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RUGBY LEAGUE
CENTENARY
1895 - 1995

WIGAN v OLDHAM
SUN 24th SEPTEMBER 1995

KICK OFF 3.00pm

STONES BITTER CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP

MATCH SPONSOR

PROGRAMME SPONSOR

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE £1.30

WIGAN
RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB



RUGBY LEAGUE
CENTENARY
1895 - 1995

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0891 12 11 58

HONOURS

World Club Championship Winners 1987, 1992, 1994

Rugby League Championship Winners 1908/09, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1959-60.

First Division Championship Winners 1986-87, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95

Challenge Cup Winners 1923-24, 1928-29, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1964-65, 1984-85, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95

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Div One Premiership Winners 1986-87, 1991-92, 1993-94, 1994-95

Lancashire Cup Winners 1905-06, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39, 1946-47, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1966-67, 1971-72, 1973-74, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1992-93

League Leaders Trophy Winners 1970-71.

John Player Trophy Winners 1982-83, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1988-89.

Regal Trophy Winners: 1989-90, 1992-93, 1994-95

Charity Shield Winners 1985-86, 1987-88, 1991-92, 1995-96

Nissan World Sevens Winners 1991-92

CLUB RECORDS

Year formed 1872

Limited Company 1921

Home: Jersey-Cherry & White. Shorts-White. Stockings-Cherry & White.

Away: Jersey-Blue & White. Shorts-Blue. Stockings-White.

Nickname The Riversiders

Record Attendance 47,747 v. St. Helens 1959

Record Victory 116-0 v. Flimby & Fothergill 1925

Record Defeat 3-58 v. Leeds 1972

Try Scoring Record 62 in 1925-26 by Johnny Ring

Goal Kicking Record 184 in 1992-93 by Frano Botica

Points Scoring Record 423 in 1992-93 by Frano Botica

The views expressed in this programme are not necessarily those of Wigan RLFC.

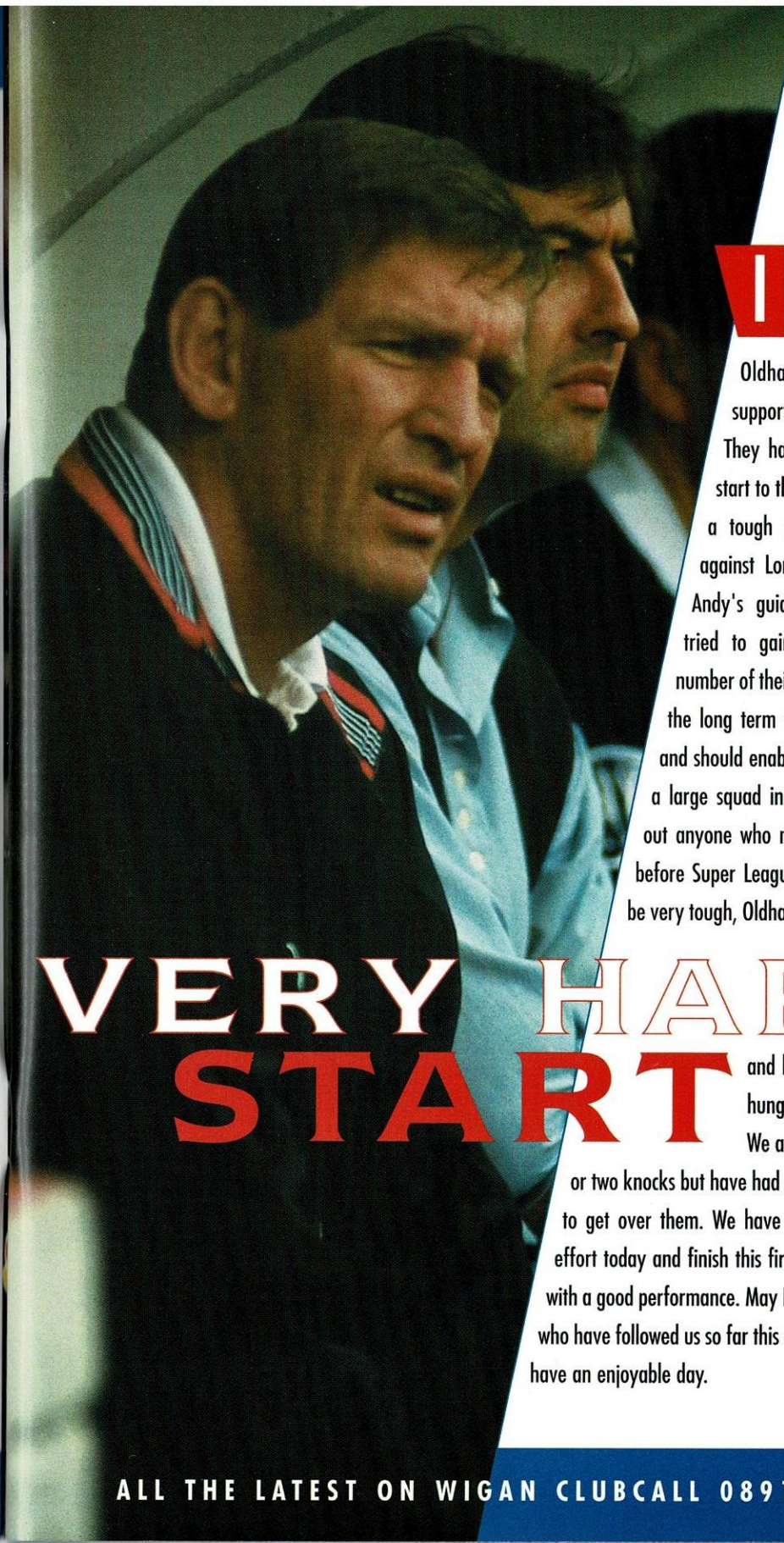
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I would firstly like to welcome Andy Goodway his

Oldham team and their supporters to Central Park. They have had a very hard start to the season and played a tough game in mid week against London Broncos. Under Andy's guidance Oldham have tried to gain experience for a number of their younger players. In the long term this is a good policy and should enable him to select from a large squad in the future and sort out anyone who needs to be replaced before Super League. Today's game will be very tough, Oldham are a physical side

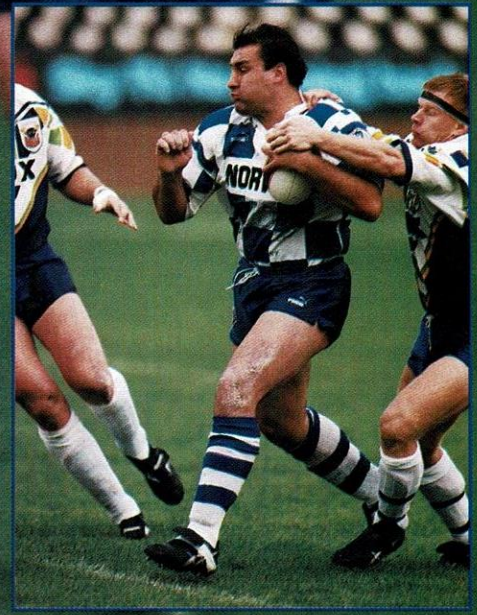
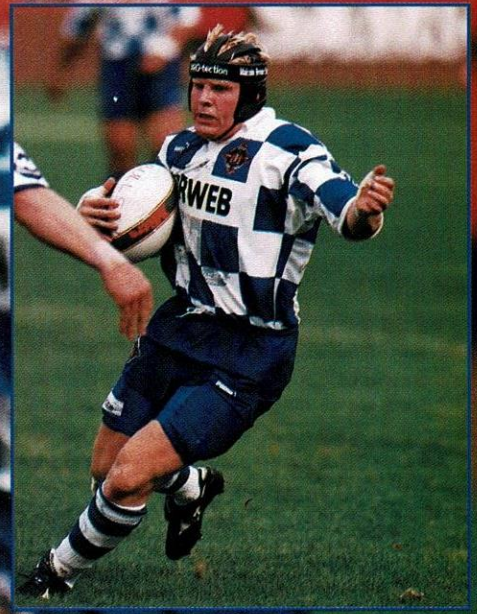
VERY HARD START

and have a lot of players hungry for a win.

We are suffering with one or two knocks but have had the luxury of a week to get over them. We have got to put in a full effort today and finish this first half of the season with a good performance. May I thank all supporters who have followed us so far this season and hope you have an enjoyable day.

BRADFORD BULLS 26 WIGAN 36 STONES BITTER CENTENARY CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 1995

4



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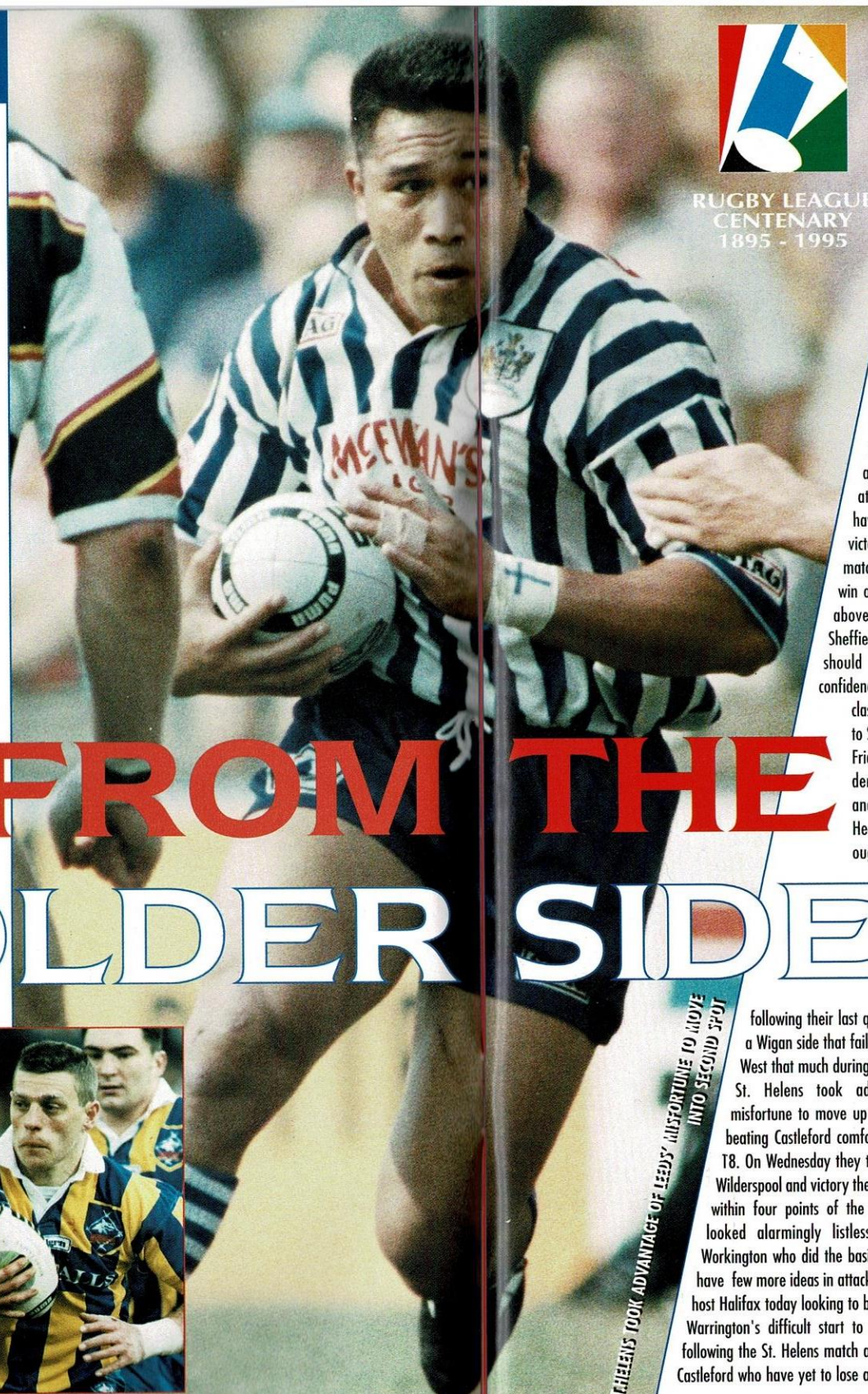
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RUGBY LEAGUE
CENTENARY
1895 - 1995



FROM THE COLDER SIDE

6

In Sydney earlier today, the Winfield Cup reached its climax with the Grand Final between Manly and the Sydney Bulldogs. In a season that has been largely overshadowed by the bitter wrangling of the Super League dispute, it was time for football on the field to take centre stage.

