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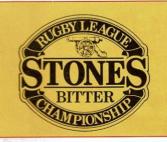
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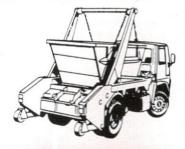
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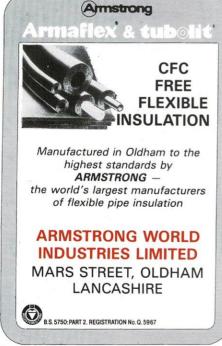
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Tunks' Talkback

Oldham's Coach gives you his views

WELCOME today to London Crusaders, who proved their great performance against us a fortnight ago

was a sign of how difficult an opponent they are proving to be in the Second Division. Anyone doubting this would just have to look at last week's result against Leigh to know what I mean.

Our league position was helped last week by a very pleasing display against Rochdale at Spotland. The tightness of this division is reflected in a comment from one member of the Rochdale board when they said that although before last week's game they were in third place, they were only one point off relegation. This reflects the importance of today's game. We must continue our momentum if we intend closing the gap on second-placed Leigh.

Our front row of Sherratt, Bates and Street deserve special mention today for last week. Ian Sherratt seems now to have settled back to Oldham as the dominant No. 8 we have needed all year, whilst Tim has shown the sort of form that had him earmarked for stardom several seasons ago. I hope the representative selectors do not confuse Tim and Bradford's Paul Grayshon when setting down to name teams in future, as all the boys at training have noted the uncanny resemblance. Last but not least, Ian Bates came into the team as a last-minute replacement, and many would say he is too small to last. But "Blaster" is a winner, and the fellas here would rather play with him than against him. Do yourself a favour, and watch him for 5 minutes today, and see why he racks up to 50-plus tackles every week.

Enjoy the game.

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OLDHAM

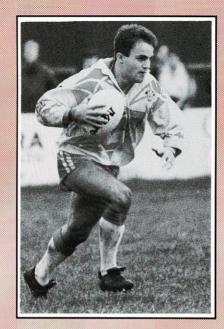
ClubCall

0898 12 15 80 REPORTS & ACTION UPDATE #

Skipper's Spot

Oldham Captain Neil Flanagan looks at today's game

AFTER an enjoyable cup run which included our St. Helens thriller a fortnight ago, we got back to the bread and butter of League action with an important victory away to local rivals and fellow promotion contenders Rochdale. Last week's 20-10 victory was all the



sweeter because it reversed a loss at the Watersheddings in September.

I was particularly pleased because we came from behind to win a hard-fought game — where three players in particular had outstanding games. Tim Street, Chris Joynt and Tommy Martyn hit form at the right time in the match so we were able to finish the game strongly. Personally, I was especially pleased with the team's spirit, which gets better with every game.

Admittedly, we have struggled in the League in recent matches, but with a more settled side we have hopefully turned the corner and can embark upon a promotion-winning run, starting today with the visit of London Crusaders.

As all loyal Watersheddings fans are aware, this is the third time we will have played London this season. In both games, the early season away match and the recent Regal Trophy contest, we narrowly beat London in tough, uncompromising games. Today's contest will prove to be equally difficult.

Some fans have been critical about the team, but hopefully they will see that we are now pointing in the right direction. That's why we will be grateful of your vocal support behind the team as we look for a hat-trick of victories against our southern rivals.

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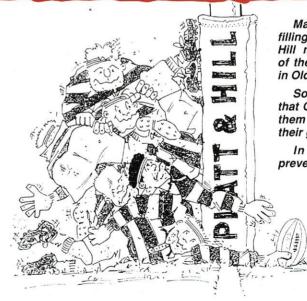
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A Watersheddings welcome to . . .

London Crusaders

Colin Atkinson: Signed from Halifax, this very fast centre/wing has extensive experience of the game. Previously with Keighley and Bramley. Former student international. Will frighten a few defenders this season.

Ben Beevers: Signed from Halifax to be in contention for a first-team place today. Highly experienced, hard-tackling front rower.

Shane Buckley: Recruited by Struddy from Valleys, Brisbane. A current Queensland representative side member. Extremely capable full-back/centre whose pace and positional skills will enthral Crusaders supporters.

