



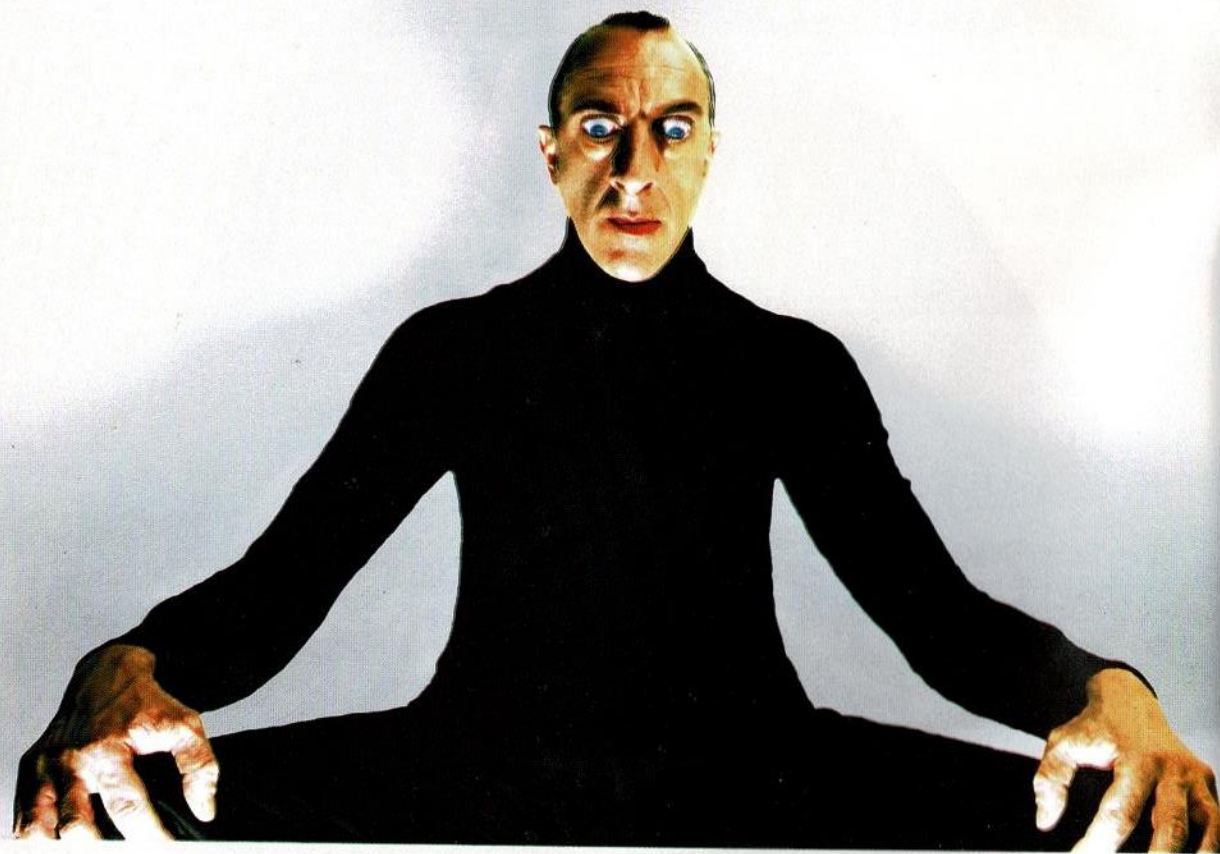
**PROTECT CHILDREN: DON'T MAKE  
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Chief Medical Officers' Warning  
5mg Tar 0.5mg Nicotine



**SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP 1995 SEMI-FINAL**  
SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 1995 KICK-OFF 3.00PM ALFRED McALPINE STADIUM, HUDDERSFIELD OFFICIAL PROGRAMME £2.00  
WIGAN V OLDHAM





PROTECT CHILDREN: DON'T MAKE  
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**T**here exists in literary theory a technique which scholars call ring composition, and it involves whatever story is being told coming full circle back to the point at which it started. And so we find ourselves back at the match from which began Wigan's astonishing run of 40 consecutive Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties without defeat, and we ask the question: can Oldham work the oracle one more time?

It was back in 1987 that the Roughyeds were the last team to beat Wigan in the competition, recovering from a 4-8 deficit in the first round to win through a last-minute try by scrum-half Paddy Kirwan, goaled by former Widnes full-back Mick Burke, after current Wigan player-coach Joe Lydon knocked on near his own line.

Oldham progressed no further through that year's competition, going out to St. Helens 14-24 in the second round, and arrive at today's semi-final never having played at Wembley; although they have won the Challenge Cup three times and appeared in the final on seven occasions, all of these were in the pre-Wembley era. This year they have survived the rounds with a team which boasts no real stars but oodles of character and determination - qualities which are embodied in coach Andy Goodway, one of the real up-and-comers in British helmsmanship. As a former Wigan hero himself, he should know better than anybody what it takes to beat the Riversiders.

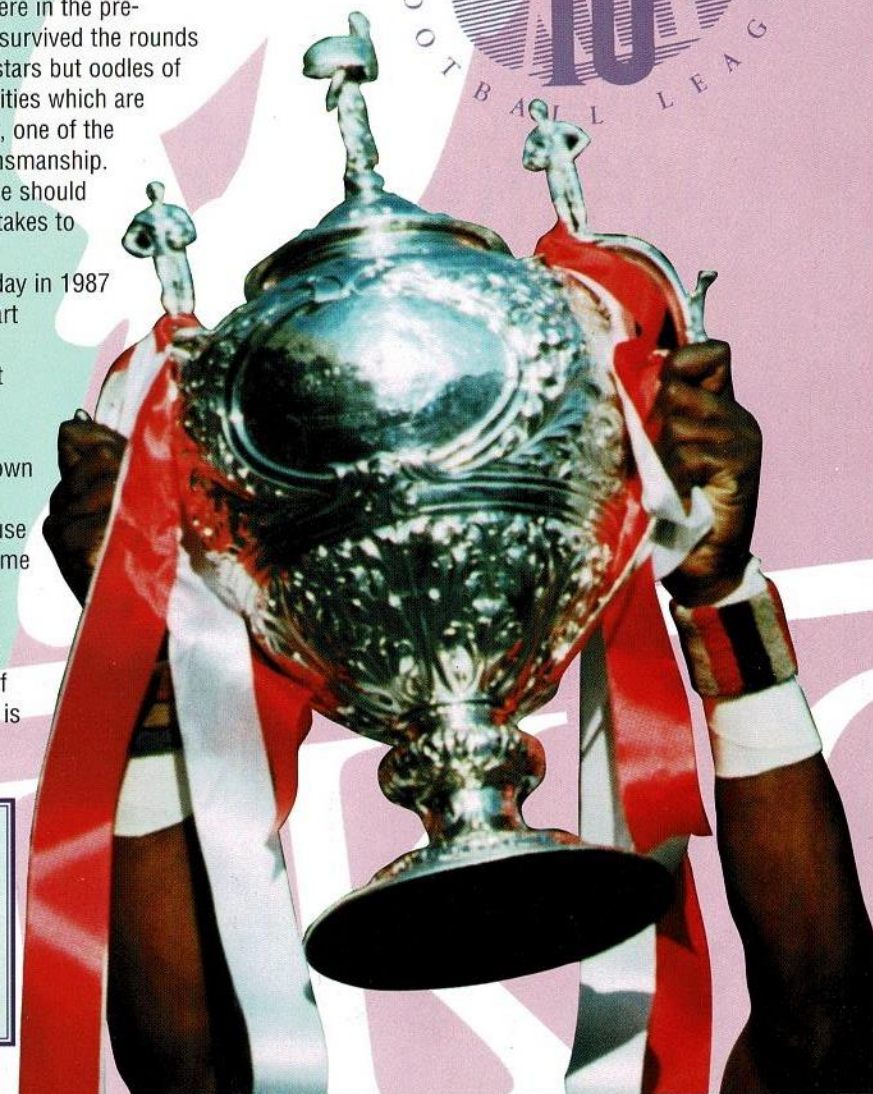
Wigan's recent history since that day in 1987 needs no repetition. They must start today's match as overwhelming favourites to set up a replay of last season's memorable final against close rivals Leeds - although the Loiners face a tricky task of their own next week at Elland Road, when Featherstone will be looking to cause a similar upset. Wigan coach Graeme West will be relieved that his team avoided the Yorkshiremen at this semi-final stage, but will brook no complacency from his collection of international superstars. The prize is too big for that.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
COMPILED BY FRANK TOBIN  
DESIGNED & PRODUCED  
BY TOBIN DESIGN  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW VARLEY,  
MARTIN ROBSON, PETER HESTON  
& PHILL HEYWOOD  
PRINTED BY COLOURPLAN

This year is the fourth of Silk Cut's £2.3 million five-year sponsorship of Rugby League's most famous knock-out competition, played under the Silk Cut banner since 1985. The 1995 winners will receive a record prize cheque for £39,000 and the runners-up £20,500 from a prize pool of £400,000, some £146,000 of which is a contribution to the RFL's vital Capital Development Fund.

At the time of writing, tickets are still available for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley on Saturday 29th April, priced £27, £17 and £12. These are selling like the proverbial hot cakes, however, so applications should be made as soon as possible to the Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT, tel. 0113-262-9991 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

NEIL TUNNICLIFFE  
THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE





**T**here is little doubt that, by rights, Captain Justice should be wearing an Oldham shirt this afternoon.

And, certainly, if a Hollywood film producer was asked to pen a script for today's cliffhanger, the fictitious ending would not contain too many surprises for the movie-goer as opposed to the real sports fan.

After years and years of heartache, near-misses and the near-despair, the stage is set perfectly for a fairytale story to cap them all.

Picture it now: the underdogs and perceived no-hopers, who have never been to Wembley, rising heroically to the occasion to defeat the team they say is invincible and, in doing so,

making a dream come true for a whole team. It would, indeed, be the stuff of legends.

And the signs from the gods surely point to that happening. Wigan's incredible run must come to an end sometime and Oldham must eventually get to Wembley, while the fact that the Central Park giants were last beaten in the Challenge Cup by their rather more modest cousins from the Watersheddings way back in 1987 merely adds a coincidence too strong to ignore.

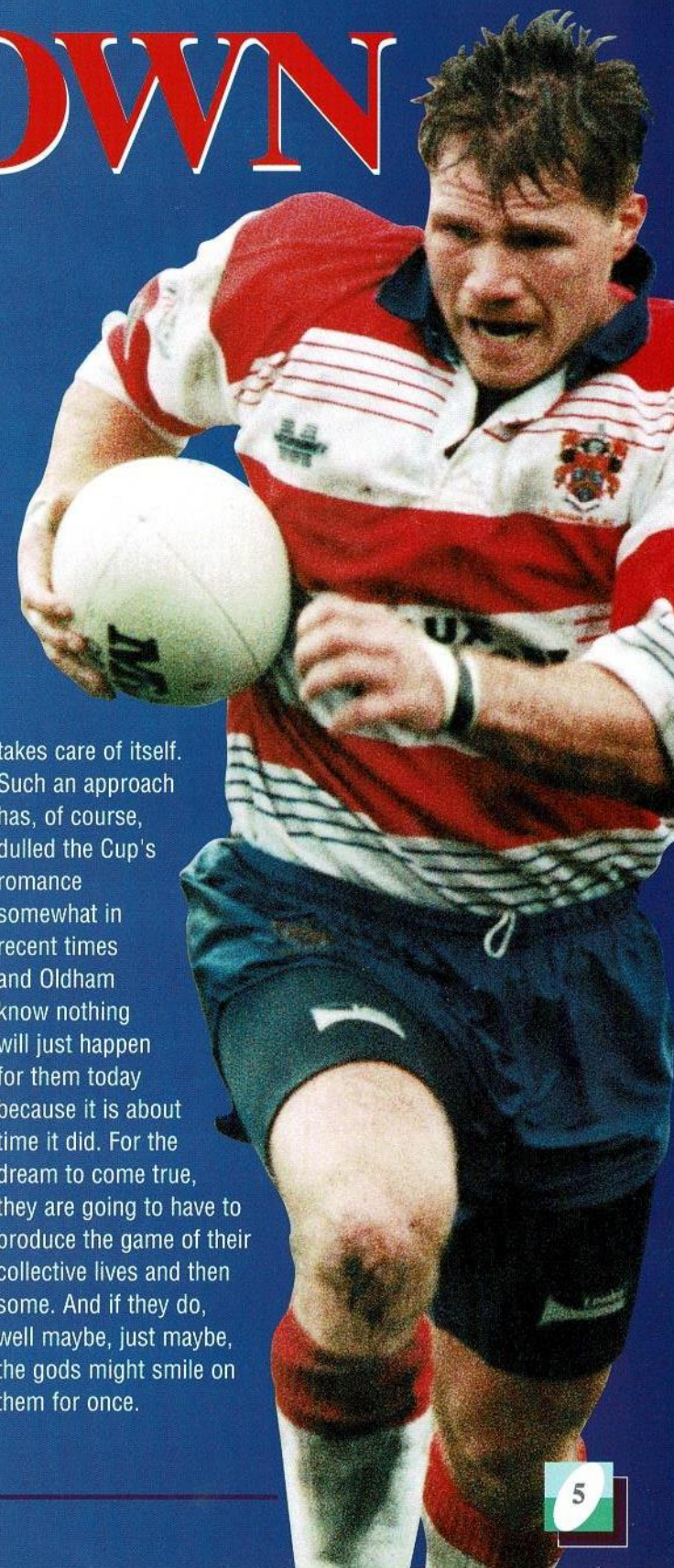
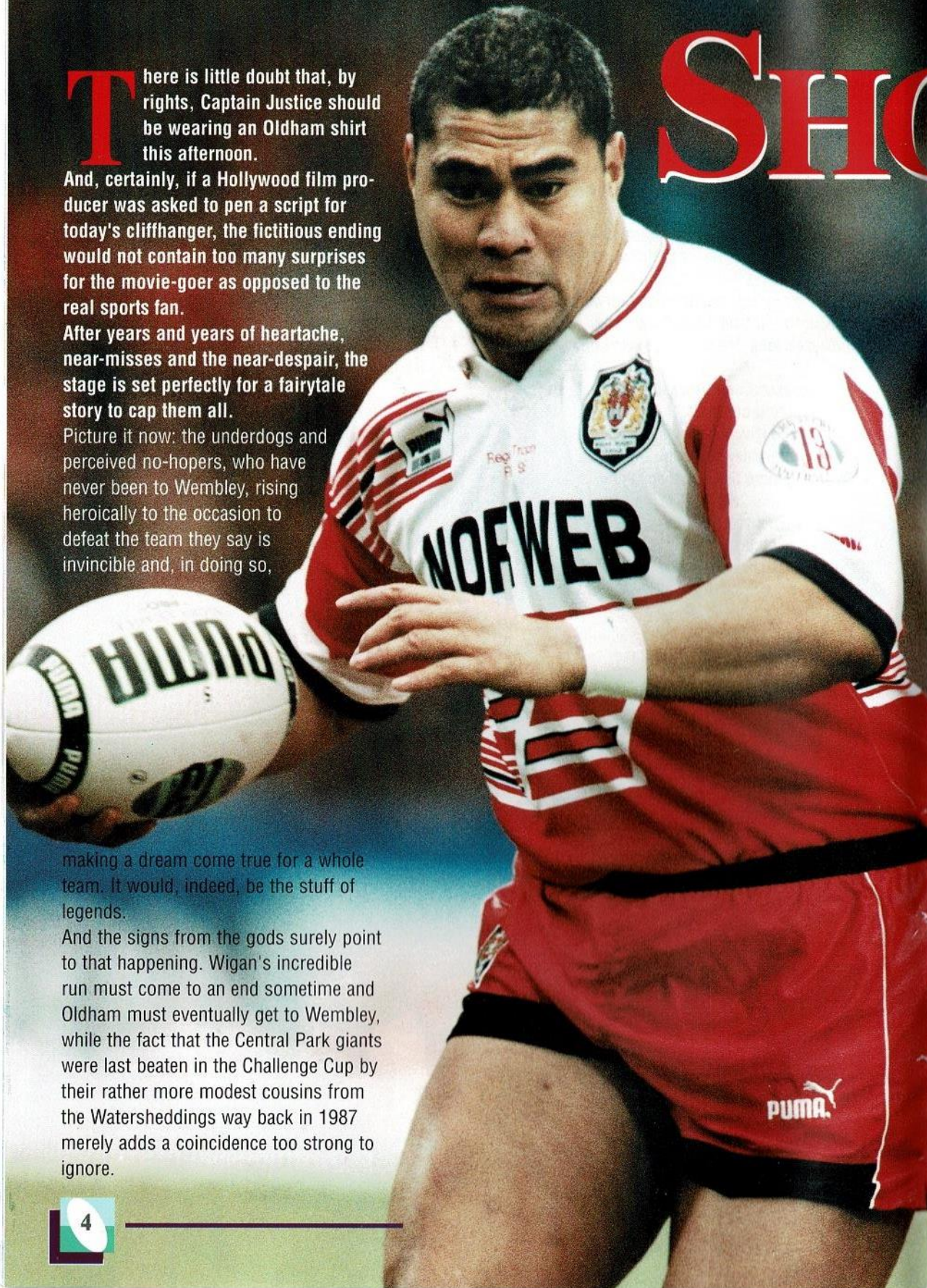
# SHOWDOWN

