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Photos courtesy of The Oldham Evening Chronicle
 Comments in this programme are not necessarily
 the clubs.

Club Directory

Oldham Bears RLFC
The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
 0161 624 4865 (3 lines) General Office
 0161 626 4501 Information Line
 0891 44 00 70 Oldham Hotline
 0161 624 9615 Shop Line

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1909-10, 1910-II, 1956-57 Runners Up
 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1904-05

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1899, 1925, 1927 Runners Up 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958 Runners Up

1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Second Division Premiership Winners

1988, 1990 Runners Up 1992

Club Records

RECORD VICTORY

63-0 v Goole, March 18th 1899 (Challenge Cup Rd 1)
 67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959 (League)

RECORD SCORE

70-10 v Bramley, Feb 12th 1995 (Challenge Cup Rd4)
 67-6 v Liverpool City, 4th April 1959 (League)

RECORD ATTENDANCE

28,000 v Huddersfield, Feb 24th 1912

Individual Records

TRIES IN A SEASON

Reg Farrar 49 1921-22

TRIES IN A CAREER

Alan Davies 174 1950-1961

TRIES IN A MATCH

James Miller 7 v Barry, Oct 31st 1908

GOALS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 200 1957-58

GOALS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 1,358 1950-1961

GOALS IN A MATCH

Bernard Ganley 14 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959

POINTS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 412 1957-58

POINTS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 2,761 1950-1961

POINTS IN A MATCH

Abe Johnson 30 v Widnes (12 goals 2 tries), April 9th 1928

MOST APPEARANCES

Joe Ferguson 628 Sept 1899 - April 1923

MOST CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES

Joe Lawton 134 Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

ALL THE ABOVE RECORDS ARE RELEVANT
 TO OLDHAM FIRST CLASS FIXTURES ONLY

Talking

MOST Super League Clubs, and that certainly includes Oldham, will welcome news from Rugby League headquarters that the competition is set to be increased by the addition of three new teams.

There is a big need for more teams in Super League because at present there are not enough games to provide the financial support which clubs must have if they are to survive and prosper.

Apart from that, Super League clubs are now full-time operations for both staff and players and, the way things stand at the moment, the close season would be far too long for the clubs to manage comfortably without match-day income and for the players to be kept ticking over.

I think most clubs in the game would welcome a merger of the Hull FC and Hull KR clubs because there is a great Rugby League tradition on the banks of the Humber and a successful Super League club covering the whole of that region should be strong to make a major impact.

One can also appreciate the wisdom of promoting a Super League club in South Wales. There is considerable logic also in setting up a team in Dublin, although I do think this will be further down the track. I would be very surprised if it happened in 1997. Fast-tracking new teams straight into Super League might not go down too well in some quarters, but if you are trying to expand the game you have to be brave and our chief executive is keen to get expansion on the move. Furthermore, he is not the sort of man to court popularity if, in so doing, it means he has to sacrifice his true beliefs. I think the League would like to see Castleford, Featherstone and Wakefield Trinity merging to form one club in that part of Yorkshire.

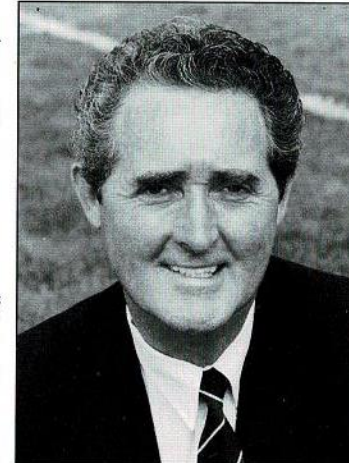
As far as the Oldham club is concerned, we have a

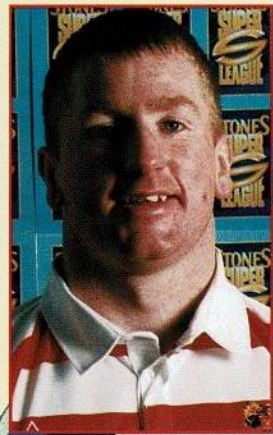
massive catchment area of around 500,000 if you take Tameside into account and if our catchment area is prepared to back us we will be able to generate the income we need to invest in our Super League future. Our biggest asset will be the new stadium. We are well aware of the inadequacies of Watersheddings, but plans are well advanced for the new stadium at Westwood Park. Work is expected to start soon and hopefully the ground will be up and running before the end of the second Super League season.

Oldham Athletic are currently awaiting the results of a feasibility study before deciding whether they want to play in the new stadium as well. If they do, there will be additional sources of funding available.

Our main priority is to have a stadium that will provide spectators with the modern facilities they require in this day and age and also to offer sponsors the quality of corporate facilities which will enable us to capitalise on this potential source of income.

Finally, a big welcome today to all the Workington Town officials, coaches, players and spectators. Whenever Town come to Watersheddings there is always a special welcome for Ike Southward, that great stalwart of Cumbrian Rugby League, who was a firm favourite here when he played for Oldham on the wing in the great days of the 1950's. Ike has retained his great links with Watersheddings where he still has a great many friends. His affection for Oldham folk and for all his friends in this area was reflected in his attendance a few weeks ago at the funeral of Terry Doyle, with whom he had shared a friendship lasting many, many years. Welcome back, Ike - and welcome also to the entire Town party.





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YOUR Points

of view...



FAREWELL WALLY

Our talented utility back Wally Gibson has disappeared from the scene and, hopefully will be fixed up with a club in his native Australia by the time these notes appear. Wally first came to notice with the Tunncliffe club in Australia and arrived in this country as a virtual unknown in September 1989 when he joined Huddersfield. Two days later he made a sensational debut at full back in the Fartown Second Division side which won 34-22 at Whitehaven. Wally scored a hat trick of tries that day and continued to enjoy a super season. The Cumbrian air seemed to suit him for he scored another hat trick in a 24-8 win at Workington and he ended that opening season of English rugby with a total of 19 tries. The following season was not quite as successful but it did include another hat trick against Whitehaven. His third season in England, 1991-92, brought him his only tangible reward during his stay in this country. That season Huddersfield won the Third Division Championship and Wally's medal was well deserved for he was an important member of that Fartown squad. He scored 20 tries during the season including four in the 70-0 domination of Trafford Borough. The following season Gibson played just two matches for Huddersfield before falling into dispute. His eventual transfer to Oldham for a bargain £12,500 upset the Fartown faithful. The fact that he had scored 51 tries in just 87 outings for Huddersfield did not seem to matter. Gibson wanted to further his career and felt that his ambitions to play Premier Division rugby would be achieved with a more fashionable club. He achieved those ambitions with

Oldham during his first 12 months at Watersheddings. Wally scored 15 tries for Oldham in that first season including a hat trick against Swinton as the Roughyeds gained promotion to the First Division. The past three seasons have seen Wally figure prominently in Oldham's First Division campaigns. His versatility has proved invaluable and injury and suspensions have hit. He has played full back, stand off and wing. However last season his much publicised personal problems seemed to effect his form and towards the end of the campaign he found himself left out of the side. This season Wally was not allocated one of the squad numbers. No doubt this was a major disappointment to him. No doubt his disappearance was a major disappointment to the Watersheddings coaching staff. Ironically it occurred at a time when he would almost certainly have returned to first team action. Wally was unpredictable. At times frustrating, but he had genuine talent and at his best was an entertaining crowd pleaser. His failure to gain selection in the Super League, given his burning ambition to succeed, must have led to the acrimonious split from his second English club. But let us remember the good times and they are best remembered simply by noting his playing record in England which reads as follows, for Huddersfield 87 appearances, 52 tries, 13 goals and three dropped goals, for Oldham 111 appearances, 37 tries and 2 dropped goals. We wish Wally well in his future career. He has too much talent to be out of the game for long. Let us hope that he finds a suitable club and some satisfaction now that he is back in Queensland.

