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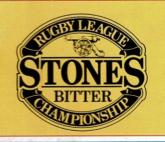
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21

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY PROGRAMME

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Record Transfer Fee Paid: £70,000 to Halifax for Tony Anderson March 1990

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Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685 Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233 Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

1

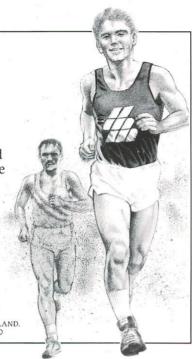
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Tunks' **Talkback**

Oldham's Coach gives you his views

WELCOME to today's clash with Carlisle as we strive to maintain pressure on Leigh and Sheffield above

us in the Second Division. Our opponents today are Cameron Bell's men from the North who, after a bright start to the year, have mixed their form of late. We will not be able to be complacent against any team with the likes of the talented Brad Hepl, yet another quality New Zealand export, and Kevin Pape, whose try-scoring exploits for the Border Raiders over the last decade have earned him respect throughout the Rugby League.

We have just started a fund to buy players for the team in a "syndication" deal. Sponsors and supporters who "donate" money to the fund are indeed the owner of the player. If, for example, player A is purchased for £20,000 and is sold in three years' time for £40,000, the people who have invested in the player will divide the original sum plus the profit. Not many people will retire to the South of France from this scheme, but realistically anyone who wants to help continue our climb back to the top can "own" part of a player and earn something on their investment. You only need to look at Sean Tyrer, our £5,000 signing from Wigan, to realise how this scheme will work. Sean has been an ever-present since joining us, and his try-scoring and goal-kicking feats would certainly make him three or four times more valuable than when we acquired him. Again, groups of supporters might like to join together, or if any local business is interested, please contact myself or Ray Hill at the club during business hours.

Enjoy the game.

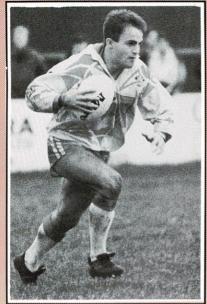
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Skipper's Spot

Oldham Captain Neil Flanagan looks at today's game

WHAT a great win at Sheffield! Last Sunday's game was a definite "four pointer" and fortunately the points went to us to reduce the gap between us and our South Yorkshire rivals to five points. It was crucial that we won this game to stand any chance of promotion. Fortunately, the team



responded to produce a performance that gave us an invaluable victory.

One of the most pleasing aspects was the tremendous support we received from the Oldham faithful and I would like to go on record to thank each and every one of you who made the journey across the Pennines. Your presence gave the team a tremendous lift and my sentiments are echoed by the rest of the players.

The game itself was marred by a couple of dismissals, with the unfortunate Tim Street getting his marching orders again (I wonder how much a player's reputation precedes him?). However, Logan Edwards and Steve Warburton were outstanding.

Congratulations too to Tommy Martyn and Chris Joynt, who have retained their places in the Great Britain Under-21 squad. Both players deserve every success.

Today's game against Carlisle is a game we must win if we are to keep the pressure on the two clubs above us. To stand a realistic chance of winning promotion, we will need to pick up points from all our remaining games — which is a task that is not beyond us, especially if we get the support we had against Sheffield, for the rest of the season.

Considering all the difficulties off the pitch, it is a great delight to see us getting things right on the field. With the season reaching the final stages, we have everthing to play for and you have everything to gain by giving us your full support.

OLDHAM Clubcall 0898 12 15 80 REPORTS & ACTION UPDATE Ø

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A Watersheddings welcome to . . .

Carlisle

Rob Ackerman: Carlisle's major close season signing. Powerful and skilful centre who comes to Gillford park from Leeds. Former Wales and British Lion RU star who turned pro with Whitehaven in a £60,000 deal five years ago.

lan Armstrong: A signing from local RU, 'Seth' completed his RL apprenticeship in the 'A' team before breaking into the first string. Octopus tackling style, awkward to stop. Second row.

Wayne Alberts: Classy Aboriginal stand-off who has agreed to come to Carlisle, but is experiencing problems getting a passport. Displaced from Gold Coast Giants side by the legendary Wally Lewis.