Then there's the little matter of luck. It works its way around, the pundits claim, and as Oldham have enjoyed precious little of that particular commodity in semi-final football, perhaps they are overdue a large slice. The bounce of the ball, or rub of the green, call it what you will, should, one would have thought, be with Oldham this afternoon. Backing up that theory, it might be argued that Wigan have, for all their undoubted brilliance, ridden their luck in recent Silk Cut Challenge Cup seasons. Witness, for instance, the Central Park post incident which denied Bobby Goulding the one-pointer which would have seen St. Helens through this time around. So, then, it all adds up to an Oldham win today.

Well, perhaps not. You see, all this was also said back in 1991 when the two teams met at this stage of the competition and, on that occasion, the fairytale had turned to a nightmare for Oldham by half-time. In fact, plenty of teams over the past eight years have made out a good pre-game case for why it should be theirs and not Wigan's day, yet the outcome has almost inevitably always been the same.

Wigan, it seems, pay little respect to the notion of fate, luck or taking their turn when it comes to collecting the honours. They simply believe in having the best players, the best team and best coaches, and then ensure that they are better prepared than anyone else. The rest

takes care of itself. Such an approach has, of course, dulled the Cup's romance somewhat in recent times and Oldham know nothing will just happen for them today because it is about time it did. For the dream to come true, they are going to have to produce the game of their collective lives and then some. And if they do, well maybe, just maybe, the gods might smile on them for once.







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## 1994-95 SILK CUT PRIZES

This is the fourth season of Silk Cut's £2.3 million five-year sponsorship of Rugby League's most famous knock-out competition, played under the Silk Cut banner since 1985. The 1995 Wembley victors will receive a record prize cheque for £39,000.

Of the 1994-95 sponsorship investment of £400,000 a total of £254,000 will be awarded in prize money with the remaining £146,000 being deposited in the League's Capital Development Fund. The complete 1994-95 Silk Cut Challenge Cup prize structure is:

**THIRD ROUND £2,700** to each Second Division club  
**FOURTH ROUND £2,700** to losers  
**FIFTH ROUND £4,300** to losers  
**QUARTER-FINALS £6,900** to losers  
**SEMI-FINALS £11,000** to losers

**TOTAL PRIZE MONEY £229,900**  
**CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND £170,000**  
(including development grants of £1,000 to each amateur club in the Third Round)



**RUNNERS-UP**  
**£20,500**

**WINNERS**  
**£39,000**

**GRAND TOTAL**  
**£400,000**

## HOW THEY GOT HERE OLDHAM WIGAN

**Fourth Round: Beat Batley (Home) 70-10**  
Oldham T: Abram 2, Gartland 2, Gibson 2,  
Ranson 2, Belle, Davidson, Marsh, Topping  
G: Marsh 11  
Bramley T: Greenwood, Perks  
G: Creasser  
HT: 28-4 Att: 2,788 MoM: Wilson Marsh

**Fifth Round: Beat Warrington (Away) 17-6**  
Warrington T: Davies  
G: Davies  
Oldham T: Ranson, Fiamalo  
G: Marsh 4  
DG: Gartland  
HT: 6-10 Att: 5,500 MoM: Mike Kuiti

**Sixth Round: Beat Huddersfield (Home) 23-12**  
Oldham T: Crompton 2, Topping  
G: Marsh  
DG: Gibson  
Huddersfield T: Hanger, Reynolds  
G: Kerry 2  
HT: 20-6 Att: 8,182 MoM: Mike Kuiti

**Fourth Round: Drew with St.Helens (Home) 16-16**  
Wigan T: Betts, Hall, Tuigamala  
G: Botica 2  
St.Helens T: Hunte, Pickavance  
G: Goulding 3  
DG: Goulding, Pickavance  
HT: 6-12 Att: 15,714 MoM: Keiron Cunningham

**Fourth Round Replay: Beat St.Helens (Away) 40-24**  
Wigan T: Offiah 3, Clarke, Connolly, Paul, Robinson  
G: Botica 6  
St.Helens T: Goulding, Joynt, Nickle, Pickavance  
G: Goulding 3, Prescott  
HT: 8-32 Att: 17,350 MoM: Frano Botica

**Fifth Round: Beat Batley (Away) 70-4**  
Batley T: Thornton  
Wigan T: Offiah 3, Paul 2, Cassidy, Clarke, Connolly,  
Edwards, Skerrett, Tuigamala  
G: Botica 10, Paul 3  
HT: 0-46 Att: 3,800 MoM: Gary Connolly

**Sixth Round: Beat Widnes (Away) 26-12**  
Widnes T: Hammond, Makin  
G: Hadley 2  
Wigan T: Betts, Cowie, Hall, Offiah  
G: Botica 5  
HT: 12-14 Att: 6,800 MoM: Denis Betts



# LUCKY SEVEN?

■ Anyone who fancies Oldham to pull off one of the greatest upsets in Challenge Cup history this afternoon is in a distinct minority. But one of those who believes the Roughyeds are capable of booking their first-ever visit to Wembley is Bramley coach Ray Ashton, a former favourite at the Watersheddings.

One of five Oldham players to tour Australia with the 1984 Lions, Ashton was a member of their side which suffered Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final heartache against Castleford at Central Park in 1986. And he saw Bramley's Cup hopes brushed aside by a rampant Oldham in this season's fourth-round tie at Watersheddings.

Oldham completed a club record 70-10 victory that day, scoring a dozen tries to go with 11 goals from Kiwi deadshot Wilson Marsh. The Villagers' coach was very impressed, and it is not just sentimentality which makes him tip Oldham to make it seventh time lucky at the McAlpine Stadium.

Oldham are featuring in their seventh post-Wembley Challenge Cup semi-final this afternoon, having lost out on a visit to the capital in 1934 (to Widnes), 1960 (Hull), 1964 (in a second replay to Hull KR), 1986 (Castleford) and, in consecutive seasons, at the hands of Warrington in 1990 and against Wigan in 1991.

"We caught Oldham on the top of their form when Bramley visited Watersheddings in the fourth round," reflects Ray, "and I was impressed with their performance. They went to Wilderspool and knocked out Regal finalists Warrington in the

next round, so Andy Goodway's obviously got them playing to a pattern that's successful for them and he's also got them believing in themselves - and that's half the battle.

"Self-confidence could be the key to whether Oldham are capable of defeating Wigan in the semi-final at Huddersfield, because they simply must believe in their ability to win a match in which they are rank outsiders. Personally, I believe that Oldham are capable of causing a mighty upset, one that would probably rank alongside Featherstone's 1983 Wembley defeat of Hull.

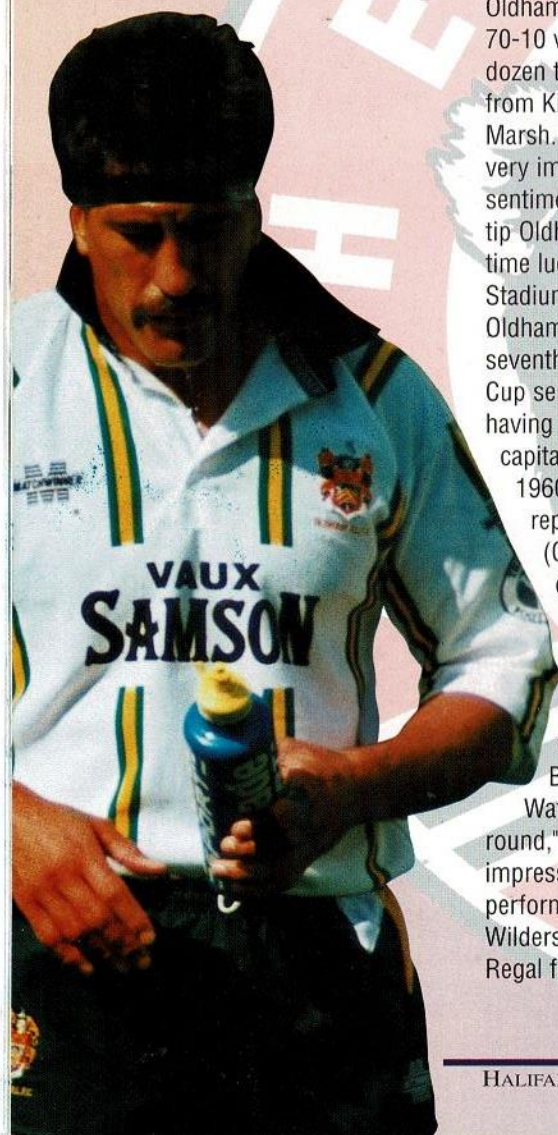
"When I played at Oldham alongside Andy Goodway in the early 1980s, he was probably the last person anyone would have predicted to become a successful coach. But he's done extremely well in his first season with Oldham, and he will be stressing to his players the point that Wigan's run has to end somewhere, some day. It can't go on.

"To be perfectly honest, Wigan haven't looked as convincing as usual in this year's competition. Saints might have defeated them with any luck in the fourth round at Central Park, and Widnes had them rocking for a while in the quarter-final. By the same token, they still had the ability to come back and win both ties.

"But, surely, one day they will be just that little bit complacent, just

a little off-colour, and someone will catch them. Oldham could be that team, because their players will surely be the hungrier of the two. Wigan's players have done it all, many times over, and familiarity does breed contempt. This is a golden opportunity for the Oldham players to rewrite the history books and book a Wembley appearance.

"I remember when we lost to Castleford in 1986 and feeling that we'd had our chances but blown it. Nothing went our way. Bob Beardmore scored a crucial try when his feet were clearly over the dead-ball line, and it was an afternoon when we failed to take our chances. "Oldham's players will be well aware of what it would mean to their loyal fans to reach a first-ever Wembley final. And that should be the spur which lifts them to new heights. Passion will go a long way, but they must keep their heads, just as they did in the win at Warrington." Oldham showed their ruthless streak in





scoring 12 tries against Bramley, but have found it much harder in subsequent rounds, defeating Warrington 17-8 in the fifth round and ending the hopes of Second Division giant killers Huddersfield with a 23-12 success in a blood-and-thunder Watersheddings quarter-final a fortnight ago. "Andy's put together a workmanlike side which plays to its strengths," says Ashton, "and their pack can be formidable on its day. If every player hits top form, they are more than capable of matching Wigan's all-international six - and that will be the key to the contest. "I'm not the only person to have been impressed by the ability of New Zealand front-rower Jason Temu, and Oldham certainly got a bargain when they engaged his services. Se'e Solomona was a big favourite with their fans, but



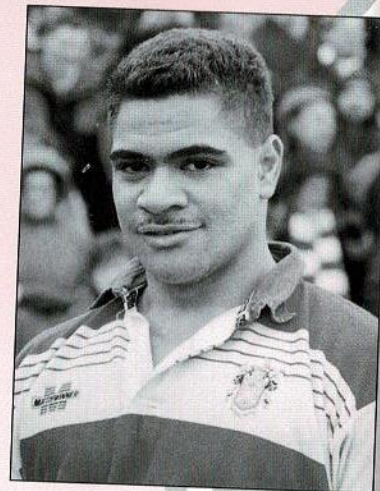
Temu has made a great impression in his debut season. "Joe Faimalo has also progressed significantly during the course of

the season, and his late try was the killer blow in their magnificent Cup win at Warrington. He'll be well motivated for the clash with Wigan because he's hoping to oppose his brother Esene in an Oldham-Leeds Wembley final. "A third Kiwi, Mike Kuiti, has discovered the best form of his British career with Oldham this season. A 1989 Kiwi tourist and holder of six Test caps for New Zealand, he has saved his best displays for the Cup competition. He, too, would probably like to oppose Leeds at Wembley having spent a period at Headingley, in addition to stints with Rochdale and Swinton.

"Under-rated Gary Lord is another former Leeds man, and I played alongside him when I was at Headingley. There are no frills about his game, but he was highly rated by Malcolm Reilly and that's not a bad recommendation. Gary won at Wembley with Castleford as a teenage full-back in 1986 but, these days, he is the kind of forward that every good side needs. He works hard, never takes a backward step, and tends to lift others to greater heights. "Prop Ian Sherratt lacks nothing in playing ability. He's always been a class act, but has never shown that touch of aggression which separates the likes of Kelvin Skerrett from the rest. Ian's done the rounds at Salford, Bradford and Oldham (twice), and this is a great opportunity for him to savour a big-match atmosphere and earn himself a visit to Wembley.

"David Stephenson has done a marvellous job since the turn of the year, playing so well that Under-21 international hooker John Clarke has been unable to

shift him. There are a lot of outstanding young hookers coming in to the British game,



and Stephenson is right up there with the best of them."

Oldham's backs have neither the firepower nor the reputation of their Wigan counterparts. But Ashton believes they are under-rated and that they will lack nothing in determination. "Most of the Oldham backs have come up from the Second Division," says Ashton, "and so this represents a very big occasion for them. If they can handle the unique atmosphere and tension which surrounds a Cup semi-final, they might knock their opponents out of their stride. "Wally Gibson is a marvellous attacking full-back on his day. Back in Huddersfield, where he was Third Division Player of the Year in 1992, he'll want to impress any Fartowners in the McAlpine Stadium. With his ability, he should be ranked alongside the likes of Dave Watson... it's up to him to stand up and be counted against Wigan.