Lachlan Churchill: Came into the side last season after the departure of Craig Grauf, and looked the part of a tricky, play-making half-back. Sparkled at Barrow last season when given added responsibility, and should develop under Struddy even more this year. One to watch.

Nick Halafihi: Fast-moving second-row forward with an eye for scoring tries. Started his career with Hull Colts, achieved international honours at student level as well as playing for Sheffield Eagles. Had an impressive debut for the London Crusaders, scoring a try and earning the man of the match award.

Ben Olsen: Crusaders' Great Dane. A convert by the London side from Queensland RU. Set to play an important role in the second row. Has excellent ball-handling skills, and should provide some of the penetration lacking from the side last year.

Darryl Pitt: Well known to Cumbrian RL followers from his Carlisle days, Darryl was Crusaders' top try-scorer last season. Has formed a strong centre partnership with Mick Taylor. Interception tries a speciality, and always quick to spot an opening.

Steve Robdlen: Originally with Bundaberg and then Brisbane Norths for three years. He spent his last two years with North Sydney playing in the grand final reserve grade winning side. A new and exciting second-row/loose forward looking forward to a successful career with London Crusaders.

Dave Rotherham: Very consistent performer during 1990-91, at hooker. Has come through the ranks as a student international, and continues to be a reliable and valuable team member. May well convert to prop this season, but will in any event provide quality in the forwards.

Chris Smith: Former RU full-back who Struddy is converting into a second-row forward. London-based, Chris originates from Northampton. Fast and mobile, definitely one to watch this season.

Mick Taylor: Highly-rated centre, who followed Struddy south from Halifax, having gained considerable experience at Thrum Hall and at Oldham, where he began his professional career. Reliable and consistent, Mick is a firm favourite with Crusaders fans.

Bernie Wilkinson: Played extremely well for the club during 1990-91, and was another Struddy recruit from former club Halifax. What has been Halifax's loss has certainly been Crusaders' gain, and much more is expected from him this season.

Jason Wing: Resigned from the Great Britain Olympic bobsleigh squad to join Crusaders. A nationally ranked sprinter (100m) and long jumper. Appropriately earmarked for the leftwing slot, and set to become a crowd-pleaser if potential fulfilled.

Glen Workman: Coached the Alliance Side for part of last season, but decided that he could still make a valuable contribution to the first team. Never stops running; a strong motivating hooker who is set to make Crusaders tick at the play-the-ball.

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Hill's Highlights

Commercial Manager Ray Hill reports on the Watersheddings Scene OLDHAM MATCH DAY COMPETITION

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WHAT a cracking night! I am, of course, referring to the superb Oldham RLFC Sportsmen's Dinner at the Avant Hotel, Over 300 quests enjoyed excellent food, drink and company - and

helped to raise over £4,500 for the Oldham Ground Appeal, which is a tremendous effort, especially in these recessionary times. I would like to thank everyone at the Avant Hotel for the excellent service they provided on the night. Special mention must go to the girls who sold raffle tickets. Dot, Joanne, Sue and Michelle are regulars at the club and their efforts were very much appreciated. That goes to our quest ticket seller, who added a new — and very interesting dimension to the art of salesmanship.

Talking of salesmanship, our Lifeline society is going to be bigger and better than ever before in the new year when we introduce a whole range of fabulous prizes to give members more chances to win, win. Win!! Now in addition to the fabulous £1,000 weekly Lifeline cash prize, we are introducing special gifts as prizes, too. That means lucky members can win colour televisions. mountain bikes, hi-fi systems, trolley dashes in the local supermarkets ... the list of possibilities is endless.

Our aim with Lifeline, as always, is to give our loyal supporters incredible value for money. For a weekly £2 investment that is exactly what Lifeline represents, If you wish to join, please contact either Peter Young or John Watkins on 061-620 4870 today. And if you feel Lifeline isn't appropriate, don't forget the ever-popular Cashline, which has a daily £100 payout with a bumper £500 weekly prize. Membership is steadily growing under the careful guidance of Kevin Platt. If you want to join Cashline, simply give Kevin a call on 061-620 4870.