Some commentators may see the game in terms of Australian rugby league versus Super League with Manly in the ARL corner and the Bulldogs battling for Murdoch. Several players from each camp have decided to play for their rivals in 1996. The Bulldogs were one of the first clubs to sign up with Murdoch's venture but when the contract wars began, several players jumped ship back to the ARL. The chaos and acrimony has somehow remained off the field as the Bulldogs recovered from a run of five defeats in eight games after the April announcement of the Super League to make the play offs and eventually the Grand Final itself.

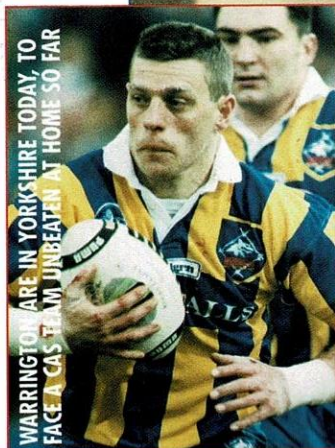
The game marked the retirement of Terry Lamb after 328 matches in the Winfield Cup for Western Suburbs and the Bulldogs. Since his debut in 1980, Lamb has represented City, New South Wales and Australia touring with the 1986 Kangaroos and becoming the only player to play in every match on tour. He also collected a record five tries against Hull KR on that Tour.

The Doggies have been playing on emotion over the past three weeks hoping to give their captain the best possible finale to his career. Having finished sixth in the table, they have been playing sudden death matches all the way to the final. Lamb's men disposed of St George and an out of sorts Brisbane before seeing off Canberra in last week's semi-final.

Manly, meanwhile topped the table with just two defeats in their twenty two matches and were favourites to reach the Australian game's showpiece event. The Sea Eagles had to come from behind to defeat Cronulla and earn a week off to rest injuries to key players. They came back to tough it out with Newcastle for a Grand Final place and the score to 12 pts-4 suggests a dour, physical contest. Manly have their own elder statesman at stand off in Cliff Lyons and it may well be his contest with Lamb that could decide the wider issue of which captain lifts the J.J. Giltinan Shield at the conclusion of the match.

The Sea Eagles beat the Bulldogs 26pts-0 in May thanks to a fine display from Steve Menzies. Terry Lamb was out injured that day and the Dogs looked to be missing him. Manly have not been to the grand final since they won the Winfield Cup at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1987 while the Bulldogs were premiers the following year and runners up to a dominant Canberra side twelve months ago.

The Sea Eagles will start as favourites but much of the sentimental money will be on the Bulldogs and Terry Lamb. Can he produced one last minutes of magic? On the colder side of the world, the Centenary



WARRINGTON ARE IN YORKSHIRE TODAY, TO FACE A CAS TEAM UNBEATEN AT HOME SO FAR

championship is heading for a mid season break with Wigan out on top with a 100% record before this afternoon's clash with Oldham. The Roughyeds were in action on Wednesday at home to London having failed to record a victory in their first five matches. The Londoners win over Leeds took them above Oldham and Sheffield in the table and should have given them confidence for the midweek clash as well as the visit to Sheffield today.

Friday night saw a local derby between Leeds and Bradford at Headingley. The Loiners ought to be smarting from their defeat in the capital while Bradford will be suitably B u l l i s h

following their last quarter revival against a Wigan side that failed to impress Graeme West that much during that period.

St. Helens took advantage of Leeds' misfortune to move up into second place by beating Castleford comfortably enough 35pts-18. On Wednesday they took on Warrington at Wilderspool and victory there would take them to within four points of the Champions. The Wire looked alarmingly listless in defeat against Workington who did the basic well and seemed to have few more ideas in attack. Kurt Sorensen's side host Halifax today looking to build on that result. Warrington's difficult start to the season continues following the St. Helens match as today they travel to Castleford who have yet to lose at home. This fixture is

ST. HELENS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LEEDS' MISFORTUNE TO MOVE INTO SECOND SPOT

usually an attractive one with plenty of points and a regular in the Sky schedules.

There is likely to be just one remaining 100% in the First Division after Wednesday clash between Salford and Keighley at the Willows. This afternoon, Salford make the short journey to Rochdale while the Cougars host Whitehaven.

There was a full programme of fixtures in this section during the week with the big clash at the Willows the highlight, Widnes continued their challenge with a victory at Post Office Road. In the week, Andy Platt was due to make his home debut against Batley. The Chemics could move to joint top with a win in that match and victory over Huddersfield yesterday.

Featherstone have now lost their last two home matches and travel to Batley having had the luxury of a rest in midweek while the gallant youths were in action in Cheshire.

Swinton were still the surprise leaders of the Second Division taking advantage of Hull KR's inactivity to take out a two point lead with a win over Hunslet whose three match unbeaten run has now been matched by three consecutive defeats.

Leigh moved into second place with a win over Barrow which was their fifth in a row. Today Ian Lucas's men have the day off while Swinton meet Hull KR at Gigg Lane.

Victory Park host an intriguing game as Chorley meet Doncaster. Chorley put together a run of two consecutive victories recently but crashed a heavy defeat at Bramley last week undoing much of Bob Eccles' good work. The Dragons meanwhile have struggled following their eleventh hour admission to the League winning just once in half a dozen games.

The Halifax Centenary World Cup is now just a fortnight away. There have been letters in the "trade papers" regarding the publicity (or lack of it) for the competition. The BBC has, so far, been very quiet about an event they are keen to get exclusive right to. Sky has been running adverts mainly the sports channels and mainly during league programmes which state that ticket application forms are available in the national press but only in the northern editions. I would hate to be living in the South trying to get information and tickets for what is after all, the only sporting World Cup this country this year.

On October 11th, England take on Fiji here at Central Park. The Fijian side, known as the Batis, is coached by former Illawarra boss Graham Murray and captained by Lee Nelagilagi. The Penrith centre is one of 13 overseas based players including Jon Dakuitoga (Penrith) and Noa Nadruku (Canberra). One disappointment the absence of Workington and Sydney Bulldogs prop James Pickering through injury.

The Fijians have beaten Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby and France during their preparations and could be handful for an England side coming off the opening game with Australia. The Batis fare South Africa on October 8th at Keighley and England may well be looking for their first victory of the tournament. Either way, it should be an entertaining evening.

7

HOWARD HILL

Outstanding young back row forward. Joined Oldham in July 1994 from the Hensingham junior club of Whitehaven. Has made steady progress in the Alliance team and is now breaking into the first team squad. One for the future.

IAN GILDART

Hard working and experienced forward. A product of Wigan Colts who turned professional here at Central Park during October 1986. Made his debut the following January in the 68-0 demolition of Workington Town in the Challenge Cup. Went on to make 139 appearances for Wigan including an outing at Wembley in 1990 and also appearances in the Regal Trophy and Premiership Finals. Also represented Great Britain at under 21 level whilst at Central Park. After eight years with Wigan Gildart was transferred to Wakefield Trinity in August 1994. Moved back over the Pennines to Oldham for £45,000 last June.

JOE FAIMALO

Hard working second row forward who has just enjoyed his best ever season. A product of the Eastern Suburbs club in New Zealand, Faimalo had brief spells with Workington Town, Oldham and then Swinton during the 1991-92 season without impressing. He returned home and enjoyed success with Hawkes Bay which prompted him to return to Oldham last September. His determination and stamina last season made him one of the mainstays of the Roughyeds pack.

JASON TEMU

Hard running prop who has enjoyed a tremendous run of form during the past 18 months. A product of the Marist club in New Zealand, he joined the Counties-Manukau outfit for the NZ Lion Red Cup of 1994. Temu was a revelation for Manukau in July 1991 he toured Australia with the New Zealand residents squad. Is expected to eventually win full Kiwi test honours. In September 1994 Temu flew to Britain and straight into the Oldham team where his good form continued.

CHRIS PARR

Hard working prop. A product of the Wigan St. Patricks junior club who began his professional

career with Huddersfield in 1990. Won Great Britain under 21 honours whilst at Fartown. Moved back over to this side of the Pennines in 1992 when he joined Swinton. Oldham signed him in October 1993 and he has continued to show good form at Watersheddings.

GARY LORD

Experienced professional. A product of Stanley Rangers juniors (Castleford) who joined the senior Castleford club in 1984. Appeared at full back for Castleford at Wembley in 1986 but has since developed into a hard working second row forward. Was transferred to Leeds in 1988 and then on to Halifax in 1991 before joining Oldham during the summer of 1994 for £35,000.

**GARY LORD****FRANCIS MALONEY**

Powerfully built stand off and accurate positional kicker. A product of the St. John Fisher junior club (Dewsbury) who turned professional with Leeds in 1990. Moved to Featherstone Rovers in 1992 and won Great Britain Under 21 recognition whilst at Post Office Road. Moved to Warrington during the summer of 1994 but did not settle at Wilderspool so transferred to Oldham last May for £50,000. Much is expected of Maloney during the forthcoming season. First team goal kicker at Watersheddings.

MARTIN CROMPTON

Scrum half captain and the orchestrator of most of Oldham's attacking play. A former Wigan St. Patricks junior who began his professional career with Warrington. Moved back to Wigan in July 1992 when he joined the senior Central Park outfit. Made his debut in the Charity Shield defeat against St. Helens at Gateshead when he was at scrum half. Also made a number of his 20 Wigan appearances at hooker before he moved to Oldham for a bargain £35,000 fee in September 1993. During his 12 months at Wigan was substitute in Wigan's World Club Challenge defeat against Brisbane Broncos. A brilliant tactical kicker who has been included in the English squad for the forthcoming Halifax Centenary World Championship.

IAN SHERRATT

Experienced prop. Represented Oldham and Lancashire schoolboys. Played for the Waterhead (Oldham) junior club before turning professional with Bradford Northern in 1982. Transferred to Oldham in 1987 and then moved to Salford in 1989 before returning to Watersheddings in November 1991. Under rated forward who has been unlucky not to gain representative recognition.

PAUL TOPPING

Utility player who is equally effective whether at centre, stand off or loose forward. Outstanding defensive ability. Oldham's top points scorer during the past two seasons. Topping is a product of the Wigan St. Patricks junior club who turned professional with Swinton in August 1985. He had a spell on loan at Mansfield before joining Leigh in 1990 and then transferring to Oldham in September 1993. Topping made one appearance for Lancashire in 1991.

MIKE NEAL

Powerful three quarter and another former Wigan player although Neal was unable to break into the first team squad here at Central Park. Was with the Parkside junior outfit (Leigh) before turning professional in December 1989. Scored eight tries from 14 appearances whilst on loan at Doncaster last season but in March moved to Oldham where he is now a useful member of the first team squad. Cost a bargain £10,000.

DARREN ABRAM

Prolific try scoring centre who has been Oldham's top try scorer during the past two seasons. Has also been club top try scorer during his spells with Rochdale Hornets and Trafford Borough. A product of Thatto Heath juniors (St. Helens) who won BARLA international honours before turning professional with Warrington in 1985. Had a spell on loan with Swinton before moving to Chorley Borough. Was with Borough when the club switched to Altrincham and changed name to Trafford Borough. Abram then had a spell with Rochdale Hornets before joining Oldham in February 1993.