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Bears



Hi to all you Junior Bears and a warm welcome to the supporters of Workington Town, who have made the long journey down from Cumbria today.

Well our 'big bears' seem to have lost their growl in recent weeks, let's hope that they are back in the hunting mood for today's match.

Our mascot today is Natalie Whelan. Natalie is 14 years old and attends Radcliffe School in Chadderton. Her favourite player is Paul Topping and she is sponsored by **SADDLEWORTH PLUMBING AND HEATING**.

The mascot for our last home fixture was Kayleigh Ashton from Shaw. Kayleigh is 9 years old and her favourite player is Martin Crompton. A big thank you to the mascots and their sponsors.

The answer to the teaser I posed in the last programme notes was today's visitors, Workington.

The teaser for this programme is....

Who is the other half of the Warrington coaching set up, the team coach is John Dorahy, but who is their team manager?? (mum and dad should know the answer).

Watch out for the post as I am now in the process of writing to you all with details of our next meeting. This will also be published in the local paper.

Well it's time for those bears to appear, and let's hope for a victory, but they do need the vocal support so what do we say...

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Don Yates Looks Back To A Match From Yesteryear

These are grim days for professional rugby up in Cumbria. Although the amateur code is well represented by National Cup finalists Ellenborough Rangers and the likes of Askam, Egremont Rangers and Millom in the Conference League, the four professional sides are having a tough time of it. Barrow and Carlisle are plodding along in Division Two, Whitehaven are struggling in Division One and today's visitors Workington Town are already favourites for relegation from the Super League.

But that state of affairs has not always been the case. For example, in season 1948-49, Cumberland were by far the top county in the British game. They began the campaign by defeating Australia 5-4 at Whitehaven. An excellent result but those Kangaroos were not the best ever. Both Lancashire and Yorkshire beat them and the British whitewashed them 3-0 in the test series. They also lost six of their 20 club matches including a 10-7 reversal against Workington Town. Unfortunately the Aussies came good at Watersheddings where they ran in seven tries as Oldham slumped to a 27-7 defeat.

Because of the Australian tour, the County Championship was put back to April and May that season. The first match of the competition was staged at Borough Park, Workington where Cumberland defeated Yorkshire 14-0. Two weeks later Cumberland were called upon to visit the Willows, Salford for their match against Lancashire. Victory would give the County title to the Cumbrians but Lancashire were confident of halting the Cumbrian march.

County boundaries were different in those days and the Lancashire side included Willie Horne, one of the greatest stand-offs of all time. Horne was a Barrow lad and nowadays he would have qualified to play for Cumbria. Had that been

the case in April 1949 then the Cumbrians would have been firm favourites to lift the title. As things stood the crowd of 6,000 knew that they were in for a close fought match.

The teams for the game lined up as follows:
Lancashire: Jackie Cunliffe (Wigan); Gordon Ratcliffe (Wigan), Arthur Pimblett (Warrington), Ernie Ashcroft (Wigan), Stan McCormick (St Helens); Willie Horne (Barrow), Gerry Helme (Warrington); Ken Gee (Wigan), Ike Fishwick (Warrington), George Curran (Salford), Fred Higgins (Widnes), Jim Featherstone (Warrington) & Alan Prescott (St Helens).
Cumbria: Viv Pepperell (Huddersfield); Les Graham (Workington Town), Johnny Carr (Workington Town), Jeff Bawden (Huddersfield), Geoff Clark (Dewsbury); Russ Pepperell (Huddersfield), Arthur Pepperell (Workington Town); Frank Longman (Barrow), Vince McKeating (Workington Town), Jimmy Hayton (Workington Town), James Wareing (Workington Town), Bob Nicholson (Huddersfield) and Billy Ivison (Workington Town).

The Cumbrian boys did not allow their lengthy journey to blunt their performance. They were as sharp as razors during the opening period and by the interval the match was as good as over with the tough tackling Cumbrians 12-4 in front. Lancashire hit back after the break when Ernie Ashcroft crossed for the home side but it was not enough and so the title went up to Cumberland as a result of their 15-9 success. Willie Horne landed three goals to go alongside Ashcroft's try whilst for Cumberland Jeff Bawden landed three goals and their three tries were scored by Arthur Pepperell, James Wareing and Bob Nicholson.

For the record, Lancashire won 12-3 in Yorkshire to hand the Tykes the wooden spoon but the title went north to Cumberland. Let us hope that it will not be too long before success returns to Cumbria which is still one of the hotbeds of our great game.



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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

It was on this day in 1962, Saturday 26th May, that Workington Town found themselves playing Huddersfield at the Santry Stadium, Dublin. They met in a four team competition designed to spread the game to Ireland and Town's involvement lasted just one match for they were beaten 13-12. Piet Pretorius and Sol Roper scored the Town tries and Jo Ferreira landed three goals.

Another British club who found themselves abroad on this day were St. Helens who, on this day in 1985, commenced a four match tour of New Zealand. Unfortunately they won only once. Their opening game was against Canterbury and Saints lost 30-24. Each side scored four tries but Barry Edkins landed seven goals for the home side including the conversion to David Field's match winning try two minutes from time.

It was on this day in 1974 that Great Britain opened their tour of Australasia with a gentle run out against Darwin in the Northern Territory of Australia. A crowd of 6,500 saw the Lions win 41-2. The victory margin would have been much wider but for some woeful kicking. The Lions crossed for 11 tries, three from

winger John Atkinson, but they landed only four goals. Oldham were represented in the Great Britain line-up by prop Terry Clawson who kicked three of the goals.

It was on Wednesday, 26th May 1982 that Yorkshire clinched the County Championship with a thrilling 22-21 victory over Lancashire at Hilton Park, Leigh. Yorkshire had beaten Cumbria the previous Sunday but they looked out of the title hunt at half-time when they trailed 21-3. However, the Yorkshiremen hit back with a hat-trick of tries from winger Geoff Pryce (York) and they deserved their victory after scoring five tries to Lancashire's three. The only Oldham player to appear in that match was Lancashire loose-forward Terry Flanagan.

It was during this week in 1949 that a British Empire squad made a two match visit to France. Their opening match was staged on Thursday, 26th May at Bordeaux where France defeated the British Empire 23-10. The Empire, who were 13-0 down at half-time, included three Workington Town players in their line-up, winger Tony Paskins who crossed for one of the tries, hooker Vince McKeating and second-rower Johnny Mudge.

