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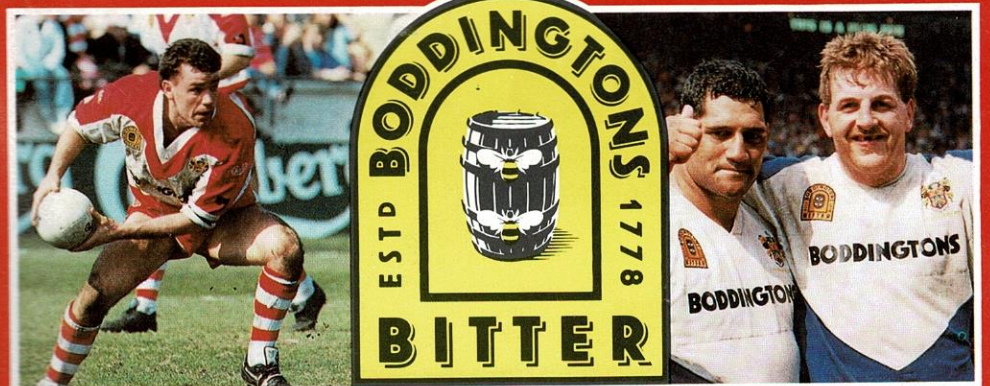


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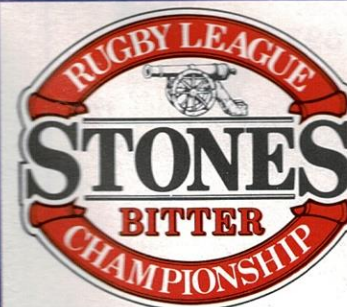
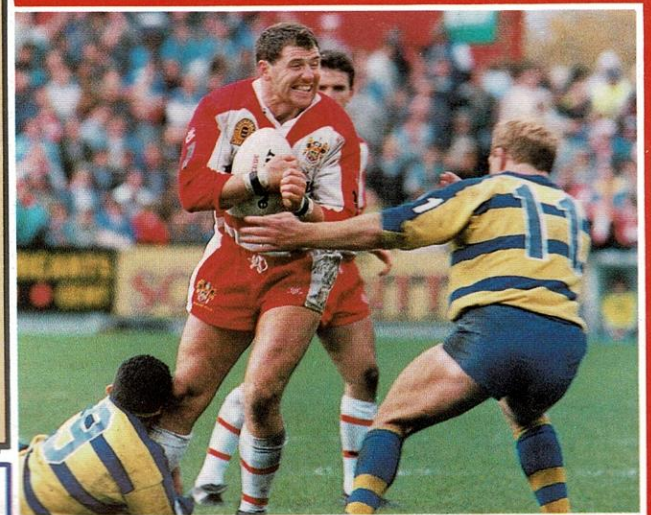
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Second Division Premiership:
1987-88, 1989-90

ON THE BARROW BEAT

by *Oldham coach*
TONY BARROW



THE Kangaroos opened their tour at St. Helens this afternoon — and I feel sure that, unlike 1982 and 1986, the Aussies will be far from invincible this time.

Don't get me wrong. They are big, strong, fit and fast, but, despite Wally Lewis's injury problem, I'm surprised he has not been brought along and I have to say that their half-backs this time don't exactly fill me with fright.

There is no Lewis, no Sterling and no Kenny. You've got Langer, Alexander, Lyons and Stuart, but I honestly believe the 'Roos will slip up at half-back this time and, unlike a lot of people, I believe Great Britain can turn them over in all three Tests.

I don't think they are anything like as strong as they were on their last two visits and, on top of that, we have also to acknowledge that the game in England has come a long way since 1982 and has also progressed since 1986.

My heart says Britain ... but my head says Britain, too. All through the side, I think we can match them or beat them. I don't put Belcher in Tait's class, and in Offiah we have the best winger in the world. On the other flank I would put Tony Sullivan of Hull KR — a great prospect.

Australia cannot match us on the wings, but I admit they are big and powerful in the centre with Meninga and Daley.