"Wingers Adrian Belle and Scott Ranson lack nothing in determination, and the way in which Ranson went for that crucial try at Warrington typified his willingness to go in where it hurts. I'm still not sure about the legality of that try, but you could only give the former Swinton winger full marks for determination. Ex-Rochdale man Belle has shown the same character after displacing hard-running former Wakefield winger David Jones.

"It's in the centres where Oldham have to counteract the threat from Tuigamala and Connolly. And I think they have a couple of strong defenders in Paul Topping and Darren Abram, with former GB international Shaun Irwin and ex-Rochdale man Steve Gartland also being involved in the Cup run.

"I capped Topping for Lancashire in 1991, and he's gone on to prove himself a First Division centre, after spells at Mansfield, Swinton and Leigh. Abram has a good try-scoring record after being signed from Rochdale. He's another who did the rounds in the Second Division, after being discarded by Warrington early in his career, but he's proved them all wrong at Watersheddings. "New Zealander Wilson Marsh has still to convince me of his footballing ability at stand-off, but he has to be included in the Oldham side for his goalkicking ability. Teams can carry an accurate marksman, and he landed 11 in their defeat of Bramley - just three short of Bernard Ganley's club record. If he kicks well, then it could make all the difference to Oldham's

confidence on the big day. "Scrum-half Martin Crompton was the man who terrorised Oldham when they lost 6-10 to Warrington in the 1990 Cup semi-final, and there's no doubting his ability. He never really established himself at Wigan, and that will make him all the more determined to get the better of Shaun Edwards. If he can, it will be a major plus factor for Oldham's hopes of success. "Wigan obviously have far more depth to their squad, but the fact of the matter is that they can only field 13 against 13 on the day. And if Oldham's players are in the right frame of mind, they can make it happen for themselves. Wigan's run simply can't go on for ever... can it?"





# A NIGHT...

■ Wigan travelled to the Watersheddings ground that night as red-hot favourites to take the first step on a road which seemed certain to end with an appearance in the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

With former New Zealand coach Graham Lowe enjoying an outstanding debut season at Central Park, Wigan went into the Oldham Cup-tie having lost just two of their 25 league and cup matches. They stood on top of the First Division table and already had the Lancashire Cup and the John Player Trophy safely in the trophy cabinet.

Additionally, Wigan had just bolstered an outstanding squad by spending a club record £130,000 on the signing of Warrington half-back Andy Gregory. His arrival ensured Wigan would eventually claim the First Division Championship by a record 15 points, ahead of second-placed St. Helens, and they were at short odds to return to Wembley after missing out the previous year when they fell victims to Castleford.

By contrast, Frank Myler's Oldham side were

in mid-table in the First Division, having lost as many games as they had won, and they went into the Cup-tie on the back of a 10-44 hiding at Widnes. But the Roughyeds had a useful team and were formidable opposition on their own pitch, as the touring Kangaroos had discovered when escaping with a 22-16 victory three months earlier. But few fancied them to upset the champions-elect.

The original tie had been postponed because of frost and it eventually went ahead on a cold Wednesday evening. Watersheddings was packed to the rafters and 10,134 fans were to witness one of the most dramatic nights in the long history of the oldest Rugby League knock-out competition.

The game was a tense, bruising affair and Oldham led 4-0 at half-time, but Wigan always seemed to have the upper hand after the interval. Andy Gregory and Graeme West combined to send Dean Bell clear for the first try. Joe Lydon converted and then kicked a penalty goal eight minutes from time, so that Wigan went into the dying seconds with an 8-4 advantage.

Then, sensationally, Oldham stole victory when scrum-half Paddy Kirwan jinked through for a try from dummy-half, allowing Mick Burke's conversion to give the home side a 10-8 advantage just before the hooter sounded.

Wigan's hooker was teenager Martin Dermott, who has since been a Wembley winner on five occasions. And, while disappointed at being on a losing side, he had his eyes opened by the raw emotions displayed in the Wigan dressing-room afterwards.

"There were a lot of distraught players and officials among the Wigan party that night and a few tears were shed," he recalls. "As a youngster who'd never played at Wembley at that time, I couldn't quite comprehend the

devastating nature of the defeat. It was only after playing at Wembley, and seeing the sheer joy that Cup success brings to everyone, that I could comprehend the scale of that Oldham defeat.

"Wembley is special. The build-up, the unique atmosphere, and the fact that, for one day in the calendar, the game is given the national exposure it deserves gives every player a lift. And once you've experienced all of that, you want more.

"I can remember winning at Wembley for the first time and thinking I ought to savour the feeling because I might never return. Then I was fortunate to win for a second time, and then a third, fourth and fifth and, now, Wigan are bidding to return for an eighth consecutive season. It's just incredible and a feat unlikely to be repeated."

Current Wigan coach Graeme West was alongside Dermott in the "engine room" of the pack that night and he was one of those who did not fully appreciate the impact of such a devastating defeat. He was never to tread the Wembley turf as a player again.

"We were hot favourites and on our way to winning the First Division title for the first time," the New Zealander recalls, "but we ran into a very determined Oldham outfit. They weren't a great side but their players were committed, united and produced a tenacious effort for the 80 minutes.

"Wigan had long spells camped in their quarter but just couldn't find the knock-out punch. And then we fell for a sucker punch when Paddy Kirwan scored a try in the dying seconds. It was an awful moment, one I'll never forget, and the final siren went almost immediately afterwards. We had no time to repair the damage.

"That defeat cost us the Grand Slam of five major trophies under Graham Lowe, because

4 February 1987 is a date etched in Rugby League history because Oldham completed a 10-8 Silk Cut Challenge Cup defeat of Wigan. It was to be their last Cup setback in eight years. Ian Proctor sought the recollections of some of those involved in a night of high drama at the Watersheddings.

Wigan won every other trophy that season - in fact we won 18 consecutive matches after the Watersheddings disaster. We will use that result as motivation for our players for the 1995 semi-final at Huddersfield, and I have no doubt that Oldham's coaching staff will be using it to lift their players for a big effort." Frank Myler was coach of the last team to defeat Wigan in Challenge Cup football, and his on-field lieutenant was 37-year-old ex-Great Britain stand-off David Topliss. Both men have savoured some great moments in Rugby League, and the defeat of Wigan ranks with the best, growing in significance with each passing year.

"It was a very hard, physical game, just as we'd expected," says Myler, "and our pack did its job well. With such as David Hobbs, Hugh Waddell, Mick Worrall, Terry Flanagan and Aussie 'Bruiser' Clark, we had the experience to hold Wigan up front. Our aim was to tackle everything and try to play the game in their quarter.

"Wigan dominated, but we did well to stay with them and time was running out when we put a kick downfield and, unusually, Wigan came up with an unforced error which resulted in the scrum which gave us vital possession.

"There was next to no time left as the scrum packed down. Oldham played out the six tackles and, on the last, Paddy Kirwan dummied and wriggled his way through and the crowd just went berserk. It was a gutsy effort from the players, and we ought to have gone on and done better in the competition. but we were paired with St. Helens in the next round, hooker Ian Sanderson was sent off in the first half, and we went out to a side which went all the way to Wembley."

Topliss recalls the game as one of the most exhausting of an outstanding 20-year playing career. And, like Myler, he celebrated the

winning Kirwan try from the bench, having limped off with a knock eight minutes from time. "I knew we were in for a hard time beforehand," says Topliss, "and I was absolutely shattered, physically and mentally, when I left the field with Wigan holding that 8-4 lead. But it all came right for a team which refused to throw in the towel.

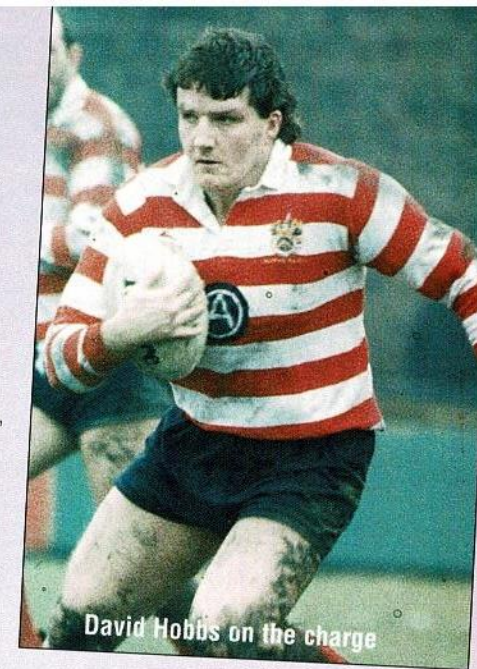
"Wigan, at that time, had the best defensive side I'd ever seen in the British game. Graham Lowe had put together a formidable pack, with Aussie Ian Roberts, Andy Goodway and Graeme West putting in massive tackling stints match after match, and they had such as Hanley, Bell, Lydon and Gill in their threequarter line.

"They'd just signed Andy Gregory, too, but his outstanding partnership with Shaun Edwards was still in its infancy. It was only Gregory's third match in Wigan colours, and the cohesion which was to make his partnership with Edwards one of the finest in history had still to be forged.

"I remember we trained on the Saturday morning and watched a video of Wigan's previous match, but the tie was called off on the Sunday because of frost. The tie went ahead the following Wednesday, and there was a cracking atmosphere.

"In the first half, I recall making a 40-yard break and having Des Foy alongside me as I prepared to draw Wigan full-back Steve Hampson, but Shaun Edwards tackled Des without the ball and we got a penalty. Mick Burke put us in front but, in the current refereeing climate, Shaun would have been sin-binned.

"Wigan took the lead midway through the second half, and we just couldn't break down that superb defence until Paddy Kirwan wrote his name in Oldham folklore with his late try. There were some lengthy celebrations in and



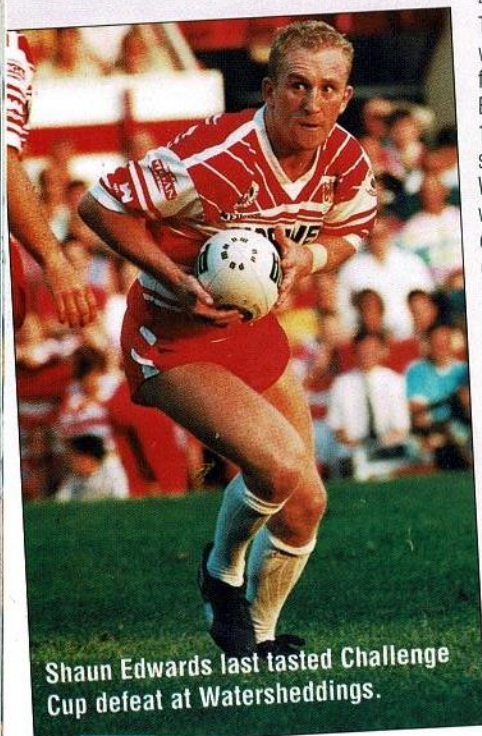
around Oldham after the game! But we disappointed the Oldham fans by failing to get a result against St. Helens in the second round, and that proved an enormous let-down after such a famous victory.

"Our unexpected defeat of Wigan has become more of a milestone, with each passing year bringing yet another Wembley victory for them. Wigan's achievements since 1987 have been truly remarkable, and Oldham face a huge task if they are to fulfil the hopes of their loyal supporters by reaching their first-ever Wembley final."

The teams on that famous night were as follows:-

OLDHAM: Mick Burke (3 goals); Hussain M'Barki, Des Foy, Gary Bridge, Mick Taylor; David Topliss, Paddy Kirwan (try); Bruce Clark, Ian Sanderson, Hugh Waddell, Mick Worrall, David Hobbs, Terry Flanagan. Subs: Gary Warnecke, Stuart Raper.

WIGAN: Steve Hampson; Joe Lydon (2 goals), Ellery Hanley, Dean Bell (try), Henderson Gill; Shaun Edwards, Andy Gregory; Graeme West, Martin Dermott, Brian Case, Ian Roberts, Ian Potter, Andy Goodway. Subs: David Stephenson, Rob Louw.



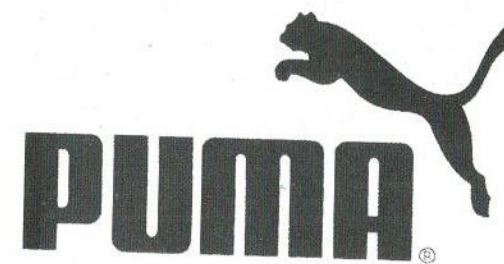
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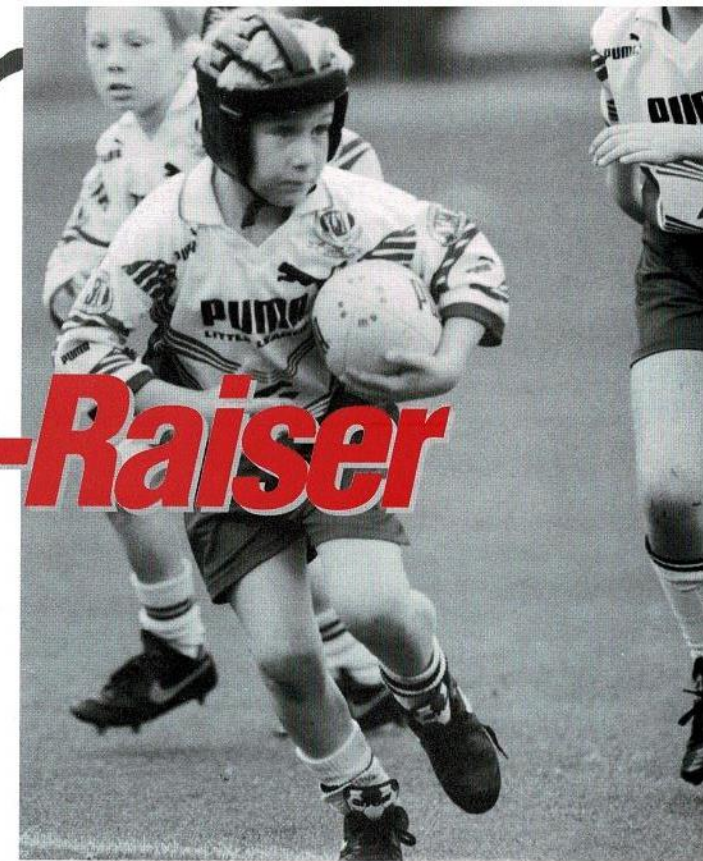
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# Curtain-Raiser

Today's curtain-raiser will be a demonstration of the Puma Little League, a major new initiative at junior level from the Rugby Football League in partnership with BARLA and the English Schools RL, and backed by Puma and the Government's Sportsmatch team. Two games will be played simultaneously side-by-side, of twenty minutes duration.