Steve Brierley: Carlisle's only ever-present last season. Hard, straight running prop who has developed an ability to offload in most tackles. Product of the Carlisle amateur scene.

Clayton Friend: Kiwi International scrum half star who regained his Test starting jersey against the Aussies this summer. Classy handler who can carve up the opponents and makes plenty of space for team mates.

Paul Lithgow: City-based utility player now back in training after a year out playing soccer. Straight-running, tough full-back who can also play wing or in the pack.

Phil Manning: Very pacey winger from Ayre RU who was unlucky to pick up a bad leg injury within four games of turning pro. Now fully fit and aiming to continue his pro education.

Gary Murdock: Unsettled last season when he had a spell on loan at Swinton. Came back at the end of the campaign, and now giving it another shot. Elusive ex-Ellenborough scrum-half.

Hitro Okesene: Popular Kiwi second rower back for his third season. Bighitting tackler and powerful bullocking runner. Ten tries last season in 18 full appearances.

Kevin Pape: Top try scorer for the fifth season with 20 touchdowns. Pacey centre with devastating side-step, and a great servant to Carlisle since signing from Glasson amateurs.

Tony Scott: Solid, consistent second rower and another good servant for Carlisle from the local amateur ranks. Good tackler, unorthodox, effective runner.

Malcolm Thomason: Prolific tackler and effective runner from acting half-back. Voted defence man of the season last year, but also scored eight tries, mostly from his tradesmark distance of ten yards.

Barry Williams: Ex-Broughton player who has matured into one of the club's top young forwards. A member of the newly re-formed Welsh squad, he is also a quality goal kicker.

Barry Vickers: Excellent goal-kicker with 85 successes to his credit last season. Signed from Count RU. Safe at full-back under a high ball, he has developed an elusive dummy in attack.

George Alliss: Arrived from Australia where he has been playing first grade football with Easts.

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Hill's Highlights

Commercial Manager Ray Hill reports on the Watersheddings Scene

I WOULD like to welcome on board the new Lifeline members who joined our society at the last home match against Ryedale-York. Their membership is a great boost to the club in these difficult times. Lifeline membership obviously benefits the club, but more importantly gives the members a great chance to get

great returns on a small weekly £2 investment. As most of you are aware, we pay out a regular £1,000 weekly prize, together with a £100 second prize. In addition there are lots of other bonus Lifeline draws throughout the year, including a brand new car, West Indies holiday and £10,000 New Year's bumper prize. Lifeline obviously is going from strength to strength and if you would like to join, simply contact either myself, John Watkin or Peter Young. To make things easier for you, you can pay by banker's order or we can collect the money from you. Either way, when you join Lifeline you are on to a winner.

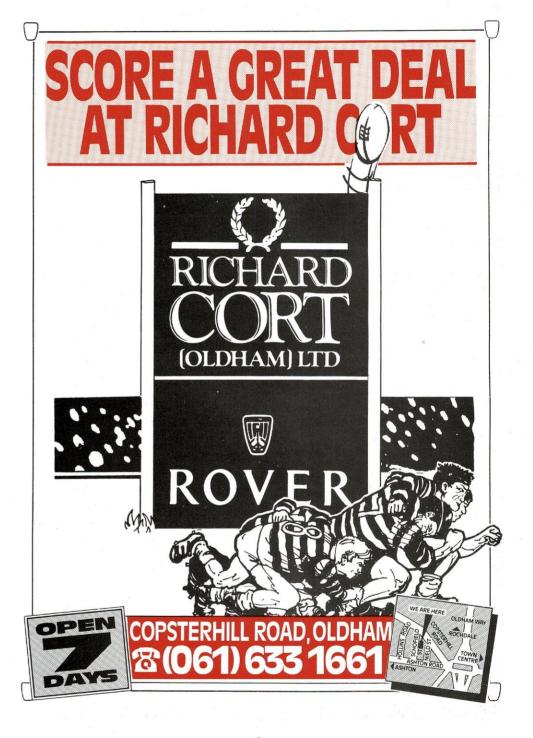
Talking of winners, Adrian Alexander, the former England Rugby Union international and popular Oldham player, is opening his new pub after the London Crusaders match and has invited his old friend Mick Skinner, the England forward who is in outstanding form this season, to open the pub after the match. Adrian's pub is the Shakespeare Hotel in Oldham and he would like to see as many faces down there as possible to join in the celebrations. Many of the first team players will be down to join Mick and Adrian, so make a date for what should be a great night out.