Loughlin can match them in that respect, however, and then we have Schofield and Davies, and I would not hesitate to play the Welshman although I would have to give a lot of thought to whether I would play Schofield at stand-off and Davies in the centre or the other way around.

Meninga is big and strong, but he is slow off the ball. That's where Davies would score against him. Meninga's strength versus Davies's pace. They would cancel each other out.

Andy Gregory would be my scrum-half, but if he was unfit or out of form I would not hesitate to play our own Mike Ford. Fox of Featherstone has had his chance and I don't think he is up to it. Ford is in top form and he would definitely be in my team if Andy Gregory wasn't on form or available.

I would go for Sampson, McKenzie and Ward in the front-row, with Mike Gregory, Andy Goodway and Ellery Hanley behind them.

Four subs are allowed in this Test series and mine would be Edwards, Platt, Lydon and — a surprise to many people — Round or Betts.

The Australians are frightened of Ward. He is in top form for St. Helens, and to me is the man for the No. 8 job. Believe me, the Aussies are worried to death and they would be worried even more if they were to discover that Ward was back on Test duty.

I don't think we can attach too much importance to the display of the youngsters who did so well in New Zealand. Top marks to them all ... but the Aussies are a different kettle of fish and we have to go for the best side available.

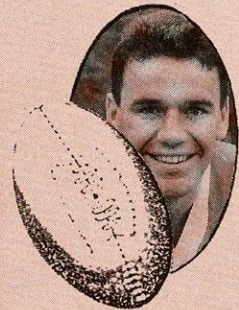
An advertisement for Boddingtons Bitter. The background is black. On the left, a brass beer tap stands on a wooden base. The tap handle is a long, slender, curved piece of brass. The tap's label is circular with a gold background and black text. It reads 'ESTD BODDINGTONS 1778' around the top edge, 'THE CLASSIC CASK CONDITIONED BEVERAGE' in the center, and 'BITTER' in large letters at the bottom. To the right of the tap is a tall, slender glass filled with golden beer and a thick head of white foam. The glass sits on a dark wooden surface. In the bottom right corner, there is a small version of the Boddingtons logo. At the bottom of the advertisement, the text 'IF YOU DON'T GET BODDIES, YOU'LL JUST GET BITTER.' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

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SKIPPER'S SPOT

by
Oldham Captain
Mike Ford

EVEN though we are only a short way into the season, it seems that coach Tony Barrow has assembled a great squad at the club. Just look at the two substitutes we had against Castleford. John Fairbank and Austin Donegan would be first-teamers in most other sides.

This strength in depth, which is also reflected in the highly successful start to the season by Ian Taylor's A Team, can only bode well for the rest of the season.

We've got a good mixture of experienced professionals and up-and-coming youngsters who will form the nucleus of the side in future years. I was especially pleased to see young Tony Barrow do so well on his home debut against Castleford. It was a pressure game for Tony and he came through the test admirably.

Today's game gives Hull KR a chance to avenge that epic defeat in last season's Second Division Premiership Final while victory for us today, depending on last Tuesday's result against Widnes, could put us in second place. This would be just reward for all the hard work everybody at the club — players, coaches and all the support staff — is dedicating to Oldham.

And don't forget, your loyal support is very appreciated by the players, so get behind the team today as we keep the pressure on.



ROGER'S FOCUS

Oldham Evening Chronicle Rugby League writer,
Roger Halstead,
looks at today's visitors

HAVING been beaten three times by Oldham last season — twice in the Second Division and in that remarkable premiership final at Old Trafford — you can bet the Humber Bridge to a North Sea mackerel that Hull KR will come here today determined to gain revenge.

Equally, Oldham will be keen to continue an excellent run of home form which has produced 23 consecutive victories at Watersheddings stretching back to April, 1989.

Rovers will show several significant changes from the teams they fielded against Oldham in the Second Division last season, not least the presence of two New Zealand Test men in prop James Goulding and stand-off or centre David Watson.

They will, however, be without Australian centre Greg Austin and Kiwi second-row man Tony Botica, who have lost their places on the club's overseas quota to make way for Goulding and Watson.

