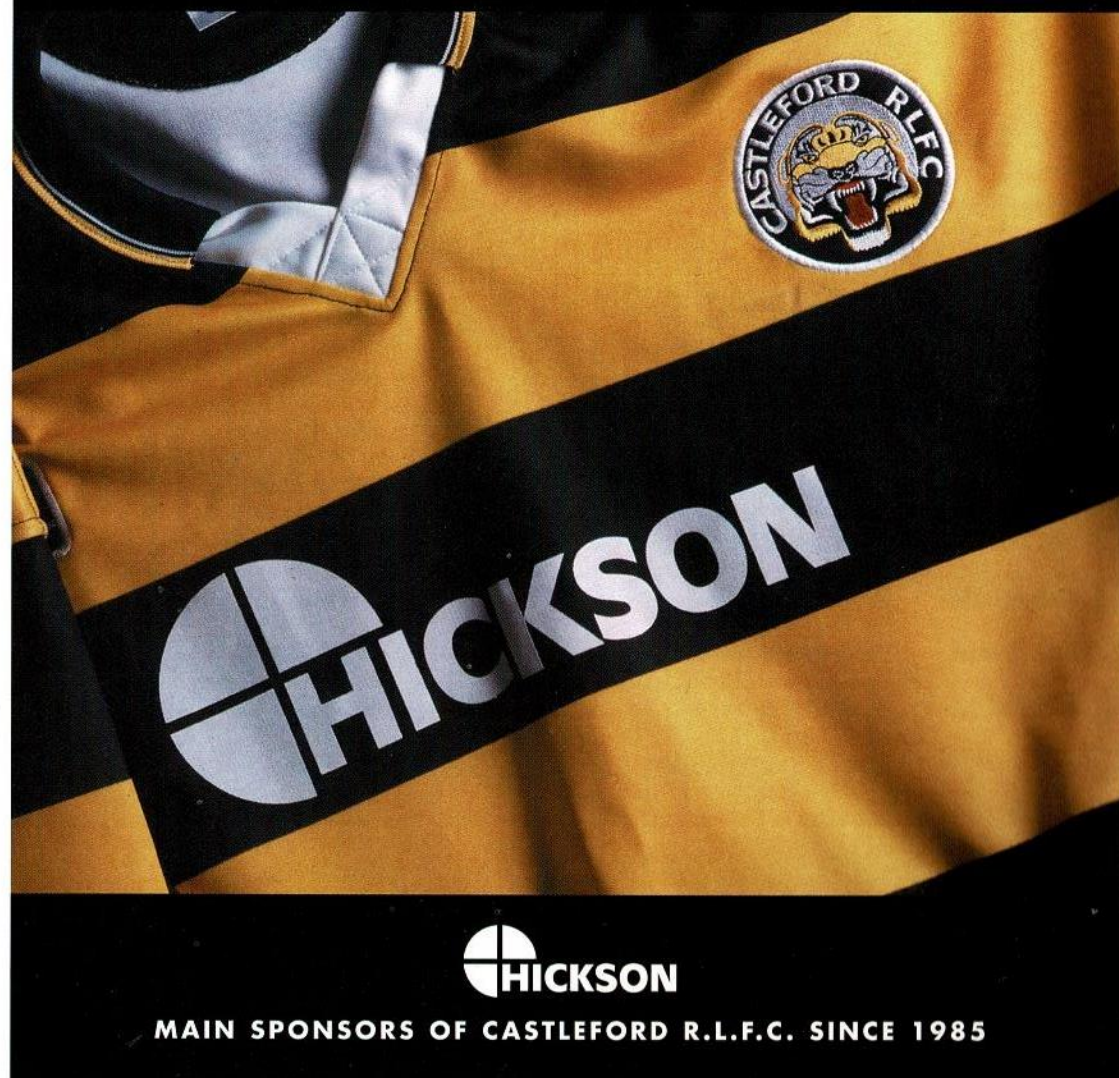


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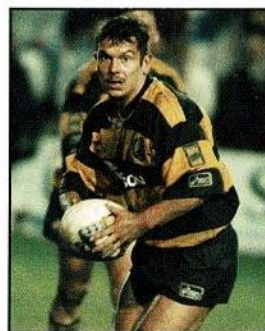


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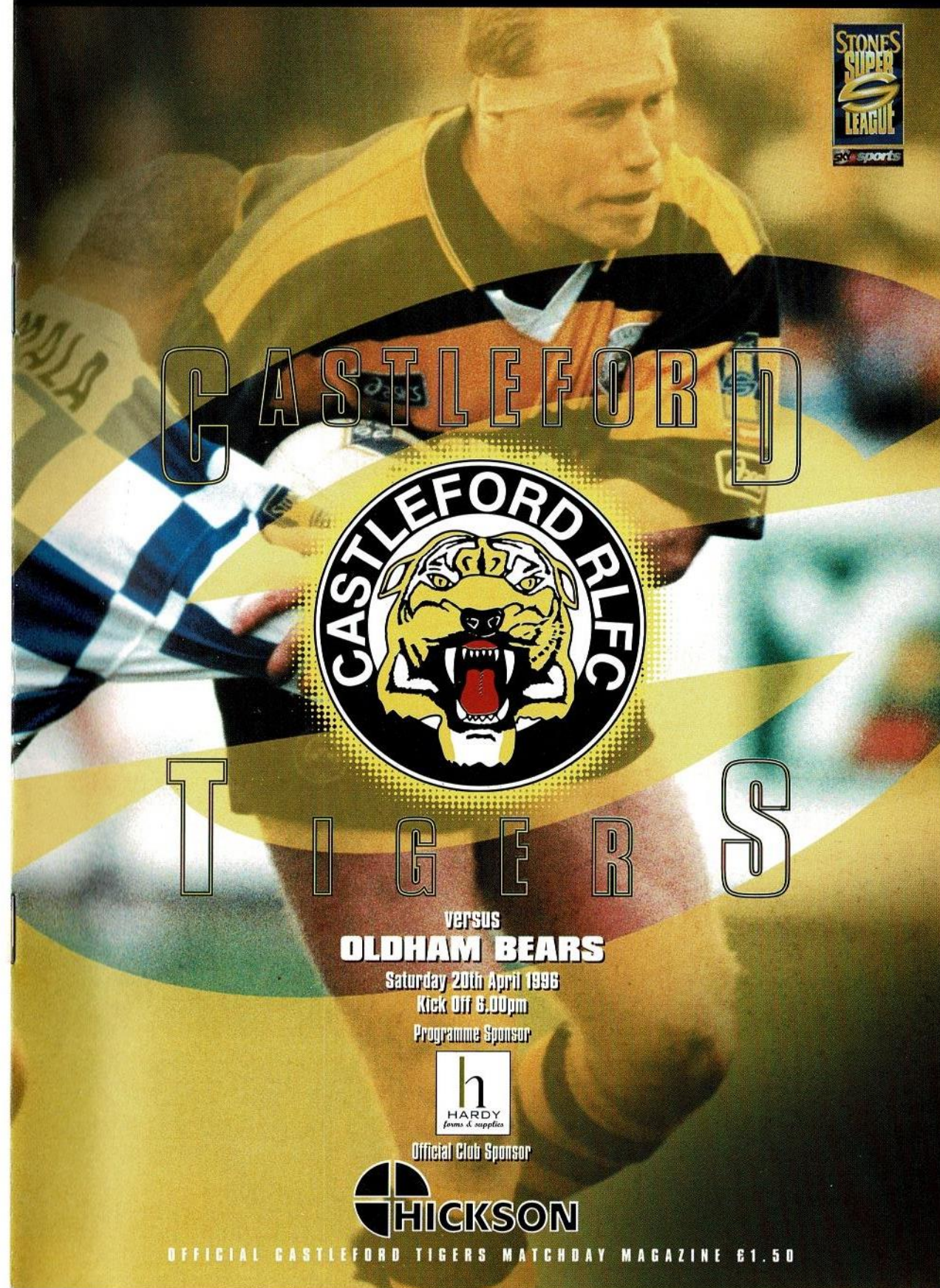
MAN OF THE MATCH
TONY SMITH 5 PTS

JASON FLOWERS 3 PTS
NATHAN SYKES 1 PT

see page 35 for Hickson's
'Player of the Season'
points chart

PROGRAMME DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY COLOURPLAN, ST.HELENS. TELEPHONE 01744 23868, FACSIMILE 01744 753316

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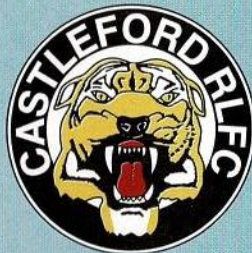