PAUL ATCHESON

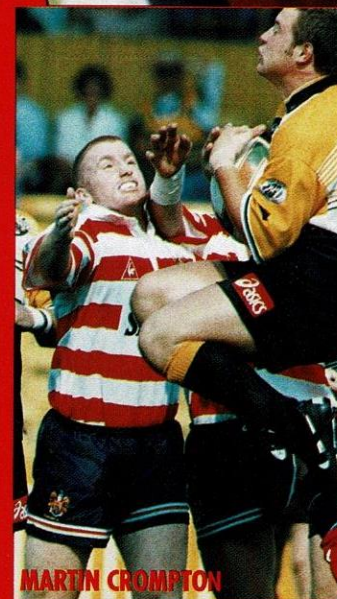
Outstanding attacking full back and one of four Oldham players who have played here at Central Park. A product of Blackbrook juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Widnes in 1990. Moved here to Wigan in October 1992 and made his debut the following January in the 19-4 Regal Trophy semi-final victory over Hull. Made 62 appearances for Wigan before transferring to Oldham last May for £50,000. Whilst at Central Park represented Great Britain at academy and under 21 level and was a member of the Welsh team which lifted the European Championship earlier this year. Scored a try at a vital time in the 22-10 victory over France at Carcassonne. Versatile player who can play in any back position as well as the back row of the pack. Member of the Welsh World Championship squad.

WALLY GIBSON

Talented Australian full back or stand off whose unpredictability makes him a dangerous attacker. Played for the Tunncliffe club in Australia before joining Huddersfield in 1989. Became a firm favourite with the Fartown followers who were bitterly disappointed when he moved to Oldham in September 1992.

SCOTT RANSON

Fast and elusive winger. A product of Thatto Heath juniors (St. Helens) who turned professional with Swinton in 1987. Was top try scorer at Swinton during his last two seasons with the Lions, joined Oldham in February 1992 and has continued his prolific try scoring feats at Watersheddings.

**MARTIN CROMPTON**

ROUGHYEDS

SHEER DETERMINATION...
INGA KICKS INTO TOP GEAR



10

PIER DRIVE 
The Driving Force Behind Wigan Rugby League
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Hello and welcome to all **Heinz Junior Riversiders** for this afternoon's match against Oldham. This match represents the final game of the "first half" of this Centenary season, following which the players will depart to their respective training camps to prepare for representing their chosen National teams in the Centenary World Cup, which of course kicks-off with a showpiece at Wembley on Saturday 7 October with England v Australia.

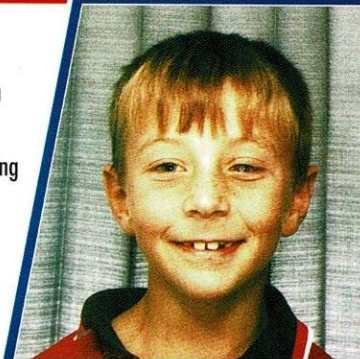
To dwell on the Centenary World Cup for a moment, it really does promise to be a feast of the very best in the game. The teams which will be playing, either in the main event or in the "Emerging Nations" competition all look set to provide the Rugby-League loving public, and those who are not too familiar with the greatest game on earth, with a spectacular display of guts, determination, skills and athleticism at a wide variety of venues throughout the month of October. There will be something for all supporters and followers of the game to look forward to and enjoy. And I'm not so sure that the eventual outcome is all that cut and dried. It would be a brave man who would put money on who will be at Wembley for the Final at the end of the month. Will it be England and Australia, returning for a repeat of the opening game? There are one or two of the Wigan lads who would politely point out that it is Wales who are the current European Champions, and not England. And don't rule out Western Samoa who, on paper at least, appear to have a formidable line-up - and not a bad coach either!!

It all promises to be a highly entertaining few weeks away from the domestic leagues, and matches will be played all around the country, so try your best to attend some of them - I'm sure you will not be disappointed.

Congratulations must surely be due to the lads for holding out against the newly-named Bradford Bulls last Sunday. The conditions were not the best, pouring rain one minute, bright sunshine the next, but grit and determination won the day, and so Wigan's 100% winning start to this final winter season held firm, as hopefully it will after the final whistle this afternoon. The one good thing about the new look Bradford? They have had to dispense with their catchy theme song - "Northern Northern", which will be sadly missed - not!!!

Enjoy the game and speak to you again in November.

Dougie Stand



Mascot Details

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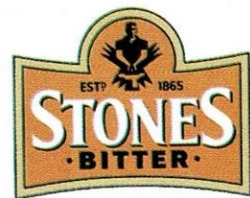
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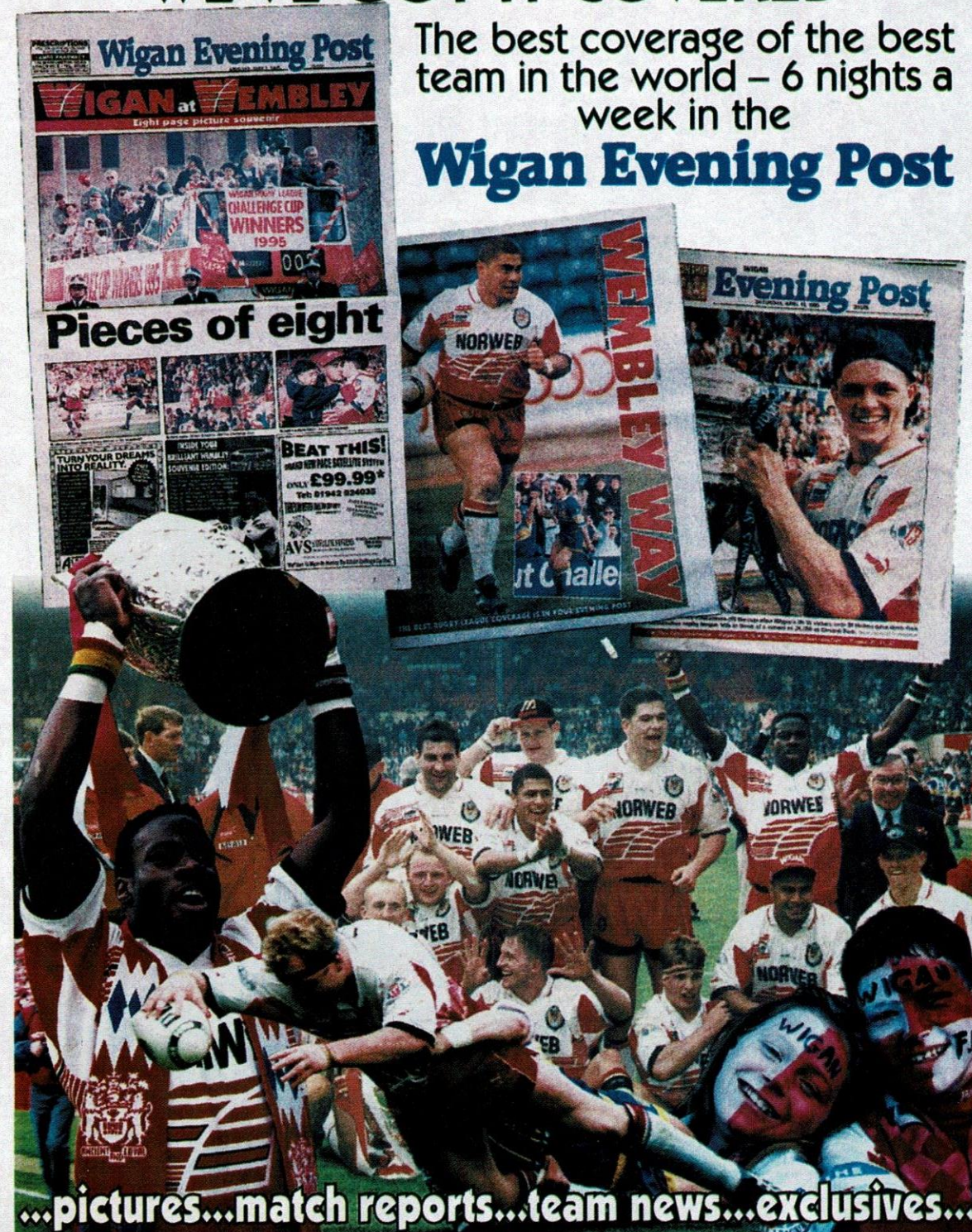
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CHEF DARREN COOKS UP PRIZE BONANZA

Because luck can change in a second you can't afford to MISS the matchday GOLDEN GAMBLE draw.

Lowton-based DARREN HOWARTH defied prior family arrangements to attend the London Broncos game, but eventualities developed into a real celebration party.

Darren serves in Her Majesty's Forces on H.M.S. Beaver and this was his first opportunity to watch his favourite team in action this term. He had arrived home on leave only 24 hours earlier before preparing for an eight month stretch overlooking the problems in Bosnia.

Sharing a flutter on the GOLDEN GAMBLE half time draw with his dad and brother-in-law, he couldn't believe his luck having heard the winning £1800 ticket number being announced.

"I heard it," he admitted "but I wanted to check the board first. There was no way I was going to the centre spot and finding it to be the wrong one."

The windfall won't change Darren's life but he says he will send a reply to any begging letters (especially from the opposite sex) by contacting the ship quoting BFPO 225.

FORMER BAKERY DRIVER PICKS UP DOUGH!!

Ken Williams can recall the times he's paid 3d admission to watch his favourites from the notorious 'hen pen'.

That may have been fifty-odd years ago but he picked up a golden £2,000 nestegg against Castleford recently here at Central Park. Since being made redundant at British Bakeries Ken is able to attend every home game, and today's team is the best he's seen. He had left his seat in the Douglas Stand at half time to answer calls of



nature when the GOLDEN GAMBLE draw was made. He said "I asked a steward and he told me the number and that was it!" Ken buys a GOLDEN GAMBLE ticket every week. He said "Oh aye, it was a shock, and it seemed a long way to the centre spot to claim the prize".

He called for a celebration drink en route to his Springfield home. "I rang the wife and she thought I was joking," he admitted, "and some couldn't believe that I got paid out there and then" he concluded.

FACE IN THE CROWD



Every picture tells a story and this fan was selected at random to receive a matchday bouquet supplied by FORGET ME NOT Florists at Pemberton at the Castleford game. She was chosen from the Kop area but who is she?

Contact Gordon Harrison on 01942-244367.