The departure of Austin, who ultimately joined Halifax, was a somewhat controversial decision as he was the club's top try scorer with 38 touchdowns last season, and he had formed a prolific partnership with winger Anthony Sullivan, who himself scored 34 tries as Rovers ran rampant through the Second Division and finally finished off as champions courtesy of Oldham's shock defeats at Workington and Swinton late in the season.

Somebody had to go to make way for Goulding's signing from the Australian club Newcastle Knights and it was Austin, the former Rochdale Hornets and Salford centre, who was shown the door.

Botica — 17 tries in 26 games last term — had returned to New Zealand before the end of the 1989-90 campaign, and this paved the way to sign Watson, a fellow Kiwi who had already had experience in this country with Whitehaven and York.

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TODAY'S

VISITORS

Hull KR . . .

Garry Clark (right wing) 26 years. 6ft. 12st. Has toured Australia in 1984 and played for England in Internationals against France, but cannot qualify for Yorkshire in State of Origin games as he was born in Malta. Signed a new contract for this season.

Jim Irvine (centre) 24 years. 5ft. 11in. 13st. Late on New Year's Eve, 1988, Rovers signed him from Hunslet for £25,000. A Leeds-born player, he had joined them from Bison's Sports early in 1986/87 and is a former Great Britain Colt.

Anthony Sullivan (wing) 21 years. 5ft. 10in. 11st. Joined Rovers Colts three seasons ago and was chosen for Great Britain Colts after playing for Rovers' first team at Swinton in November.

Wayne Parker (off-half or scrum-half) 23 years. 5ft. 8in. 11st. 7lb. In 1987/88, he won Under-21 honours in both internationals against France. He also won the Halbro'-Open Rugby "Shooting Star" award as Britain's outstanding young player.

David Bishop (scrum-half) 28 years. 5ft. 9in. 13st. Controversial signing from Welsh Rugby Union club Pontypool. An instant favourite with the fans, he was the club's "Player of the Year" last season and toured with the GB party during the summer.

Asuquo Ema (prop or second row) 27 years. 6ft. 16st. Son of a Nigerian father. A permanent fixture in the Robins first team for four seasons, but shook the club with a transfer request, but early this season he signed a new contract and was taken off the list.

Paul Lyman (second row) 24 years. 6ft. 15st. 7lb. He was in the Great Britain squad for the first two Tests against the 1986 Australian Tourists without getting a game. Rovers signed him on January 7th, 1989, for £55,000, with Test forward Chris Burton going in part exchange.

Andy Thompson (second row) 22 years. 5ft. 11in. 13st. Originally a full back, but often called upon to play at centre. He was a surprise choice at loose forward this season, but has acquitted himself well.

Des Harrison (second row) 25 years. 6ft. 2in. 15st. Yet another product of the Colts "A" team football. Started as a centre and is now establishing himself as an excellent forward.

Paul Speckman (loose forward) 23 years. 6ft. 13st. 5lb. Via Colts and "A" team, now challenging for a regular first team place.

Graeme Cook (full back) 19 years. 6ft. 11st. 5lb. The latest find via the Craven Park — highly productive junior and "A" team set-up. Called into the first team following injury to Dave Lightfoot.

James Goulding (prop) 24 years. 6ft. 15st. 5lb. Rovers' latest overseas signing. A New Zealand tourist who comes to the club via Australian club Newcastle Knights.

Sean Hoe (hooker) 20 years. 5ft. 8in. 12st. Came into the side at the start of the season with Chris Rudd and Dane Harrison not available.

Graeme Hallas (centre) 19 years. 6ft. 12st. 6lb. Although he missed most of last season through illness and injury, has re-established himself back in the side. Taking over the goalkicking duties in the absence of Mike Fletcher.

David Watson (centre/stand-off) 5ft. 10in. 12st. New Zealand international who has previously played for Whitehaven and York.

SUMMER 1991

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**Tony
Barrow . . .
This week's
PLAYER
PROFILE**

ONE thing Tony Barrow junior appreciates more than anybody is that he can expect no favours from his father, Oldham coach Tony Barrow senior.

So when he pulled on Oldham's famous red and white jersey to make his first team debut against Castleford, the 18-year-old loose forward had earned his place on merit.