Finally, with only a couple of days to go until our Miss Oldham Beauty Contest at the Sheddings night club on 11th December, I'd like to thank the ever delightful Amanda Norris, who has done a splendid job as Miss Oldham Rugby League ever since she won the Boddingtons Bitter Oldham Beauty Contest last November. She has been a credit to herself and the club and I'd like to wish her all the best for the future.

Amanda's successor will be crowned at the Castlemaine XXXX sponsored contest on Wednesday, when the winner walks away with a superb modelling course from a top Manchester model agency together with a bumper cheque for £100. There are cash prizes for second and third places, too.

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0898 12 15 80 REPORTS & ACTION UPDATE #

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A LOOK AT THE PAST — 20 YEARS AGO

BY 1971 the Oldham programme had risen in price from the 3d of 1961 to 9d. When decimalisation took place that year the 1971-72 programme price became 4p. Including the cover, the programme had 16 pages, with the main reading centring on comments about the visitors.

On the advertising front, Heatsways Ltd. and Cunnington and Cooper shared prime spot on the back page, with Grûnhalle Lager taking the whole of the inside cover. Robert Wood Builders' Merchants still featured, to be joined by another long-standing advertiser, George Hill Timber Merchants. Strangely, there was now only one pub advert, the Star Inn, King Street.

The Watersheddings Social Club offered a businessman's lunch for 30p and Sunday lunch for 75p. Pre-Christmas entertainment featured the Reg Coates Combo, with the Shane Fenton Show booked for Boxing Day.

On Saturday, December 4th, 1971, Oldham entertained St. Helens, the visitors recording a 26-0 victory.

Oldham's team was: Murphy, Elliott, Clark, Davies, Wild, Hill, Sayer, Wilson, Taylor, Walker, Irving, Bonser and Reynolds. Hodgkinson was used as a substitute.

St. Helens played: Pimblett, Wills, Benyon, Walsh, Wilson, Kelly, Heaton, Stephens, Karaline, Halliwell, Chisnall, Mantle and Coslett. Houghton and Barrow both appeared as substitutes.

One part of the programme notes that day is worth quoting. Under the heading "RL Cleans Up" the following appeared:

"The RL Disciplinary Committee are very concerned about misdemeanours by the players ... it feels very strongly ... that a lot of this misconduct arises out of unnecessary high tacking. In an endeavour to counteract this, referees have been instructed to adopt a 'get tough policy' with offenders. Initially it will probably mean that there will be more dismissals, but if it accomplishes an improvement in the standard of tackling, it will eventually provide better entertainment for you, the paying customer."

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

Meanwhile, back on the field, Oldham were having an indifferentime. On November 27th the Roughyeds lost 5-11 to Leigh in the 2nd round of the John Player Trophy. Then on December 11th, Oldham lost at home for the third week running, this time to Bradford by 9-13. December 27th brought another home defeat by Hornets, also by 9-13. The poor run was punctuated, however, by away wins at Odsal on December on Chr. 18th by 14-7 and at Barrow on New Year's Day by 19-9.

Eventually, Oldham finished 13th of 30 clubs, with a record of Played 34, Won 18, Drawn 1, Lost 15, For 533, Against 480, Points 37. St. Helens finished third and were defeated by League leaders Leeds in the Championship Final at Swinton by 5-9. This reversed a Saints triumph, for they had beaten Leeds at Wembley by 16-13.

ferent Bugby Supporters Club are again holding a

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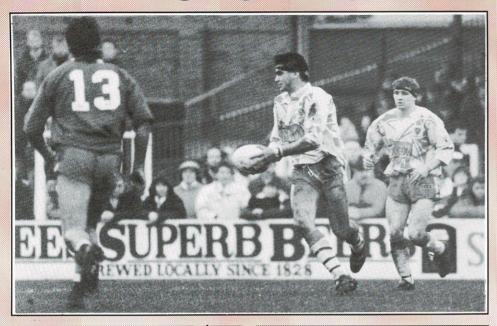
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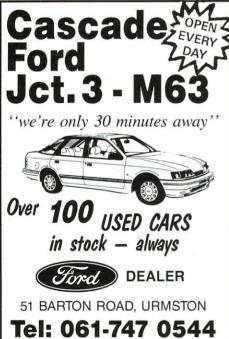
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PETER TUNKS added a further piece to his promotion jigsaw and completed his overseas quota of foreign players when he snapped up the signature of New Zealand utility player Logan Edwards with a speed that would have left Linford Christie standing in the starting blocks.