Talking of great nights out, don't forget we have still got tickets for our cabaret dinner dance spectacle at Royton Assembly Hall on March 27th. As I mentioned in the last programme, heading our line-up for the night is incredible Maxine Barrie (not Bassey as I had in my last notes — another gremlin in the computer). Maxine made a name for herself on TV's "Stars In Their Eyes" impersonating Shirley Bassey. The whole evening promises to be superb fun so don't forget to get your tickets, which cost a mere £20 and include a four-course dinner.

Before our big night out we will also be at Royton Assembly Hall for the EAGM, when shareholders will get the chance to talk to the directors about the club.

Finally, I am always on the look-out for people to assist in fund-raising actitivites on match days and would like to welcome on board anyone who is interested in helping. Just give me a call on 061-620 4870. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

OLDHAM *ClubCall* 0898 12 15 80 Reports & action update Ø





THE WAY FORWARD? by Geoff Cooke

IT'S less than a year since the structure of the League was altered, and already there appears to be dissatisfaction judging by the meeting of club chairmen held recently. It is not yet clear what the purpose of this meeting was. Some say it had to do

with voting right; others that there was a proposal to create a super-league; yet others that the game's finances were the topic under discussion.

Whatever the truth of the matter, it would be nice to think that the welfare of the game as a whole, the member clubs of the League and, most of all, the supporters were what motivated our leading clubs. Unfortunately, one suspects not. Apparently, twenty of the professional clubs are not fit to be consulted, including Leigh, a club almost certain to be in next year's First Division. The argument, of course, is that 'the tail should not wag the dog' and that self-interest on the part of the smaller clubs is holding back progress for the bigger. But progress towards what exactly?

At a time when the Winfield Cup in Australia is being expanded to new centres, English Rugby League seems hell bent on a course that would reduce the numbers of participants. Is this wise? Are our would-be legislators fully cognisant of the traditions of the English game? For example, any restructured League would surely have to take account of the resurgence of Huddersfield, a club with great Rugby League traditions and enormous potential support. Current thinking would then probably limit Kirklees to a single club, wiping out both Batley and Dewsbury. Do our would-be overlords seriously

think the citizens of the Heavy Woollen District would travel to Fartown for their rugby? In view of the outcry over the proposed Hearts-Hibernian soccer club merger, do we think Hull FC fans would welcome a merger with Hull KR, or Hunslet and Barnsley with Leeds, or Leigh with Wigan, or the merging of the Wakefield, Castleford, Featherstone triangle? And if all this were to come about, where then would be the breeding grounds of our players, our Carl Gibsons, Mark Astons, Darryl Powells, Paul Dixons, Michael Jacksons, etc., etc?

Furthermore, if Super League is our answer, what were we doing admitting Scarborough a year ago? And what have we been doing for the last decade toying with Cardiff/Bridgend, Mansfield/Nottingham, Chorley/Trafford, etc? Where now the boast of 'national' by 1995?

So how do we generate the finance to ensure a healthy future for all our clubs? Well, funnily enough, fewer fixtures before capacity crowds, instead of lots of fixtures before paltry attendances, might help. In American Football or the Winfield Cup, teams play at home one weekend and away the next. Families can budget for this structure. Here in England, in both Rugby League and Soccer, we end up with three and four fixtures a week at the end of the season, following hard on periods of five, six or more weeks without a home fixture in January-February-March. Lack of continuity is a real disincentive to the habit of regular attendance. So, if winning the League Championship is the highest achievement in the game, let's give it the prominence and promotion it truly deserves and a structure that makes it easy for the fans to follow.

NEXT WEEK we'll look at the need to increase revenue in the game.