Says his father: "He has impressed in the A Team and did well against Bradford in the pre-season match. The experience will be good for him."

And so it proved with the young YTS, who alternates between work at the club and college, having a distinguished debut tackling and running hard for 80 minutes without any handling errors.

But although Tony gave a controlled performance, he felt the complete opposite.

"I was more nervous before the match than I have ever been before. I thought I was going to be sick waiting for the kick-off and it didn't help when the start was delayed.

"But once the match started, I was all right and the other players helped me a lot."

Young Tony will be looking for further first team action after his assured debut, although he knows it won't be easy, especially as his father says: "Tony knows better than anyone that he will never get any favours from me!"



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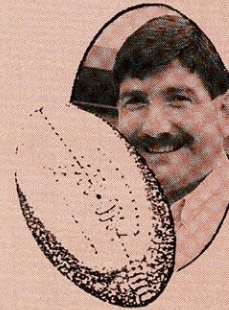


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**WATERSHEDDINGS
WHISPERS**

*General Manager
Ray Hill
reports on the
Watersheddings
scene*

FIRST of all, I'd like to welcome back to Watersheddings many famous faces for today's players reunion. These players have performed heroics for the club in the past, so make sure you give them a big hand when they walk onto the pitch.

Details of the players and the reunion can be picked up on the club's Roughyed Review line, which has daily updates about what is happening at Watersheddings.

There are interviews with the players and coaching staff. The line is updated every day and includes the winners of weekly Lifeline and daily Cashline draws, too. The number is 0898 888637, so if you want to stay in the picture get dialling.

Finally, two items for our supporters. Julie Parker, secretary of the Heinz Junior Riversiders, would like to invite young Oldham supporters and their parents to their lounge underneath the Douglas Stand at Central Park, Wigan. It is open prior to matches and has hot and cold drinks, crisps and biscuits on sale. Why not write to Julie at 11 Pateley Square when we play Wigan in November.

We're asking for nominations for the NISA-Today Family Award, to find a family that is Oldham-crazy. Send your nominations to me at the club, saying why your family should win the award. The winner receives a trophy and a £50 grocery voucher.

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QUESTION 2. Oldham have three Australians on their books. Who are they?

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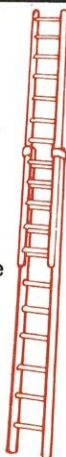


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TOUCH DOWN

BRETT'S NUMBER ONE FOR SEPTEMBER

AUSSIE stand-off Brett Clark has won the Boddingtons Bitter Player of the Month award following outstanding performances against Leeds and Castleford.

Award judge Roger Halstead, the Oldham Evening Chronicle's Rugby League reporter, said: "Brett Clark has been a deserving winner for the award for September as he has linked up so well with Mike Ford during two action-packed home victories against the Yorkshire giants. His opportunism, anticipation, attacking flair and sound defence have been outstanding."

Brett will be presented with an inscribed medal, a £100 cheque and a crate of Boddingtons Bitter before today's match by Boddingtons Bitter representative Ken Regan.

Well done, Brett.

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BODDINGTONS

TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 1990



OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 NORMAN FRANCIS
- 3 TOMMY MARTYN
- 4 RONNIE DUANE
- 5 PAUL LORD
- 6 BRETT CLARK
- 7 MIKE FORD
- 8 DEREK PYKE
- 9 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 10 JOHN FIELDHOUSE
- 11 PAUL ROUND
- 12 CHARLIE McALISTER
- 13 TONY BARROW
- 14 AUSTIN DONEGAN
- 15 JOHN FAIRBANK

HULL KR

Team Changes

- 1 MIKE FLETCHER
- 2 GARRY CLARK
- 3 GRAEME HALLAS
- 4 DAVID WATSON
- 5 ANTHONY SULLIVAN
- 6 WAYNE PARKER
- 7 DAVID BISHOP
- 8 JAMES GOULDING
- 9 SEAN HOE
- 10 ZOOK EMA
- 11 DES HARRISON
- 12 ANDY THOMPSON
- 13 PAUL SPECKMAN
- 14 JIMMY IRVINE
- 15 PAUL LYMAN

