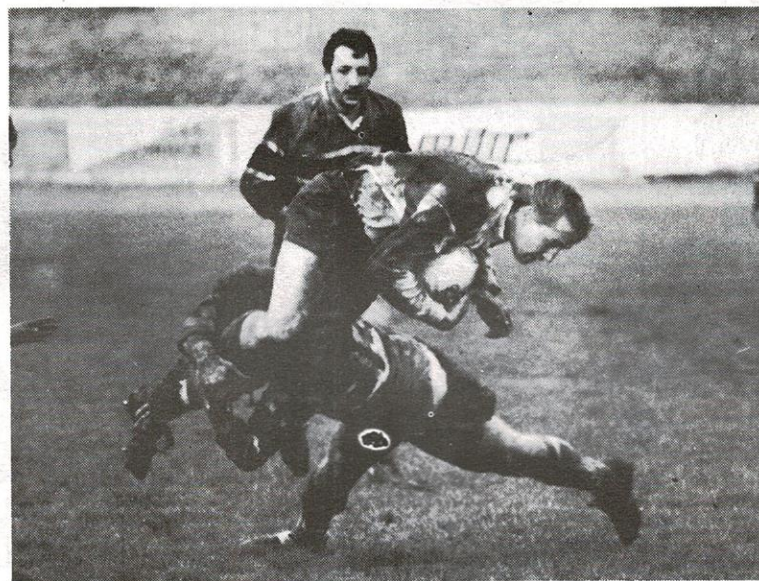
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PIC(K) OF THE WEEK

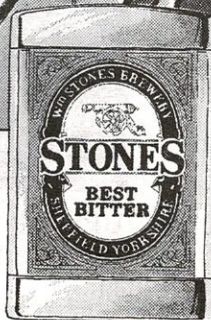


UP, UP AND AWAY! Paul Penrice takes-off as a result of this Springfield tackle.



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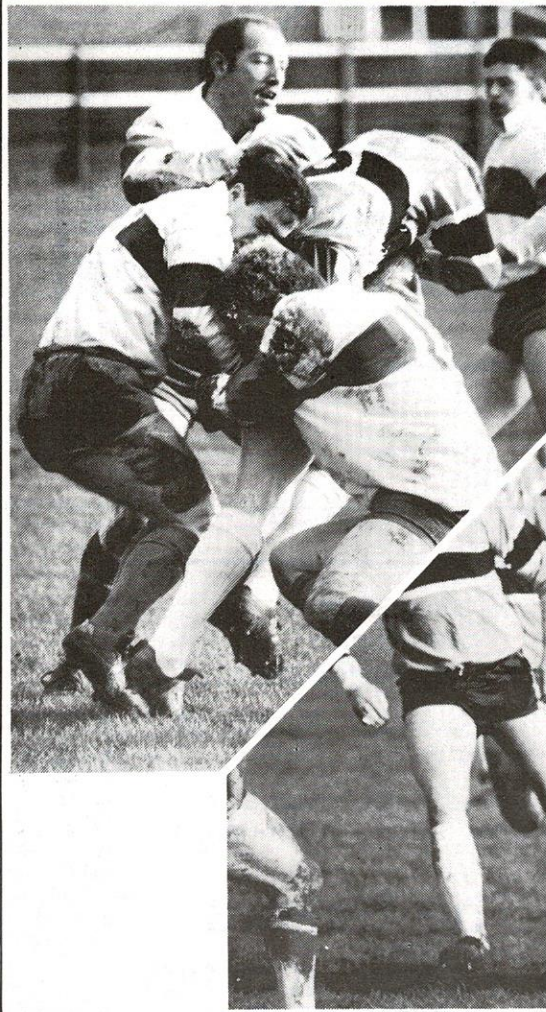
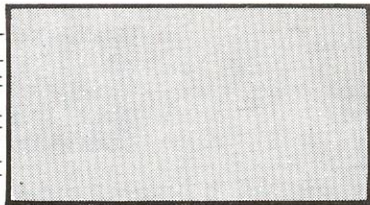
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ACTION



Town Back-Rower, Michael Higgins, in the thick of the action as usual against Springfield Borough.

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towner's AUDIBLES

R.L. NEWS, VIEWS & TRIVIA

TOP TEN TRY SCORERS

1	Martin Offiah (Widnes)	27
2	Ellery Hanley (Wigan)	25
3	Les Quirk (St Helens)	17
4	Shaun Edwards (Wigan)	16
	Des Drummond (Warrington)	16
	Carl Gibson (Leeds)	16
5	Chris Bibb (Featherstone R.)	15
6	Henderson Gill (Wigan)	14
	Paul Round (Oldham)	14
	David Creasser (Leeds)	14
	Peter Smith (Featherstone)	14
	Garry Schofield (Leeds)	14

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TOP TEN GOAL SCORERS

1	John Woods (Warrington)	109
2	David Stephenson (Leeds)	76
3	Kevin Harcombe (Wakefield T.)	75
4	Steve Quinn (Featherstone R.)	72
5	Gary Pearce (Hull)	70
6	Mike Fletcher (Hull K.R.)	67
7	Mike Smith (Springfield B.)	62
8	David Noble (Doncaster)	60
9	Paul Loughlin (St Helens)	57
	John Myler (Widnes)	57

The 1987-88 Top Goal Scorer receives £5 per goal from Greenall Whitley.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES RECORD

Sheffield Eagles run of six successive victories is their best winning sequence since they joined the league in 1984. Their winning run consists of four Division two matches and two Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties. Their previous best was five league victories in 1985-86.

They have also entered the second round of the Challenge Cup for the first time, having won 14-10 at Wakefield Trinity on Sunday, following a preliminary round win at Bramley.

LONGEST WINNING RUN

Featherstone Rovers extended their winning run to nine matches with their 32-21 home defeat of York in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup on Sunday. The sequence is composed of eight Division Two matches and one Challenge Cup tie.

LONGEST LOSING RUN

Dewsbury must be delighted with their current form which has brought them no fewer than ten successive defeats; the latest being a 38-10 home loss to Widnes in the first round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last Sunday. So far they have lost eight Division Two matches, one John Player Special Trophy tie and a Challenge Cup tie.



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