## WEST RIDING YOUTH LEAGUE

PITCH A (LEFT) ELLAND v SIDDAL

PITCH B (RIGHT) DEIGHTON v MOLDGREEN

ELLAND PUMA LITTLE LEAGUE	SIDDAL PUMA LITTLE LEAGUE	DEIGHTON PUMA LITTLE LEAGUE	MOLDGREEN PUMA LITTLE LEAGUE
<i>Colours: Black and Yellow</i>	<i>Colours: Blue and White</i>	<i>Colours: Red and Green</i>	<i>Colours: White and Blue</i>
1 David Whitehead	1 Simon Hanley	1 Oliver Crank	1 Jamie Walton
2 James Campbell	2 Tom Hammond	2 Michael Haigh	2 Anthony Bartholomew
3 Christopher Kelsey	3 Jack Hammond	3 Joel Hawkyard	3 Shaun Bartholomew
4 Ben Kavanagh	4 Ashley Sutcliffe	4 John Riordan	4 Ben Milburn
5 George Ambler	5 Steven Towell	5 Jason Bates	5 Andrew Bessell
6 Adam Brick	6 Craig Boyle	6 James Manhertz	6 Jason Bretton
7 Harris Langfield	7 Jason Fairhurst	7 John Lee Sanderson	7 Jamie Hall
8 Scott Morton	8 Chris Watson	8 Steven Cameron	8 Craig Williams
9 Liam Walton	9 Gavin Whiteley	9 Shaun Mitchell	9 Joe Dawson
10 Victor Gladock	10 Scott Caley	10 Michael Dyer	10 Jamie King
11 Jamie Whitehead	11 Andrew Wickings	11 Luke George	11 Toby Knight
12 Richard Dunne	12 Jason Boyle	12 Anthony Sweet	12 Anton Ambler
Shaun Kavanagh (Leader)	David Jones (Leader)	John Doyle (Leader)	Andy Ambler (Leader)
Andy Gledhill	Graham Hanley	John Riordan	Mick Ward
Dave Ambler (Physiotherapist)	Nigel Fairhurst (Physiotherapist)	Linda Bates (Physiotherapist)	Cary Gibson (Physiotherapist)

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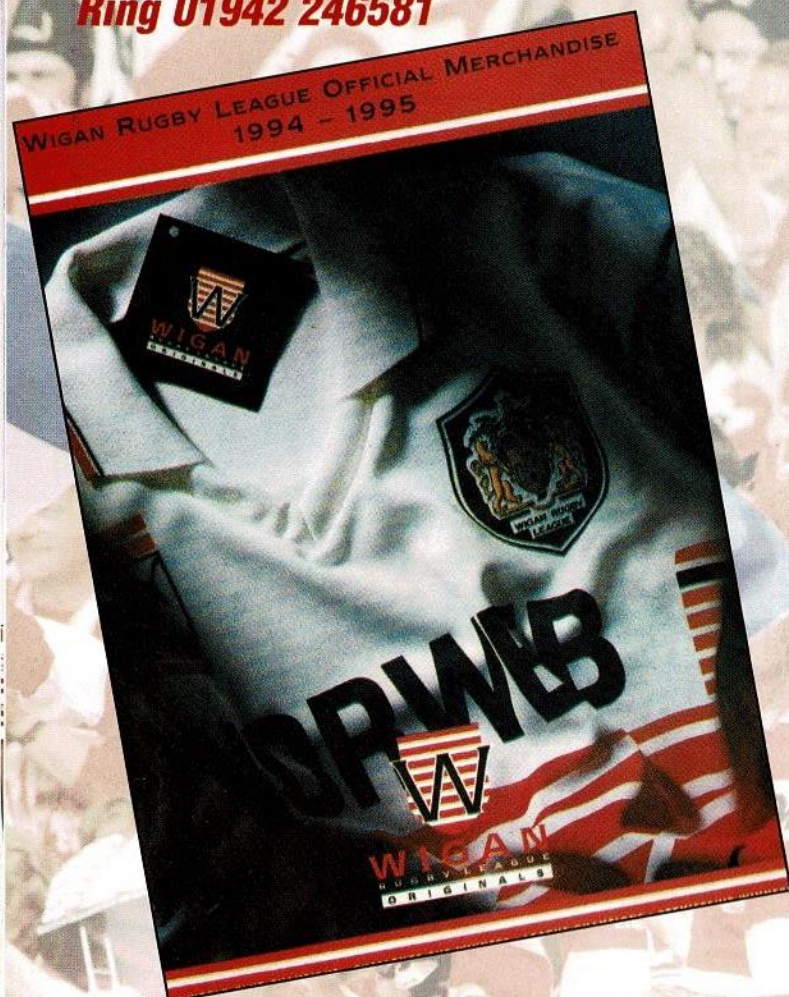
For further information about the Puma Little League, contact:  
Tom O'Donovan, Development Executive, Rugby Football League,  
180 Chapletown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT. Telephone: 0532 624637



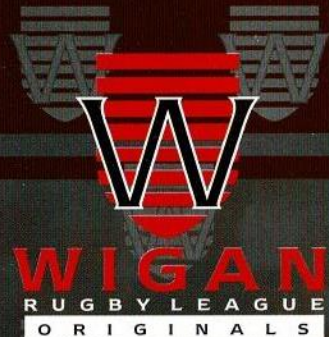


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## RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENARY 1895 - 1995

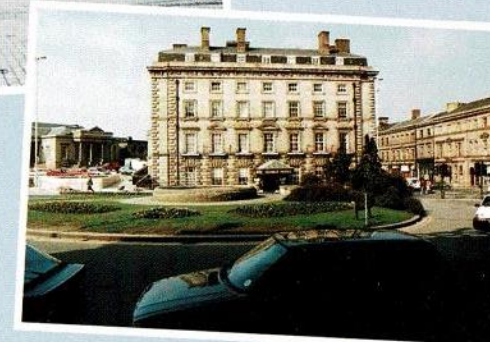
■ As we assemble at the magnificent McAlpine Stadium for this afternoon's Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final between Wigan and Oldham, it is a fitting occasion to highlight the fact that the game's centenary celebrations will begin in the town of Huddersfield in just over four months' time.

And what a feast is planned for lovers of the 13-a-side code!

The countdown to a series of well-planned events is now under way, and the RFL's Centenary Manager John Fillingham has been working overtime, finalising a programme which will achieve the aim of making 1995-96 the most memorable season in the game's history.

Founders' Day celebrations will begin in the birthplace town of Huddersfield over the August Bank Holiday period allowing the game's followers to celebrate the game's heritage, before the focus switches to events on the field of play. The eagerly-anticipated Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup competition commences with an England-Australia clash at

Wembley on 7 October and concludes with the final at Wembley exactly three weeks later. Fifteen Halifax World Cup matches will take place at a dozen venues - Keighley, Gateshead, Wigan, Leeds, Huddersfield, Warrington, Hull, St. Helens, Cardiff, Swansea, Old Trafford and Wembley. From the outset, the spotlight will be on the game's birthplace town of Huddersfield. The Centenary Festival will commence for ten days or so, before the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup takes centre stage. And then the show will go on the road. Bank Holiday Monday, 28 August,



### The George Hotel then...and now

promises to be quite spectacular with a series of events commemorating the game's birth in Huddersfield. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled at the George Hotel, followed by a communion service at Huddersfield Town Hall. Afterwards, a carnival parade will move events to the McAlpine Stadium, where a civic reception will be held in the new banqueting

suite. A video show, featuring highlights of the game and accompanied by music and a firework display, will give the general public an extravaganza to savour.

Throughout that first week, a special presentation of John Godber's play, Up 'n' Under, will be staged at the Lawrence Batley Theatre in Huddersfield.

On Tuesday 29 August, there will be a Founders' Day banquet at the McAlpine Stadium for 350 guests of the Rugby Football League and the stadium will again be the centre of attention on Thursday 31 August when the first of 32 individual club showcase packages will be unveiled.

"Geoffrey Moorhouse has been commissioned to write the official history of the game, entitled 'A People's Game' and published around August time by Hodder Headline, and there will be a

Centenary video available to the general public, narrated by Colin Welland. "Huddersfield will rightly be centre stage in the early weeks of next season,

and the Founders' Day celebrations at the McAlpine Stadium will be an occasion for all the family.

"Every section of the game and every club in Rugby League will be represented, and it promises to be a carnival to set the ball rolling for the many events to follow. We're expecting a tremendous response from the public and they are unlikely to be disappointed."

MAIL ORDER HOTLINE 01942 246531



# REFLECTIONS

*Les Hoole reflects on the extraordinary circumstances which surrounded the meeting of today's semi-finalists in the 1924 Challenge Cup final at Rochdale.*

Just over 70 years ago, today's semi-final opponents contested one of the strangest Challenge Cup finals ever played. Amid scenes of almost total confusion, Wigan and Oldham played the 1924 final in front of a record crowd of 41,831 at Rochdale Hornets' Athletic Grounds.

Despite a bitterly cold east wind and threatening grey skies, the match between the leading Lancashire sides attracted tremendous interest. By 2 o'clock a crowd of 10,000 had gathered at the Athletic Grounds and, an hour later, had swelled to well over 30,000 giving the organisers serious doubts as to the ground's capacity. All seemed well until the police allowed a section of the crowd on the east side terraces to climb the fences and stand on the cycle track that surrounded the pitch. Within seconds control was lost, and the huge crowd began spilling on to the cycle track and beyond on to the actual pitch.

The almost total pandemonium that ensued was likened to the scenes at the first FA Cup final at Wembley the season before. The police attempted to push the crowds back, and referee Chambers and several players from both teams appealed to the massed throng to retire.

Amazingly the game kicked off just three minutes late, with the incredible scenes of mounted policemen galloping the length of the touchlines and the crowd surging round the Wigan goalposts. Oldham took an early lead with a well-struck, long-range penalty

goal from full-back Knapman. Less than a minute later Wigan took the lead when Roffey crashed over the line for a try which, hampered by the crowd, Sullivan failed to convert. Despite the conditions the Riversiders then took control, and their South African winger Adrian Van Heerden scored one of the most remarkable tries in Challenge Cup history. He swiftly followed up a cross-kick and, while Corsi and Knapman were waiting for the ball to roll into touch, snapped up the ball almost from underneath the prancing feet of a mounted policeman's horse to touch down under the posts.

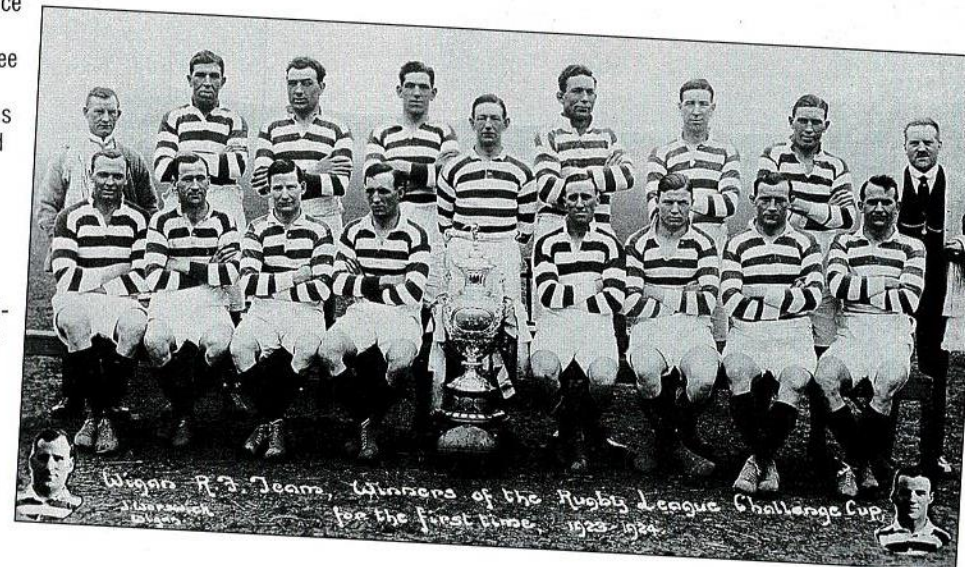
The teams turned round without a break and, despite the game being stopped three times because of the crowd, Wigan scored a further three bizarre tries. First Parker had to dive into the feet of the crowd on the try-line, and then Price had to force his

way through not only the Oldham defence but the ranks of spectators to reach the line. Following Johnny Ring's try, the police had to clear the pitch to enable Jim Sullivan to attempt the conversion.

A late penalty goal from Sullivan gave Wigan a 24-4 victory and the Challenge Cup for the first time. The game was the first of four consecutive finals for Oldham, of which they won two and lost two. The teams on that momentous day were: **OLDHAM:** Knapman; Rix, Hall, Woodward, Corsi; Hesketh, Bates; Collins, Baker, Tomkins, Sloman, Brough, Hilton.

**WIGAN:** Sullivan; Ring, Howley, Parker, Van Heerden; Jerram, Hurcombe; Webster, Banks, Van Rooyen, Brown, Roffey, Price.

*Below: The Wigan team line up before their Semi Final against Oldham*



*Wigan R.F. Team, Winners of the Rugby League Challenge Cup for the first time. 1923-1924*



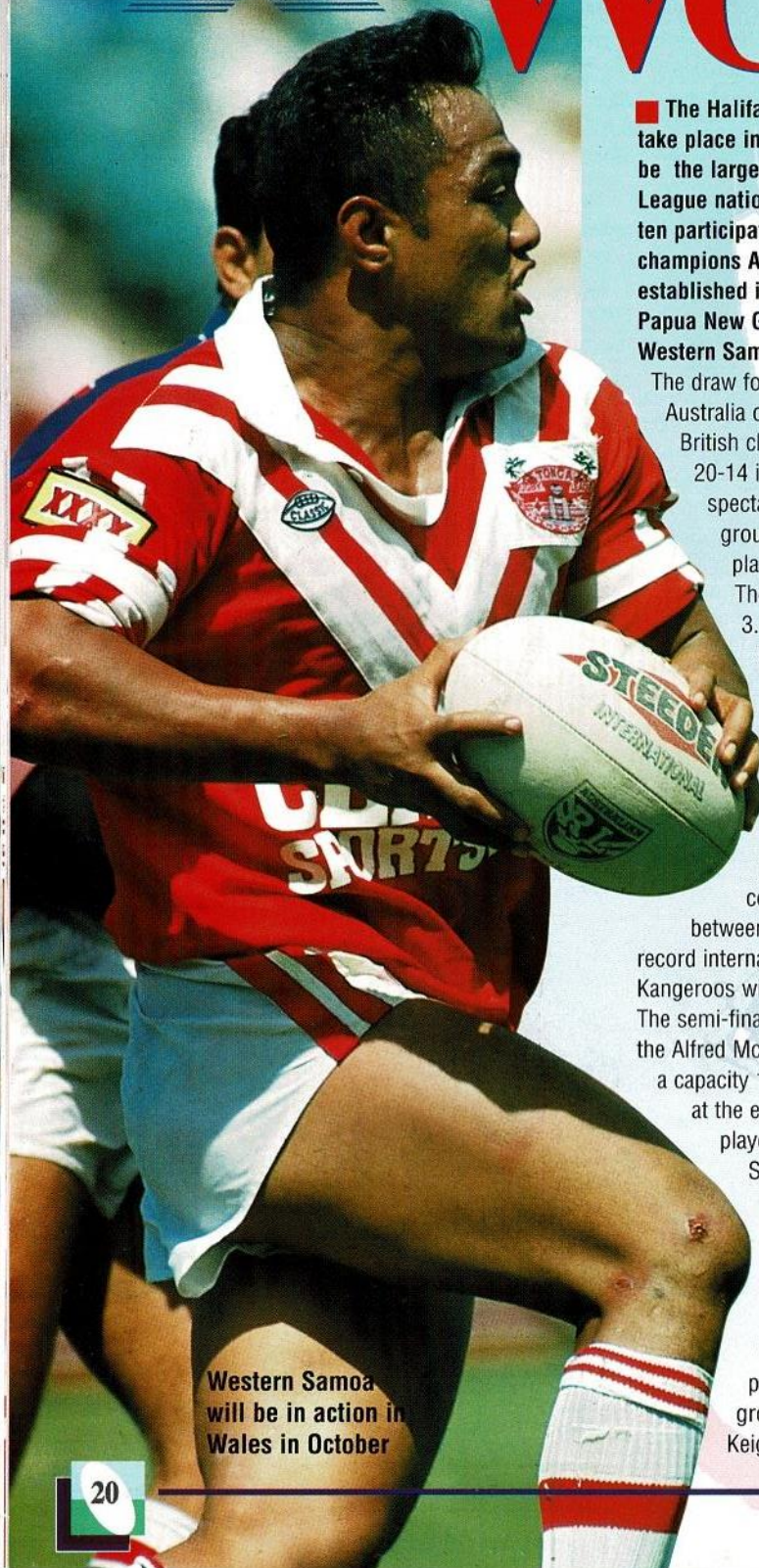
## TRY AGAIN!