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Referee:
Mr. R. Tennant (Castleford)

Touch Judges:
Mr. J. Molyneux (Red Flag)
Mr. K. Leyland (Orange Flag)

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

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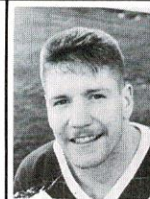




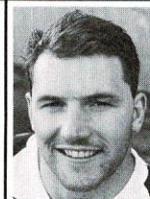




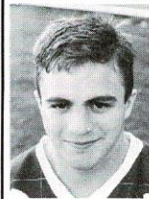






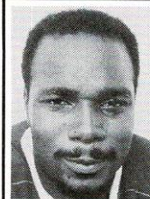
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OLDHAM STATISTICS 1990/91

Appearances and Scorers

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Tony Barrow.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Brett Clark.....	4	0	0	0	2	8
John Cogger.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Austin Donegan.....	0	2	0	0	0	0
Ronnie Duane.....	4	0	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank.....	0	2	0	0	0	0
John Fieldhouse.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Mike Ford.....	4	0	1	1	0	3
Des Foy.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Norman Francis.....	1	0	0	0	1	4
John Henderson.....	1	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Irving.....	3	0	0	0	1	4
Paul Lord.....	4	0	0	0	1	4
Tommy Martyn.....	3	1	1	1	3	15
Charlie McAlister.....	4	0	0	0	2	8
Keith Newton.....	2	1	0	0	1	4
Duncan Platt.....	4	0	14	0	1	32
Derek Pyke.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Round.....	4	0	0	0	4	16
Andy Ruane.....	2	0	0	0	0	0
Richard Russell.....	2	2	0	0	0	0

Stones Bitter First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull.....	4	2	0	0	52	20	2	0	0	54	40	8
Wakefield.....	4	2	0	0	59	18	1	0	1	24	46	6
Widnes.....	4	2	0	0	65	30	1	0	1	20	42	6
Wigan.....	4	1	1	0	42	20	1	0	1	68	49	5
Sheffield.....	4	1	0	1	52	26	1	1	0	42	38	5
Leeds.....	4	1	0	1	45	28	1	0	1	44	42	4
St Helens.....	4	2	0	0	66	30	0	0	2	18	43	4
OLDHAM.....	4	2	0	0	60	44	0	0	2	28	41	4
Warrington.....	4	1	0	1	40	34	1	0	1	34	38	4
Bradford.....	4	1	0	1	41	44	1	0	1	46	48	4
Hull KR.....	4	1	0	1	32	32	0	1	1	24	56	3
Castleford.....	4	1	0	1	42	57	0	0	2	34	58	2
Featherstone.....	4	0	1	1	38	40	0	0	2	33	65	1
Rochdale.....	4	0	0	2	38	54	0	0	2	8	66	0


NEXT HOME GAME

V WARRINGTON (October 20th, kick-off 2.45 p.m.)

NEXT AWAY GAME

V SHEFFIELD EAGLES (October 14th, kick-off 3.15 p.m.)