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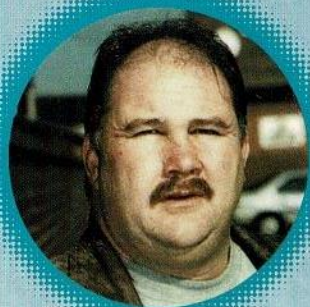
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man of month

■ For our first Centaur award of the new term we have "men" of the month with Academy coaches MARTYN WARD and PAUL ORR deservedly taking the honour. The joint award recognises the work they put in last term in taking our youngsters to the Academy title. They would be the first to admit that they had some exciting talent at their disposal but Martyn and Paul moulded them into a top outfit who always stuck to their task even when the chips were down and who played some great rugby. Congratulations Martyn and Paul.



john joyner speaks



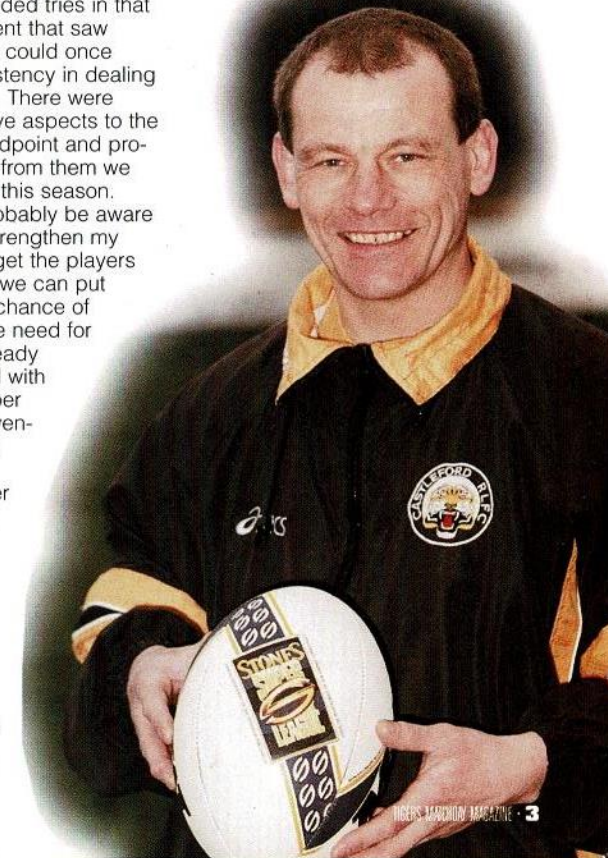
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Although coming on the back of two good wins, last week's games against Wigan showed that we still have some way to go to match the very best. We completed very well in the first half and might have gone in with a bigger lead, but in the second forty Wigan showed just how ruthless they can be and punished our errors every time. Obviously the loss of one of our top tacklers in Nathan Sykes for ten minutes was a blow and almost inevitably we conceded tries in that spell. On the incident that saw Nathan sin binned I could once again ask for consistency in dealing with such offenses. There were though some positive aspects to the game from our standpoint and provided we can learn from them we can still have a say this season. As everyone will probably be aware I'm still looking to strengthen my squad and if I can get the players I want I'm sure that we can put ourselves in with a chance of a top four spot. The need for good cover has already been well illustrated with 5 of my original Super League squad of twenty one not available through injury last week. And that after just three matches. In the meantime however I believe that we have the players to get us back on the winning path this evening. Today's visitors Oldham may not be as big a name as Wigan but they will

still provide a stiff test, as was very much the case last season. They have shown themselves to be a very tough, hard working outfit who are capable of making it hard for any opposition. Last week's showing against Leeds spelt out their capabilities and should have confirmed, to anyone who had any doubts, the effort that will be needed if we are to take the points tonight.





Welcome to goodway's Bears

Welcome to the Oldham Bears for our first Saturday evening spot in front of the Sky cameras. With the Baywatch series at an end they should have a good audience! Our clashes ended all square last season, both matches being closely fought affairs. Oldham opened our campaign and we had to stage another comeback to clinch the 28-22 home win. The visitors held a 12 point lead into the second half, and as at the time we were down to eleven men, with two in the sin bin, things looked somewhat gloomy. However a touchdown to Tony Smith sparked the revival which was completed in the 77th minute with an eighty yard try from Simon Middleton. At the Watersheddings we found Martin Crompton in form and although we led for a while Oldham stuck to their task and a great break by Gary Lord set up their winning try. Right at the beginning of the Centenary season Oldham were upfront about their intentions, they were looking ahead to Superleague and that season was seen as part of their preparations. In the first forty minutes of their opening Superleague fixture it looked as if their plans had gone horribly wrong as Champions Wigan ran them ragged at Boundary Park. From thereonin though they have been



gradually turning things around. Although the match was all but lost they knuckled down in the second half against Wigan and then followed that by taking three points from their Easter fixtures. An impressive 34-22 victory over Halifax was followed by a tight struggle in Paris with the French side coming back to thwart the Bears and snatch a draw. Last week Oldham entertained Leeds and maintained their run of form with a notable victory which has left the Loiners struggling near the foot of the table.

The Oldham squad has been changed around a lot over the past couple of years since their return to the top flight in 1993, coach Andy Goodway having assembled a very solid looking outfit which has a good mix of Aussies, South Sea Islanders and home talent. Strong running full back Paul Atcheson is a Welsh international who cost Oldham £50,000 when they recruited him from Wigan. He is a powerful player who can take a lot of stopping on attack. Tongan Afi Leuila has proved himself an uncompromising winger and showed against Wigan on day one that he has respect for reputations. He came from New Zealand but has also played in Australia with North

Queensland. Local product Adrian Belle is a determined runner but he faces competition in the threequarters from Aussie capture Andrew Patmore. A former Junior Kangaroo, Patmore is a strong pacy runner. Darren Abram has topped the Oldham try scoring charts for the past three seasons. A Thatto Heath product, Abram rose to prominence with Rochdale and is an often underestimated opponent. The same can be said of utility back Paul Topping. The former Swinton and Leigh player is reliable in a range of positions and a very strong tackler. Another winger, Rob Myler, has had bad luck with injuries and is again an absentee at present. Francis Maloney is a much travelled stand off who is also a very reliable goal kicker. Maloney is a dangerous attacker who has won GB U-21 honours. His professional career started at Leeds before a switch to Featherstone, where he was very highly rated, then 12 months with Warrington before a £50,000 move to the Watersheddings. Captain Martin Crompton is one of the games top scrum halves and a matchwinner. He started out with top amateur outfit Wigan St Pats before turning professional at Warrington, but was to return to Wigan to join the Central Park outfit. Competition was tough though and Crompton was allowed to leave for a bargain £35,000, a fee Oldham can't ever have regretted paying. Another former Wigan man is hard working prop Ian Gildart. A GB



Martin Crompton

Francis Maloney in action against Wigan

under 21 international, Gildart moved to Wakefield when he couldn't gain a regular first team place at Central Park but Oldham were happy to bring him back over the Pennines last year. His fellow prop is the tough tackling Jason Temu. Formerly with the Manukau outfit in New Zealand, Temu's origins are in the Cook Islands who he represented in last year's Emerging Nations competition. Adding Yorkshire grit to the Oldham pack are hooker John Clarke and second rower Gary Lord. Clarke came from East Leeds ARL. A former BARLA tourist he is back to his best after bad luck with injuries last term. Lord, who first made his name at full back in our 1986 Wembley success has gone on to

oldham

be a tireless worker in the Oldham pack. He left us for Leeds then moved to Halifax before joining our visitors, and always performs well against his former team. Kiwi product Joe Faimalo has been in good form but has competition for a place from Aussie Matt Munro. A mobile forward with a high workrate, Munro joined Oldham for Superleague from Sydney Tigers. Another former BARLA tourist, David Bradbury is also in contention for the back row along with Cumbrian Howard Hill, both top young pack men who many tip to win representative honours.

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Phil Hodgson of the Rugby League writes...



Last month's news that the Challenge Cup will continue to be played in the spring has been widely welcomed. Few players or fans wanted to change the habits of a lifetime, and a trip to Wembley at the end of April, when the nights are growing shorter and a young man's fancy turns to London beer, is far more attractive than a journey down to the smoke in the Autumn, when there's a nip in the air and spirits aren't quite so high.