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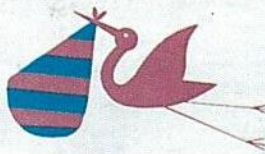
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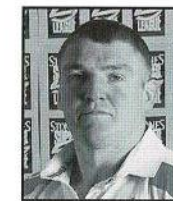
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BEARS Question

Time...

with Ian Sherratt



Full Name: Ian Sherratt
Date of Birth: 9.8.67
Birthplace: Lancaster
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 161/2 stone
Nickname at Club: Shaz
Occupation: Professional R.L. player
Home: Oldham
Car: None
Married: No
Children: No
Family: Mum and Dad, Sister Julie
What was your ambition as a child: Rugby player
Who was your boyhood hero: Paul Topping, used to watch him as schoolboy
What has been your biggest disappointment in rugby: Sent off Premiership Final, Oldham v Sheffield Eagles
What has been your biggest thrill in rugby: Winning Premiership final against Featherstone
Which present day player do you admire most: Shaun Edwards
Who is the greatest player there has been: Wally Lewis
What is the best part of your job: Training and having a laugh with the lads
Who is the toughest opponent you have faced: Shaun Edwards
If you won the Lottery what is the first thing you would buy: Grecian 2000 for Toppers grey hair
What is your best quality: Power, strength and fitness
What is your worst quality: None (perfect)
Apart from your own club, which is your favourite ground: Headingley, Leeds
Which is your least favourite ground: Derwent Park, Workington
What other sports and hobbies do you have: Golf and Chess

What is your ideal evening out: Pictures and meal out
What is the most dangerous thing you have done: Having a meal at girlfriends
What dangerous thing would you most like to attempt: Bungee Jump
What is your biggest phobia: Having treatment with John Latkins
What is your most prized possession: Player of the Year Players/Player 1994
Which famous person would you most like to meet: Pamala Anderson
Which world figure do you most admire: Bob Geldof
Away from rugby, what has been your best sporting achievement: Playing golf for Charity
What is the funniest moment you have seen on a rugby pitch: Watching John Clarke on "Big Screen"
Do you have an unusual food that improves your game: Chocolate Raisins
What is the oddest piece of training that you have done: "Jacko's" warm ups
Is there a dream you would like to have achieved in sport other than Rugby: To play at Wembley
Favourite TV programme: Home & Away
Favourite TV Star: Jack Duckworth
Favourite Film: Mac Vicar
Favourite Film Star: Arnold Swarzenegger
Favourite Soap Opera: Home & Away
Favourite Soap Character: Alf Stewart (Home & Away)
Favourite City: Brisbane
Favourite Pop Star: Oasis
Favourite Single: Look Back In Anger (Oasis)
Favourite LP: Best of Elvis Presley
Favourite Food: Pasta
Favourite Drink: Vimto

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS

It was great to see Rob Myler back in the side at Sheffield last Sunday, let's hope he has a change of luck on the injury front. Chris McKinney and Howard Hill are coming along quite steadily, as they continue to strive for full fitness. The news on Francis Maloney and David Bradbury, who both missed the Sheffield game, is encouraging and hopefully will be in contention for today's game. Scott Ranson is having a bad time of late

after returning to the side after suspension. He was sat on the bench within 30 minutes at Sheffield with a dislocated shoulder and will be out of action for at least a month. Craig Richards was added to the injury list last Thursday, in the 'A' team game against Salford, when he went down with a knee injury which will require a visit to see a specialist to determine the extent of the damage.

JW

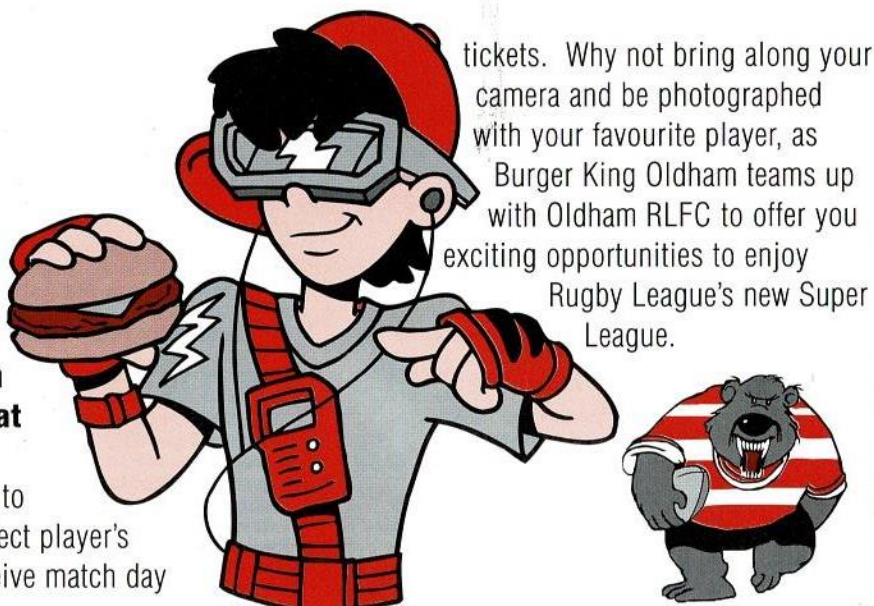
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Well any remaining lingering doubts about who are the fittest and the fastest rugby union or rugby league players must now have been dispelled.

Rugby league players are miles better in both departments.

What else, if anything did the Bath v Wigan and the Middlesex Sevens achieve? Well apart from ramming home the fact that the two games are completely different I think the main thing to come out of the last couple of weeks has been the growing respect for rugby league.

The Middlesex Sevens did this even more than the game at Maine

Road and the increase in profile if nothing else justifies

Wigans involvement.

They represented the game

magnificently and have probably done more in terms of marketing in the last few weeks than we achieved throughout the centenary non-event season.

As Bath close down the next game at Twickenham, capitalise on the specialist positions such as scrummaging and line-outs and generally try to stifle the flair of rugby league, whatever happens they can never take from me two memories that will live with me forever.

The first at Maine Road came after 31 minutes with Bath already trailing 42 points to nil and Bath attempted a drop goal Jim Mallinder the Sale full back and captain working as my summariser for the night was brilliant when he summed up the humour of the moment to say, that could prove to be the turning point, as the ball sailed wide of the posts.

The second came during the Sevens and it was purely and simply the sight of Va'aiga Tuigamala trying to shew away the attentions of a potential union tackler. The fourth hand off finally ended the failed tackle reminded me of an elephant disposing of a tiresome and annoying fly.

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BBC GMR**



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"A" Team



THE club is pleased to confirm the appointment as new Alliance team coach of Paddy Kirwan. The Chronicle described Paddy this week as "one of Oldham Rugby's favourite sons" and that just about summed him up perfectly.

Paddy, who replaces Graham Beale, met the Alliance team players on Monday night. He was introduced to them by senior coach Andy Goodway and team manager Alan McCurrie.

His first match in charge was against Hull at Watersheddings on Thursday. These notes were written before that match took place, but there is no doubt that Paddy's immediate plans are to try and lift the side away from the Alliance Championship relegation zone.

He needs no introduction here, of course. But for those younger fans of the club it will be interesting to know that Paddy, an Oldham lad, signed for Oldham in 1979 only four days after Andy Goodway had joined the club. They played together for the next five years at colts, 'A' team and senior levels so their friendship goes back a long way. "My heart is at Oldham and always has been," said Paddy last week - and that is just the sort of dedication that Andy is looking for as he builds for the future.

The Alliance lads put up a spirited show in losing 22-14 at Bradford with a side that included several amateurs because of the injury crisis that had affected all three teams.

Jimmy Cowan, Mike Neal and Neil Melling scored tries and Paul Deacon kicked a goal in a performance that promised better days ahead.