Opponents	Date	KO	Res	F/A	Att	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Salford	2.9.90	A	3.00	L	24-27	4,236	-	Platt 4g	Irving	Henderson	Lord	Clark	Ford g	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round t	McAlister t	Duane	Martyn t	Newton
Leeds	9.9.90	H	3.00	W	32-22	6338	-	Platt 5g	Irving	Duane	Lord	Ford t g dg	Clark t	Pyke	Ruane	Newton t	Round t	McAlister t	Cogger	Russell*	Donegan*
Wakefield	16.9.90	A	3.30	L	12-17	5651	8	Platt t 2g	Irving t	Duane	Lord	Ford	Clark	Fieldhouse	Ruane	Newton	Round	McAlister	Cogger	Russell*	Fairbank*
Castleford	26.9.90	H	7.30	W	28-22	5,101	6	Platt 4g	Francis t	Duane	Lord	Clark t	Ford	Pyke	Russell	Fieldhouse	Round 2t	McAlister	Barrow	Donegan	Fairbank
Widnes	2.10.90	A	3.00																		
Hull KR	7.10.90	H	3.00																		
Sheffield	14.10.90	A	3.15																		
Warrington	21.10.90	H	2.45																		
Wigan	4.11.90	A	3.00																		
Bradford N	11.11.90	H	3.00																		
Castleford	18.11.90	A	3.30																		
Widnes	25.11.90	H	3.00																		
Regal Trophy	2.12.90		3.00																		
Regal Trophy	9.12.90		3.00																		
Hull	16.12.90	A	6.30																		
Rochdale	26.12.90	H	3.00																		
Leeds	11.1.91	A	3.00																		
Featherstone	6.1.91	H	3.00																		
Hull KR	13.1.91	A	3.00																		
Wakefield	20.1.91	H	3.00																		
Featherstone	27.1.91	A	3.30																		
St Helens	3.2.91	H	3.00																		
SCCR 1st Rnd	10.2.91		3.00																		
Bradford	17.2.91	A	3.30																		
SCCR 2nd Rnd	24.2.91		3.00																		
St Helens	10.3.91	A	3.00																		
Sheffield	17.3.91	H	3.00																		
Rochdale	29.3.91	A	3.00																		
Wigan	1.4.91	H	3.00																		
Warrington	7.4.91	A	3.00																		
Hull	14.4.91	H	3.00																		



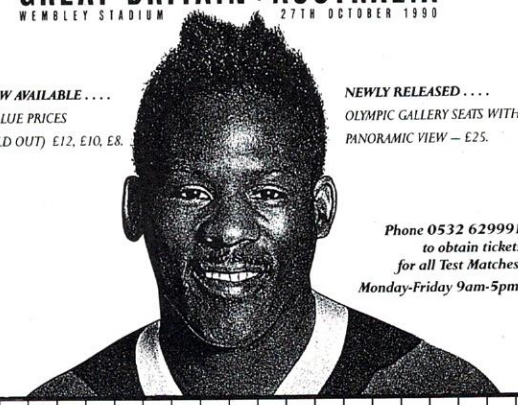
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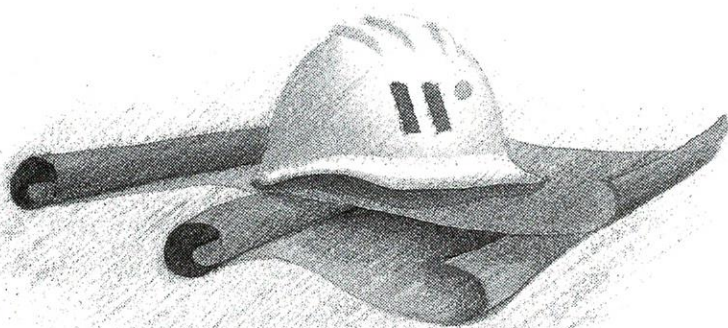
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A-TEAM ROUND-UP



The Coach's View

THE final result at Salford of 22-17 did not quite do us justice. We created much more than the score suggests but, unfortunately, we did not turn our better play into points.

We were much the better team and should have won by more on the night.

Out of the display, young Richard Pachniuk had a blinder, scoring two tries, kicking three goals, getting through 42 tackles and also providing Des Foy with a lovely pass from which he scored.

It was very pleasing also to see young Tony Barrow come through his first-team debut against Castleford with much credit. His tackling and work rate caught the eye.

I know it meant a lot to him to get this game under his belt. Once again it shows just how much promise we have in our Alliance side.

Our display against Widnes last Friday night was the best of the season so far. The defence was generally strong and apart from the odd lapse we supported the ball well.

With four wins out of our first five games it has given us the start we always thought we were capable of getting. It has also put us into a strong position to challenge for a top-of-the-table spot.

The mark of a good team is consistency and that is our main aim, along with providing the conveyor belt of players for first-team duty. Tommy Martyn has broken through, Tony Barrow has done well on his debut and I'm sure there will be more to come.

The home draw in the Lancashire Shield against Workington yesterday should have proved a bonus and we are hoping to go a long way in this year's cup campaign. The winners of yesterday's match are also at home in the second round to either Warrington or Wigan.