Logan, 23, needs little introduction to the domestic game, having performed admirably in recent seasons for both Swinton and Rochdale Hornets, scoring an impressive 19 tries in 30 appearances for the latter.

Keen to play in the UK after captaining the Canterbury provincial team to victory against the powerful Auckland side to win the New Zealand Cup, he flew into Manchester Airport on a Thursday night a couple of weeks ago to be met by Peter Tunks, who had been given a tip that Logan was available by fellow countryman Shane Tupaea.

In a couple of days Logan was signed for the club until March, when he returns home for the start of his domestic season.

Logan, who is from Christchurch, on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island, has played in all positions on the field, except front row. However, his favourite position is No. 13. "I am happy to play wherever I am picked and I feel happiest at loose forward."

Wherever he plays, if Logan can capture the form he has showed recently in New Zealand when the side he led defeated an Auckland team with eight internationals, he will have won the hearts and admiration of the Watersheddings faithful.



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TEAM CHECK



Team Changes

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th 1991

OLDHAM 1 DUNCAN PLATT

2 GARY CHRISTIE

3 TOMMY MARTYN

4 VINCE NICKLIN

6 GED BYRNE

5 RICHARD IRVING

7 NEIL FLANAGAN

8 IAN SHERRATT

9 IAN BATES

10 TIM STREET

11 CHRIS JOYNT

PENALTIES

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

2

3 4 5

18 19 20

12 SHANE TUPAEA

13 LOGAN EDWARDS

14 STEVE WARBURTON

15 CHARLIE McALISTER

Team Changes

- 1 CHRIS SMITH
- 2 COLIN ATKINSON
- 3 GARY DEAKER
- 4 DARRYL PITT
- 6 LACHLAN CHURCHILL
- 7 JOHN PLATH
- 9 DAVE ROTHERAN
- 13 STEVE ROSOLEN

	PEN	VALT	IES			SC	RUN	ИS
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19

Programme printed by Hirst, Kidd & Rennie Ltd., Oldham OL1 1EQ, Tel: 061 633 2121

SCRUMS

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20

3 4 5

2

Photographs courtesy of Oldham Evening Chronicle

CRUSADERS

- **5 SHANE BUCKLEY**

- 8 TIM WILBY
- **10** BEN BEEVERS
- 11 BERNIE WILKINSON
- 12 BERNIE GILBERT
- 14 MICK TAYLOR

Referee:

Mr. C. Steele

Touch Judges:

Mr. G. Hayes (Red Flag) Mr. D. Blood (Orange Flag)

15 GLEN WORKMAN

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

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CHRIS IS THE FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH!

CHRIS JOYNT is November's XXXX Player of the Month. The 19-year-old second-row forward, who has already received Great Britain under-21 honours this season, is a clear winner according to our competition judge, Roger Halstead, of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Says Roger: "Chris has shown outstanding form during November, not only on attack, which was always his forté thanks to his pace over distance and off the mark, but also on defence. He figured among the top three tacklers in the matches against Leigh, Workington, London Crusaders and St. Helens."

Roger adds that Tim Street, the first XXXX Player of the Month, in September, who is now back after suspension, deserved recognition for his impressive displays against London and St. Helens, but continues:

"As Street played in only two out of four matches, there is no doubt at all in my mind that for excellent play throughout the month November's award belongs to Joynt."

Chris receives his XXXX Player of the Month medal — and, of course, a well-earned supply of Castlemaine XXXX!