**VAUX SAMSON - ITS STRENGTH IS ITS TASTE**





# THE HALIFAX WORLD CUP '95



Western Samoa will be in action in Wales in October

■ The Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup, to take place in Great Britain throughout October 1995, will be the largest ever competitive gathering of senior Rugby League nations in the 100 year history of the game. The ten participating countries will be reigning world champions Australia; hosts England and Wales; established international forces New Zealand, France and Papua New Guinea and exciting newcomers South Africa, Western Samoa, Fiji and Tonga.

The draw for the tournament was made in Brisbane, Australia on Thursday 2nd June 1994 - the day after British champions Wigan had beaten Brisbane Broncos 20-14 in the World Club Challenge in front of 54,220 spectators. The ten teams were divided into three groups, one of four and two of three each team to play its fellow group members once.

The Seeds are 1. Australia 2. England 3. New Zealand 4. Wales

In the semi-finals the winners of Group One will play the winners of Group Three, while the winners of Group Two will take on the runners-up in Group One.

The Halifax Centenary World Cup's opening match, between England and Australia in Group One and the tournament's final will be held at Wembley Stadium. Wembley was of course, the venue for the 1992 World Cup final between Great Britain and Australia, when a world-record international attendance of 73,631 saw the Kangeroos win the trophy by 10-6.

The semi-final venues will be Old Trafford, Manchester, and the Alfred McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, which hosted a capacity 19,000 crowd for the Wigan-Warrington clash at the end of January this year. Group matches will be played at the following: Gateshead International Stadium, focal point of the Rugby Football League's flagship development programme in the North East; Central Park and Headingley' home respectively to Wigan and Leeds,

rugby League's most prestigious and best supported clubs; Ninian Park, Cardiff and the Vetch Field in Swansea, where Wales will find powerful local support and the famous club grounds of St.Helens, Warrington, Hull and Keighley.

# THE HALIFAX WORLD CUP '95

## THE GROUPS

**GROUP ONE**  
Australia  
England  
South Africa  
Fiji

**GROUP TWO**  
New Zealand  
Papua New Guinea  
Tonga

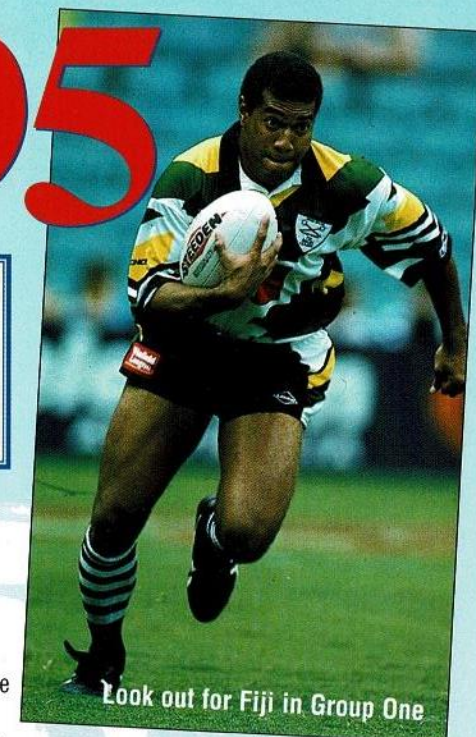
**GROUP THREE**  
Wales  
France  
Western Samoa

■ On Tuesday 28th February, at the Hilton National Hotel in Huddersfield, Maurice Lindsay, Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League and Tournament Director of this autumn's Centenary World Cup, welcomed Halifax Building Society on behalf of Rugby League's International Board as title sponsors for the ten-team tournament, which will now be called the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup.

Mr.Lindsay said: "The International Board consider Halifax Building Society to be the perfect partners for our game and so it is with extreme pride and pleasure that I welcome them to the family of Rugby League. Family is an ideal word on this occasion. For 100 years, Rugby League has been recognised as the family game and, for a period of time even longer than that, Halifax Building Society has been a pillar of support in so many ways for family life in this country.

"Now the two come together in support of the people's game and I have no doubt that the partnership will be a happy one. The support of Halifax Building Society adds enormous prestige to a competition that already promises to be a glittering occasion". The sponsorship agreement - the first time that Halifax Building Society has been involved in sports sponsorship - also involves title rights to the Emerging Nations World

Cup, to run concurrent with the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup in October and to the Student World Cup which will take place in August 1996. Commenting on the Halifax's decision to act as title sponsor, Mike Blackburn, the Society's Chief Executive said, "The Halifax and the sport of Rugby League share common roots. Rugby League perfectly captures the spirit of commitment, family traditions and values with which the Halifax is



Look out for Fiji in Group One

equally concerned. Therefore we are delighted to be associated with this exciting competition and wish the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup every success".

## THE FIXTURES

### GROUP ONE

Sat 7th Oct	England v Australia	Wembley	3.00pm
Sun 8th Oct	Fiji v South Africa	Keighley	2.30pm
Tue 10th Oct	Australia v South Africa	Gateshead	8.15pm
Wed 11th Oct	England v Fiji	Wigan	7.30pm
Sat 14th Oct	Australia v Fiji	Huddersfield	2.00pm
Sat 14th Oct	England v South Africa	Leeds	7.00pm

### GROUP TWO

Sun 8th Oct	New Zealand v Tonga	Warrington	6.00pm
Tue 10th Oct	PNG v Tonga	Hull	6.15pm
Fri 13th Oct	New Zealand v PNG	St.Helens	8.00pm

### GROUP THREE

Mon 9th Oct	Wales v France	Cardiff	8.00pm
Thurs 12th Oct	France v Western Samoa	Cardiff	8.00pm
Sun 15th Oct	Wales v Western Samoa	Swansea	6.00pm

### SEMI FINAL

Sat 21st Oct	Semi-final One	Old Trafford	3.00pm
Sun 22nd Oct	Semi-final Two	Huddersfield	3.00pm

### FINAL

Sun 28th Oct	Final	Wembley	3.00pm
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# ROUND BY ROUND

## SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP - 1994/95 RESULTS

### FIRST ROUND RESULTS

Home Team	Away Team	Silk Cut Award Winner
Askam 10	Moorends 15	Ernie Lake (Moorends)
Barrow Island 26	Norland 8	Jasper Burrows (Norland)
Beverley 8	Chequerfield 6	Mark Wilson (Chequerfield)
Blackbrook 26	West Bowling 14	Steve Marsh (Blackbrook)
Blackpool G 27	Fryston 14	David Brown (Blackpool G)
Chorley Borough 12	Simms Cross 8	David Shaw (Chorley B)
Dewsbury Celtic 6	Thatto Heath 22	Martin Ginnelly (Dewsbury C)
Dudley Hill 54	Cardiff Institute 4	John Exley (Dudley Hill)
East Leeds 22	Wath Brown Hornets 14	Richard Baker (East Leeds)
Eastmoor 23	Upton & Frickley 22	Paul Lister (Eastmoor)
Egremont 34	New Earswick AB 6	Lee Walken (Egremont)
Greetland AR 12	Crosfield 6	Gregg Hill (Greetland AR)
Hemel Hempstead 52	Leeds Metropolitan Uni 0	Ian Perryment (H. Hempstead)
Heworth 32	Littleborough 10	Chris Picken (Littleborough)
Leigh East 10	Bisons 16	Tim Fletcher (Leigh East)
Leigh Miners 7	Wigan St. Judes 10	John Woods (Leigh Miners)
Lock Lane 36	Orrell St. James 8	Phil Morris (Lock Lane)
Mayfield 32	Park Amateurs 6	Joe Graziano (Mayfield)
Milford 12	Thornhill 20	Steve Naylor (Thornhill)
Millom 62	Northampton 4	Mike O'Brien (Millom)
Moldgreen 30	Embassy 14	Gary Burns (Moldgreen)
Nottingham City 0	Normanton 36	Richard Stead (Normanton)
Oldham St. Annes 20	Kells 24	Ian Gainford (Kells)
Oulton 12	Ovenden 8	Ian Wright (Oulton)
Redhill 22	Ellenborough 28	Peter Atherton (Ellenborough)
Saddleworth 30	Skirlaugh 12	Colin Smith (Saddleworth)
Shaw Cross 46	Fulham Travellers 20	Mark Chapman (Shaw Cross)
Walney Central 4	Hensingham 14	Richard Todd (Hensingham)
West Hull 48	South London 10	Gary Lumb (West Hull)
Wigan St. Patricks 22	Worth Village 0	Ian Winterbottom (Wigan St. P)
Woolston 26	Eccles 10	Adam Jude (Woolston)
York Acorn 18	Crown Malet 25	Stuart Farr (Crown Malet)

### SECOND ROUND RESULTS

Barrow Island 19	West Hull 12	Gary Spenceley (Barrow I)
Beverley 14	Normanton 16	Richard Stead (Normanton)
Bisons 8	East Leeds 33	Craig Waite (East Leeds)
Blackbrook 0	Chorley 23	Billy Danawe (Chorley)
Blackpool G 0	Thornhill 28	Steve Naylor (Thornhill)
Eastmoor 8	Dudley Hill 16	Graeme Hegarty (Eastmoor)
Ellenborough 23	Egremont 10	Peter Bewick (Ellenborough)
Hensingham 8	Heworth 14	Darren Wheatley (Heworth)
Lock Lane 20	Mayfield 14	Mick Johnson (Lock Lane)
Millom 38	Saddleworth 16	Keith Pemberton (Millom)
Moorends 12	Thatto Heath 10	Howard Roberts (Moorends)
Oulton 12	Kells 14	Ian Wright (Oulton)
Shaw Cross 9	Moldgreen 4	Warren Marks (Shaw Cross)
Wigan St. Judes 14	Hemel Hempstead 13	Milton Finney (Wigan St. J)
Wigan St. Patricks 42	Crown Malet 6	Paul O'Neil (Wigan St. P)
Woolston 14	Greetland AR 4	Neil Kelly (Woolston)

### REPLAYED MATCH

Beverley 20	Normanton 10	Phil Young (Beverley)
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### THIRD ROUND RESULTS

Bramley 42	Woolston 2	Barry Greenwood (Bramley)
Barrow 56	East Leeds 0	Steve Ashcroft (Barrow)
Batley 32	Shaw Cross 4	Mark Cass (Batley)
Carlisle 34	Dudley Hill 4	Willy Richardson (Carlisle)
Dewsbury 66	Kells 12	Danny McKelvie (Dewsbury)
Highfield 4	Beverley 27	Sean Olsen (Beverley)
Huddersfield 44	Wigan St. Judes 10	Steve Kerry (Huddersfield)
Hull KR 58	Thornhill 6	Garry Brown (Hull KR)
Hunslet 64	Wigan St. Patricks 4	Eric Kibe (Hunslet)
Keighley Cougars 68	Chorley 0	Darren Appleby (Keighley C)
Leigh 40	Heworth 28	Jason Gatus (Heworth)
London Broncos 30	Ellenborough 10	Scott Roskell (London B)
Rochdale Hornets 48	Lock Lane 16	Chris Churm (Rochdale H)
Ryedale-York 50	Barrow Island 20	Paul Barker (Barrow Is)
Swinton 30	Millom 10	Paul Tyson (Millom)
Whitehaven 64	Moorends 12	Tony Chapple (Moorends)

### FOURTH ROUND RESULTS

Beverley 20	Batley 30	Paul Hunter (Beverley)
Carlisle 2	Widnes 40	Steve McCurrie (Widnes)
Doncaster 12	Sheffield Eagles 22	Carl Briggs (Sheffield E)
Featherstone Rovers 50	Barrow 22	Steve Molloy (Featherstone R)
Huddersfield 36	Halifax 30	Dean Hanger (Huddersfield)
Hunslet 32	Salford 32	Matt Lambert (Hunslet)
Keighley Cougars 24	Dewsbury 12	Nick Pinkney (Keighley C)
Leeds 31	Bradford Northern 14	Graham Holroyd (Leeds)
London Broncos 20	Hull KR 26	Garry Brown (Hull KR)
Oldham 70	Bramley 10	Wilson Marsh (Oldham)
Ryedale-York 18	Rochdale Hornets 12	Brad Davis (Ryedale-York)
Swinton 22	Leigh 34	Sean Maloney (Leigh)
Warrington 17	Castleford 2	Tukere Barlow (Warrington)
Whitehaven 24	Wakefield Trinity 12	Peter Smith (Whitehaven)
Wigan 16	St. Helens 16	Kieron Cunningham (St. Helens)
Workington Town 30	Hull 6	Brad Hepi (Workington T)

### REPLAYS

St. Helens 24	Wigan 40	Frano Botica (Wigan)
Salford 52	Hunslet 10	Climb Eccles (Salford)

### FIFTH ROUND RESULTS

Batley 4	Wigan 70	Gary Connolly (Wigan)
Hull KR 14	Whitehaven 18	Clayton Friend (Whitehaven)
Keighley Cougars 0	Huddersfield 30	Steve Kerry (Huddersfield)
Leeds 44	Ryedale-York 14	Jim Fallon (Leeds)
Salford 10	Featherstone Rovers 30	Mark Aston (Featherstone R)
Sheffield Eagles 7	Widnes 19	Karle Hammond (Widnes)
Warrington 6	Oldham 17	Mike Kuiti (Oldham)
Workington Town 94	Leigh 4	Dean Marwood (Workington T)

### QUARTER FINALS

Leeds 50	Workington Town 16	Garry Schofield (Leeds)
Oldham 23	Huddersfield 12	Mike Kuiti (Oldham)
Whitehaven 14	Featherstone Rovers 42	Freddy Banquet (Featherstone R)
Widnes 12	Wigan 26	Denis Betts (Wigan)

**MIKE KUITI**  
MAN OF THE MATCH  
AGAINST HUDDERS-  
FIELD

**DENIS BETTS**  
MAN OF THE MATCH  
AGAINST  
WIDNES



# STRENGTH IN DEPTH

■ **Former Wigan and Great Britain full-back Steve Hampson suffered an arm injury which will sideline him for the remainder of the season in his comeback game for Halifax against Doncaster last Sunday. It means that he has to be content with a role as spectator for the next two months, but he fully expects to see his former Wigan team-mates continue their trend of monopolising the game's major trophies.** Hampson is full of praise for the way in which his former

colleague Graeme West has sustained the insatiable demands for success at Central Park. West's record of just one domestic defeat all season (going into this semi-final) surpasses anything achieved by the likes of Lowe, Monie or Dorahy. For that, says Hampson, West deserves high praise.