The next match was at home to Salford. This performance was rather disappointing. The Reds won 42-16. Oldham's tries were scored by Mike Neal, Paul Crook and Jonathan Eastwood, while Deacon kicked two goals.

OLDHAM BEARS ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Thursday	28/3/96	Wigan	Away	32-36
Thursday	4/4/96	Halifax	Away	30-12
Thursday	11/4/96	Leeds	Away	30-12
Thursday	18/4/96	CASTLEFORD	HOME	12-28
Thursday	2/5/96	ST. HELENS	HOME	26-39
Thursday	9/5/96	Bradford	Away	22-14
Thursday	16/5/96	SALFORD	HOME	16-42
Thursday	23/5/96	HULL	HOME	7-30
Thursday	6/6/96	Warrington	Away	7-30
Thursday	13/6/96	WIGAN	HOME	7-30
Thursday	20/6/96	HALIFAX	HOME	7-30
Friday	28/6/96	Hull K.R.	Away	7-30
Thursday	4/7/96	LEEDS	HOME	7-30
Thursday	11/7/96	Castleford	Away	7-30
Thursday	18/7/96	St. Helens	Away	7-30
Thursday	25/7/96	BRADFORD	HOME	7-30
Thursday	1/8/96	Hull	Away	8-00
Thursday	15/8/96	WARRINGTON	HOME	7-30
Friday	23/8/96	Salford	Away	8-00
Thursday	29/8/96	HULL K.R.	HOME	7-30

R.L.H.Q.



BOBBIE GOULDING CHASES RECORD

Bobbie Goulding of St. Helens is on course to break the record for the fastest century of goals from the start of a season after kicking 83 in 13 Cup and Stones Super League matches. The international scrum halves total includes two drop goals.

The record of 100 goals in 18 matches is shared by four players, Bernard Ganley (Oldham, including one match for Great Britain 1957-58, David Watkins (Salford) 1972-73, Steve Quinn (Featherstone Rovers) 1979-80 and John Wasyliw (Keighley Cougars) 1992-93.

WILLIE RICHARDSON BREAKS RECORD

Willie Richardson of Carlisle took his career points total for the club to a record 774 goals with five goals in the 30-22 Division Two defeat at Swinton Lions. And he now needs only six goals to break the club career record of 352 by Barry Vickers from 1988 to 1992.

LEADING SCORERS

Paul Newlove of St. Helens became the first player to reach 20 tries in all matches this season with one in the 25-24 Stones Super League win at Warrington. The centre's total includes a leading Super League tally of 13.

Bobbie Goulding remains well ahead in the other charts with 83 goals and 168 points in all matches. The scrum half's total include 54 goals and 110 points in the Super League.

POINTS SCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has the longest points scoring run of 27 successive matches, including all 10 this season. The stand off's scoring run began with eight goals and a try in the 48-20 First Division win at Huddersfield on 17 September 1995.

TRYSORING RUN

Nathan McVoy of Salford Reds has scored tries in eight successive matches, including all seven Division One games this season, as follows: 2-1-2-1-1-1-2-2.

WINNING RUN

St. Helens have the longest winning run, having won all 13 matches this season, 5 Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties and 8 Stones Super League matches. Their last defeat was 32-24 at Halifax in their Final Centenary Championship match on 21 January 1996.

LOSING RUN

Chorley ended their losing run at 10 matches with a 15-14 Division Two home defeat of Leigh Centurions.

The only club without a league win this season are Workington Town in the Super League and Rochdale Hornets in Division One, although each has managed a draw.

MILESTONES

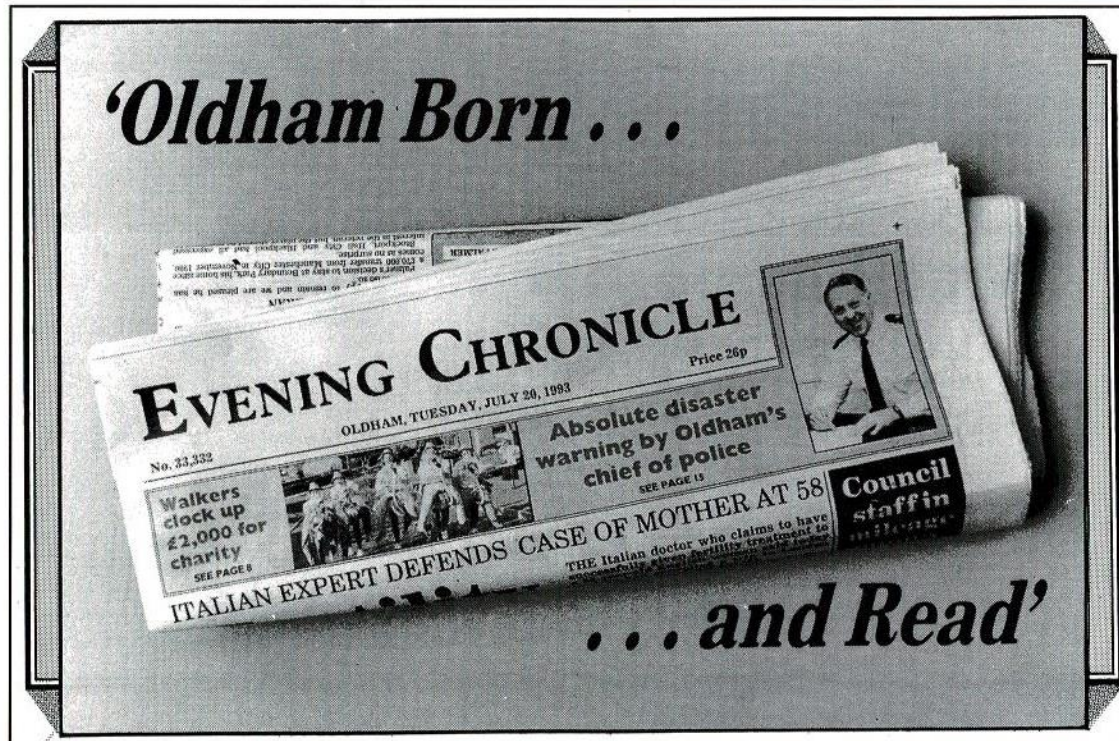
Phil Veivers of Huddersfield Giants needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns after scoring 98 for St. Helens.

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

Graham Steadman of Castleford Tigers needs 18 points for a career total of 2,000 including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers.

Martin Pearson of Featherstone Rovers needs one try for a career century of club and representative touchdowns.

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Watersheddings



COLIN ARMSTRONG (Back)

Colin is always full of enthusiasm and during pre-season training he was performing like a young buck.

He is a great inspiration to the teams younger element and is never slow to offer well meaning advice, and seems certain to be leading from the front this season.

PAUL BURNS (Centre)

Paul is a powerfully built young man with a straight running style which is effective. A good club man who has helped out as a full back and second row forward when required. Barrow used him chiefly as a winger, however Paul likes the involvement of a centre berth.

VINCE FAWCETT (Centre)

Vince joined Town from Leeds and quickly established himself as a Derwent Park favourite. His pace, strength and fearsome fend kept him in the hunt as Town's leading try scorer throughout last season. Vinnie also showed his class during a short stint in Aussie with the struggling Parramatta team, many British fans seeing him in try scoring action via the Sky telecasts from Down Under.