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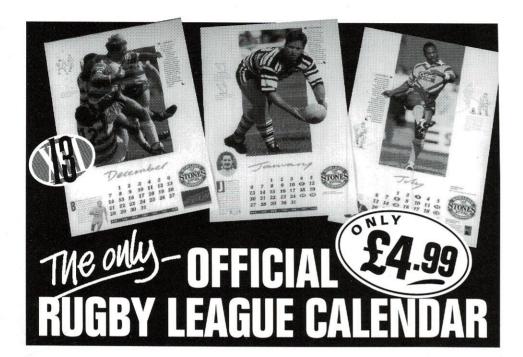
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Rochdale Hornets HOME GAME NEXT

Tommy Martyn Charlie McAlister Barrie McDermott Mark Mulligan Keith Newton Vince Nicklin Richard Pachniuk Duncan Platt. Steve Robinson

NEXT AWAY GAME

Tim Street Shane Tupaea Steve Warburton

Richard Russell Ian Sherratt

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Swinten (Lancs Cup)	22.9.91	-00	3.00	8 23	22.21	3,285	Nieldin t	t irring	Martyn t 3g	McAlister t	Henderson	Warburten	Flanagan	Donegan	Packniuk t	Street	Round	Newton	Aussell	Lengstaff	Тираев
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St Helens (Lancs Cup)	26.9.91	x	7.30	38	26.39	7,025	Bates	Brying	Martys 2g	Longstaff	Land t	Mickin	Flanagan t	Street	Russell	McDernott	Round t	McAlister t	Jayat t	Christie	Bradbury
Rachdale H	79.9.91	æ	300	18	18-26 4,	4,106 5	langstaff	ff frving	Nicker	Newton	Lard	Warburton t	Flamagan t	Donegan	Pachnisk	Street	Reand t	McAlister 3g	Passell	Chostie	McDermott
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Ryedale-York	13.16.91	-	3.00	# 25	52.18 3.0	3.034 3	Nieklin t	t Christie 2t	Martyn 3g	Lord	Irving t	Warburton	Flanagan t	Grima	Pacheiuk 2t 3g	Санау	Jayet t	McAlister t	Newton t	Langstaff	Bradbury
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Joe Grima John Henderson Neil Holding Richard Irving Chris Joynt Simon Longstaff

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Mike Clements
Tony Conroy
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Paddy's View

by
A-Team
Coach
Paddy Kirwan

THE late withdrawal of lan Bates due to Richard Pachniuk's illness and Mike Clements for personal reasons left a large hole in the preparations carried out for the St. Helens fixture. Uncertainty over the Neil Holding/Jason Critchley deal also complicated matters prior to the kick-off. Hooker and stand-off are both key positions, and reshuffling just before the game certainly unsettled the young 'A' team.

With several players out of position and others returning from injury and suspension, the omens did not look good, but it was no excuse for the very poor defence in the opening 15 minutes. This allowed St. Helens to score two early tries and command the rest of the game. Playing from behind is never easy, and in a team lacking experience we never looked like catching St. Helens, and in the end we were lucky to restrict them to 36 points. On the positive side Dave Bradbury, a makeshift hooker, Dave Pitts, and the return of Paddy Mitchell, inspired a late rally to make the score respectable.

An away trip to Hull KR is never easy, but on their recent form I felt confident we could come away with a win. Again, large withdrawals upset the team selection. with Neil Holding, Paul Hourigan and Jake Green having work commitments. In the event I had to volunteer as a substitute. Despite the upheaval, the team set off with a good attitude and for 30 minutes looked to have the beating of Hull KR. It was not to be, however, as injuries to Tony Barrow and Barrie McDermott within a 5 minute spell showed the lack of depth at the club. A reshuffled pack with two centres/wingers, Abraham Philip and Darrell Rogers at prop, 16-year-old Martin Halkyard at hooker, Craig Mort and Dave Bradbury in the second row and yours truly at loose forward, was not physically strong enough despite a good commitment. In spite of a lot of effort the Hull KR forwards soon began to dominate and create the platform for a 36-0 victory. Even so, this was a muchimproved performance on the previous week, with good performances from Craig Mort, Dave Bradbury. Abraham Philip and Dave Pitts. A special mention, too, for Martin Halkyard, who had an excellent debut in very difficult circumstances.