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NEWS & VIEWS

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Saturday 7th Oct.
ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Wembley Stadium. K.O. 3.00pm

Sunday 8th Oct.
FIJI v SOUTH AFRICA
Keighley, Cougar Park. K.O. 2.30pm
NEW ZEALAND v TONGA

Warrington, Wilderspool. K.O. 6.00pm

Monday 9th Oct.
WALES v FRANCE
Cardiff, Ninian Park. K.O. 8.00pm

Tuesday 10th Oct.
PAPUA NEW GUINEA v TONGA
Hull, Boulevard. K.O. 6.15pm
AUSTRALIA v SOUTH AFRICA
Gateshead, International Stadium. K.O. 8.15pm

Wednesday 11th Oct.
ENGLAND v FIJI
Wigan, Central Park. K.O. 7.30pm

Thursday 12th Oct.
FRANCE v WESTERN SAMOA
Cardiff, Ninian Park. K.O. 8.00pm

Friday 13th Oct.
NEW ZEALAND v PAPUA NEW GUINEA
St. Helens, Knowsley Road. K.O. 8.00pm

Saturday 14th Oct.
AUSTRALIA v FIJI
Huddersfield, McAlpine Stadium. K.O. 2.00pm
ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA
Leeds, Headingley. K.O. 7.00pm

Sunday 15th Oct.
WALES v WESTERN SAMOA
Swansea, Vetch Field. K.O. 6.00pm

Saturday 21st Oct.
SEMI-FINAL ONE
Manchester, Old Trafford. K.O. 3.00pm

Sunday 22nd Oct.
SEMI-FINAL TWO
Huddersfield, McAlpine Stadium. K.O. 3.00pm

THE FINAL
Saturday 28th Oct.
Wembley Stadium. K.O. 2.50pm

HALIFAX



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15

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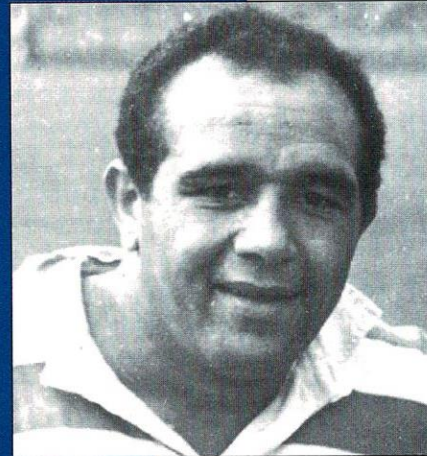
Eighty minutes in the rain and some boots almost double in weight. Not the King. The water-resistant qualities of Puma's WRI100 leather mean the boots stay lighter, your feet stay drier and the Sunday papers remain intact.

PUMA

ON THE BLINDSIDE

with Geoff Duckworth

BILLY BOSTON AN ALL TIME GREAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN A STAR OF THE MODERN GAME.



This afternoon's game is the last Wigan match before the Rugby League Centenary World Cup takes over the fixture list and we can have a rest from the rigours of the Stones Bitter Centenary Championship. At least the spectators can have a break from watching their club and put their energy into supporting England or perhaps another country of their choice. There will not of course, be any sort of rest for the Wigan players as the vast majority will be on international duty for England, Wales, Western Samoa and New Zealand. Have I missed any out? I really do hope that the World Cup is a great success particularly in attendance terms and there will be a late surge to buy tickets especially for the opening game at Wembley in a fortnight. I suppose that it is natural to wait and see who will be in the semi finals and final before buying tickets. Experience shows that Old Trafford can attract a good crowd with short notice and I know that the Sir Alfred McAlpine Stadium at Huddersfield should be easy to fill who ever reaches the semi final to be played there. The one big worry is having an acceptably big crowd at Wembley for the final. There is only a six day gap between the second semi final and the final and although tickets will be available on the day, I am sure that the League officials would sleep easier if a good crowd was assured well before the two finalists or even the four semi finalists are known. It would be interesting to know how

many coaches have been booked to travel from Wigan and surrounding areas for both Wembley games as this would give a good indication of the probable crowd. If there are any budding entrepreneurs in today's crowd, a coach (non executive) will cost between £500 and £550 for a 53 seater, what could you charge and what profit could you make. It is better than going down to Calais and bringing back fizzy French beer though perhaps not so lucrative.

We do not know the score of last Wednesday's game at Watersheddings between Oldham and London Broncos but after last Sunday's Bronco's win at home (Brentford FC) against Leeds the side from the capital must be far more confident for the future than they were earlier in the season. There is still debate going on as to where they will finally settle but we do know that their game against Wigan on December 1st will be played at Brentford. I do not really fancy a 7.05pm kick off on a Sunday night but once a year is not too bad is it?

Next Sunday, the 1st of October, there will only be one place in the world to be. Where? Here at Central Park when nostalgia and excitement will merge together when a team of Wigan all time greats will play against the rest of the world all time greats. Just imagine the hairs on the back of your neck standing up at the sight of your favourites from the past, the lumps in a thousand throats at memories of the distant and not too distant past come flooding back. How can you miss it? How old or young do you have to be to be an all time great?

There were two articles in the Rugby League press this week on very similar subjects but with totally opposing opinions. In League Express Martin Saddler, comparing the teams of the 1960's to those of the 1990's made the comment that 'Today's Wigan team would run up 100 points against the great Wakefield Trinity side of the 1960's. There's simply no comparing the skills, conditioning, speed, stamina and strength of modern day players with even the top players from those days.'

Ray French in the rival publication, the Rugby Leaguer, asks "How many times have we heard the myth of those pot bellied, round, slow moving forwards of yesteryear who, today, would supposedly be hard pressed to catch the attention of any self respecting coach? How many times do we here the claim that today the game and its players are much faster than of days long ago? Ray names players such as Nat Sulcock, Ken Gee, Dick Huddart and Alan Prescott and points out that the likes of Huddart and Prescott could keep up with modern forwards in fifty yard sprints. What do you think, are modern day players way ahead of the players of the past or would the greats of thirty, forty or even a hundred years ago be able to compete in today's game. Given today's training and coaching conditions, no doubt many of the old stars could star in the modern game, Billy Boston could star anywhere, but taking the game as a whole, there is no comparison. In the early sixties, the game was generally so slow that a referee could wear a blazer as he trotted round the pitch. I think that today's Wigan side could probably rattle up a hundred points playing against any side from 30 years ago, don't you?

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CENTRAL PARK

GROUND COMFORT & SAFETY NOTICE

Certain standards of behaviour are expected at Rugby League grounds and they are required from all spectators whether they are 'home' or 'away'.

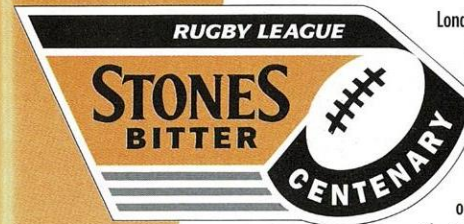
They can be found, as a reminder on the Ground Regulations Board in the vicinity of each group of turnstiles as follows:

1. You must not invade the players area
2. Cans, bottles, klaxon horns, dogs and dangerous articles must not be brought into the stadium.
3. You must not use obscene or offensive language.
4. Persons seeking admission may be required to submit to a search so as to uphold the regulations.
5. The club reserves the right for its servants/agents/Police to remove any person contravening these regulations.

These requirements are fairly standard to all grounds, but fortunately because of the high standards and good record of Rugby League followers they do not usually cause much of a problem.

To enlarge a little: the contents of cans or bottles is not important, whether it be beer or pop, a full container thrown can be just as dangerous! (Are RL spectators daft enough or wealthy enough, to spend good money and then throw it away?) Some people have objected to having 'sticks' removed from flags being taken onto the ground, in the excitement of a game such a small stick can become lethal if it pokes someones eye out!

Believe me the club is simply aiming at a happy, safe environment for all.



London were certainly burning red hot as the brave Broncos brilliantly ripped the Stones Centenary Championship inside out.

The Broncos, with Aussie new boys Julian O'Neill, Leo Dyenevar and Ben Walker, gave high flying Leeds a hot reception as they stormed to a 26-12 shock victory in front of a 4,000 plus crowd at Brentford FC's Griffin Park. The Broncos, who had conceded 172 points in their previous four defeats turned in the sort of show that will certainly worry the rest of the Centenary Championship sides.

Chief Executive Robbie Moore said: "This is only the start. It was a fine display by the lads and we intend to go from strength to strength as we build a side ready for Super League."

The Rugby Football League's Chief Executive and World Cup Tournament Director, Mr Maurice Lindsay, today unveiled the exclusive Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup Trophy.

The Trophy which was exclusively designed by Tiffany & Co. of Old Bond Street, London, was unveiled at a prestigious "Breakfast at Tiffany's". England star Denis Betts and Western Samoa's all powerful centre Va'aiga Tuigamala were on hand to watch the unveiling of the Trophy.

GARY CONNOLLY

Gary Connolly of Wigan needs just one try for a club and representative career century of touchdowns.

The centre or full-back's total of 99 tries has come in 259 matches, including 13 substitute appearance. He has made 31 representative appearances including 17 in Test and World Cup matches for Great Britain.

Connolly's most prolific try-scoring season was last term when he score 30 to finish seventh in the try chart, his only top ten placing. The total including the only three hat tricks of his career.

A former Blackbrook (St. Helens) amateur player, he signed for St. Helens in December 1988 and made his debut as a 17 year old full back in a 29-0 Division One home defeat of Hull KR on 22 January 1989.

He made 133 appearances, including five as substitute, for the Saints before being transferred to Wigan for £250,000 in August 1993.

Connolly made a try-scoring centre debut for Wigan in a 32-2 Division One home

defeat of Widnes on 24 September 1993.

He has also kicked just one goal in his career, for Wigan this season.

Born: 22 June 1971

LEADING TRYSCORERS

Martin Offiah (Wigan), Simon Ashcroft (Swinton) and Brad Davis (York) are the joint try-scoring leader with nine each. They are followed by Glyn Davies (Leigh), Gavin Price-Jones (Swinton) and Gary Connolly (Wigan) with eight each.

TOP TEN GOALSCORERS

(Including drop goals)

1. Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	65
2. Bobbie Goulding (St. Helens)	39
3. Mike Fletcher (Hull KR)	34
4. Willie Richardson (Carlisle)	31
5. Simon Irving (Keighley C.)	28
6. Martin Birkett (Swinton)	28
7. Paul Cook (Leeds)	27
8. Martin Pearson (Featherstone)	27
9. Andy Precious (York)	26
10. John Schuster (Halifax)	24
Chris Williams (Leigh)	24

LEADING POINTSCORER

Andrew Farrell of Wigan is the leading pointscorer with 150 from 65 goals and five tries in only nine matches.

TRYSCORING RUN

Martin Offiah of Wigan has scored at least one try in all eight of the clubs Stones Bitter Championship matches this season as follows:
1-1-1-2-1-1-1-1

Glyn Davies of Leigh has scored at least one try in five successive matches as follows:
3-1-1-2-1

WINNING RUN

Wigan have the longest winning run of 19 matches. It consists of 14 successive Stones Bitter Championship matches, one Silk Cut Challenge Cup, three Stones Bitter Premiership and the Charity Shield. Their last defeat was 18-16 at Halifax on 29 March.

RUGBY LEAGUE IN TOUCH

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RUGBY LEAGUE
CENTENARY
1895 - 1995

1951 Bradford Northern become the first club to install floodlights.

France, on their first tour down under, stun Australia by winning the test series two matches to one.

Doncaster join the league.

Wigan win the Lancashire Cup for a record 6th year in succession.

The Great Britain-New Zealand game at Swinton is the first test match to be televised. Eddie Waring does his first television commentary.

Liverpool Stanley become Liverpool City. Cardiff join the league.

1952 Cardiff leave the league.

Wigan meet Wakefield Trinity at Central Park in the first league match to be televised.

Workington Town and Featherstone meet at Wembley in the first Challenge Cup final to be broadcast on national television. Gus Risman captains Workington to victory at the age of 41.

the ground without paying.

Warrington's Gerry Holme becomes the first player to win the Lance Todd Trophy twice.

Ted Ward appointed as coach to Wigan.

France stages the first Rugby League World Cup competition. Dave Valentine leads an under strength Great Britain side to surprise win.

Rugby League is played in the USA for the first time as Australia meet New Zealand in exhibition games in Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Blackpool Borough join the league.

Central Parks Popular Stand opened.

1955 Independent television stage an eight team floodlight competition on London football grounds. Warrington beat Leigh in the final.

Belle Vue Rangers leave the league.

The Welsh League is disbanded.

1956 Joe Egan becomes Wigan coach following the resignation of Ted Ward. Amateur matches can now be played on Sundays.

PART 5 1951 - 1957

RUGBY LEAGUE

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

1953 A team of American football players undertake a rugby league tour of Australia and New Zealand as the "American All Stars".

Leigh become the second club to install floodlights.

Coach Jim Sullivan leaves Wigan for St. Helens. Maurice Hughes takes over at Central Park.