DAVID FRAISSE (Centre)

The Frenchman has served Sheffield Eagles and Bradford Northern since crossing the Channel to further his League experience. A French international who has been described as "the best centre in France," David's career suffered quite a severe setback following a traffic accident, however he regained his speed and strength to once more hit the R.L. headlines.

STEPHEN HOLGATE (Forward)

During his initial season as a pro Holly was an instant success gaining an international call up for England. Already an England regular during his BARLA days, but to make such great strides so quickly was probably beyond Stephens' wildest dreams. However the Derwent Park crowd were well aware that this young man was star material following his defence bustling displays as soon as he donned a blue and white strip.

MARK JOHNSON (Winger)

Another ex-London Bronco to move up to Cumbria during the summer, Mark is a South African who initially came to this country to play Union. London signed him from the Harlequins Club and he was an instant hit, topping the try scoring charts in 93-94 season with 43 touchdowns. Town were rumoured to have signed Mark following that season, however, he still had twelve months of his contract to honour.

WAYNE KITCHIN (Half Back)

Wayne joined Workington in 1989 having starred as a BARLA Youth Tourist. Success in the pro ranks looked a certainty for Kitch, yet although he did star in the First Team almost instantly, his Town career has been more stop than start for various reasons, it now seems as though he is once more giving it a real go. Kitch is a definite gem of a player and soon will prove it to the RL world.

PETER LIVETT (Full Back)

Peter has won all the honours BARLA could bestow on a player during his time with Woolston ARLFC therefore following protracted negotiations Workington Town were delighted to eventually land their man.

Peter is a gifted footballer, strong in the tackle as befits a full back, but he also loves to link up in attacking moves and was a regular try scorer in the amateur ranks.

DEAN MARWOOD (Scrum Half)

Deano had his best ever season for Town in last terms big League company which proved he was gaining confidence to take on, and beat, any opponent. Always regarded as "Dean the Scoring Machine" by Townies, mainly because of an accurate kicking foot, the young Barrovian can now continue making inroads into opponents defence lines as a ball carrier. The top flight seems to be 'Deans Scene'.

PHIL MCKENZIE (Hooker)

The likable Aussie who came over to join Rochdale some years ago, before giving Widnes even more valuable service, is now in his third season with Town. Despite being in the later stages of his career Phil is still sprightly enough to take those easy yards from acting half back. His ability to read a game inspires many Town offensive thrusts.

BILLY MCGINTY (Forward)

Another player with a quality pedigree you can't get much better schooling than at Wigan. Billy's Town sojourn since leaving Central Park has been dogged by injuries. However now fully fit hopefully the Derwent Park clientele will see some of the form that earned him GB honours. One thing for certain Billy is a real character who stimulates team spirit and is good company on and off the pitch.

ROWLAND PHILLIPS (Forward)

Roly made a massive impact last season while on loan with Warrington which had Workington fans mystified why the Wire didn't use him. It was great news to hear Town had acquired his services on a permanent basis and the Welsh international is keen to continue serving up the goods for the Townies.

GARY SCHUBERT (Forward)

Another Aussie now settled full term on our Island, Gary started life over here with Salford, moved on to Carlisle before linking up with Town in 1981.

A steady reliable performer who never lets the side down. Adds to his Town bread and butter via his post as a Rugby League Development Officer in the Carlisle area.

DARREN CARTER (Forward)

Darren joined in 1992 from the Millon Amateur Club primarily as a stand off. However the tall lad has also put on bulk and his future with Town seems to be that of a back row forward. Always smart with the passes. Darren can also use his physique to put himself about a bit.

DYLAN STANTON

Is a speedy whippet like former Egremont Ranger, a fitness fanatic who looks destined to blossom into a top flight winger.

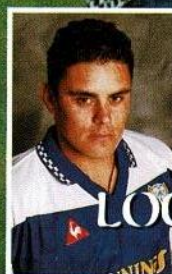
ROWLAND PHILLIPS



STEPHEN HOLGATE



JASON PALMADA



LOGAN CAMPBELL

Workington

NEWS

Academy...



First of all I would like to congratulate our No 12 Neil Melling who has been taken on to our full time squad by our senior coach Andy Goodway. I am sure Neil will give 100% effort in anything that is asked of him and I am sure his game will benefit by the fulltime training. Another of our academy lads who is on the verge of a fulltime contract is our full back Jimmy Cowans who since getting him back from Warrington academy also has worked very hard and deserves his chance I would like to wish both boys all the best and I am sure the rest of our academy boys will be giving their best in the weeks ahead because it just shows if you are prepared to work hard you get your rewards. Since I last wrote my notes the team have played twice against Huddersfield at home and after trailing by 16pts at half time when we played really bad. The lads got their act together and took the lead 18pts to 16 Huddersfield were dead and buried we made them kick on the last tackle only for our winger to make a hash of the kick and gave Huddersfield their head and ball and they scored in the next set of six. The lads were devastated because after a bad first half we looked set to take the match Try scorers were Joe McNicholas, David Milne new recruit Neil Gregg and three goals by captain Craig Barker. We are still looking for anyone who would like to do a bit of sponsorship for our academy boys if anyone is interested give me a ring at the club or at home on 652 2452.

Yours in Sport

Brian Gartland.

OLDHAM BEARS JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Day	Date	Team	H/A	Kick-Off	Score
Monday	1/4/96	ROCHDALE	H	7.30pm	L 16-34
Friday	5/4/96	HULL K.R.	H	1.00pm CR	W 20-11
Monday	8/4/96	Batley	A	3.30pm	L 23-10
Saturday	13/4/96	SALFORD REDS	H	4.00pm CR	L 10-24
	20/4/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
	29/4/96	JJB SPORTS ACADEMY CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND			
Sunday	5/5/96	Widnes	A	1.00pm CR	L 41-4
Monday	13/5/96	HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30pm	L18-26
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	W42-32
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	16/6/96	Rochdale H.	A	2.00pm CR	
Sunday	23/6/96	Hull K.R.	A	4.30pm CR	
Monday	1/7/96	BATLEY	H	7.30pm	
Sunday	7/7/96	Salford Reds	A	4.00pm CR	
	15/7/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
Monday	22/7/96	WIDNES	H	7.30pm	
Monday	29/7/96	Huddersfield	A	7.30pm	
Sunday	4/8/96	Keighley Coug.	A	4.00pm CR	
Sunday	11/8/96	Swinton	A @ Radcliffe Borough	3.30pm	
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR	
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm	

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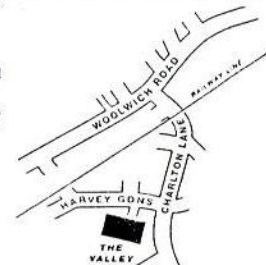
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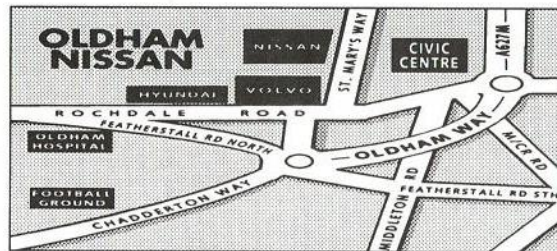
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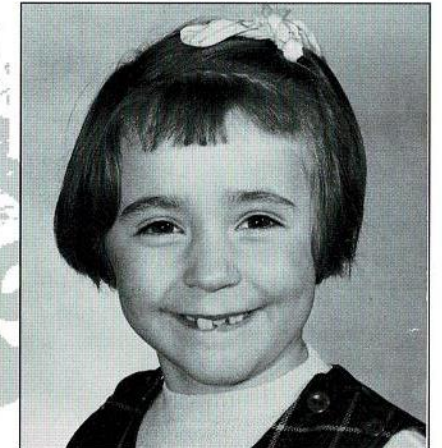
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Thoughts from the Terraces...