"Wigan have assembled a tremendous squad," says

Hampson, "and their strength in depth gives them the edge over every other club in the game. Leeds have done well to push them all the way in the two major competitions and Wigan face yet another demanding finale to the season, but it would be a major surprise if they failed to take the Championship for the sixth consecutive season.

"They start clear favourites to defeat Oldham at the McAlpine Stadium, although Wigan's players are bound to show their opponents plenty of respect. Everyone at Central Park knows that Andy Goodway is a winner, and he will have Oldham well prepared for their tilt at a history-making victory. But Wigan are so experienced in these pressure matches and they should cope with anything that Oldham throw at them."

As one of the finest full-backs to play for Wigan, Hampson has been fascinated by the progress of former Junior Kiwi skipper Henry Paul in his former jersey this season. And he believes that Paul will go on to become one of the great players in the game. "Wigan pulled off a master-stroke in signing Paul when they released Andy Platt to the Auckland Warriors," says Steve, "and I think it was typical of John Monie that he

allowed Henry to come to Wigan to learn his trade in England. The youngster is a remarkable talent who's going to get better and better, and Wigan's fans are lucky to have the opportunity of watching the development of one of the world's classiest players in the next few years.

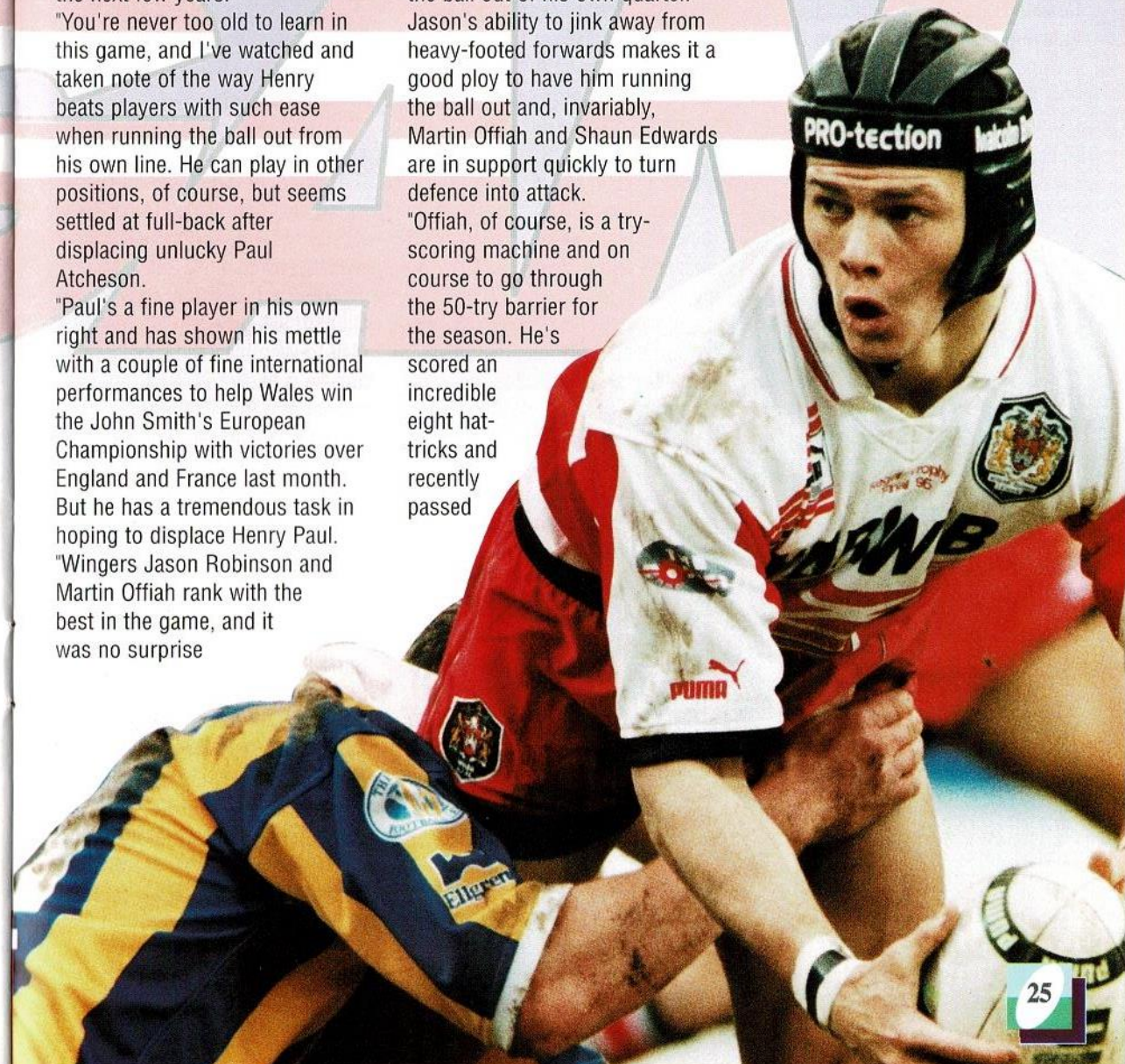
"You're never too old to learn in this game, and I've watched and taken note of the way Henry beats players with such ease when running the ball out from his own line. He can play in other positions, of course, but seems settled at full-back after displacing unlucky Paul Atcheson.

"Paul's a fine player in his own right and has shown his mettle with a couple of fine international performances to help Wales win the John Smith's European Championship with victories over England and France last month. But he has a tremendous task in hoping to displace Henry Paul. "Wingers Jason Robinson and Martin Offiah rank with the best in the game, and it was no surprise

when Ellery Hanley included them both for Great Britain's Ashes bid earlier in the season. Jason's still a youngster in the game but he's already won every honour.

"He isn't too proud to look for work, either, always being hungry for the ball and he loves to drive the ball out of his own quarter. Jason's ability to jink away from heavy-footed forwards makes it a good ploy to have him running the ball out and, invariably, Martin Offiah and Shaun Edwards are in support quickly to turn defence into attack. "Offiah, of course, is a try-scoring machine and on course to go through the 50-try barrier for the season. He's scored an incredible eight hat-tricks and recently passed

through the 200-try mark in First Division football. As far as Cup semi-final football is concerned, Offiah will always be remembered for his sensational five-try effort in Wigan's 71-10 defeat of Bradford at Burnden Park three years ago." ♦





Centres Va'aiga Tuigamala and Gary Connolly have dovetailed impressively in just under a year, to minimise the loss of former skipper Dean Bell and the injury to 1994 "find" BJ Mather. The former All Black is rated highly by Hampson, while Connolly is described as a "natural".

"I always defended Tuigamala when a few people were having a dig at him when he struggled to find his feet last season," says Hampson. "It was obvious that he had the talent, but it takes time to switch from Union to League and it also takes time to adjust to playing centre instead of on the wing. 'Inga' has been a revelation for Wigan this season and he's bound to enjoy returning to the McAlpine Stadium where he had such an awesome game in the Regal final.



"Gary was a costly signing from St. Helens, but there was never any hint of a gamble on Wigan's behalf. They were buying proven

Rugby League talent and a player equally adept at centre or full-back. Gary's consistent, rarely misses a game, has wonderful balance and is as strong as an ox. And he's young enough to get much, much better in the years ahead."

Hampson was an automatic choice at Central Park when former All Black Frano Botica arrived on the scene in the summer of 1990, and he has watched him mature into one of the most successful goalkickers ever seen in Rugby League. But Botica the Boot is much more than a deadly accurate goalkicker.

"Frano has reaped the rewards for hard work and putting in the overtime," says Hampson, "because I've never seen any goalkicker put in the hours of practice that he has. The result is there for all to see - he rarely misses - and that accuracy gives enormous confidence to his team-mates. They'll regard every try as being worth six points, because he usually adds the extras.

"He began as a winger when first arriving at Wigan, but slotted effortlessly into the side at stand-off or scrum-half and has been capped by New Zealand at full-back. He's at his most effective at stand-off outside Shaun Edwards, though, and it was his scintillating try which put Wigan on their way in last year's Headingley semi-final defeat of Castleford.

"What can you say about Shaun Edwards? His record is just incredible. We joined Wigan at the same time and both made our debut against York in 1983. He has always had the hunger to

win things, and his record will never be beaten. Shaun is a great player, though, and no one



should overlook that fact.

"Edwards has every skill in the game, has one of the best kicking games around, and he is such a master tactician. He'll be well aware of the fact that victory over Oldham will give him his tenth visit to Wembley in 12 seasons - and he is likely to play a big part in ensuring that happens."

Wigan's strength in depth is all too apparent in the front-row area. Graeme West has the Welsh international trio of Kelvin Skerrett, Martin Hall and Neil Cowie, in addition to summer signings Terry O'Connor (ex-Salford) and former Oldham man Barrie McDermott, plus the deposed GB hooker Martin Dermott.

"All good sides have a no-nonsense front row, and Wigan's remains the most powerful in the game. It's a measure of their strength in depth that Martin Dermott has been unable to oust in-form Martin Hall, who

deserves full credit for grabbing his chance when Dermott was injured. Skerrett, Cowie, O'Connor and McDermott keep one another on their toes, and I predict that former Wales RU international Scott Quinnell will eventually make a Tuigamala-like success of his switch to League by Christmas. "In the back row, Denis Betts and Phil Clarke will want to leave Wigan on a winning note, and a last visit to Wembley is certain to be a priority for the pair of them. In fact, if Wigan win today's semi-final, I'll probably have a wager on Denis to win the Lance Todd Trophy because he seems to be playing better than ever, typified by his display in the quarter-final at Widnes when he scored his 100th career try.

"Phil Clarke's the kind of player that anyone would want in their side because of his incredible work-rate and the fact that he is a born leader. I'm sure both Clarke and Betts will be a big success in the Winfield Cup.

"Teenager Andrew Farrell is looking for a third Wembley visit in three years as a pro, while Barrie-Jon Mather is back in contention and Simon Haughton is yet another example of Wigan's incredible youth policy.

"Mick Cassidy can play anywhere in the pack, never has a bad game, and has richly deserved his international call-ups for Great Britain and England this season. He's an ideal man to have around and one of the most consistent players in the game.

"There are few more tension-packed occasions than Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals, and this kind of atmosphere will be something new for most of the Oldham

players. But, for the Wigan squad, it is just another game in their quest for an eighth consecutive Wembley visit. And who would dare bet against them extending their unbeaten sequence in the competition to 41 matches by the end of this afternoon?"





THE APPLICATION FORM													
DATE	OPENING GAME	Kick Off	Match No.	£45	£35	£32	£27	£22	£19	£16	£13	£10	TOTALS
07.10.95	England v Australia, Wembley Stadium	3.00pm	1	X		X							
DATE	GROUP GAMES	Kick Off	Match No.	£45	£35	£32	£27	£22	£19	£16	£13	£10	
08.10.95	Fiji v South Africa, Cougar Park, Keighley	2.30pm	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
08.10.95	New Zealand v Tonga, Wilderspool, Warrington	6.00pm	3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
09.10.95	Wales v France, Ninian Park, Cardiff	8.00pm	4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
10.10.95	Papua New Guinea v Tonga, Boulevard, Hull	6.15pm	5	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
10.10.95	Australia v South Africa, International Stadium, Gateshead	8.15pm	6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
11.10.95	England v Fiji, Central Park, Wigan	7.30pm	7	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
12.10.95	France v Western Samoa, Ninian Park, Cardiff	8.00pm	8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
13.10.95	New Zealand v Papua New Guinea, Knowsley Rd, St. Helens	8.00pm	9	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
14.10.95	Australia v Fiji, McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield	2.00pm	10	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
14.10.95	England v South Africa, Headingley, Leeds	7.00pm	11	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
15.10.95	Wales v Western Samoa, Vetch Field, Swansea	6.00pm	12	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
DATE		Kick Off	Match No.	£45	£35	£32	£27	£22	£19	£16	£13	£10	
21.10.95	Semi Final One, Old Trafford, Manchester	3.00pm	13	X	X	X	X	X					X
22.10.95	Semi Final Two, McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield	3.00pm	14	X	X	X	X	X	X				
DATE		Kick Off	Match No.	£45	£35	£32	£27	£22	£19	£16	£13	£10	
28.10.95	The Final, Wembley Stadium	3.00pm	15								X		

See 'How to Apply' on how to obtain discounts

X = TICKETS NOT AVAILABLE

Sub Total £	
Less Discount £	
Plus Postage & Packing £	£1.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL £</b>	

THE APPLICATION FORM	
<p>If requested tickets are not available and you will accept a higher or lower category, please tick and leave your cheque open indicating the maximum you wish to pay to enable your form to be processed.</p> <p>ACCEPT A HIGHER CATEGORY <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>ACCEPT A LOWER CATEGORY <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>APPLICANT DETAILS (in block capitals please)</b></p> <p>Title: (Mr, Ms, Mrs, Dr, Rev, other) _____</p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Surname: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Postcode: _____</p> <p>Daytime Telephone Number: _____</p> <p>Date of Birth (if under 18): _____</p> <p> You can place your order for tickets NOW on (0)178 274 1995 during office hours.</p>	<p><b>METHOD OF PAYMENT</b></p> <p>I enclose my cheque/PO for £ _____ made payable to The Rugby Football League</p> <p>Please debit my <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Switch / Delta</p> <p>Card No. _____</p> <p>with £ _____ Expiry Date _____ Switch Issue No. _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p><b>DECLARATION</b></p> <p>I agree to abide by the terms and conditions as described on the reverse.</p> <p>Signed _____ Date _____</p> <p>Please tick if you do NOT wish to receive further mailings from The Rugby League <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>For Office Use Only</p>

- | HOW TO APPLY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decide which matches you wish to see.</li> <li>Bear in mind the discounts available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if you purchase tickets for both the opening match (England v Australia) and The Final you save £5 on the combined cost of the two tickets.</li> <li>- if you purchase a ticket for both semi-finals you save £5 on the combined cost of the two tickets.</li> <li>- if you purchase a ticket for every match in a group you save £5 on the combined cost of each group purchase.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Complete the application form by filling in the number of tickets required at each price for each match. Add the totals together, subtract the discounts for which you qualify and work out the grand total.</li> <li>Fill in the personal details.</li> <li>Enclose the correct payment.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the terms and conditions and sign the application form.</li> </ol> <p>Return the form to:</p> <p>Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup<br/>PO Box 1995<br/>Newcastle-under-Lyme<br/>Staffordshire<br/>ST5 1LE</p> <p>If you have any queries or need further information, telephone the World Cup hotline on:-</p> <p><b>(0)178 274 1995</b></p> |

# GREG THE LIFE OF McCALLUM

It's now almost six months since Greg McCallum, formerly Australia's leading referee, abandoned the Winfield Cup scene to take up his post as Referees' Coaching Director here in England. We caught up with Greg on a recent hectic Monday morning at RFL Headquarters in Leeds, to find out just what his job entails.