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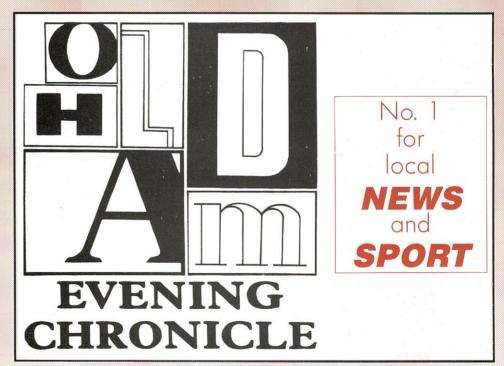
ONE of the key factors behind Oldham's recent rejuvenation has been the welcome return to action of the ever-versatile Richard Russell, whose season, like the club's, has been plagued by injury. His bad luck with injuries started with serious knee problems that required an operation. Further disappointment followed when he returned to fitness — only to break his thumb in early December playing for the A Team that was comprehensively thrashed by Wakefield Trinity 60-0.

"The knee injuries, caused by floating bone behind the liagments, were a problem before the start of the season and surgery became inevitable. I had operations on both knees in November at Highfield and was completely out of action for three weeks. Unfortunately, as soon as I returned I broke my thumb so that was another six weeks in plaster;" says Richard, who ironically is a plasterer by trade. "Really, this has not been my season but everyone gets odd seasons where they have injury problems. Fortunately, touch wood, this is my first."

Now he is back in action, looking to put right a season that has never come to life. Richard has a long association with Oldham, starting his rugby league career at the tender age of seven with the Watersheddings Junior School's RL team. A highlight of his junior career was a Lancashire under-11s Wembley appearance alongside close friend and former Oldham scrum-half Mike Ford, who is now through to his third successive Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final with Castleford.

Now he is pleased to be linking up with another old friend, Tim Street, who has been in outstanding form for Oldham. "I've been friends with Tim for a long time and know his game very well. When Tim plays well, which he is doing, I play well.

Versatile Richard, who has played at hooker, stand-off, loose forward and second row, helped Oldham reach the Lancashire Cup final, two Challenge Cup semi-finals, promotion and a thrilling Premiership victory against Hull KR. After missing most of the season, Richard Russell is out to make amends and help Oldham capture that second promotion place.



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TEAM CHECK

Team Changes

SUNDAY, MARCH 8th 1992

OLDHAM

Team Changes

- 1 BARRY VICKERS
 - 2 GARY CHARLTON
 - 3 KEVEN PAPE
 - 4 BRAD HEPY
 - 5 MIKE KAVANAGH
 - 6 GARY MURDOCH
 - 7 CLAYTON FREIND
 - **8 GEORGE GRAHAM**
 - 9 MALCOLM THOMASON
 - 10 STEVE BRIERLEY
 - 11 BARRY WILLIAMS
 - 12 HITRO OKESENE
 - 13 ROB ACKERMAN
 - 14 T.B.A.
 - 15 T.B.A.

Referee: J. E. Smith (Halifax) Touch Judges:

D. Barrett S. Lawrence 11 12 13 14 15 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 16 17 18 19 20

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SCRUMS

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SCRUMS

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PENALTIES

1 2 3 4 5

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9 10

CARLISLE

- 1 DUNCAN PLATT
- 2 SEAN TYRER
- 3 LOGAN EDWARDS
- 4 GED BYRNE
- 5 VINCE NICKLIN
- **6** STEVE WARBURTON
- 7 NEIL FLANAGAN
- 8 IAN SHERRATT
- 9 RICHARD PACHNIUK
- 10 TIM STREET
- 11 SHAUN TUPAEA
- 12 CHRIS JOYNT
- 13 RICHARD RUSSELL
- 14 KEITH ATKINSON
- 15 TOMMY MARTYN

PENALTIES

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CONGRATULATIONS to Tim Street, XXXX Player of the Month for the third time.

Competition judge Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle had no hesitation in naming Street the winner of the February award:

"Tim performed consistently well again during the month, and played a major part in Oldham winning the Rugby League's

Second Division Team of the Month Award

"He had a big game in the Challenge Cup match against Warrington at the beginning of February, and continued the month with excellent performances in the wins at Workington, London and at home to Ryedale-York."

Roger adds: "It was a great pity that he was sent off for retaliation in last Sunday's tremendous win at Sheffield, but that game will of course be considered for next month's award."

Skipper Neil Flanagan has already made an impressive start this month — could he be our March winner?