One group which may be having second thoughts, though, is the Second Division clubs. More than a few struggled against amateur opposition in the 1996 competition, with Highfield and York going out to West Hull, Chorley toppling at the hands of Thatto Heath, and Heworth seeing victory at Bramley snatched from them in the dying seconds. Others gave good accounts of themselves, including Skirlaugh at Hunslet, and the thought occurs that, from next season, the gap could be narrowed even more because the professional clubs, from now on, will be going into the competition 'cold' whereas the ama-

teurs will have had a good half season under their belts and should be close to reaching their peak. Even as it stands now, there is little to choose between many of the players at top amateur clubs and those in the Second Division. Where the pros have the advantage is that they tend to have one or two players out on the park who are a cut above anything the opposition has to offer. That advantage has carried a few outfits through difficult games, and saved what would have been huge blushes. But, from next year, none of the professionals will have played serious rugby for several months, and no matter how hard pre season training might have been, there is nothing to compare with matches to provide full fitness. So, while the pros will still be feeling their way, the amateur clubs, and they will be top clubs, and used to winning, will be operating at their smoothest level, their defensive patterns well-honed, their moves practised and perfected in match conditions, and their players hungry for the glory which only victory in the Challenge Cup can bring. The prospects of upsets may be fur-

ther increased if the calls for the seeded draw, where the amateurs cannot be drawn at home to be replaced by an open draw are heeded. If Division Two clubs struggle against amateur clubs at home, they are likely to find the task even harder if called upon to play away. Indeed, it could be that even First Division or Super League clubs would struggle if handed the task of taking on the likes of Woolston, Skirlaugh, Ellenborough or Wigan St Judes in January or February. If the scenario does develop, it can only be the good of the game, even though teams knocked out by the amateurs would disagree. There is nothing like a giant killing act to attract the attention of the media and the public and as Rugby League becomes ever more predictable on the field, we might as well all pack in if Cup upsets were to become a thing of the past. One thing for sure, the new found advantage of the amateurs can only add extra spice to the Challenge Cup. And it may even create a situation where professional clubs will be secretly hoping for a draw against other professional opposition.



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saints or bulls set for wigan crown



By this time next week we'll know who will be painting Soho red, barring an unlikely third ever draw, after this Challenge Cup final at Wembley.

There will of course be



The Beardsmore twins celebrate our last Wembley triumph

those of us neutrals who will be indulging in those celebrations who ever takes the cup, although feelings inevitably will be tinged with "why wasn't it us". In the case of Castleford the 'us' is now all of ten

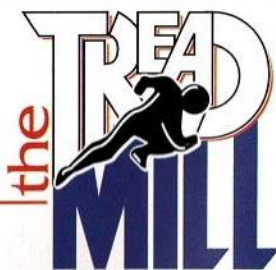
years ago, although of course we did have a losing trip four years back but we can draw a veil over that, enjoyable as a weekend in London always is. Spare a thought though for our visitors who have never experienced the pleasure (or pain) of a Wembley trip. Seven times they have failed at the semi-final stage and how they must yearn for a trip to those twin towers. They must have dreaded the

thought that the new order would have killed the dream, but at least it now looks as if the Challenge Cup is safe and that another Wembley trial will begin (some time) next year. For this year I don't doubt that St Helens will be firm favourites but without Wigan it's the most open final for years. Last weeks dress rehearsal gave few pointers, after the opening when St Helens looked set for a comfortable afternoon. As the match progressed though Bradford came back strongly losing only on goal kicks. There were also a few controversial moments which can only add a little spice to what should be a great final. Despite there often seeming to be some comfort in saying that you were knocked out by the winners (which potentially means you could have been the second best team in the competition!) the editors vocal support will be with Bradford as the Yorkshire team. Sadly I can't promise the Bulls fans that this will have any effect whatsoever.

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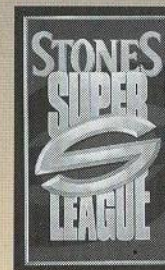
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LEADING SCORERS

Danny Arnold of St.Helens celebrated his 19th birthday yesterday (Monday) as the first tryscorer to reach double figures in the Stones Super League. The winger has scored in all four Stones Super League matches with a sequence of 4 - 3 - 2 - 1. He has also scored four in two Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties to make him the clear leader in all matches this season with 14.

Club colleague Paul Newlove is second with 12 in all matches. The only other player into double figures is Second Division Hull Kingston Rovers centre Rob D'Arcy with 10.

St.Helens scrum-half **Bobbie Goulding** heads the other two charts with 109 points from 55 goals, including a drop goal. Thirty of Goulding's goals have been scored in Super League.

POINTSCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has

taken over as the player with the longest pointsoring run after Chris Wilkinson missed Leigh Centurions' match at Hunslet Hawks because of suspension.

The stand-off has scored in 23 successive matches, starting with eight goals and a try in the 48-20 First Division win at Huddersfield on 17 September 1995. The Stones Super League player with the best pointsoring run is Wigan's **Henry Paul** who has scored in 15 successive Cup and League matches, starting with four goals and a try in the 32-18 home defeat of Halifax on 13 December 1995.

WINNING RUN

St.Helens have the longest winning run, having won all eight matches this season - four Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties and four Stones Super League matches. Their last defeat was 32-24 at Halifax in their final Centenary Championship match on 21 January 1996.

LOSING RUN

Workington Town and **Chorley** share the longest losing run of seven matches, stretching back to last season.

MILESTONES

Phil Veivers of St.Helens needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns with the club.

Ray Ashton of Bramley needs one try for a career century of touchdowns, including representative matches and spells with Oldham, Leeds and Workington Town.

Gary Divorty of Hull needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns, including representative matches and spells with Leeds and Halifax.

Graham Steadman of Castleford Tigers needs 22 points for a career total of 2,000, including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers.

Len Garbett's Hall of Fame



Having been asked several times over the years for my views on a Castleford Rugby League Hall of Fame, I have always maintained that Club appearances should be the chief qualification, taking preference over International and County appearances. There are 19 players with 300 or more 1st team appearances, with a further 13 players with 250 for more appearances.

Looking through the various statistics I now feel that the length of service should also be taken into consideration, as in the case of my next player to feature in the list, Jim (Ginger) or James Morgan Crossley, to give him his full name. Jim's 261 appearance would obviously rule him out of a Hall of Fame for those players with 300 or more appearances, but his playing career with Castleford lasted 16 seasons, his appearances being limited by his War time service, and the fact that Castleford did not field a team in the 1942/3 and 1943/4 season, and I feel that these should be taken into account, when creating a club Hall of Fame.

Jim made his 1st team debut at the age of 18 in the 2nd row v Huddersfield at Wheldon Road, Saturday 3rd March 1933, and quite a coincidence that also making his debut was Bernard Cunniffe, who along with Jim are the only survivors of Castleford's 1935 Wembley Cup Final. Jim has the distinction of being the only Castleford player to play in that first

Castleford Challenge Cup Final and also to play in Castleford's first Yorkshire Cup Final v Bradford Northern at Headingley, Saturday 30th.

December 1948. He was also the last player from the 1935 Final to cease playing, his last match being at Dewsbury Saturday 23rd April 1949.

Altogether he made 261 appearances, scoring 23 tries 6 goals and 2 drop goals a total of 85 points. All but one of his 261 games were in the forwards, 2nd row prop and loose forward and not many supporters will remember that his other game was at stand off half at Oldham, Saturday 27 September 1941. Not the biggest of forwards, Jim was feared but respected by his opponents and along side Frank Smith formed a dynamic 2nd row being a household name for many years in Rugby League Football. I well remember being looked after by those two when I made my 1st team debut at scrum half at York, Easter Monday, 18th April 1938.

His long service with Castleford is only equalled by Arthur Atkinson with 16 seasons, and bettered by John Joyner with 20 seasons, all three of them giving great service to Castleford.

After his playing days were over Jim was appointed 'A' team Coach and in the 1950/51 season his team won the Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup, beating Halifax 20-2 in the Final.

A few years ago Jim was made a Life



JAMES (JIM) CROSSLEY

Member of Castleford RLFC and until recently, when ill health took over, could be seen sat in the stand at most home games, and is a Vice President of the Castleford RL Players Association. Living in Castleford, Jim celebrated his 82nd birthday on the 26th February, having been discharged from hospital a few days previous, being treated for a Thrombosis in his left leg, and is managing to get about on crutches. How we could do with another Ginger Crossley today.