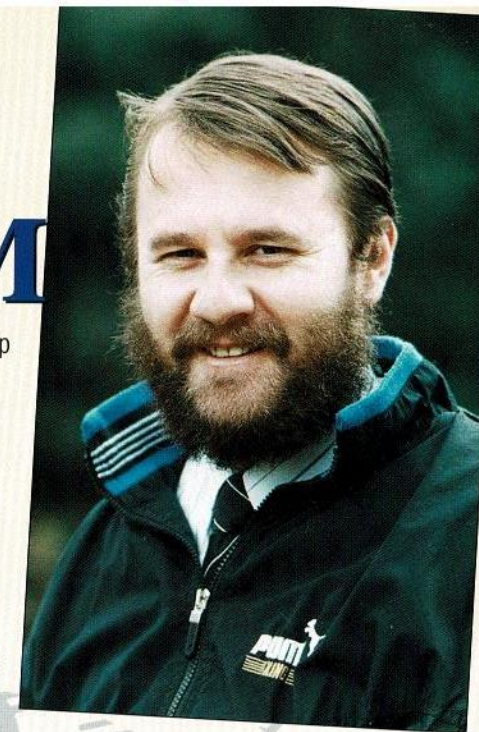
"Monday is probably one of my busiest days - I call it 'information overload day'. I'm bombarded with paperwork and videotapes, all relating to the previous weekend's fixtures. As the day progresses, so more and more faxes begin to arrive on my desk. Reports forming assessments of the performances of all referees and touch judges are submitted by an assessor from the referees' coaching advisory board. These completed forms examine every aspect of the referee's

performance and give me plenty of valuable information. The referees themselves also submit reports on their individual games highlighting any problems or difficulties that they may have experienced with their fixture. I then watch on videotape every First Division game played, which helps me to build a picture of what's happening on match days. It's especially important for me to study any tape that concerns incidents where players have been put on report. Rebecca Cove is my assistant and

she provides much-needed help and support. We are dealing with 160 officials from the office, everyone from the First Division down to the Conference League. So by Monday afternoon I've got a really strong gut feeling for how things have gone over the weekend and I know how the rest of my week is going to shape up. If anything controversial has happened then, obviously, I have to look at

*"I have to look at the situation closely. We're after two things: accountability of the referee for his performance, and credibility for the League."*

the situation closely. We're after two things: accountability of the referee for his performance, and credibility for the League. It's important that, if an error has occurred, especially where a team's result has been affected, we take steps to ensure that the mistake does not happen again. All of the appointments for the next week's matches are made by me and notified to the officials involved during Monday. Appointments are made on merit and on performance. If someone



is not on form, then someone else is drafted in. Significantly, though, we aim to support the referee as much as possible. A good referee does not become a bad referee overnight, so it's not just a case of cutting or demoting officials. What I'm trying to do is to encourage all of my officials to make efforts constantly to improve.

At the moment I'm busy planning for next season. My role is much more of a coach to the referees, rather than an administrator. We will be running training sessions throughout the summer that involve set routines designed to improve the referee's awareness on the pitch - things like better peripheral vision and being comfortable with ten-metre spacings. The idea is to go forward as a team with heightened skill and performance levels."

GREG McCALLUM  
WAS TALKING TO CHRIS MOORE



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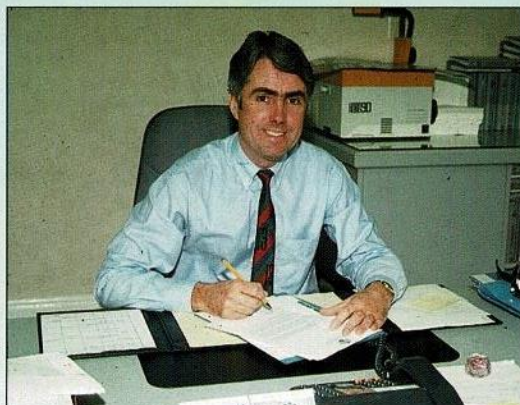
# ACROSS THE SEA...

■ When Rugby Football League Chief Executive Maurice Lindsay returned from an International Board meeting last year and announced that he had agreed to appoint a Rugby League Development Officer for Ireland, some people believed that the jet-lag had finally got to him. Ireland? There's no Rugby League there, surely. What on earth was he thinking of? What he was thinking of was the work which had been ploughed into the Emerald Isle over the previous five years by a number of dedicated individuals operating primarily at student level, but also with significant success at open-age and junior levels.

It is now as long ago as 1989 that a group of like-minded individuals came together to formulate an Irish Students side to participate in that year's Student World Cup in York. That group included then BARLA officials Tom O'Donovan (now the RFL's Development Executive) and the late Tom Keaveney; Development Officers Neil Wood and Steve Deakin (now coaching Cannes in the South of France); and Dublin businessman Brian Corrigan, a larger-than-life figure whose vision and enthusiasm has done much to nurture those early roots into something rather more substantial. That first Irish Students side was formed mainly of second-

generation Irishmen studying at British institutions, with a few notable exceptions who lived and studied in Dublin. Results were mixed; the side took a couple of hammerings from finalists England and Australia, with whom they had the misfortune to be drawn, but the colour and spirit they brought to the eight-team tournament was an encouraging start to the Irish initiative.

Since then the Irish Students side has been a regular fixture in the



Tom O'Donovan RFL's Development Executive

Student Rugby League international calendar and, although success has often proved elusive, not least in a disappointing Student World Cup in Sydney, Australia, in August 1992, progress has been positive. A deliberate policy has been pursued which has taken the team ever nearer to the ideal of first-generation Irishmen playing out of institutions within Ireland, and

recent selections have revealed how close that goal has now become.

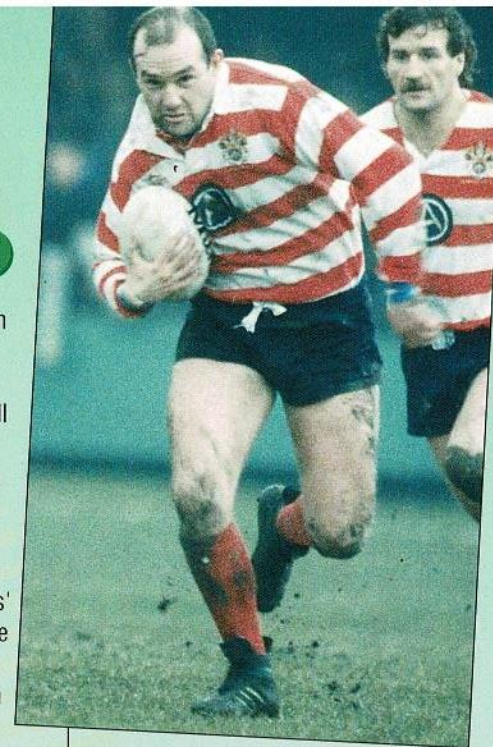
While the student side has been developing, Corrigan has been working to establish Rugby League at other levels in the country and, with no little help from his friends (especially worthy of mention here being Nick Schofield in Belfast), he has maintained the Dublin Blues amateur club over the past few years. The Blues have been most notably active around Easter-time, when mini-tournaments have attracted a variety of touring teams over the water from the mainland. Junior Rugby League has also been played by the Donard Dragons club against English opposition, while frequent trips across by Niel Wood in particular have built up a supply of qualified coaches to feed these developments.

Maurice Lindsay was not whistling down the wind, then, when he proclaimed Ireland to be the next stop for the Rugby League development express. Events of more recent times have shown that the RFL are serious in the extreme in their intention to spread the game, and the first of

these has been the fulfilment of Mr Lindsay's prophecy, the appointment of former Bradford Northern professional and Eastmoor ARLFC stalwart Nigel Johnston as Ireland's first-ever Rugby League Development Officer.

Johnston is stationed in Dublin, though he holds responsibility for the game in both north and south of the country - the intention being to establish an all-Ireland organisation such as that enjoyed by Rugby Union. His first task will be to transform the strides made by the student movement into a regular domestic competition among the universities and colleges. Thereafter, Tom O'Donovan has for him a development strategy which incorporates the contacts cultivated over time in places such as Limerick, Cork and Clonmel, while all the time preaching the gospel of junior and youth rugby through the Puma Little League and the BFL Skills Awards particularly in the densely populated city of Dublin. Building awareness is always a substantial part of a Development Officer's brief and, in this, Johnston has two impressive tools.

By the time this article is read, an Ireland representative side comprising students, former students and amateur players will have visited the USA to play the American Patriots in Washington DC in a St Patrick's Day international fixture on Saturday 17 March. Conceived as a marketing venture by the Patriots' John Morgan, the presence in the Irish set-up of the mercurial Alex Murphy, Wigan's assistant coach Joe Lydon, and former Oldham and Great Britain man Terry Flanagan - now a regular feature on the BBC's League coverage - means that the trip has pulled in more than its fair share of attention on this side of the Atlantic too. Similarly by the time this is read, RFL officials will have visited Dublin to dot the i's and cross the t's for the staging of the revived Charity Shield at the Dublin International Showground in August of this year. The match is the brainchild of the Dublin International Sports Council, and their willingness to support the idea with hard financial guarantees demonstrates the enthusiasm with which the Irish at all levels are embracing the arrival of Rugby League in their country.



Ireland Coach Terry Flanagan in his Oldham playing days

More than meets the eye, then, to the prospect of Rugby League in Ireland, and plenty more up the sleeve of those responsible for its future. Steadily and quietly over the past six years a foundation has been created, and now is the time to start the construction process in earnest. It might have seemed a long shot a year ago, but what price now the prospects of the green jerseys becoming a real force in international Rugby League in the foreseeable future? Maurice Lindsay may not be as wide of the mark as many people then believed.

# ...TO IRELAND



# SEMI CONSCIOUS

Michael Beale considers Last Four Folklore

The casual observer who happened to leaf through the Rugby League record books might be forgiven for thinking that, amongst the many factors in Wigan's favour going into today's game, they would have the psychological advantage of a win over Oldham at the same stage of the competition as recently as 1991 to aid their cause. Yet that will hardly be the case, nor will thoughts of revenge be burning in Roughyed hearts at the memory of that 30-16 reverse.

The fact is that, down Watersheddings way, where Continuity might just as well be the brand name of a medicine to counteract weak bladders for all they know about it, they've assembled virtually a completely new squad of players since then. Of the 32 professionals who turned out for them in first-team football last season, 18 were signed in 1993 or later. And not one of them was at the club in 1989, which puts them on a par with (predictably) London Crusaders / Broncos as the only other club not to have any active playing personnel left over from the last decade.

Not that Wigan are a club to let the grass grow under their feet, either. They've only Shaun Edwards left of their line-up from the Wembley finals of 1987 and 1988 (although Denis Betts was a substitute in the latter), the first two of their amazing run of final successes. So whatever else this afternoon's match proves to be, it won't be an old pals act.

On the terraces (or rather, in the stands) things will be different, however. There will be veterans of semi-finals galore supporting both sides, fans who will no doubt testify to the old truism about the bitterness of faltering at this step on the road to Wembley. It is more than a quarter of a century since the Riversiders last

***Cruelly, Mick Adams's kick which led to the fateful score wasn't even intended as an attacking ploy***

experienced that cruel disappointment, a combination of them not having been good enough to reach the last round for the first half of that spell and subsequently being far too good to fall at the final hurdle since then. But no doubt there will be some here today who remember their 25-4 trouncing by Leeds at Swinton in 1968, just as Oldham fans of a certain age will recall the

drama and farce of 1964 when bad light caused the abandonment in extra time of their tie with Hull KR with the Roughyeds leading 17-14. Of course, Rovers won the replay and the Watersheddings outfit have still to reach... well, I hardly need repeat it, do I?