Leigh sign 100 metres world record holder MacDonald Bailey. He plays just one game a friendly against Wigan.

1954 The Challenge Cup final replay between Halifax and Warrington attracts rugby league all time record attendance to Odsal Stadium, Bradford. Officially 102,569 saw the game but thousands more enter

1957 Leeds Lewis Jones achieves an all time record of 496 points in a season.

Hull become European champions after winning a competition involving two British and two French clubs.

Rugby League is played in South Africa for the first time as Great Britain and France meet in exhibition matches at Benoni, Durban and East London.

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HALIFAX



RUGBY LEAGUE CENTENARY '95

Wales, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea have all announced their final squads for the Halifax Rugby League Centenary World Cup.

And reigning European Champions Wales have handed giant Wigan forward Scott Quinnell the chance of becoming a dual international at both League and Union within 14 months.

Scott, the former Llanelli star, turned professional and joined Wigan in a world record switch in September last year.

Wales will be skippered by Warrington's goal-kicking star Jonathan Davies, who plays his last International on Welsh soil in the World Cup against Western Samoa at Swansea on Sunday, October 15.

The dazzling Davies hopes to sign off his international career in style, but says: "Both teams in our group, Western Samoa and France, will be extremely tough to beat, but I think we are good enough to win the group and, when it gets to the semi-finals, anything can happen".

Coach Clive Griffiths added: "We surprised a good many people by taking the European Championship title last season and I am sure we can do the same in the Halifax Centenary World Cup".

New Zealand have included four English-based players in their 24 man squad for the Halifax World Cup.

The four are Leeds duo Kevin Iro and Tony Kemp, Wigan's brilliant utility back, Henry Paul and Featherstone Rovers loose-forward Brendon Tuuta.

Kiwi coach Frank Endacott has retained most of the squad that played in the recent Test series against Australia, but has handed debuts to Auckland Warriors' young half-back star Stacey Jones and dynamic Cronulla Sharks winger Richard Barnett.

Endacott said: "We have chosen the squad from the best players available and I believe that nine out of ten people would have come up with the same squad.

"We have the skill and the players. What we need now is the attitude and the hunger to succeed in the Halifax World Cup".

Matthew Ridge, the former All Black Rugby Union star, will skipper the Kiwis with the powerful John Lomax as vice-captain.

Adrian Lam, the classy Sydney City Roosters scrum-half who helped Queensland to a shock State of Origin series victory over New South Wales, will lead Papua New Guinea's World Cup bid.

Lam was hotly tipped to take over the Kangaroos No 7 jersey for the recent series against New Zealand, but he decided to turn his back on Australia and plumped for the land of his birth.

It was the biggest decision of his young life and he said: "I had the chance to play for Australia, but I would have completely lost face with the people of Papua New Guinea, who have supported me throughout my career.

Obviously it was great to be a Queenslander for the State of Origin series against New South Wales, but Papua is where my roots are. Financially there are a lot of opportunities for me back home".

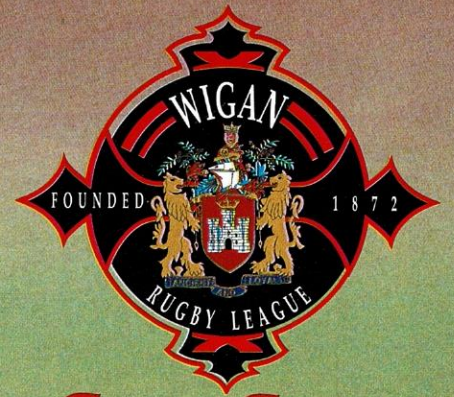
HALIFAX

WORLD CUP

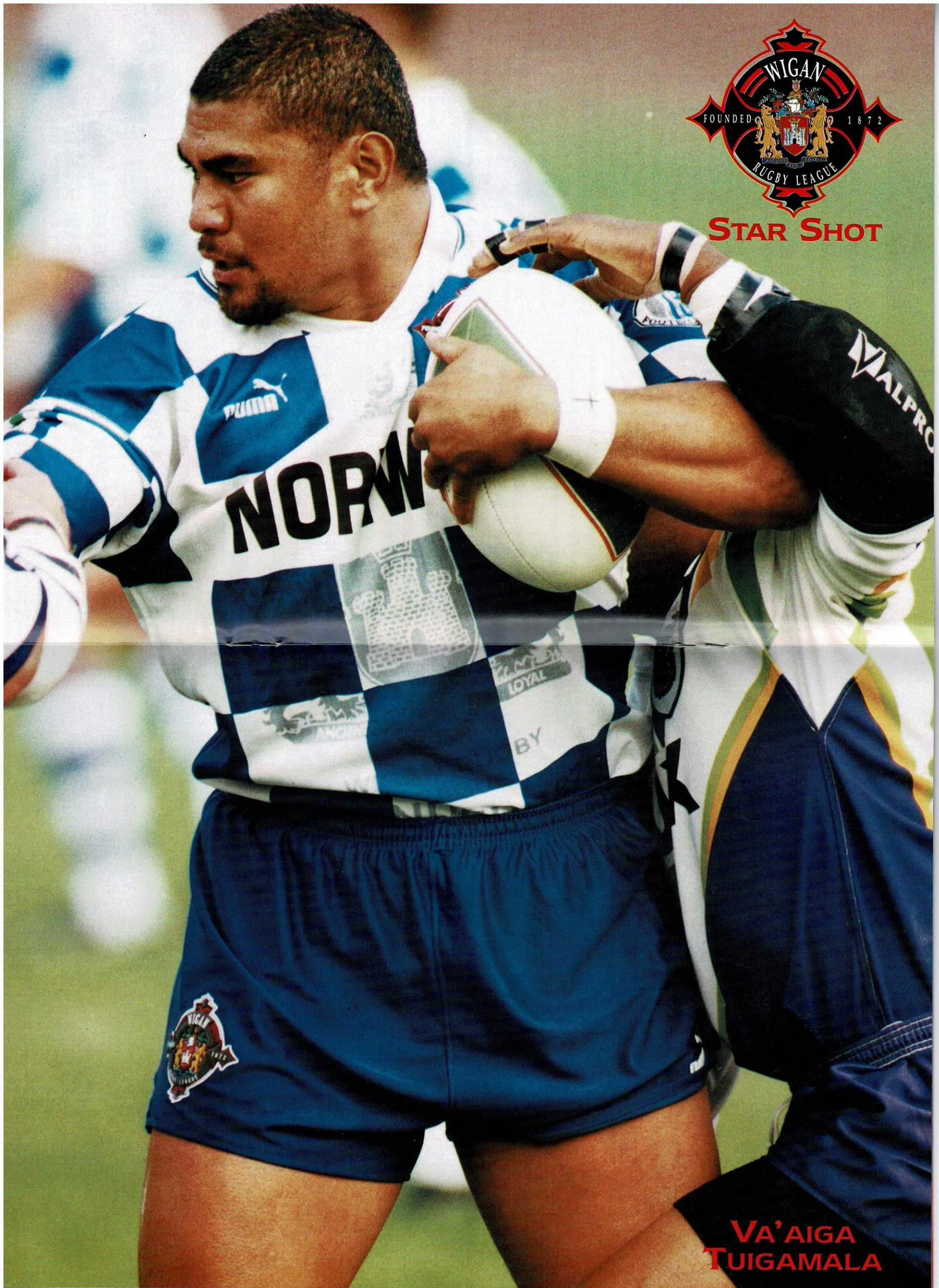
WALES, NEW ZEALAND & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

ANNOUNCE WORLD CUP SQUADS

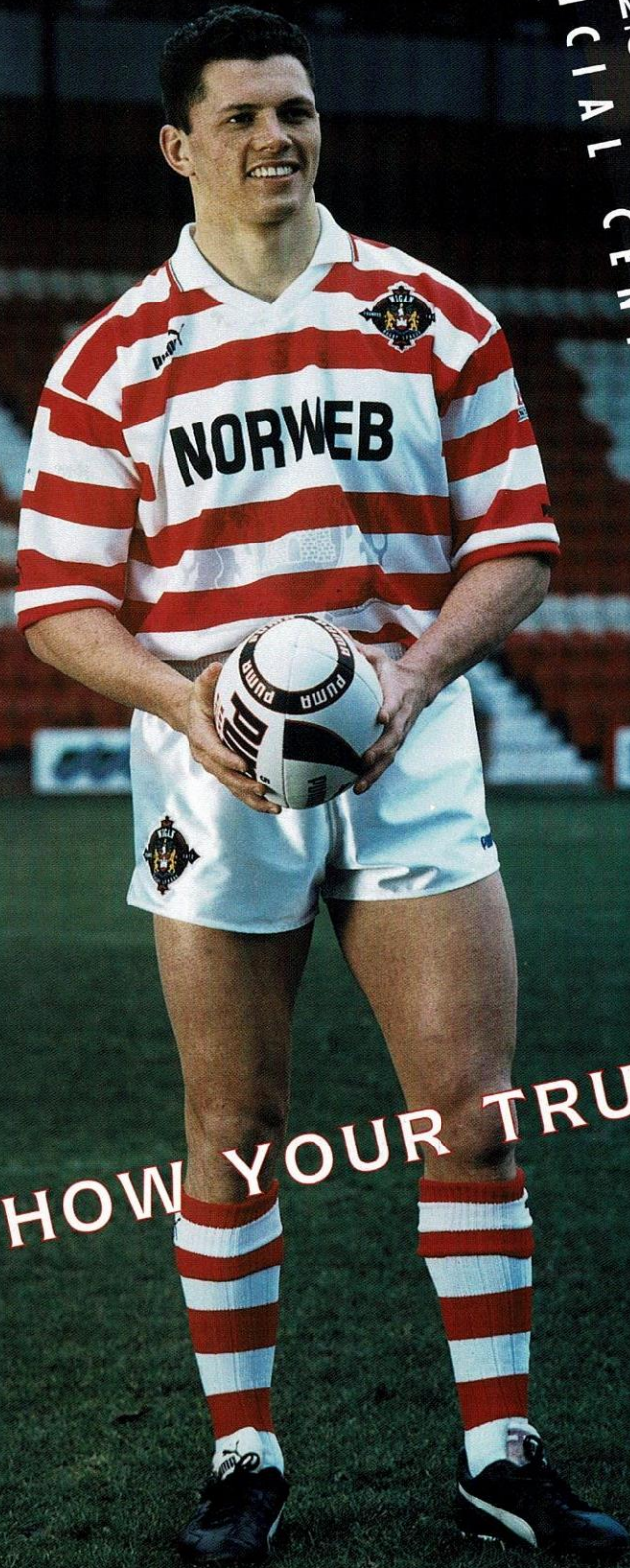
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In conjunction with Wigan Post Office, Wallgate, Wigan Theme Shop will be celebrating the launch of the Rugby League Centenary Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp issue.

**TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 1995 9am - 10am
WIGAN POST OFFICE, WALLGATE**

Wigan RL legends Billy Boston and Graeme West will be attending Wigan Post Office, Wallgate, on Tuesday 3rd October 1995 to assist with the launch of a set of Royal Mail Commemorative stamps to be issued in celebration of the Centenary Year of Rugby League.

The stars will be present between 9am and 10am and will be signing philatelic items for collectors, souvenir hunters and rugby league enthusiasts alike. A prize draw will also be held during the day with a 'supporters kit' comprising various souvenir items as the main prize.

Official Wigan Rugby League 'Originals' Souvenirs will be available throughout the day.

RUGBY LEAGUE HEROES ON ROYAL MAIL SPECIAL STAMPS

Five Rugby League heroes feature on a Royal Mail stamp issue which marks the centenary of the sport as it moves to new world "super league" status.