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Rugby League Challenge Cup Runners Up: 1992

Rugby League Championship Runners Up: 1939, 1969

Rugby League Premiership Runners Up: 1984, 1994

Yorkshire Cup Winners:

1977, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1991

Yorkshire Cup Runners Up:

1948, 1950, 1968, 1971, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1988

Yorkshire League Winners:

1933, 1939, 1965

Yorkshire League Runners Up:

1937, 1966

Eastern Division Runners Up: 1964

BBC2 Floodlit Trophy Winners: 1966, 1967, 1968, 1976

John Player/Regal Trophy Winners: 1977, 1994

Charity Shield Runners Up: 1986

CLUB RECORDS

Highest Score:

94-12 v Huddersfield Sept. 1988 (Yorkshire Cup)

Biggest Winning Margin:

86-0 v Wakefield April 1995 (1st Division)

Biggest Defeat:

62-12 v St. Helens 16th April 1986

Most Points by Individual in a Career:

A. Lunn: 1,970 Between 1952 and 1963

Most Points by Individual in a Season:

R. Beardmore: 334

(140 goals, 2 drop goals, 13 tries) 1983-84

Most Tries by Individual in a Season:

S.J. Ellis: 40 1993-94

Most Goals in a Season: G. Lloyd: 158, 1976-77

Most Points by Individual in a Match:

G. Lloyd: 43 (17 goals & 3 tries) v Millon, Sept. 1973

Most Tries by Individual in a Match:

5 by Derek Foster v Hunslet, Nov. 1972;

John Joyner v Millom, Sept 1973;

Steve Fenton v Dewsbury, Jan 1978;

Ian French v Hunslet, February 1986;

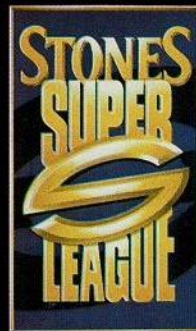
St John Ellis v Whitehaven, Dec 1989.

Most Goals by Individual in a Match:

G. Lloyd: (17 from 18 attempts) v Millon, Sept. 1973

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As for the season ahead, teams have no doubt been rigorously training to win the prestigious title of the inaugural champions and this summer will surely prove to be more competitive than any previously known in the history of the game.



Maurice Lindsay, Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League and Jonathan Nye, Head of Sponsorship at Bass Brewers, toast the new Stones Super League sponsorship.



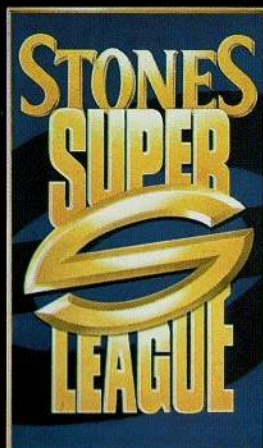
Ready for action - Stars of the Stones Super League at the official launch.

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focused on attracting new supporters to the game and it is our belief that once they have discovered the game they will remain hooked for life.

With the kick off to the season, Stones is sure that a new era in sport is being witnessed and with the help of supporters and clubs alike Rugby League will be rocketed in to the 21st Century.



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With the advent of last year's announcement of the Super League, teams started to change their names or to be more precise add things to them. Just like the two teams here today Cas Tigers and Oldham Bears, but the question is why have teams changed their names? Is it just a sign of the times or is it a marketing ploy? Keighley were the first in this country to change as they aimed to bring in the younger generation of fans. It's not too bad until you start looking around at teams who have gone a bit silly or who will find it difficult to find names to fit their current titles.

While talking to a colleague of mine regarding this matter he asked why Cas had changes from Castleford to Castleford Tigers, and why Leeds had not changed. Well, I could not answer him, so we sat down and decided what names we could give to certain teams. For Leeds we decided Leeds Lambs but then decided with their current form that headlines would appear in the following format Tigers slaughter the Lambs. Then there is Halifax who have added Blue Sox to their name, which has origins from American baseball with the two Chicago Teams the White Sox and Red Sox. But what on earth possessed them to make it Blue Sox why not keep with the other teams so far who have tended to make it some kind of animal, well, Halifax Harriers looks and

sounds alright. What about wigan? What on earth could they put behind their name? At least we have something sensible but what made the club go for 'tigers'? Well, I asked, and this is the answer given to me, it was Daryl Van de Velde who had first come up with the idea of putting a name after Castleford, he had hoped to call us Castleford Cougars, but with Keighley already having the name it was decided on Tigers as the animal coat matched the colours in which we play. So that's how we got our name.

But what on earth could teams like Wigan, St Helens, Workington Town and Warrington call themselves if they decided to change? Who knows what is to come in the world of team name changes!

QUIZ TIME

Below is this week Quiz where you would be able to win a Replica Shirt. To enter all you have to do is find the answers which will spell a word to do with Rugby. Don't forget once you have the answer give the tiger line a ring and leave your answer and name and address. We will inform you of the winner at the next home game.

1. In 1978/79 this player was transferred to Hull for a then record fee of £20,000, who was he? (1st letter of Surname)
2. Who is the only player apart from Robert Spur to have played 100

3. games for both Cas and Featherstone? (1st letter of surname).
3. Our No. 9 (1st letter of Surname).
4. A Castleford scrum half in the 1980's played in 113 matches, kicked a drop goal in his first game and was sent off in his last match. (1st letter of Surname)
5. Losers in Castleford's Second Wembley Final (1st letter of name).

- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- Clue: A current team within the RL.

AWAY MATCH ROUTE TO SHEFFIELD EAGLES (5TH MAY)

1. M1 junction 34 (A6109). Leave Motorway and at Roundabout take 3rd exit A631. In 0.7 mile at Roundabout take 5th exit A6178 (signposted Attercliffe). In 2.3 Miles SHEFFIELD EAGLES R.L. ground (on left).

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Membership subscriptions are now due: For the new season we have produced a subscription package:

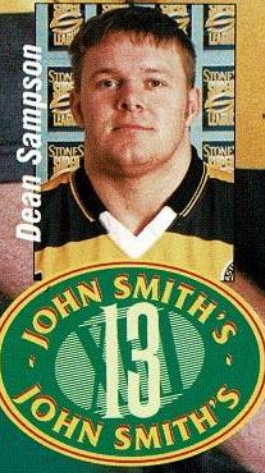
- Adults 1 Year - £5 - Scarf, Mug, Pen, Car sticker
- Junior 1 Year - £3 - Mug, Autograph Book, Pen

We are currently looking into providing other facilities which you will be informed of as soon as possible



Castleford v Wigan

Position	Name	Minutes per tackle	Points	Total Time	Total Tackles	Tackles Per 80 Minutes
1	D. SAMPSON	1.86	10	80	43	43
2	A. SCHICK	2.14	9	30	14	37
3	N. SYKES	2.33	8	77	33	34
4	R. RUSSELL	2.76	7	47	17	29
5	G. ANDERSON	3.0	6	60	20	27
6	L. HARLAND	3.07	5	80	26	26
6	B. TUUTA	3.07	5	80	26	26
8	I. SMALES	3.33	3	50	15	24
9	R. GRAY	4.00	2	20	5	20
10	P. ROUND	4.12	1	33	8	19
9	F. BOTICA	4.44	2	80	18	18
10	A. FLYNN	7.27	1	80	11	11



intackle count

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Nathan living up to expectations

In what was accepted as a disappointing Centenary season one of the real highspots was the impressive and consistent form shown by prop forward Nathan Sykes.

As a sixteen year old the former Moldgreen ARL junior was tipped to make it to the very top by his then coach Mick Ward, and that prediction is looking ever more likely to be proved accurate. Nathan was signed in the face of very stiff competition, reportedly from Wigan, Widnes and Leeds, amongst others, and there's no doubt that on our part it was a tussle worth winning. Yorkshire and Gt Britain Academy honours soon came his way including a 1993 Wembley appearance against the Junior Kiwis and in the following year a tour of Australia. Soon after Nathan took the next

step up when he won his first GB. Under 21 cap and if he continues his current development he must be in with a chance of full international honours in the future.

Coach John Joyner certainly rated the young prop as one of our form players throughout the last term, a season when he cemented his place in the first team squad, and he handed him the number 10 jersey to start this campaign. Little wonder when you consider the week in week out high workrate that saw Nathan end last term topping the "John Smiths" tackle count table. Nathan's contract with the club was due to expire shortly but we were delighted last week when he agreed a new deal which covers this current and the 1997 season.

NEW FACES BEING LINED UP

As many will have read the club have been involved in talks in the last couple of weeks to bring in a couple of new faces to boost the squad. As yet these have not been finalised and ideally our preference is to

announce signings when contracts are "signed sealed and delivered" rather than raise false expectations. However these days it is often difficult to keep a lid on things with so many people involved in making deals and the media understandably looking for stories.

As we go

to press there are two deals that we are looking to conclude. The first is with our trialist rugby union threequarter Diccon Edwards. Diccon has been offered a three year deal to join the club and talks are underway with him. Hopefully by the time that you are reading today's magazine things will have been

sorted out. We don't often dip into the rugby union market but our second target, Junior Paramore is also from that code although he had already made the switch to join the new Aussie club Hunter Mariners. The Mariners though are caught up in the Super League dispute in Australia and as such cannot (for this year at least) get off the ground. Paramore, a back row forward, is a former Western Samoan union star and we have agreed a one term deal with him. The issue here is with a work permit, which can take a couple of weeks to come through but subject to it being granted we will bring him over at the earliest possible opportunity.

Finally there has also been a lot of speculation regarding Graham Steadman's future. "Steady" who John Joyner is keen to keep, has been offered a new contract to stay with the club. However (again as we go to press) Graham hasn't reached his decision but we are aware of interest from other club's and indeed have already rejected one offer.