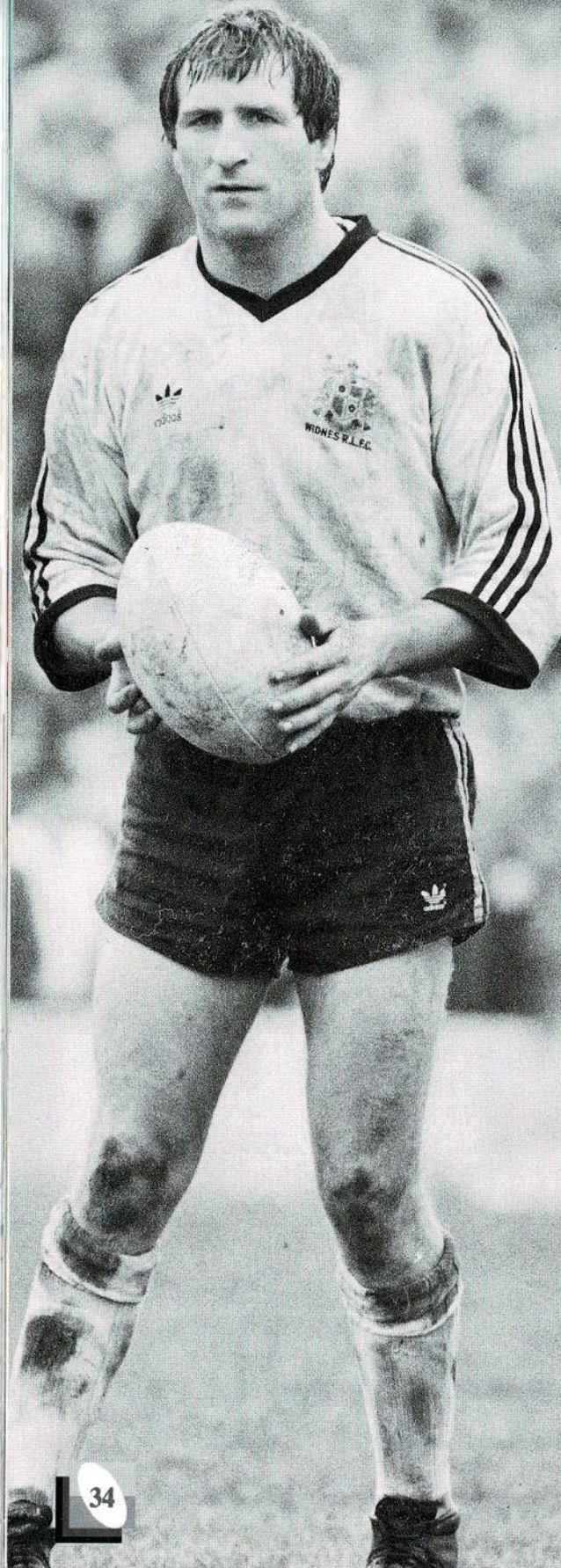
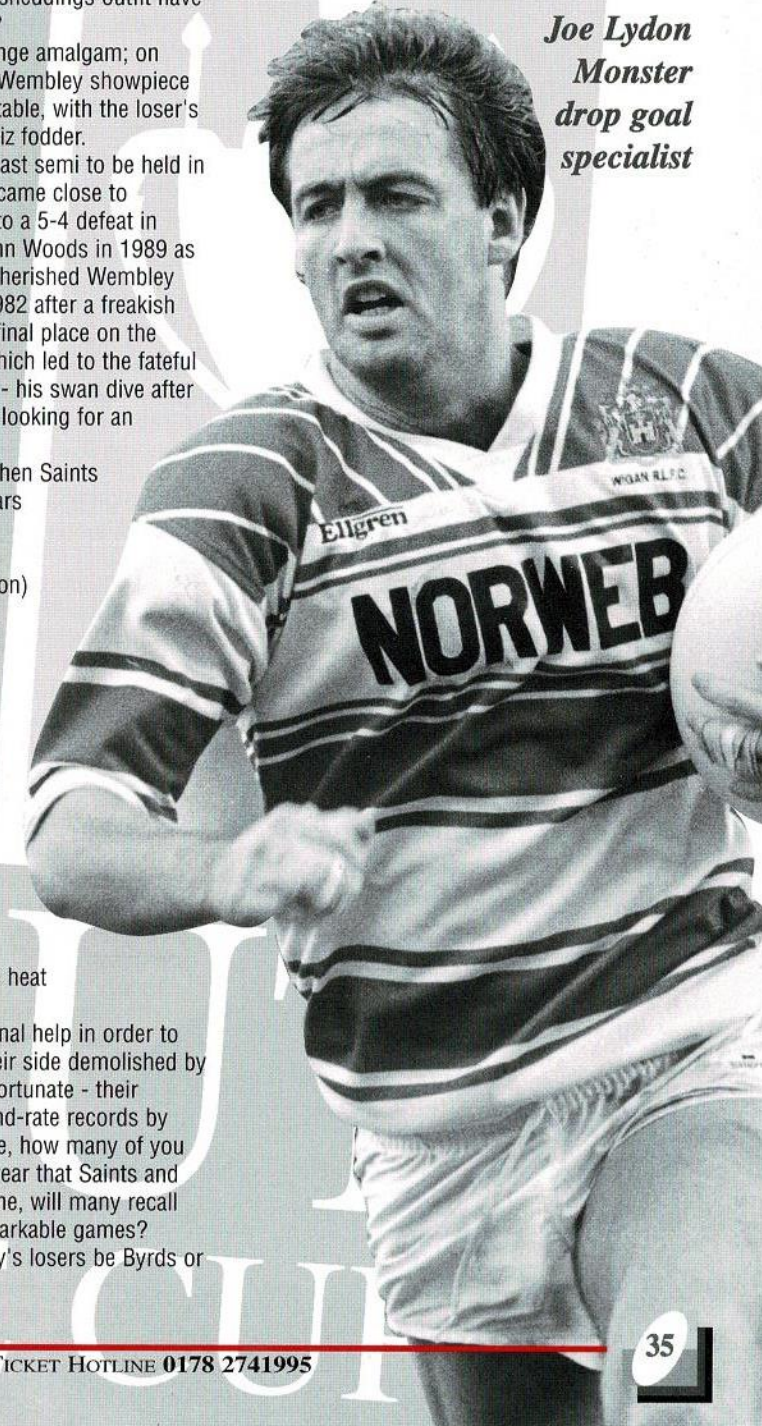
The semi-final stage of the competition is a strange amalgam; on occasion it proves to be more eventful than the Wembley showpiece itself, yet at other times can be eminently forgettable, with the loser's involvement quickly being consigned to trivia quiz fodder. Definitely residing in the former category is the last semi to be held in Huddersfield before today, when lowly Keighley came close to upsetting mighty St. Helens before going down to a 5-4 defeat in 1976. Nor will many forget the heartbreak of John Woods in 1989 as Joe Lydon's monster drop-goal put paid to his cherished Wembley dream, or the desolation of the Leeds team in 1982 after a freakish Widnes try via the woodwork robbed them of a final place on the stroke of full time. Cruelly, Mick Adams's kick which led to the fateful score wasn't even intended as an attacking ploy - his swan dive after chipping ahead confirmed that he was only ever looking for an equalising penalty.

There have been shocks, too, such as in 1979 when Saints were not so fortunate as they had been three years earlier, a superb length-of-the-field Wakefield touchdown move, finished by Andrew Fletcher, seeing off the favourites. Glory (if little consolation) in defeat was Ellery Hanley's in 1983 - that was the year in which his wonder try covering 90 yards was not enough to see Bradford past Featherstone. Frequent video re-runs of that score indicate either that Ellery was carrying a bit more weight in those days or that Northern's unglamorous outfit was doing his frame no favours at all.

Memorable for the wrong reasons were the semi and replay of 1988 as a 0-0 draw was followed up with a 4-3 victory for Halifax over Hull. Over 160 minutes the offside rule was scarcely applied once, with the result that numerous lasting friendships were formed in the heat of battle as the two sides mingled informally.

Many Bradford fans are still paying for professional help in order to heal the psychiatric scars sustained watching their side demolished by a margin of 71-10 in 1992 but others are more fortunate - their defeats have slipped from the memory like second-rate records by one-hit wonders on Top of the Pops. For instance, how many of you can name the losing semi-finalists of 1987, the year that Saints and Halifax contested the final? And, in five years' time, will many recall the vanquished sides in last season's two unremarkable games? So, to return to the pop music analogy, will today's losers be Byrds or A Flock of Seagulls? We shall see.

**Joe Lydon**  
**Monster**  
**drop goal**  
**specialist**





# GRAEMIE WEST

■ Wigan coach Graeme West is an exception to the rule that says nice guys cannot be winners. The amiable New Zealander giant has not put a foot wrong since succeeding John Dorahy as the main man at Central Park, immediately after last year's Silk Cut Challenge Cup victory.

One of the most popular characters ever to set foot in Central Park, West and the Wigan supporters have enjoyed a fabulous rapport since the day he arrived in 1982. Yet, this time last year, West confesses he was within an ace of "heading for the hills" and departing from the place he has always regarded as his second home.

Patience has always been a watchword for West. Initially throughout a playing career which brought 16 Test caps for New Zealand and more than 200 appearances for Wigan and, latterly, during a coaching career which incorporated a successful apprenticeship at Alliance level before taking the reins at a club where success is a way of life.

"I'm glad that I served an apprenticeship with the Wigan Alliance team before being offered the main job," states West, "because without that experience I'd have been lost. In fact, I wouldn't have taken the job without having that valuable learning period behind me.

"When I was a player, there were a lot of issues that I regarded as black or white. If a player missed training, for instance, my gut reaction was that he shouldn't be playing at the weekend. But, nowadays, I see things from all angles, and I appreciate that there are grey areas. It doesn't do to jump to conclusions. Again, my patience is an asset.

"I'm very fortunate to work in an environment that I love, with a playing staff that's second to none and for a board of directors who

have never lost sight of the main objective, which is to provide an attractive, winning team for the rugby-loving Wigan public. Like the players, they have refused to get complacent, never rested on their laurels. "Everything I've achieved is down to the players and the coaching/training staff that I have around me," he says with typical modesty. "Central Park is a very happy place, and we are all part of a team. I have a great staff around me in Joe Lydon, John Pendlebury, Ray Unsworth and Chris Butler, and the players have a real pride in their performance and in wearing the cherry-and-white jersey.

"My main objective is to communicate with the players. I keep them informed, let them know what's happening, at all times. That way, nobody can turn around and say that they weren't informed. The last thing a player wants is to be dropped from a team without explanation. Communication is vital, and so is good man-management. "When I got the job, it came at an awkward time because the players had just completed that seventh consecutive Wembley win and there could have been the temptation to ease off as the season drew to a close. But, showing the mark of professionalism which has kept Wigan at the forefront of the game in this country for a decade, they rallied to erase a first-round Premiership deficit against St. Helens and go on to win the trophy.

"I take a pride in everything about this club. I try to watch every match Wigan play - at first-team, Alliance and Academy levels - and have missed only one of the club's games this season. That was because it clashed with a dinner for Kevin Ward and I wanted to show respect to a great player who was tragically cut down in his prime. "There's enormous pressure on the players to keep producing in this competition. It's reached the stage where getting to Wembley - once the pinnacle of any player's career - is now expected, not appreciated. But we face a big task if we're to reach another final because Oldham are one of the most improved sides in the game.

"Having packed down alongside Andy Goodway on countless occasions, and seen him operate as a coach, I know only too well that Oldham will be thoroughly prepared. He's one of life's born winners, and we can't take anything for granted."

■ No one played a bigger part in creating the Wigan dynasty than Andy Goodway. But, at the magnificent McAlpine Stadium this afternoon, he hopes to bring about an upset which would spell the end of the greatest run of Cup success in the game's history. Goodway was one of the new breed of Rugby League professionals when he became the game's costliest forward, moving from Oldham to Wigan for £65,000 in September 1985. Wigan's ensuing success can be traced back to that season when they cornered the market by buying the best of British talent at a time when rival clubs were concentrating their efforts and finances on recruiting short-term overseas signings.

Goodway's signing was one of three which transformed Wigan from contenders to uncatchable front-runners. His arrival at Central Park, along with that of Ellery Hanley and Joe Lydon, did not bring instant success, but Wigan claimed their first Championship in 27 years the following season. Goodway, Hanley and Lydon formed the nucleus of a team which would go on to dominate the game in unprecedented fashion.

When he left Central Park for a brief spell with Leeds in 1992, it was with a heavy heart. Andy Goodway is no sentimentalist, but he loved the adulation that came with being part of a successful Central Park team. And he fully realised that Wigan helped shape an aggressive, boisterous young man into a wiser, wealthier per-

Oldham coach Andy Goodway hopes to plot Wigan's downfall, as he tells Ian Proctor

son. "I was never completely sure that I wanted to go into coaching until breaking my arm in 1991. Then John Monie suggested that I ought to take charge of the Academy team for the season. I thoroughly enjoyed it and realised it was something I wanted to do.

"I had a good rapport with John, still keep in regular contact with him and hope to be spending some of the summer months in Auckland with him. It's bound to be a learning experience because just being around guys like Monie and Graham Lowe can't be anything other than an education. A lot of the things they say just stick in the memory. "It's like this Cup draw. Everyone at Oldham was upset because we drew the short straw and the team that everyone else wanted to avoid. But, as John Monie used to say, there's no sense in worrying about the things you cannot control. We've got to face Wigan, it's as simple as that, and we have to concentrate our efforts on beating them. Anything else just diverts us from the real issue."

Goodway is unapologetic about Oldham's occasionally dour style of football this season. He simply takes professional pride in turning around a situation which seemed out of control when they leaked 189 points in their opening four matches of the season. "We've had to play to a gameplan which is mainly about ball security and playing the percentages," he concedes, "because my major aim was to ensure First Division survival. Our tactics have probably been the Rugby League equivalent of soccer's long-ball game, but I've tried to introduce a more expansive game recently and realised it takes time.

"I've also had to implement a youth system at the club, and that's going to bear fruit in years to come. But I'm aware that we're a long way behind the likes of Wigan

and Leeds in the recruitment of young players. They've cornered the market, and both clubs have some tremendous prospects. "I know how much the Oldham fans yearn for that first-ever visit to Wembley and, believe me, we'll be giving it our best shot, even though the odds are stacked against us.

"These are the kind of games that can turn a whole club around, because nothing unites a club and its community like going to Wembley. No game is ever won before a ball is kicked, and I've got a good personal record in semi-final football... four games, four wins.

"The first time we won through to Wembley was very special, with Wigan defeating Salford 34-4 at Burden Park to qualify for the 1988 final against Halifax. And, on a personal level, the 1990 Old Trafford semi-final against St. Helens ranks with my greatest moments in the game.

"Scoring the winning try at such a fabulous venue in the dying seconds, when the scores were locked at 14-14, was the stuff of fairytales. It was a great moment for me, but it belongs to the past. I'm more concerned with the future and creating an Oldham side to match the best in the business." Few who know him will doubt Andy Goodway's ability to get there in the end.

# ANDY GOODWAY



# FACE TO FACE

## OLDHAM

- 1 WALLY GIBSON ..... □□□
- 2 ADRIAN BELLE ..... □□□
- 3 PAUL TOPPING ..... □□□
- 4 DARREN ABRAM ..... □□□
- 5 SCOTT RANSON ..... □□□
- 6 WILSON MARSH ..... □□□
- 7 MARTIN CROMPTON ..... □□□
- 8 IAN SHERRATT ..... □□□
- 9 DAVID STEPHENSON ..... □□□
- 10 JASON TEMU ..... □□□
- 11 GARY LORD ..... □□□
- 12 JOE FAIMALO ..... □□□
- 13 MIKE KUITI ..... □□□
- 14 IYAN GREEN ..... □□□
- 15 PAUL DAVIDSON ..... □□□

COACH: ANDY GOODWAY

IN THE EVENT OF TODAY'S MATCH FINISHING IN A DRAW AFTER 80 MINUTES, EXTRA-TIME WILL NOT BE PLAYED. THE REPLAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 29 MARCH, KICK-OFF 7.30PM, ALSO AT THE ALFRED MCALPINE STADIUM.

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

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES

**SILK CUT AWARD WINNER**  
THIS AFTERNOON'S SILK CUT MAN OF THE MATCH, WHO WILL BE SELECTED BY A PANEL OF THE PRESS, WILL RECEIVE £300 AND AN ENGRAVED SILVER PLATED REPLICA RUGBY BALL.

## WIGAN

- 1 HENRY PAUL ..... □□□
- 2 JASON ROBINSON ..... □□□
- 3 VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA ..... □□□
- 4 GARY CONNOLLY ..... □□□
- 5 MARTIN OFFIAH ..... □□□
- 6 FRANO BOTICA ..... □□□
- 7 SHAUN EDWARDS ..... □□□
- 8 KELVIN SKERRETT ..... □□□
- 9 MARTIN HALL ..... □□□
- 10 NEIL COWIE ..... □□□
- 11 DENIS BETTS ..... □□□
- 12 MICK CASSIDY ..... □□□
- 13 PHIL CLARKE ..... □□□
- 14 B.J. MATHER ..... □□□
- 15 ANDREW FARRELL ..... □□□

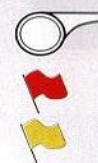
COACH: GRAEME WEST

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

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES



MR. RUSSELL SMITH  
CASTLEFORD

MR. BILLY BLUNDEN  
LIVERSEDGE

MR. RAY DUCKWORTH  
MORLEY

RESERVE OFFICIAL MR. COLIN MORRIS  
HUDDERSFIELD

WIGAN																			
OLDHAM																			



THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

RED HALL HOUSE, RED HALL LANE, LEEDS LS17 8NB

GARDNER MERCHANT  
SOUTH STAND

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP  
SEMI-FINAL

SATURDAY 25th MARCH 1995

Kick-off 2:15 p.m.

AT ALFRED McALPINE STADIUM  
HUDDERSFIELD

£6.00 ADULT £3.00 CONC.

TURNSTILES: 17-20

ROW

SEAT

K

77

TO BE RETAINED