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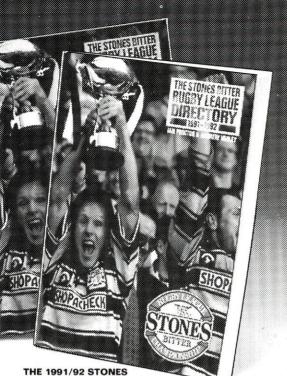


RUGBY

LEAGUE

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Simply send your 10 answers and name, address and phone number to:

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to arrive pefore April 5th, 1992

The first 25 all correct entries drawn out on this date will each receive a Stones Bitter Rugby League Directory.

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- 9. GRIN TO WARN
- 10. HAVE THE WIN

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Appearances and Scorers

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OLDHAM STATISTICS 1991/92

Stones Bitter Second Division

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NEXT HOME GAME London Crusaders

Sunday, March 15th (kick-off 3.00p.m.)

NEXT AWAY GAME

Carlisle

Sunday, March 29th (kick-off 2.00 p.m.)

Restrict Street Street Restrict Restrict Restrict Street Restrict Rest	Opponents	Date	F	KOR	Res FIA	Att	t Pos	1-1	2	3	4	5	9	7	∞	6	91	=	12	13	14	15
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March Marc	Leigh	8.9.91						Nictits	Irving 1	Martyn t 3g	McAbster 4g	Henderson 2t	Warburton	Holding	Donegan 1	Pachniuk 1	Street	Round	Allen	Russell	Longstaff t	McDermott t
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	Carliste	900000						Nicklin t	Christie t	Martyn 3g	Byrne t	Irving	A N Other	Hanagan t	Griena	Pachaiuk g	Сожоу	Joynt	McAlister g	Newton	Warburton	McDemott
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'A' Team Round-Up

THERE was still no respite for Oldham 'A' team's torrid season when they were beaten 43-18 by Featherstone Rovers

as relegation from the first division looms ever nearer.

The side was comprehensively beaten, conceding seven tries as the pack, with props Tony Conrov and Barrie McDermott returning after long spells of injury, swept aside by the Featherstone forwards.

There were plus signs, however, from the disappointing performance, with centre Steve Warburton scoring two good tries with his mazy running and eve for a gap.

Young Paul Hourigan also impressed, first as full back and then in the centre where he scored a stunning try after from outside his own half.

And the young trialist full back, who had impressed on his debut, was once again on song, although he had a shaky start, contributing three goals and strong attacking play.

Youngers Rugby League Alliance Fixtures 1991/92

Date		Opponents	Venue	Res	FA
Aug	30	Bradford Northern	Н	W	24-14
Sept	6	Castleford	Α	L	20-34
	13	Warrington	Н	L	12-16
	21	Workington Town (2.30)	Н	W	84-12
		Halifax	Α	L	6-26
Oct		Hemel Hempstead (Shield)	Α	W	46-8
		Widnes	Н	L	18-24
	19	St Helens (Shield Round 2)	Α	L	10-49
	24	Bradford Northern	Α	L	10-30
Nov		Featherstone Rovers	н		14-4
	9	Workington Town (2.30)	Α	W	16-12
		Leeds	Α	L	
		St. Helens	н	L	
	29	Hull KR	Α	L	0-36
Dec	6	Wakefield Trinity	Α		0-60
	13	Castleford	н		tponed
		Wigan	Α		0-42
	27	St. Helens	Α	L	10-40
Jan	3	Hull KR	Н	W	12-6
	10	Warrington	Α	L	20-26
		Halifax	Н	L	4-14
		Widnes	Α	Pos	tponed
	31	Hemel Hempstead (C/Cup)	Α	L	6-20
Feb		Hull	н	L	12-18
		Castleford	н	L	
		Featherstone Rovers	Α	L	18-46
	28	Wigan	н		
Mar	6	Hull	Α		
	13	Leeds	н		
	20	Wakefield Trinity	Н		
		Kick-off 7.30 unless st	ated		