Another of the clubs full backs, Jason Flowers, who has been in good form of late, agreed a new contract recently which takes him to the end of this season.



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Paul

Brown

the SUPER A-teams

academy

HALIFAX GIVEN THE BLUES (OX)

Our Academy team made it three out of three with a hard fought victory over Halifax at Thrum Hall. The young "Blue Sox" have strengthened their line up this season, with quite a few of their captures coming from this area and naturally keen to do well against us. However, we are going all out for another title and weren't to be denied as we battled through to a 16-6 victory. New full back Eddie Glaze scored his fifth try of the holiday programme, our other points also coming from tries with Dave Oldfield, Mark Kear and Chris Allen touching down.

TOUCHDOWNS & GOALS

(Academy scorers at 5 April 1996)

	Tries	Goals
Jon Wells	6	Andy Horner 6
Eddie Glaze	5	
Chris Allen	3	Danny Orr 4
Spencer Hargrave	2	
Danny Orr	2	
Mark Kear	2	
Dave Hill	1	
Scott Robinson	1	
Gareth Dobson	1	
Jamie Dixon	1	
Andy Horner	1	

WIGAN OUTGUNNED IN THRILLER

Next up were the always strong Wigan Alliance and a see-saw battle resulted before we snatched a late victory. We held a good lead before allowing Wigan to battle back and then take the lead themselves before a brilliant Jon Wells try, created by Spencer Hargrave took us back to level pegging. A dubious penalty allowed the visitors to regain the lead but as the match reached it's conclusion a well worked try in the corner saw us clinch a 36-34 win.



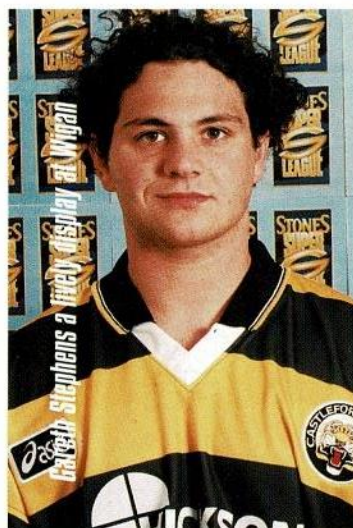
Man of the Match Award for all home matches is sponsored by Legal and General. The presentation is made in the International bar after the game by Julian Biela.

John Wells amongst the tries this term.

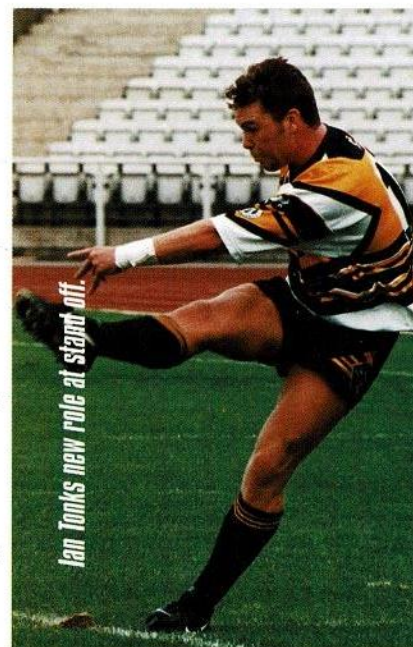
alliance

OFF THE MARK AT WIGAN

Our Alliance recorded their first win of the season with a narrow but well earned 28-26 victory over Wigan at Central Park. Although leading at half time we hadn't been at our best and coach Gary Stephens felt that we were "slow to get going". However he was happier with the second half when the whole team contributed to a very solid display to ensure the points. Any win at Wigan is a good one and this hopefully will have given us the impetus



to go on to another successful Alliance campaign. New boys Richard Gay, who touched down yet again, and prop Paul Round put in good performances, whilst the hard working Stuart Flowers did well. Our half back combination also looked lively. A couple of the Academy youngsters, Danny Orr and Lee Bardauskas, were deservedly promoted with a spot on the bench and it was pleasing to see that they acquitted themselves well when they came on. Another newcomer who got a run out from the bench was Martin Smithson. Martin, who was formerly with Leeds for a few seasons, is having trials at Cas. Cas line up: Richard Gay (2T), Peter Burns, David Furness (T), Jamie Coventry, Spencer Longstaff (T), Ian Tonks (4G), Gareth Stephens, Paul Round, Jon Agar, Craig Palmer, Stuart Flowers (T), Shaun Richardson, Paul Darley. Subs: Danny Orr, Lee Bardauskas, Nick Ingham and Martin Smithson.



Ian Tonks new role at stand off.

Man of the Match Award for all home matches is sponsored by Allied Dunbar.

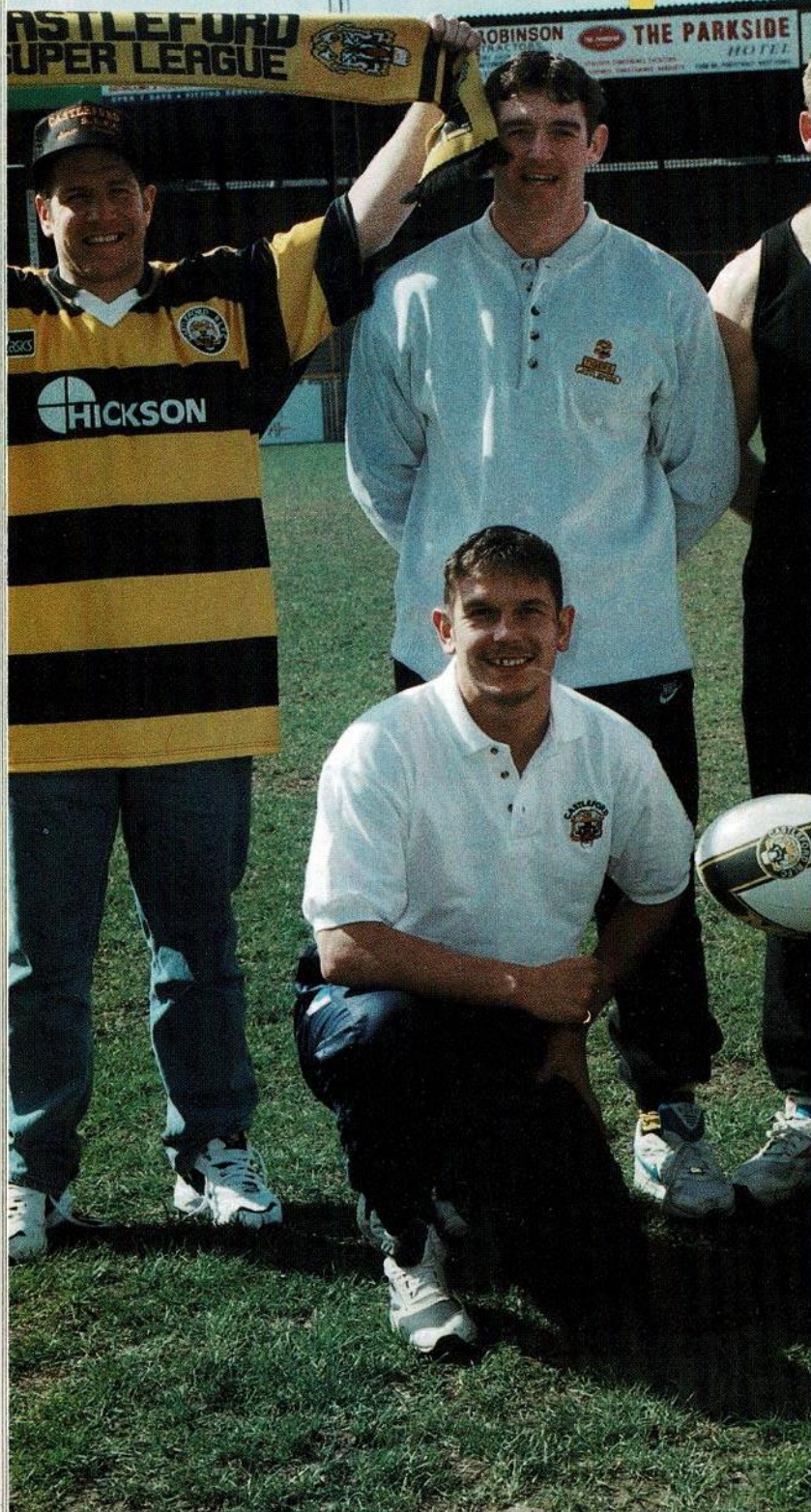
The presentation is made in the International bar after the game by Martin Lee McCarthy

ALLIANCE STATISTICS

(at 4th April 1996)