I don't read one of Mr Murdoch's papers, I am afraid, even though one of them does sponsor Sky's RL coverage. But I wonder if they go in for over-hype. After the BBC's generally atrocious commentary standards, I thought Eddie and Steve were initially like a breath of fresh air. They made the game interesting, got excited at the right moments, and were not frightened to raise controversial issues, even though they were generally very positive. And I still think they have these same qualities. But, in recent weeks, they have been going over the top - and I hope Neville Smith, the excellent Sky RL producer, tells them so, soon. There have been a whole series of cracking games live on Sky, but I do wish Eddie Hemmings in particular would stop telling us so, every few minutes. I am sure that it would be a much more effective form of marketing to let the quality speak for itself. Too much hype is annoying, and probably counter-productive.

What an apparently fragile thing is confidence. After the Castleford win, our side should have been on a high which could have carried them through the season. But the thrashing at Saints seems to have knocked the stuffing out of them. With the crucial injuries, and the suspension to Temu, too, the result was a nightmare first twenty minutes against Bradford, and an even worse performance against a Sheffield side that I felt we would have beaten fairly easily if we had shown the qualities displayed in April. Let us hope that a win will as quickly restore the elusive self-belief which is so crucial.

It would be ridiculous to put either of the last two defeats down to the referees - but I find it difficult to believe that Mr R Connolly and Mr

Morris continue to be in the top grade of referees. Neither, I have felt for several years, has the feel for the game which a first grade ref needs. They give knock-ons and forward passes which aren't, and miss blatant ones. They fail to penalise obvious offsides, often from kicks, but make theatrical displays about trivia. They ignore niggling fouls, and then are forced to take over-the-top action when the players start to take their frustration out on each other. Contrast the respect which they seem not to enjoy with the players with that of, say, Mr Campbell; like everyone, he makes mistakes - but he clearly understands the game, and gets most things right as a result. I cannot believe that some of the up-and-coming refs have not got more potential than those two - or that Greg McCallum doesn't recognise it.

The long-term composition of Super League seems to be back in the headlines - and I don't think it would be wise for clubs like Oldham (and Warrington, Halifax and Castleford) to sit back and think there are no implications for them. Clubs in Wales and Dublin, and possibly Milan and Barcelona, are definitely good ideas, if the concept of a European Super League is to have genuine meaning. And if the relevant clubs can get their act together, a merged side in each of Humberside and Cumbria is also sensible. If we assume that London, Paris, Wigan, St Helens, Leeds, Sheffield and probably Bradford are genuine big-city Super League clubs already, that makes a total of thirteen. I strongly suspect that "Manchester" will be back on the agenda before long; do we want to be a part of it, or not?



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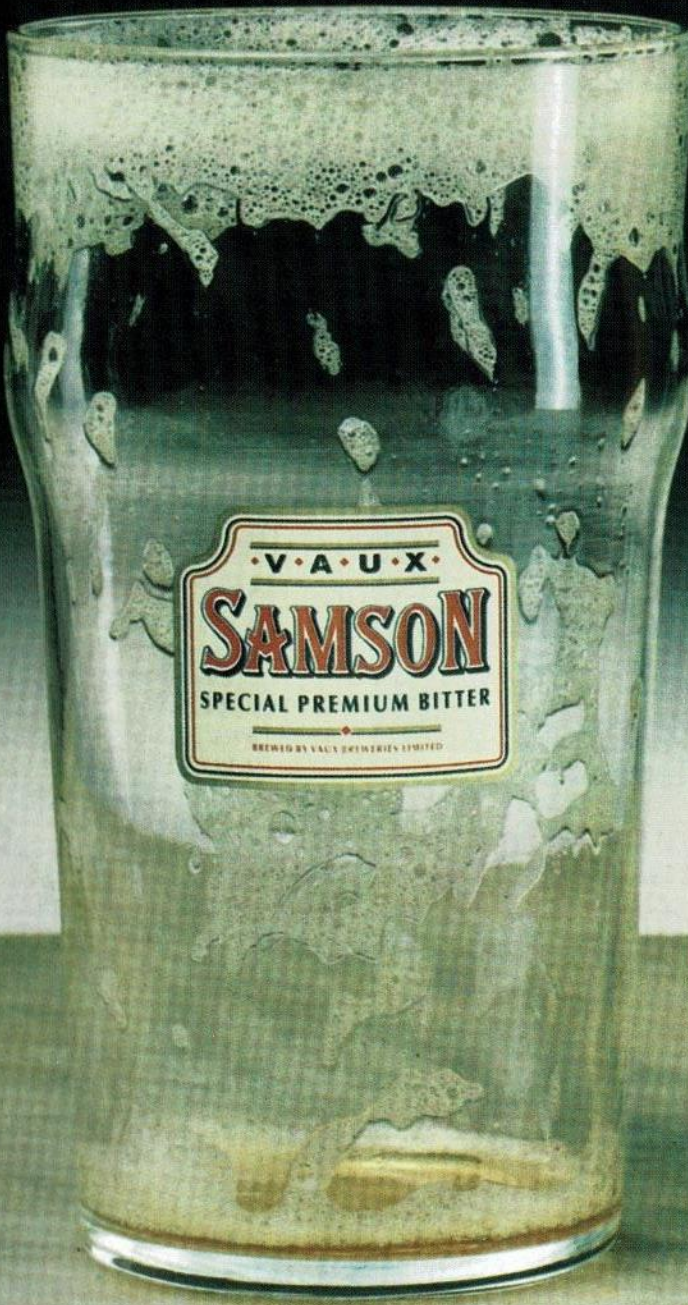
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DON YATES For The

Record

This afternoon's visitors to Watersheddings are Workington Town, the only club who Oldham beat both home and away during the Centenary season. After those victories, Oldham have now met Workington on 95 occasions and have by far the better record with 57 victories against 36 defeats. Two matches have been drawn. As far as League matches are concerned these two clubs have met 76 times with Oldham winning 42 times, Workington 32 times and the clubs ending level twice. Oldham's biggest away defeat at Workington came in October 1962 when Town ran in ten tries as they romped home 44-15. It was in March 1968 that Town registered their biggest win at Watersheddings. Former Oldham favourite Ike Southward figured prominently in that 36-5 win for Town with three tries and six goals. Oldham's biggest win at Workington came in September 1984 when current coach Andy Goodway scored one of the eight Oldham tries in the 44-2 success. But Oldham's biggest win over Workington came in a Lancashire Cup-tie at Watersheddings during September 1988 when Mick Burke landed 10 goals in 64-2 Oldham victory.

Results of Oldham-Workington matches during the past ten seasons (League matches except where stated).