The attendances we have had so far have been brilliant and it gives the lads a definite edge. Please keep it up!

IAN TAYLOR

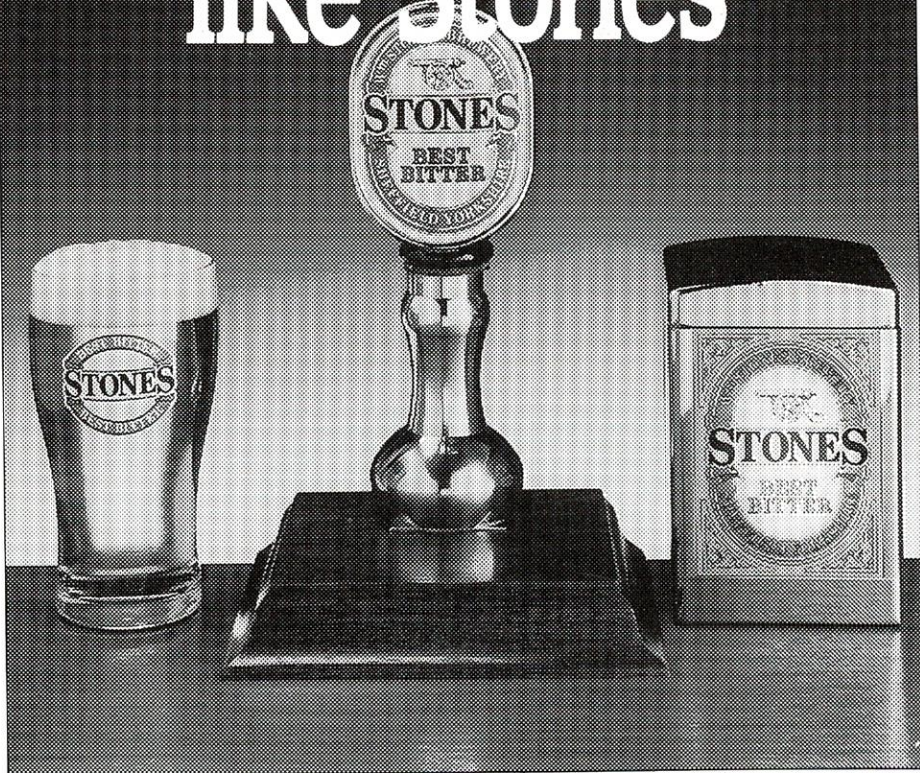
Slalom Lager Alliance Fixtures

Date	Opponents	Venue	Res	F	A
Aug 31	St Helens	H	W	32-8	
Sept 7	Leeds	A	L	12-18	
14	Wakefield	H	W	18-12	
21	Salford	A	W	22-17	
28	Widnes	H	W	34-10	
Oct 5	Workington (Lancs Shield)	H			
11	Leigh (Thurs)	A			
20	Lancs Shield (Sat)				
Nov 2	Wigan	H			
9	Widnes	A			
16	Salford	H			
23	Castleford	A			
30	Warrington	H			
Dec 7	Wigan	A			
14	Hull	H			
21	Halifax	A			
28	Leeds	H			
Jan 4	Featherstone	A			
11	Hull KR	H			
18	Wakefield	A			
25	Featherstone	H			
Feb 1	St Helens	A			
8	Castleford	H			
16	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
22	Hull	A			
Mar 2	Alliance Cup (Sat)				
8	Halifax	H			
15	Warrington	A			
22	Hull KR	A			
29	Leigh	H			

Slalom Lager Alliance First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull.....	5	5	0	0	164	75	10
OLDHAM.....	5	4	0	1	118	85	8
Leeds.....	5	3	0	2	125	96	6
Widnes.....	5	3	0	2	103	106	6
Hull KR.....	5	3	0	2	92	98	6
Wigan.....	5	2	0	3	100	80	4
Featherstone R... ..	4	2	0	2	97	105	4
St Helens.....	5	2	0	3	130	139	4
Salford.....	5	2	0	3	86	98	4
Leigh.....	5	2	0	3	106	122	4
Halifax.....	5	2	0	3	96	122	4
Castleford.....	4	2	0	2	92	124	4
Warrington W....	5	1	0	4	136	148	2
Wakefield T.....	5	1	0	4	60	107	2

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Salford and Widnes Win Awards

Lancashire Cup finalists, Widnes and Salford, have won their respective First and Second Division Stones Bitter Teams of the Month for August and September. Widnes, who beat the reds in a thrilling final last Saturday, collect £500 for the First Division award, with Salford receiving £350 for the Second.