	App	Subs	Tries	Goals	DG	Points						
Agar Jon	1	1	-	-	-	-	Longstaff Spencer	2	1	1	-	4
Anderson Grant	1	-	-	-	-	-	Maskill Colin	2	-	-	1	2
Barduskas Lee	-	1	-	-	-	-	Middleton Simon	1	-	-	-	-
Burns Peter	2	-	-	-	-	-	Orr Danny	-	1	-	-	-
Coventry Jamie	2	-	-	-	-	-	Palmer Craig	2	1	-	-	-
Darley Paul	3	-	-	-	-	-	Richardson Shaun	1	1	-	-	-
Edwards Diccon	2	-	-	-	-	-	Round Paul	3	-	-	-	-
Flowers Jason	1	-	-	-	-	-	Smales Ian	1	-	-	-	-
Flowers Stuart	3	-	2	-	-	8	Stephens Gareth	3	-	-	-	-
Furness David	3	-	2	-	-	8	Sykes Nathan	1	-	-	-	-
Gay Richard	3	-	4	-	-	16	Tonks Ian	2	1	-	5	10

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 1218 Dennis Lumb

2nd £250

0917 Tony Hall

3rd £150

2832 Andrew Stones

4th £100

1479 Mrs A. Budby

5th £100

3394 B. Sedgewick

NOTICE OF AGM

**This year's AGM will be on Monday
 29th April in the Lifeline Bar.
 Accounts read at 7.30 prompt,
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I will pay cash / Bankers Order
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 LINE OF DIAGONAL
 X's = £1
 000 LINE = 25p
 XXX LINE = 25p

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BAR	BAR	BAR	£25
BAR	BAR	BAR	£1
BAR	BAR	BAR	50p
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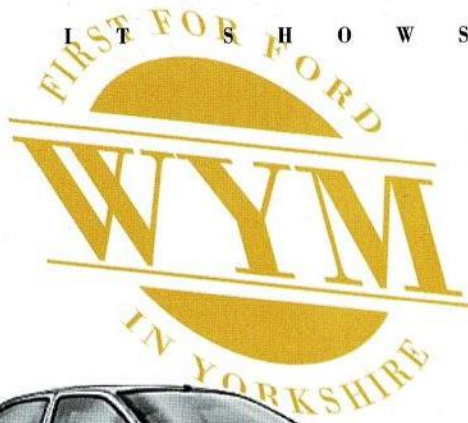
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TICKET INFORMATION

Paris

Please note that admission to the Charlety Stadium, Paris will be by ticket only - you will not be able to purchase these on the day. We have requested tickets from PSG and expect delivery of them next week. Notification of their arrival will be carried in the local press.

Ticket prices are **£10** adults, **£5** concessions.

Tickets will be available from the club office and souvenir shop.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES - AWAY Friday 3rd May

If you wish to pre-purchase your match tickets discounts are available - tickets can be purchased from main office and souvenir shop.

Ticket prices are Adults **£7**
concessions **£2**



down **the** lane

with Nigel Brookes

BIG screen Rugby League makes its Wheldon Road debut today, writes Nigel Brookes, the Yorkshire Evening Post's Man-down-the-lane.

And, having seen simultaneous screening in action at Thrum Hall the other day, I have to say that despite enormous misgivings, I now think it's a great idea.

I very much feared that somehow, the giant screen would distract the fans from what was happening on the field of play, but if the Halifax encounter is anything to go by, nothing could be further from the truth.

Well into the second half there was a serious Halifax tilt for a try up the right hand touch-line.

Every man Jack (or Jill) in the main stand was on his or her feet in an instant, craning their collective necks to see the outcome of the duel between runner and tackler.

Not one person (it seemed to me) scorned the real thing to look at the screen, where the

view of the proceedings would have been magnificent!

When the dust had settled, it was a different matter altogether, eyes switched to the instant replay for a re-run of the action. Of course, it's all early days yet and there is plenty of time for things to go wrong, but the big screen appeared to me to add to the game rather than to distract from it.

From the way the crowd behaved at Halifax, I don't see the screen, despite the pin-sharp images it shows, preventing people from concentrating on the "live" game taking shape before them.

The screen will only ever be a fall-back, I believe, for fans.

Referees, some say, should trust their own judgement and not rely on the screen as an aid to them in making their decisions in hair-line matters.

Having seen the idea working, I can't agree ... well not wholeheartedly.

There is a tightrope to be walked

here.

While on one hand it seems ridiculous that an official should not make use of up-to-date technology in deciding a knife-edge issue, it must not be overdone.

Using the screen to resolve things when the hand has been quicker than the eye is not just fair enough, it is a good thing. But refs must be very careful that they do not dilute their authority by referring to the replay when they should make their own minds up.

The big danger is, though, that the fans will come to expect a big screen at every match and I daren't even contemplate what such screens might cost, let alone the three or four commercial quality instant replay machines, plus at least half a dozen high resolution cameras and at least half a dozen highly skilled operators.

Receivership, here we come!

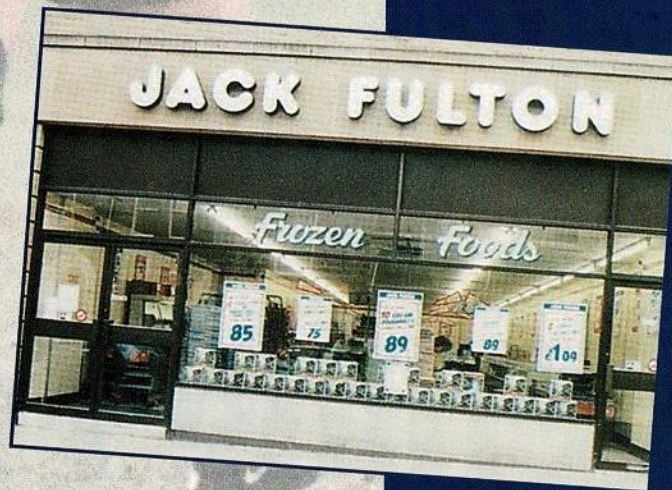
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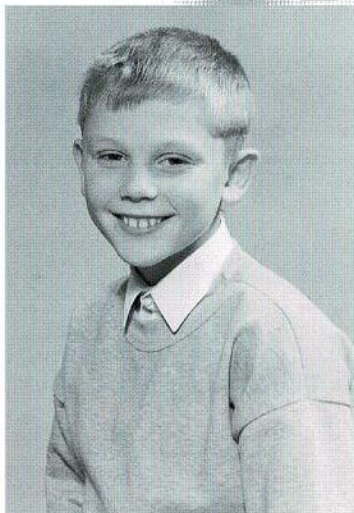
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NO TURNING BACK

junior tigers




Hi Kids
Welcome to you all for this fixture which sees the Tigers playing the Bears. I must start this week with

an apology, last week Boss Tiger had water on the brain and after getting everything ready for our usual meeting I forgot all about turning up! (I must be getting old - but don't tell anyone!) Earlier today we had the rearranged meeting, I hope that you all saw the notice in the Pontefract & Castleford Express and so were able to get down, if so you will have had a busy day. Our congratulations to eleven year old Craig William Moss of Knottingley who is our mascot this evening. Craig is a regular and very keen supporter who has many favourite players. He goes to Tythebarn C of

E Church School in Knottingley and is captain and scrum-half for the under 11's for Knottingley Rockware Junior Rugby League. His favourite player is Tony Smith. See you for now,
Boss Tiger
Mick Morgan



Richard Watson seen here with club captains and officials at the Wigan game.

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vice president's association



To date functions have been in the way of Dinner Dances, Buffet Dances and two highly successful Maggot Races and these have raised in excess of £3500.

Our intentions are to continue such events during the new Super League Season and throughout the year. All these events are open to the supporters of Castleford RLFC.

If you are keen to know how to join the Association or require more

information please contact Robert Ruffler at West Yorkshire Motors. Vice President's Membership for the super league season includes:-

- RESERVED SEATED SEASON TICKET.
- EXCLUSIVE LOUNGE AND BAR FACILITY
- MATCH DAY PROGRAMME
- PRE-MATCH TEA OR COFFEE
- HALF TIME REFRESHMENT
- POST MATCH BUFFET
- CAR PARKING THIS MAY BE RESERVED FOR A SMALL ADDITIONAL FEE.
- DIRECTORS WELCOME AND SPEECHES
- SAVINGS ON MATCH DAY RESTAURANT bookings- subject to availability

The price is £230 per person Additional family member prices are £450 for two. £650 for three

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
"MAY BALL" - Dinner & dance, Saturday 18th May 1996. Tickets £15.00 "LADIES NIGHT" - Racing with a Difference! Our third maggot race. Date to be announced Tickets available from the Supporters Shop & Robert Ruffler at West Yorkshire Motors

(photo: Congratulations to the Castleford cheer leaders who have put in some tremendous hard work, well done girls)

Anyone interested in becoming a Vice President and would like to know more please contact : Robert Ruffler at West yorkshire Motors (01977) 603644

RHP BEARINGS - a local company have very kindly agreed to sponsor a knockout Puma mini league Competition for local under 9's.