1986-87	Oldham 46 Workington 13	(Lancashire Cup)
1987-88	Workington 8 Oldham 16	
	Oldham 38 Workington 10	
1988-89	Oldham 64 Workington 2	(Lancashire Cup)
1989-90	Oldham 40 Workington 8	
	Oldham 30 Workington 8	(Challenge Cup)
	Workington 21 Oldham 14	
1990-91	Workington 15 Oldham 20	(Challenge Cup)
1991-92	Workington 6 Oldham 6	

	Oldham 14 Workington 15
	Workington 0 Oldham 5
	Oldham 44 Workington 10
1992-93	Did not meet
1993-94	Did not meet
1994-95	Oldham 20 Workington 10
	Workington 34 Oldham 12
1995-96	Oldham 30 Workington 26
	Workington 12 Oldham 20

Details of Town's last visit to Watersheddings.

Wednesday, 1st November 1995
Stones Bitter Centenary
OLDHAM 30 WORKINGTON TOWN 26

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Oldham tries: Scott Ranson, Afi Leuila, Darren Abram (2), Francis Maloney & Howard Hill.

Goals: Francis Maloney (2) & Steve Gartland.

Workington tries: Peter Livett, Vince Fawcett & Logan Campbell (2)

Goals: Dean Marwood (5)

Oldham: Paul Atcheson; Scott Ranson, Afi Leuila, Darren Abram, Wally Gibson; Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton; Chris Parr, Steve Gartland, Jason Temi, Gary Lord, Iyan Green & Howard Hill. **Subs:** Rob Myler, John Clarke, Paul Davidson & Paul Norman.

Workington: Peter Livett; Kevin Pape, David Fraise, Vince Fawcett, Mark Johnson; Logan Campbell, Dean Marwood; Gary Schubert, Phil McKenzie, Rowland Phillips, Colin Armstrong, Steve Holgate & Jason Palmada. **Subs:** Wayne Kitchen, Darren Carter, Paul Penrice & Billy McGinty.

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For the Record Super League '96



Rd	Date	Team	Venue	Time	Score	Att	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	26	27	28	29	30		
1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709	●		T	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932	T		T	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327	●		T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm	25-16	3,350	T		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396	T	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181	●		T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm	10-30	4,228	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	5.30pm	10-23	3,200	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●																	
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm																																		
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm																																		
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm																																		
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm																																		
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm																																		
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm																																		
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm																																		
16	Sun 14 July	CASTLEFORD	H	6.00pm																																		
17	Sun 21 July	ST HELENS	H	6.00pm																																		
18	Sun 28 July	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00pm																																		
19	Sun 4 Aug	Workington	A	3.00pm																																		
20	Sun 11 Aug	LONDON BRONCOSH	H	6.00pm																																		
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																																		
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLESH	H	6.00pm																																		

- RUGBY RECALL OLDHAM V WORKINGTON**
- Before Ellery Hanley's £250,000 transfer from Wigan to Leeds in season 1991/92, who was the subject of the previous record transfer?
 - During season 1991/92 which Hull player was suspended for eight matches after a trial by video, for an off the ball challenge on Ellery Hanley?
 - In which year was BARLA formed as an independent body?
 - At the start of which season did BSKyB start broadcasting live Friday night matches?
 - Two teams from which country made a brief tour of Britain during season 1991/92, four of their players later signed for Trafford Borough?
 - Against which side did Martin Offiah score his then club record 10 tries in a match?
 - The following season 1992/93 Shaun Edwards achieved the same feat against a second division side in the Lancashire Cup, which side?
 - During season 1990/91 which two then Widnes players were reprimanded for not receiving their Premiership Final losers medals?
 - Which Australian test player turned down the player coach role at Widnes in June 1991?
 - Which other Aussie test player also rejected the job two weeks later?
- The Welsh Connection (TM).
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ANSWERS
1. Graham Steadman (£170,000 Featherstone to Castleford). 2. Andy Dannatt. 3. 1973. 4. 1992/93. 5. Russia. 6. Leeds. 7. Swinton. 8. Martin Offiah and Andy Currie. 9. Wally Lewis. 10. Mal Meninga.

OLDHAM RLFC SUPER LEAGUE

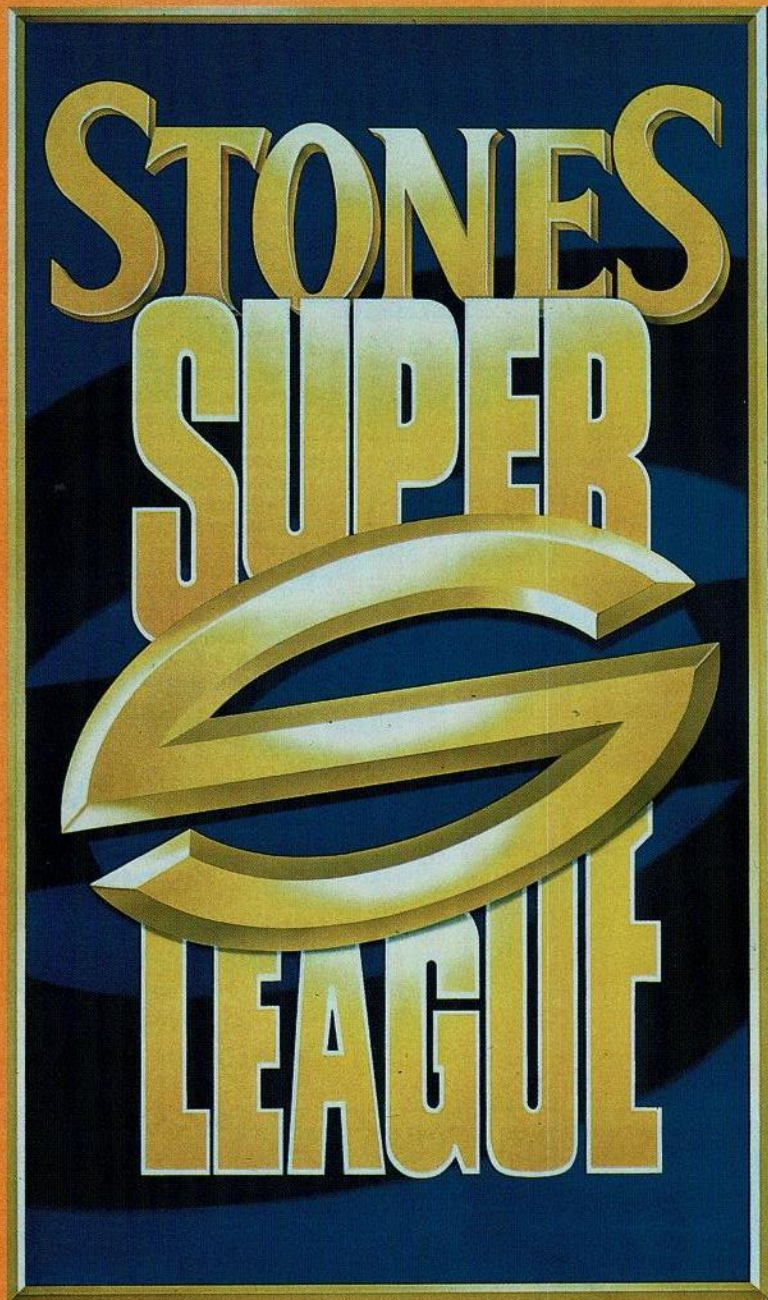
 Coach ANDY GOODWAY FOR SALE	 Number 1 PAUL ATCHESON Sheila & Grant Somerville	 Number 2 SCOTT RANSON Maureen Mitchell	 Number 3 DARREN ABRAM Sue Done	 Number 4 PAUL TOPPING Kevin Kershaw Assoc	 Number 5 ROBERT MYLER FOR SALE	 Number 6 FRANCIS MALONEY ARC Electrical	 Number 7 MARTIN CROMPTON Ian Taylor	 Number 8 IAN GILDART "The Moltram Family"	 Number 9 JOHN CLARKE DI'S HI-FRY	 Number 10 JASON TEMU SUE CORBETT	 Number 11 GARY LORD BRENDA ROGERS	 Number 12 JOE FAIMALO Dave Askew	 Number 13 DAVID BRADBURY Chris Done	 Number 14 HOWARD HILL Alex Hammond	 Number 15 AFFI LEUILA Pat & Shaun Whelan	 Number 17 PAUL DAVIDSON FOR SALE	 Number 18 CHRIS MCKINNEY FOR SALE	 Number 19 IAN SHERRATT FOR SALE	 Number 21 MICHAEL NEIL FOR SALE	 Number 23 GARY BURNS FOR SALE	 Number 24 ANDREW PATMORE FOR SALE	 Number 25 MATTHEW MUNRO Sue & Chris Done	 STEVE GARTLAND Number 16 Alex Hammond	 CHRIS PARR Number 22 Irene Calow	 BUSTER BEAR Ian Clarkson
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NEWS From