The stamps celebrate the last historic changes made to the sport - the crucial meeting a century ago at the George Hotel in Huddersfield, which led to 22 northern clubs breaking away from the Rugby Union. The game of Rugby League was born out of the clubs' frustration at not being allowed to compensate their players for time lost from the mills, mines and factories where they worked.

The players depicted on the stamps are from Rugby League's Hall of Fame which enshrines the game's greatest players and celebrates their contribution to it's history.

On the 19p stamp the "Prince of Centres" **HAROLD WAGSTAFF** (1891-1939) is seen captaining the British Lions in the legendary 1914 test against Australia. Lions won 14-6 despite being down to ten men and the victory was compared to one of the great battles of the Zulu Wars - the test was forever known as the Rorke's Drift test.

GUS RISMAN (1911-1994), one of only four living players inducted into the Hall of Fame at its inauguration in 1988, is featured on the 25p stamp in Salford's famous strip as he holds aloft the Challenge Cup. Risman was a scoring machine - by the end of his career, spanning 25 years, he had accumulated 1,678 goals and 4,050 points in 873 matches. Despite this it was as a creator of tries that Risman was renowned.

The game's most celebrated record breaker, **JIM SULLIVAN** (1903-1977), played more games and kicked more goals than any other man before or since and is pictured, in Wigan's strip, on the 30p stamp. "Sully" repaid the Wigan club's investment many times over when they signed the Welshman in 1921. As a goalkicker he was lethally accurate and topped the points-scoring charts most seasons.

BILLY BATTEN (1889-1959) was a player whose charisma and personality brought the fans flooding in. Batten shown in Hull's strip on the 35p stamp, signed for the side in 1913. One of his tactics - jumping clean over opponents after chargeing of them - had to be banned because of the risk of injury to tacklers.

No player has ever come near to Australian winger **BRIAN BEVAN'S** career total of 796 tries. Bevan (1924-1991) is shown on the 41p stamp playing for Warrington against Halifax in the Challenge Cup replay, 1954, on one of the electrifying runs which made him famous.

DON'T MISS IT

Signed 1st Day Covers will be available from Wigan Theme Shops.

THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE CENTENARY

1895-1995

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE

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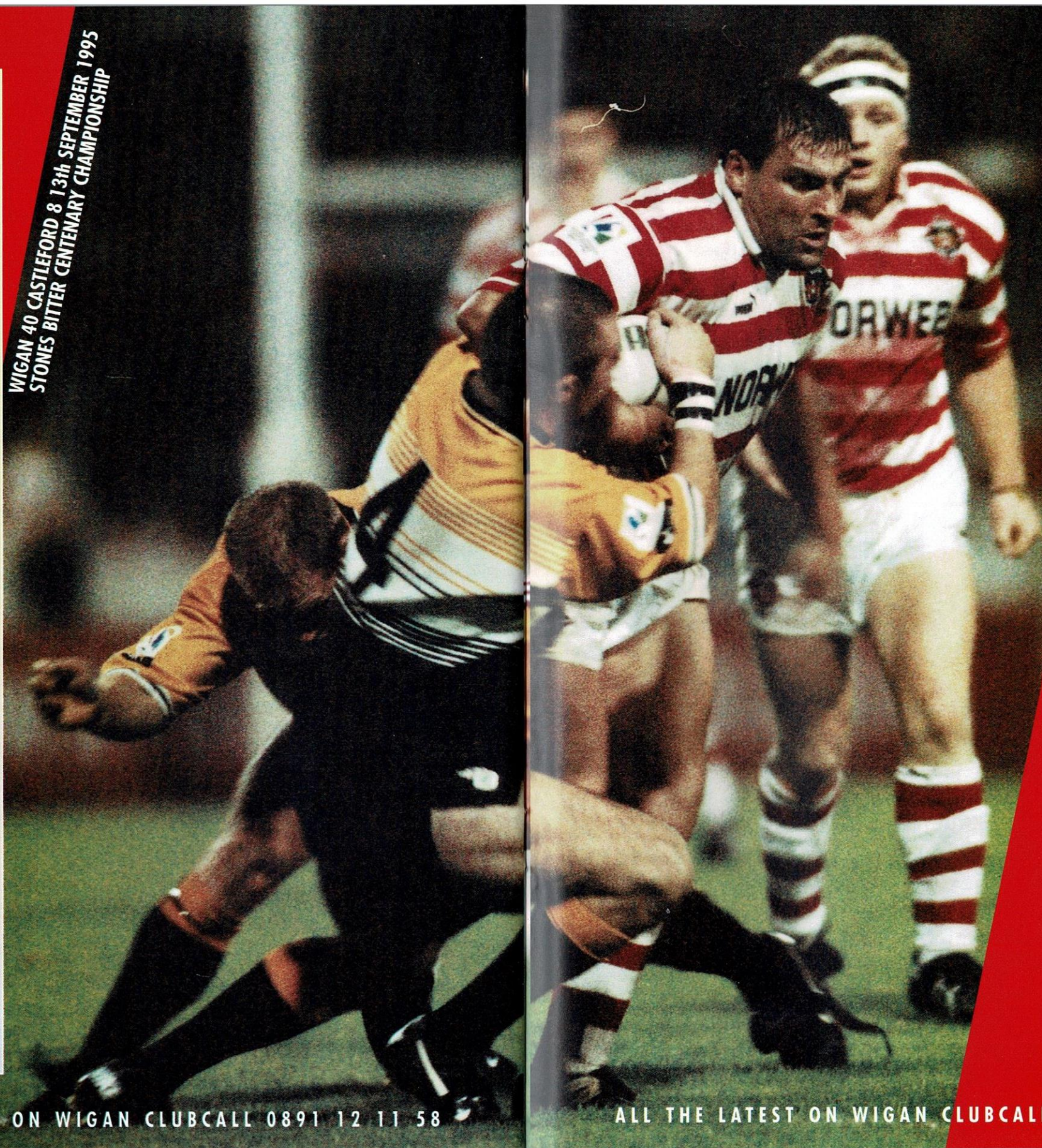
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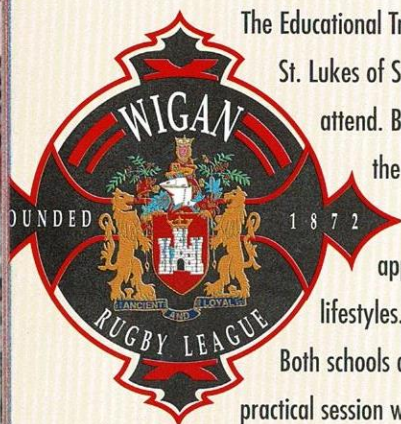
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WIGAN IN THE COMMUNITY



The Educational Trail 'The Central Route' opened for the new school year last week.

St. Lukes of Salford and Borsdane Brook of Wigan were the first two schools to attend. Both schools had chosen Health Education as their main focus of the day. They particularly concentrated on the area of diet and exercise and were also able to interview some of the young apprentices at the club to find out all about their healthy lifestyles.

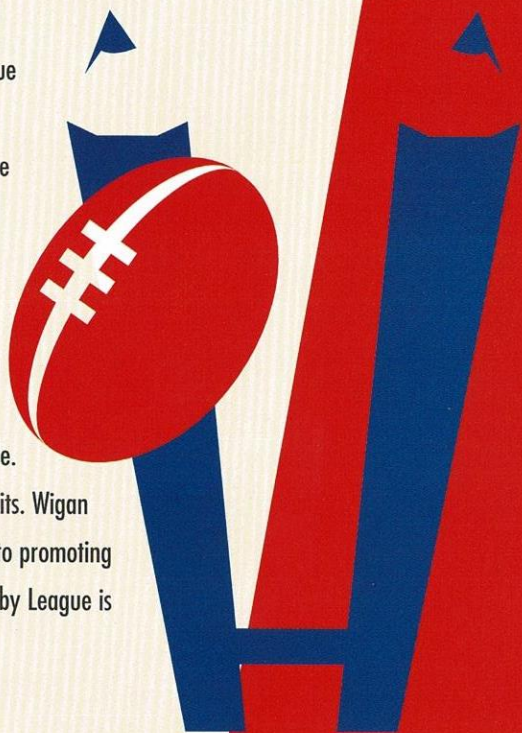
Both schools appeared to thoroughly enjoy the day particularly the practical session which gave them the

opportunity to learn the basic skills of Rugby League with coaching staff and apprentices at the club.

All the Wigan Authority schools that take part in the Educational Trail will be given the opportunity to develop their Rugby skills further with follow up coaching sessions at their school.

The Educational trial is now fully booked up until Christmas principally with schools from the Wigan area. However schools from Liverpool, Skelmersdale,

Ormskirk and Manchester have already booked visits. Wigan welcome schools from all areas, and look forward to promoting both the club and the game to all areas where Rugby League is not such a high profile sport.



30

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WIGAN 28 BRADFORD 38 (14.9.95)

In our third home game of the season we ended up on the wrong end of a 38-28 scoreline despite a spirited second half performance. A reshuffle was needed before kick off when Craig Murdock was pulled out of the line up as he was required for Sundays' match at

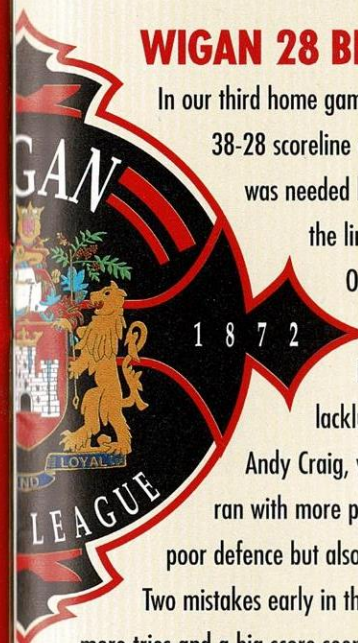
Odsal, and Kieron Purtill moved to scrum half. More disruption was caused by injury to stand off

Darryl Cardiss, but this does not explain a very lacklustre first half when we scored just one try, by

Andy Craig, which was also converted by Craig, Bradford ran with more purpose and scored four tries, partly due to our poor defence but also because they had a monopoly of possession.

Two mistakes early in the second half led to the visitors scoring two more tries and a big score seemed imminent, but from a rare penalty we set up the platform for Anthony Hatton to force his way over and Craig again added the goal. Lifted by this we played better rugby and soon Keiron Purtil's neat pass set up a try for Matthew Knowles and Craig kicked his third goal. Although David Myers broke away for his second try for Bradford a strong finish brought them more points with tries by Chris Webber and Steve Barrow and one more goal by Craig, to make the final scoreline respectable. Sponsor Tom Walton gave his man-of-the-match award to Kieron Purtill.

Team:- Webber, Cotton, Johnson, Craig, Smith, Cardiss, Purtill, Prest, Hatton, Knowles. Pendlebury, S. Barrow, Tallec. Subs:- Moffatt, Baynes.