Youngers Rugby League Alliance PWDIF A Pts

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Wigan	20	16	0	4	747	248	32
Leeds	18	12	0	6	544	313	24
Halifax	18	10	0	8	398	326	20
Castleford	18	9	2	7	378	384	20
St Helens	18	9	1	8	480	380	19
Hull	17	9	1	7	372	277	19
Featherstone R	20	9	1	10	330	430	19
Widnes	17	9	0	8	516	440	18
Warrington W	18	9	0	9	366	390	18
Bradford N	17	9	0	8	388	438	18
Hull KR	18	8	1	9	345	378	17
Wakefield T	17	7	0	10	378	433	14
Oldham	20	5	0	15	310	512	10
Workington T	20	4	0	16	206	809	8

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ACTION REPLAY

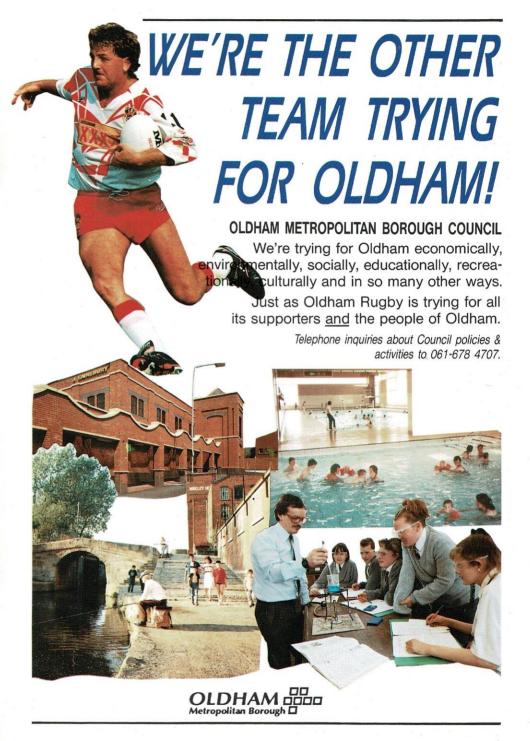


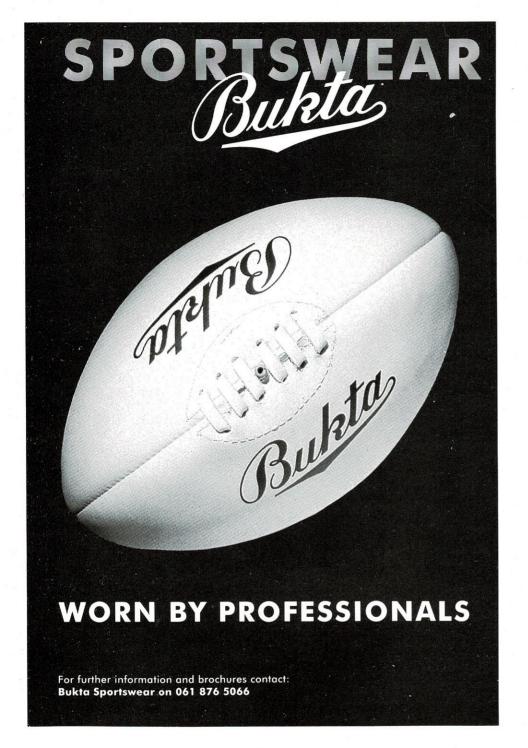
Running free — Logan Edwards breaks loose to score the last try that capped a fine performance against Ryedale-York, with Oldham winning 30-6 to maintain the club's promotion challenge.

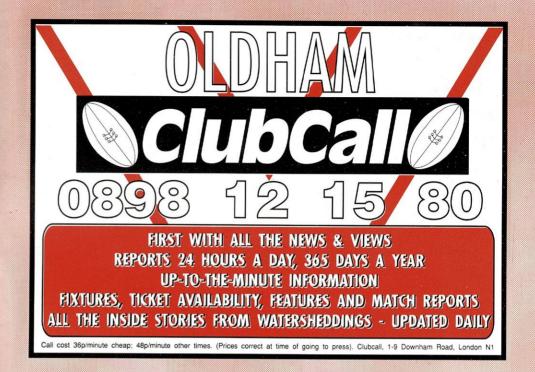


Running free part two—inspirational Oldham skipper, Neil Flanagan, breaks away from the Sheffield Eagles defence during a first half dominated by the Roughyeds. As well as winning the match 14-10, Neil also led the side to its first monthly second division prize.









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