Youngers Rugby League Alliance Fixtures 1991/92

Date Aug 30	Opponents Bradford Northern	Venue H	Res W	F A 24-14
13	Castleford Warrington Workington Town (2.30) Halifax	A H H A	L W L	20-34 12-16 84-12 6-26
11	Hemel Hempstead (Shield) Widnes St Helens (Shield Round 2) Bradford Northern	A H A A	W L L L	46-8 18-24 10-49 10-30
Nov 1 9 15 22 29	Workington Town (2:30) Leeds	H A A H A	W L L L	14-4 16-12 16-36 0-36
13	Wakefield Trinity Castleford Wigan St. Helens	A H A A		
10 17	Hull KR Warrington Halifax Widnes Challenge Cup	H A H A		
		H A H		
	Hull Leeds Wakefield Trinity	A H H		

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Youngers Rugby League Alliance

	Ρ	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
Wigan	13	9	0	4	467	186	18
Leeds	13	8	0	5	376	235	16
Widnes	11	7	0	4	394	230	14
Halifax	12	7	0	5	317	218	14
St Helens	11	6	1	4	314	263	13
Hull KR	12	6	1	5	251	246	13
Bradford N	10	6	0	4	250	224	12
Warrington	10	6	0	4	201	206	12
Featherstone R	12	5	1	6	204	281	11
Hull	9	5	0	4	196	149	10
Castleford	10	4	1	5	172	250	9
Oldham	12	4	0	8	242	282	8
Wakefield T	12	3	0	9	221	368	6
Workington T	13	2	0	11	119	586	4

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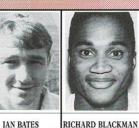




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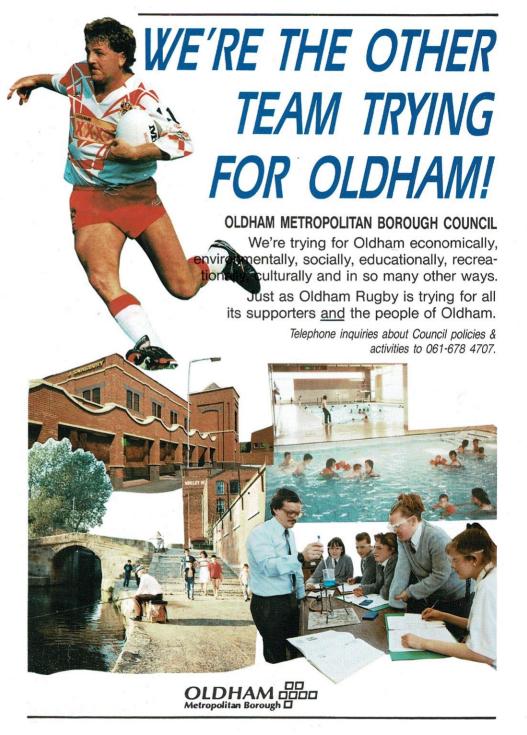
Running free — second-row forward Chris Joynt heads for the line only to have his 'try' disallowed. He was luckier later in the match as he scored one of the tries that set up Oldham's 20-10 victory over Rochdale.

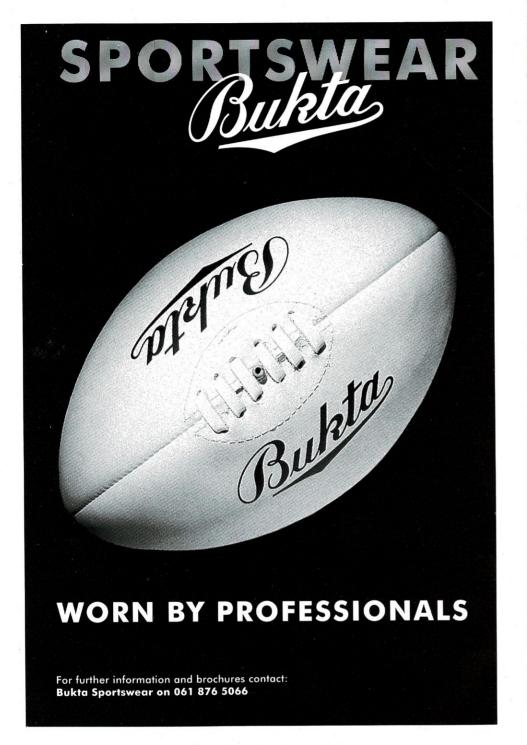
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