Invitations have been sent to local schools to enter the mixed gender teams to participate in this event throughout the season. Each school entry will receive a couple of training balls, training from our development officer, Martyn Ward and an opportunity to progress through to our final at the last home game of the season. The final two teams will each receive credit to spend with on Sports equipment with our official ball suppliers Mitre.

If your school is interested in participation, and haven't already applied, ask your teacher to contact Martyn Ward, Development Officer on (01977) 552674

Today's teams participating in this demonstration are Lock Lane B versus Half Acres A and Half Acres B versus Redhill

NSK-RHP

MICROTRON players statistics



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
Richard Gay	Chris Smith	Richard Goddard	Abrian Flynn	Simon Middleton	Franco Botica	Tony Smith	Lee Crooks	Richard Russell	Nathan Sykes	Andrew Schick	Lee Harland	Brendon Tuuta	Graham Steadman	Dean Sampson	Gareth Stephens	Ian Smales	Jason Flowers	Grant Anderson	Colin Maskill	Jamie Coventry	Biccon Edwards	Stuart Flowers	Paul Round	

Date	Venue	Team	Score	Attend.
31st March 96	A	Bradford	18-30	9,480
5th April	H	Leeds	26-23	7,179
8th April	A	Halifax	34-30	4,781
14th April	H	Wigan	10-28	7,985
21st April	H	Oldham		

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Saturday 27th April

5th May	A	Sheffield E.		
12th May	H	Workington		
18th May	H	London B		
28th May	A	St. Helens		
2nd June	H	Warrington		
9th June	A	Paris		
16 June	H	Bradford B.		
23rd June	A	Leeds		
30th June	H	Halifax		
7th July	A	Wigan		
14th July	A	Oldham		
21st July	H	Sheffield E.		
28th July	A	Workington T.		
4th August	H	St. Helens		
11th August	A	Warrington		
18th August	H	Paris		
25th August	A	London B.		

SUPER LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP SEMI FINALS

Sunday 1st September

SUPER LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP FINAL

Sunday 8th September

SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP - QUARTER FINALS

Saturday 14th September

SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP - SEMI FINALS

Friday 20 September

SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP - FINAL

Saturday 28 September

KEY
 ● Denotes appearance
 ● Denotes substitutes

statistics... 1996

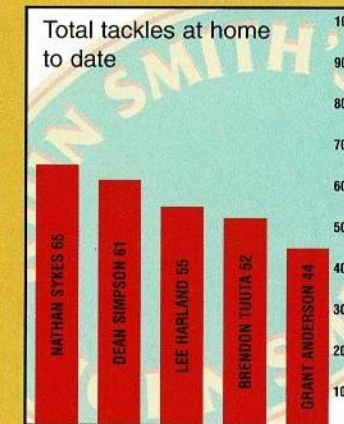
Appearances & Scorers 1996 as at 14th April

	1996					CASTLEFORD CAREER						
	App	Sub	Tries	Gls	DG	Pts	App	Sub	Tries	Gls	DG	Pts
Anderson G	3	1	-	-	-	-	198	17	79	-	1	317
Botica F	3	-	1	7	-	18	3	-	1	7	-	18
Coventry J	2	-	-	-	-	-	16	10	6	-	-	24
Crooks L	2	-	1	-	-	4	187	5	17	582	1	1233
Darley P	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	2	-	2	-	24
Eden P	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	3	-	-	12
Edwards D.	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Flowers J	4	1	2	-	-	8	35	12	12	-	-	48
Flowers S	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	11	1	-	-	4
Flynn A	5	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	10	-	-	40
Furness D	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	12
Gay R	-	2	1	-	-	4	-	2	1	-	-	4
Goddard R	3	1	1	9	-	26	40	7	15	30	-	120
Harland L	4	1	-	-	-	-	22	6	5	-	-	20
Hill A	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Marchant T	-	-	-	-	-	-	262	6	101	-	-	386
Maskill C	2	-	-	-	-	-	17	1	6	7	-	38
Middleton S	1	-	-	-	-	-	141	8	75	5	-	310
Nikau T	1	-	-	-	-	-	164	1	25	-	-	100
Palmer C	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Richardson S	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Round P	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Russell R	3	-	1	-	-	4	76	-	12	-	-	48
Sampson D	4	1	1	-	-	4	193	72	41	-	-	164
Schick A	5	-	1	-	-	4	15	7	6	-	-	24
Smales I	1	3	2	-	-	8	62	17	13	-	-	52
Smith C	5	-	1	-	-	4	65	3	27	-	-	108
Smith T	4	-	4	-	-	16	158	20	83	-	-	332
Steadman G	2	-	-	-	-	-	197	7	116	172	8	816
Stephens G	1	-	-	-	-	-	20	4	1	-	-	4
Sykes N	4	1	-	-	-	-	26	36	3	-	-	12
Tonks I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Tuuta B	4	1	1	-	-	4	9	5	1	-	-	4

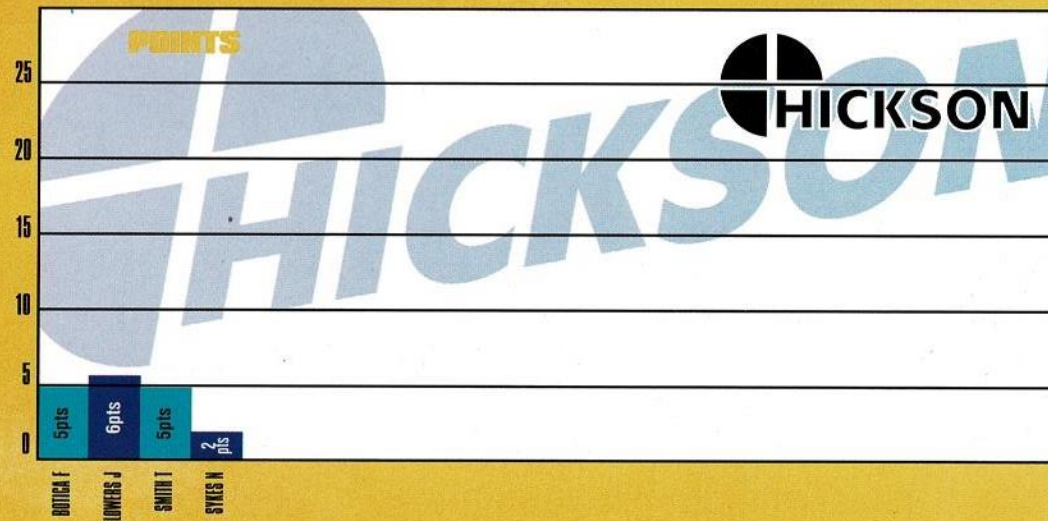
N.B. Official RL Position is that Challenge Cup 1996 stats feature in season 1996 (Superleague)