Kangaroos Ready To Go!

The 1990 Tourists, led by Canberra Raider Mal Meninga, arrived in Manchester last Monday for a 13-match trip which includes three Tests. Their tour starts today with a match against St. Helens, with the first British Coal Test at Wembley on October 27th.

Russian Visit

Before the first Test, a special curtain-raiser will feature the debut appearance in this country of a Russian Rugby League side.

Welcome Back Sully

Chris O'Sullivan, a firm Oldham favourite two years ago, is back in the country playing for Warrington less than a week after helping Canberra Raiders to a second successive grand final Down Under. He made an immediate impact on his return as the Wires beat Sheffield Eagles in a close encounter. Warrington will be visiting Watersheddings on October 21st for the televised match on Granada.

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Iain
McCorquodale
looks at
Rugby League
around Oldham

CONGRATULATIONS to Oldham Schools Under-15s Town Team side for their splendid Lancashire Cup Final performance at Central Park as a curtain-raiser to the Lancashire Cup Final between Widnes and Salford.

Widely recognised as the weakest rugby team in the town, they were written off as no-hopers by many, despite good wins over Saints and Warrington on the way to the final.

At half-time they were leading 10-4 with tries by John Hough and Justin Bradbury and a conversion by Richard Badby and, although favourites Wigan equalled early in the second half, it was end-to-end football with both sides showing excellent cover defence to hold the attackers at bay.

However, it was Wigan who looked the more relieved when the final whistle went at 10-10. The sides now hold the trophy for six months each.

Our thanks to Brian at the Bulls Head, Millbottom, for an excellent pre-match breakfast and to club dentist Neil Gibbison for providing all the boys with top quality mouth guards.

Thanks to the boys of Counthill and Saddleworth for their splendid show in the Cup game (sponsored by Gledhill Kitchens) before the Castleford match.

Today's curtain-raiser sees North Chadderton (blue) take on Breeze Hill (red). May the best team win!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING!

AT

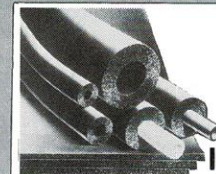
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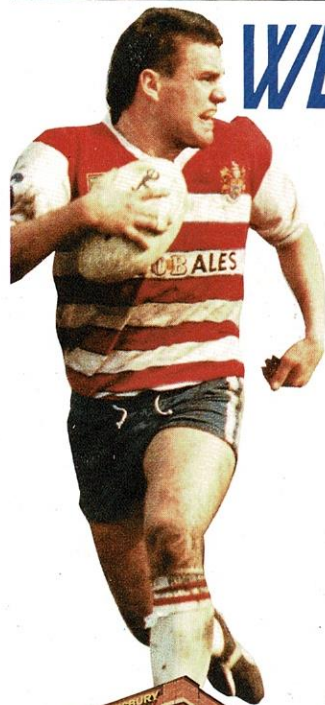
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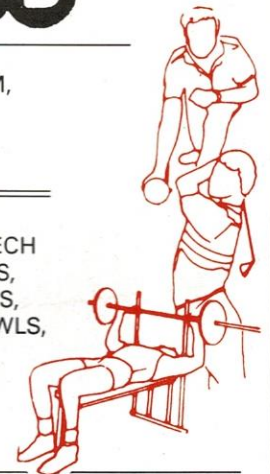
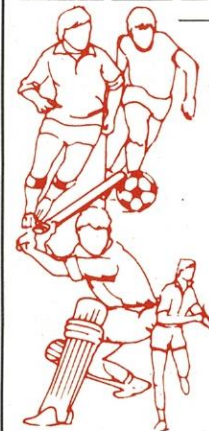
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