THE RUGBY LEAGUE

ALLIANCE FIRST DIVISION

SEASON 1995/96

August

Thur 17th	Hull	A	8.00	18-26
<i>Tries: Smyth (2), Smith. Goals: Long (2). Drop Goals: Long, Morris</i>				
Thur 24th	St. Helens	H	7.30	10-24
<i>Tries: Moffatt, Cotton. Goals: Smyth. Man of Match: Noel Tallec</i>				
Thur 31st	Warrington	A	7.30	18-38
<i>Tries: Moffatt, Webber, Hatton, Prest. Goals: Cardiss.</i>				

September

Thur 7th	Dewsbury	H	7.30	40-6
<i>Tries: Cardiss (2), Craig (2), Tallec, Brent, Cotton, Purtill, Smith. Goals: Cardiss, Craig. M of M: Andy Craig</i>				
Thur 14th	Bradford Bulls	H	7.30	28-38
<i>Tries: Craig, Hatton, Knowles, Webber, S. Barrow. Goals: Craig (4)</i>				
Thur 21st	Oldham	A	7.30	
Thur 28th	Salford	H	7.30	

November

Thur 2nd	Leeds	H	7.30	
Thur 9th	St. Helens	A	7.30	
Thur 16th	Salford	A	7.30	
Thur 23rd	Warrington	H	7.30	
Thur 30th	Castleford	A	7.30	

December

Thur 7th	Bradford Bulls	A	7.30	
Thur 14th	Oldham	H	7.30	
Thur 28th	Dewsbury	A	7.30	

January

Thur 4th	Hull	H	8.00	
Thur 11th	Castleford	H	7.30	
Thur 18th	Leeds	A	7.30	

February

Thur 1st	Challenge Cup - 1st Round			
Thur 8th	Challenge Cup - 2nd Round			
Thur 15th	Challenge Cup - 3rd Round			
Thur 22nd	Challenge Cup - Semi Final			

March

Thur 7th	Challenge Cup - Final			
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ALLIANCE REVIEW

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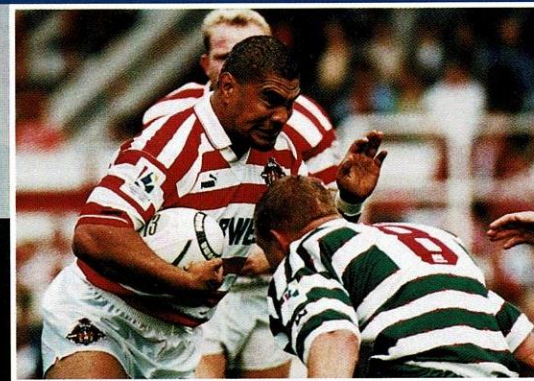
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GARY CONNOLLY RECEIVING HIS MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD FROM MR COCKAYNE

ALL THE LATEST ON WIGAN CLUBCALL 0891 12 11 58

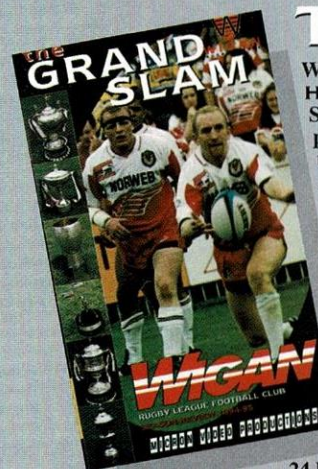


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THE GRAND SLAM

WIGAN IN REVIEW 1994-95 SEASON
HISTORY IN THE MAKING
Season 1994/95 for many turned out to be one of turmoil with the proposed restructuring of the game sending waves of uncertainty throughout the Rugby League. Once again though Wigan rose above all the off field commotion, as they won every trophy possible and delighted audiences around the world with a brand of rugby hitherto unseen. This video tells the story.

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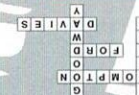
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Which former Wigan player joined Oldham from Wakefield Trinity in 1995?
2. Which former Wigan centre (12961-1965) is also Oldham's most-capped Great Britain international?
3. From which club did Oldham sign Darren Abram, Adrian Belle and Mike Kuiti in 1993?
4. Who is the only man to have been capped by Great Britain as both an Oldham player and a Wigan player?
5. Which Current Oldham player was in the Warrington side beaten by Wigan at Wembley in 1990?
6. Who scored four tries for Wigan against Oldham at Watersheddings in September 1994?
7. Which player left Wigan to join Oldham in May 1995?
8. Who scored a hat-trick for Wigan against Oldham in the 1995 Challenge Cup semi-final?
9. For which Australian club did Andy Goodway play in 1985?
10. Who coached Wigan in 1973-74 and was manager/coach of Oldham from 1979 to 1981?

WHAT WAS THE YEAR?

- Dean Bell born...
 ...Griff Jenkins coaches Wigan...
 ...Billy Boston is league's top scorer...
 ...Fred Griffiths is joint leading goalkicker...
 ...then leaves Wigan to join North Sydney...
 ...Rhodesian winger Trevor Lake arrives at Wigan...
 ...Seven Wigan players tour with G.B....
 ...Wakefield Trinity win at Wembley...
 ...Wigan top the league...
 ...but Huddersfield take the Championship.

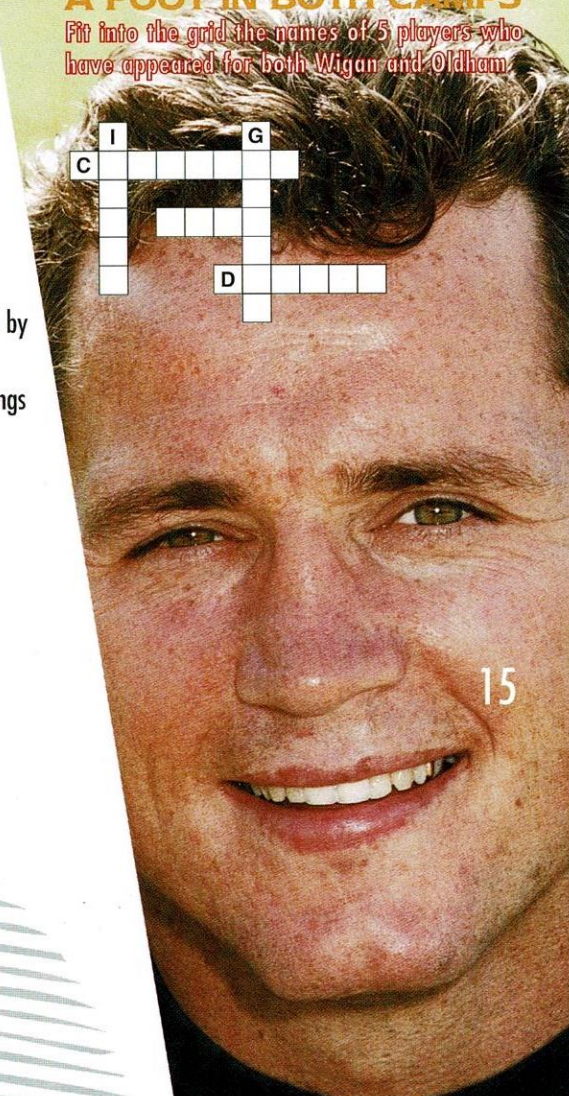
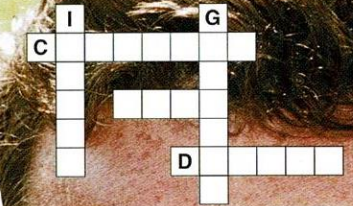
**BRAIN
 TEASERS**



ANSWERS 1. Ian Gilchrist 2. Alan Davies 3. Rochdale Hornets 4. Andy Goodway 5. Martin Crompton 6. Martin Offiah 7. Paul Atcheson 8. Gary Connolly 9. Manly 10. Graham Storky
WHAT WAS THE YEAR? 1962
A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

A FOOT IN BOTH CAMPS

Fit into the grid the names of 5 players who have appeared for both Wigan and Oldham



FOR WHICH AUSTRALIAN CLUB DID
 ANDY GOODWAY PLAY IN 1985...?
 QUESTION 9

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SIMON HAS GRASPED HIS FIRST TEAM OPPORTUNITY WITH BOTH HANDS AND HAS PROVED THAT HE IS MORE THAN ABLE TO SURVIVE THE GRUELLING WEEK IN WEEK OUT PRESSURE OF THE BIG LEAGUE. THE LONG STRIDING SECOND ROWER HAS BECOME A FIRM FAVOURITE WITH THE CENTRAL PARK CROWD AND LOOKS SET TO BECOME A MAJOR STAR OF THE FUTURE.

The final game before a month's break for the Centenary World Cup, except of course that our players will not get any time off because of their commitments to England, Wales, New Zealand and Western Samoa. Whatever the outcome of the World Cup we hope that our players return without injury to resume the Centenary Championship campaign in November.

TRAVEL

Trips have been organised to both World Cup matches which are being played at Wembley, the opener on Saturday 7th October - England versus Australia - and the Final on Saturday 28th October.

For the England versus Australia match we have just twelve seats left. Costs are Adults £21, Juniors £17 and we leave at 7.30am. Would those supporters who have paid deposits for this trip please pay up the balance this afternoon?

Postal bookings will be accepted providing a cheque, payable to Wigan R.L. Supporters' Association, and a stamped addressed envelope are enclosed.

Prices and departure times are the same for the Final, with more postal bookings being expected because there are no home games at which to take bookings at the shop.

MARTIN DERMOTT TESTIMONIAL

Martin's Testimonial is entering its last few weeks and next Sunday, 1st October, sees his testimonial match taking place at Central Park. The teams will consist of Wigan All-Time Greats and a Rest Of The World Select, plus a parade of stars before the game. It promises to be a great afternoon of

entertainment, with the match itself kicking off at 3pm.

Also in October, on Thursday

12th, there will be a

Grand Concert at

Mr Earl's Club in Ince.

Artistes appearing are Angie

and the group Crash, and entrance fee

is just £2, pay at the door.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

The votes have been counted for the Player of the Month for August and the winner is ANDY FARRELL. The voting slip for September is printed below. If you do not wish to cut your programme a photocopy or a handwritten copy will be accepted. September's result will be printed in the first home programme in November, which hopefully will be the Regal Trophy 2nd round on 12th.

My nomination for Supporters' Association Player of the Month for September 1995, sponsored by Goldsmiths' Jewellers, is:

.....

Members name:

.....

Membership no:



SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION



WORLD CUP TICKET HOTLINE 0178 274 1995



ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

Congratulations Daryl Cardiss, Kieron Purzill and Neil Baynes on making their debuts in Alliance Football, 'it's deserved' for they have consistently played well at

Academy grade.

The string of victories came to a halt at Leigh (9-9-95) when a workmanlike, very enthusiastic Leigh outfit competed for eighty minutes to share the spoils 24pts - 24pts.

However, a week 'back to the drawing board' and we were ready to take on 'arch rivals', previously unbeaten Warrington. A much more committed Wigan side took the field, and nine tries, a drop goal and three conversions later had registered a resounding 43pts - 14pts victory. Next games Bradford (A) 25-9-95, Wakefield (H) 30-9-95.

Even though the lads go marching on, the need for fund-raising never stops. Our club is no exception, we are still chasing any spare money that is knocking about. The 'Big League Bonanza' draw was a success, but we could do better, as the old school report suggested. The 'Knights' has been a great success over the ten years that it has been running, please keep up your efforts. I would like to thank a few people through this column who helped to make a charity function a roaring success. Mr Phil Worthington of the 'Grey Mare' public house at Westhoughton invited Inga, Henry, Jason and Graeme West to hand over a cheque for Cancer Research, not knowing that their presence would bring the village to a standstill. About 300 people attended the night, either inside the pub or out in the gardens, and the lads were so well received

and showed great patience as hundreds of autographs and pictures were taken. The attendance of players at occasions like this either makes or breaks the evening. Thanks lads. Well done also to the 'Academy' side who overwhelmed Warrington by 43-14 in a very entertaining performance on Saturday afternoon. A few vacancies have arisen in the Knights, so I would appreciate any enquiries on 01942-244367.

Yours in Sport
Keith Mills



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WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

Martin Richards in the "Daily Mirror":

England coach Phil Larder paid Wigan the ultimate compliment after seeing them demolish Halifax 48-13 on Wednesday night. 'They are on a par with the 1982 Kangaroos - and they were the greatest side I've ever seen,' said Larder. And it's a pity that Henry Paul, their Kiwi, can't play for England. He was magnificent. It's not that Halifax played badly. They gave it their all but they were overwhelmed by a magnificent side that has so many attacking options. Wigan soak up the pressure and then pick up on the opposition mistakes so quickly that the game is over in minutes."