**John Smith's Tackle Count
TOP FIVE TACKLERS SO FAR**



Hickson's Player of the Season POSITIONS TO DATE



MICROTRON

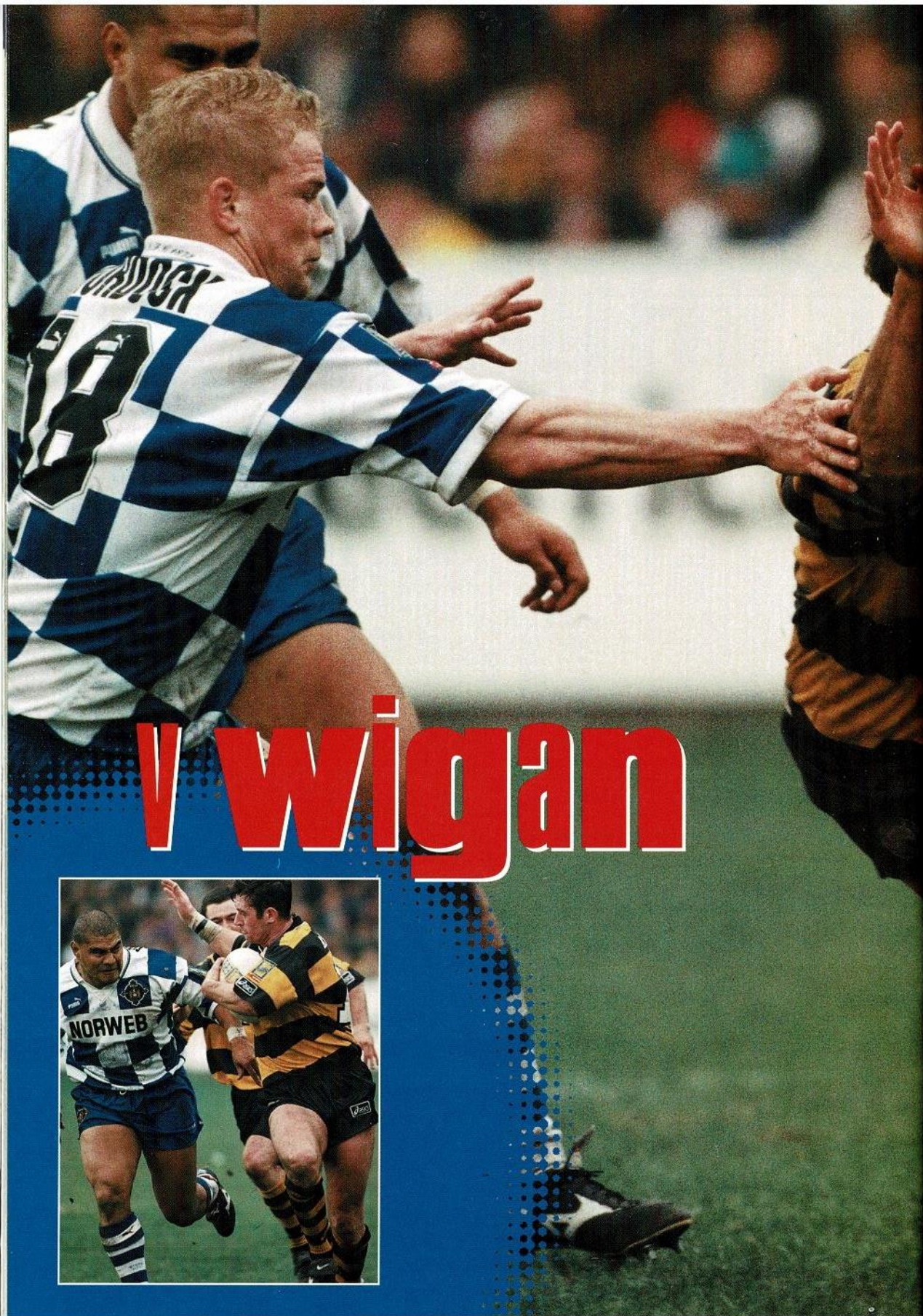
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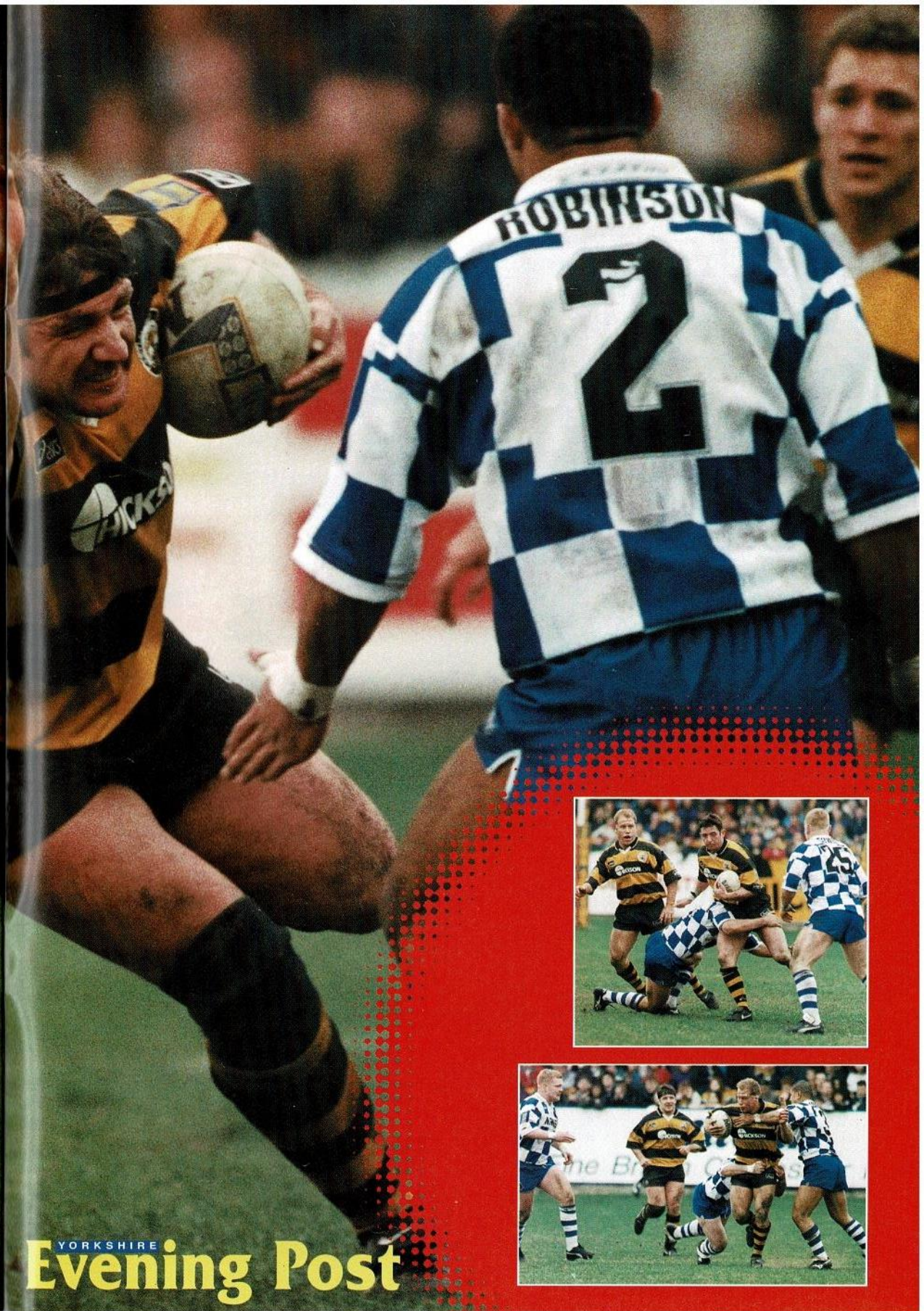
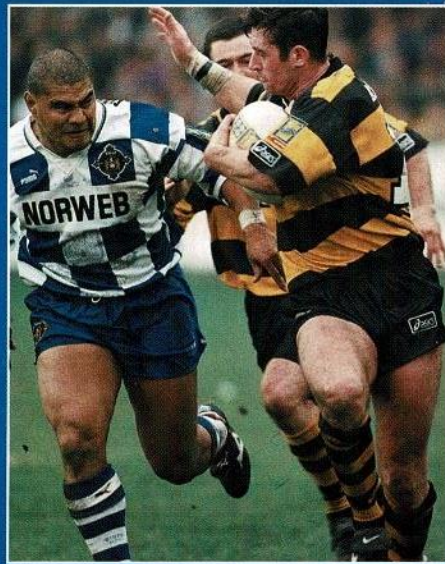
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Stones Super League '96

today's line-up

Castleford Tigers			T	G	DC	Oldham Bears			T	G	DC
18	JASON FLOWERS	Davison & Robinson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FB	1	PAUL ATCHESON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	CHRIS SMITH	R & A Stores	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RW	2	SCOTT RANSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	GRANT ANDERSON	Centaur	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RC	24	ANDREW PATMORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	ADRIAN FLYNN	Satellite Showcase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	3	DARREN ABRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	DICCON EDWARDS	CBR Engineers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LW	20	ABE BELLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	FRAND BOTICA	Legal & General	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD	6	FRANCIS MALONEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	TONY SMITH	Kenneth Howley Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SH	7	MARTIN CROMPTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	DEAN SAMPSON	Bev Coleman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PF	8	IAN GILBERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	COLIN MASKILL	The Wheatsheaf, Sherburn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	H	9	JOHN CLARKE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	NATHAN SYKES	Albert Car & Van Hire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PF	10	JASON TEMU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	ANDREW SCHICK	Newton & Fearnley Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SR	11	GARY LORD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	LEE HARLAND	Jack Fulton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SR	25	MATT MUNRO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	BRENDON TUUTA	Salon 37	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LF	14	HOWARD HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	RICHARD GAY	Allied Dunbar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUB	13	DAVID BRADBURY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	RICHARD GODDARD	Alternative Software	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUB	4	PAUL TOPPING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	IAN SWALES	Spectrum '93	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUB	12	JOE FAIMALO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	LEE CROOKS	Odd Fellows Sherborn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUB	26	TONY NUTTALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REFEREE: Mr. C. A. Morris OTHER OFFICIALS: Mr. A. J. Brown RED FLAG Mr. D. Mairs YELLOW FLAG

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