From a letter in the "League Express" Mailbag:

"I write having just watched Halifax put in one of the best performances I've seen then put in over the last few years only to be on the receiving end of a 48-13 reversal to Wigan."

Chris Park in his Academy League report in "Rugby Leaguer":

"Leigh Centurions didn't exactly win the Challenge Cup last weekend - but judging by the amount of celebrations that went on immediately after their 24-all draw with Wigan on Saturday, you'd be forgiven for thinking that some serious silverware had just been carried around Hilton Park!"

New Bradford Bulls coach Brian Smith in "League Express":

"My name has been linked with Wigan several times in the past, but it just isn't a job that turns me on. I have no desire to coach Wigan whatsoever. I want a challenge, something that will make me get out of bed in morning and want to go to work. This job at Bradford does just that."

Mike Stephenson in "The Sun":

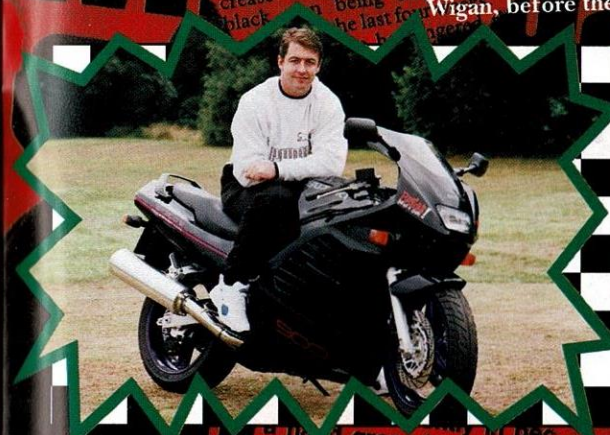
"Leeds have made a great choice in naming Dean Bell as their new coach. But there is one more vital appointment they must make at Headingly if they ever what to dethrone Wigan as kings of rugby - a club psychiatrist! They've lost too many big names, usually against Wigan, before they've even set foot on the pitch."

Frank Malley in the "Daily Express" discussing with Va'aiga Tuigamala the possibility of a RL-RU merger: "Inga, a committed union man until two years ago, does not believe the two codes will merge."

"I can't see that the public won't allow it. Too many people support both codes. In league we have 17 and 18 year olds of extraordinary talent. It's the same in tennis and in Union in the southern hemisphere. But in Britain, Union players are nurtured too long. If you have the skill to make it at the top level you should be exposed to it."

Ray French on Frano Botica in his "Rugby Leaguer" column "French Lessons":

"I think he was the best goalkicker I've ever seen, especially whenever there was a pressure kick to be taken from the touchlines, if I had to bet my mortgage on a kicker, I think Frano Botica would be my first choice with Jim Sullivan, Bernard Ganley and David Watkins waiting on the touchlines to win it back should he miss. Frano Botica will be remembered forever in the game of Rugby League. We should salute him."



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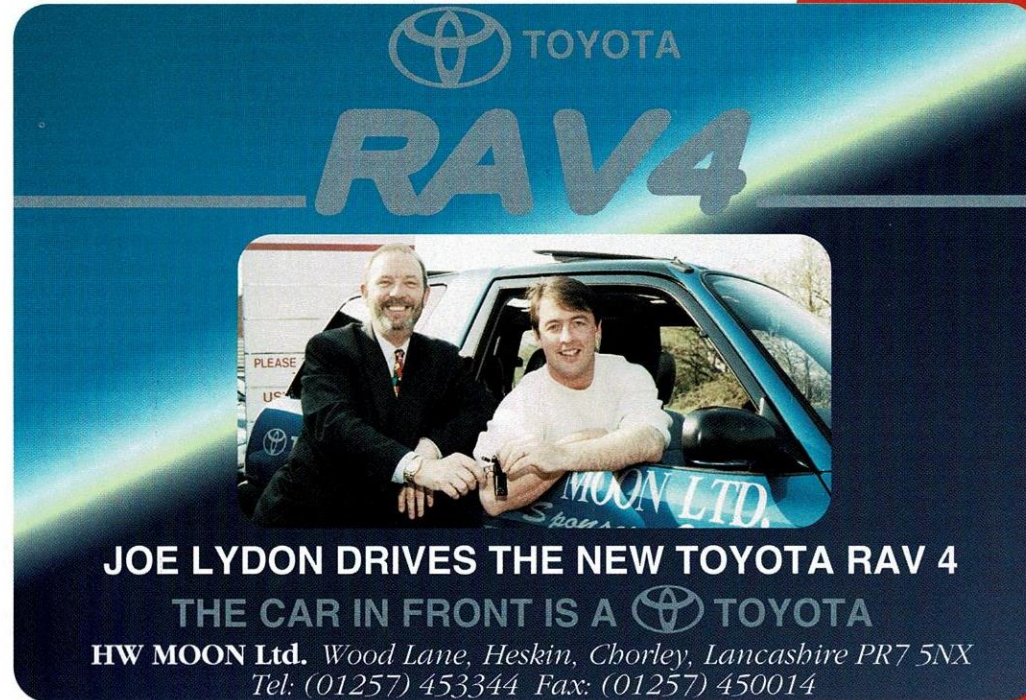
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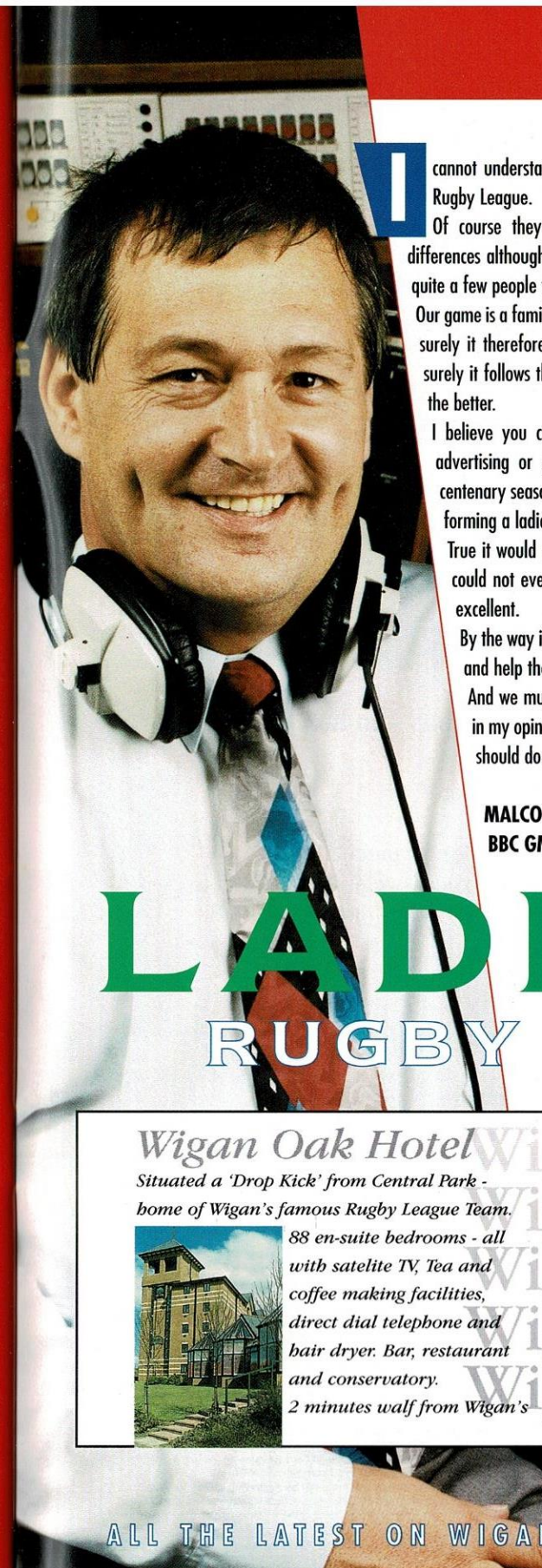
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I cannot understand why anybody should have any objections to ladies playing Rugby League.

Of course they can't compete with men because of the obvious physical differences although when raising money for charity I would not mind betting that quite a few people would even disagree with this.

Our game is a family game and we are trying to spread the gospel as far as possible, surely it therefore follows that the more people that play the game the better, surely it follows that the more people that get involved in any capacity whatever the better.

I believe you cannot do enough marketing, whether it be in the shape of advertising or promotional work and perhaps the time is right in this our centenary season to even contemplate headquarters backing them and officially forming a ladies section of Barla.

True it would not help the professional game one bit, as this amateur section could not ever be a feeder section. But as a marketing exercise it would be excellent.

By the way if we ever did it lets not just pay lip service to it lets do it properly and help the girls in any way we can.

And we must not do this and take the emphasis off Barla they have never in my opinion ever received the support for the professional game that they should do.

MALCOLM LORD
BBC GMR

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FOR THE RECORD

DATE	OPPONENT	K.O.	RES.	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6th	Warrington (Locker Cup)	A 3.00	W38-30		Radlinski	Smyth	Tuigamala	T W. Barrow	Williams	Wright	Paul	O'Connor	Dermott	McDermott	Quinnell	Knowles	Farrell	Craig	Cowie	Paul	
13th	Charity Shield at the Royal Dublin Showground	A 7.30 BSKYB	W45-20	5,716	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Radlinski	Wright	Paul	Skerrett	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Smyth	O'Connor	Ticket	
18th	Workington Town	A 7.30 BSKYB	W48-6	7,002	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Paul	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Johnson	O'Connor	Johnson	
23rd	Sheffield Eagles	H 7.30	W52-20	10,541	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Dermott	O'Connor	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Radlinski	Smyth	Hall	
28th	Sr Helens	A 2.00 BSKYB	W52-20	14,054	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Wright	Paul	O'Connor	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Radlinski	Smyth	Skerrett	
SEPT																					
3rd	Warrington	H 3.00	W44-2	14,108	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Wright	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Quinnell	Farrell	Paul	O'Connor	Johnson	
6th	Hull FC	A 7.30	W48-13	7,776	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Paul	Edwards	O'Connor	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Mather	Skerrett	Murdoch	
10th	London Broncos	H 3.00	W50-12	10,332	Connolly	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Paul	Edwards	O'Connor	Dermott	Cowie	Johnson	Cassidy	Farrell	Craig	O'Connor	Houghton	
13th	Castleford	H 7.30	W40-8	12,431	Radlinski	Robinson	Tuigamala	Connolly	Offiah	Paul	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Mather	O'Connor	Johnson	
17th	Bradford Bulls	A 3.00	W36-26	8,440	Connolly	Robinson	Tuigamala	Mather	Offiah	Paul	Edwards	Skerrett	Hall	Cowie	Houghton	Cassidy	Farrell	Craig	O'Connor	Murdoch	
24th	Oldham	H 3.00																			
OCT																					
7th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Opening Ceremony																				
21st	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 1																				
22nd	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Semi Final 2																				
28th	The Halifax RL Centenary World Cup Final at Wembley																				
NOV																					
3rd	Leeds	A 7.30 BSKYB																			
12th	Regal Trophy - Round 2	A 7.30																			
15th	Castleford	A 3.00																			
19th	Workington Town	H 3.00																			
26th	Regal Trophy - Round 3																				
DEC																					
1st	London Broncos	A 7.30 BSKYB																			
10th	Regal Trophy - Round 4	A 3.00																			
10th	Bradford Bulls	H 3.00																			
13th	Halifax	H 7.30																			
17th	Oldham	A 3.00																			
26th	St. Helens	H 3.00																			
30th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 1																				
JAN																					
1st	Warrington	A 3.00																			
6th	Regal Trophy - Semi Final 2																				
13th	Regal Trophy Final																				
14th	Sheffield Eagles	A 3.15																			
21st	Leeds	H 3.00																			
27th	Silk Cut Challenge Cup - 1st Round																				