Down Under...

"I told the players this is what they are going to do - and don't let them stand over you. If they have a crack at you, you have a crack back," - Wests' Coach Tom Raudonikis

And what is it they say - it never rains but it pours. The Rabbitohs not only beat the Sydney Tigers, they absolutely humiliated them. They scored six tries to one - and that lone Tigers' try only came in the 63rd minute by which time the result was a forgone conclusion. It was the Rabbitohs first victory since they beat the North Queensland Cowboys on July 14th last year. Souths were in the box-seat at half-time leading 24-0. A week ago the Tigers recovered from a 14 point half-time deficit to beat Wests. They were not to have the same fortune against the Rabbitohs.

**Western Suburbs 16
Penrith 6**

Friday night saw a return to the bad old days of footbrawl. Western Suburbs beat Penrith 16-6, but the score was incidental in a spiteful match which saw one player sent off, four sent to the sin-bin and two more placed on report. West's coach Tom Raudonikis had been expecting the fireworks. When

the two sides clashed last season Wests were on the receiving end of a series of high and late tackles. "I told the players this is what they are going to do - and don't let them stand over you. If they have a crack at you, you have a crack back," Raudonikis said after the game. They certainly did. The first brawl erupted in the 12th minute and involved almost every player on the field. Penrith pair Scott Pethybridge and Darren Brown and Damien Kennedy from Wests were sent to the sin-bin. There was another all-in punch-up 16 minutes into the second half, with only three of the players staying out of the action. This time Penrith hooker Danny Farrar was sin-binned. Penrith forward Fa'ausu Afoa was sent off nine minutes from full-time for a high tackle on Wests' captain Paul Langmack. And referee Mark Oaten has placed Steve Carter (Penrith) on report for two incidents and Wests winger Darren Willis for another. The ARLK has ordered an inquiry into the match and may fine both clubs \$20,000 (£10,000) for bringing the game into disrepute. As well as the three on report, several other players may be also cited to appear before the judiciary after officials view a video of the game today. It is also expected that Oaten will be dropped to reserve-grade for failing to keep the game from exploding. ARL supremo Ken Artherson was appalled.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

Main Pic: Gary Bums looking for a way through

STONES SUPER LEAGUE '96 Same Game... New Attitude...

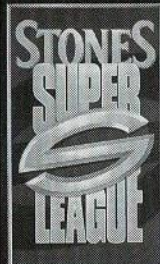
Oldham Bears



Top: Craig Richards trying to break through the Bradford defence
Middle: Paul Atcheson looking for support
Bottom: Francis Maloney looking worse for wear



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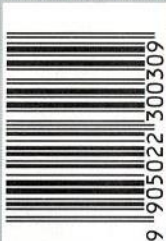
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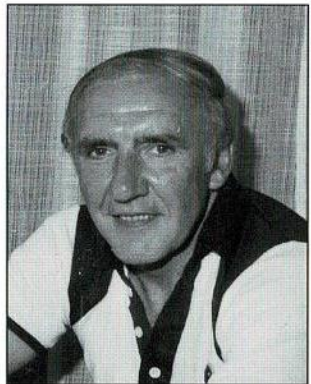
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News



What a season it has been for our schools, we have won the English Schools Cup Final, the Under 15's were on the verge of the Dennis Davies Cup Final by leading Castleford in the latter stages of the game only for disaster to strike with the death of one of the Castleford boys so the game was abandoned. I watched St Edwards RC School win

the Under 22's Lancashire Cup last night (Monday) at Watersheddings in a thrilling game which was played in great spirit and there was some excellent Rugby played for boys so young, I felt sorry for the team from Widnes who made this a memorable final but they were heartbroken when the whistle went, St Edwards being worthy winners. This last week on Tuesday and Thursday night at Saddleworth Rangers ground we had the finals of The Renault School Cup Finals and again some excellent rugby was played. Results as follows:-

Winners	Runners up
U/13's North Chadderton	v Counthill
U/15's Counthill	v Crompton House
U/12's Radcliffe	v Counthill
U/14's Siddall Moor	v Counthill
U/16's Counthill	v Crompton House
U/19's Oldham Sixth Form College	v St Cuthberts

Congratulations to all who took part. The photograph is the Oldham players who took part in the U/16's English Schools Cup Final who have pledged their future to Oldham Bears. Andrew Taplin, James Bowmer, Mark Powell, Jason Brassington, Ben Simpson and Leon Wilkes. Well done boys.



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Roger...

What have Cardiff, Humberside, Dublin, Milan and Barcelona got in common?

No, I'm not trying to give anyone a geography lesson, more a pointer to how Rugby League bosses view how, and where, the game should be heading as we approach the next century. They are, of course, great cities or centres of massive population.

They are also the regions given by the Rugby League to the Press last week as areas to be targeted for Super League development. In the case of Cardiff, a group of businessmen are keen to push as much as £1 million into the new South Wales club and set up base at Cardiff Arms Park.

Two groups, one of them an international company with massive interests in South Africa and Australia, want to push a new club in Dublin's fair city.

League officials would love to see Hull KR and Hull merge to form a powerful Super League club on Humberside.

IN EACH OF THESE THREE CASES THE LEAGUE WOULDN'T HESITATE TO FAST TRACK THEM INTO SUPER LEAGUE AS EARLY AS 1997 IF THE NEW CLUBS CONCERNED COULD CONVINCE THE AUTHORITIES THEY HAD THE FINANCIAL

BACKING AND KNOW HOW TO BE COMPETITIVE. Plans to launch in other parts of Europe are even more ambitious and further down the track, but there is plenty of evidence emerging from RL headquarters to convince us all that Maurice Lindsay and his board of directors are thinking big. Of great significance, I thought, was Maurice's reaction when asked for his observations about modest crowds along the M62 corridor at a time when expansion was constantly being called for. "When will we stop kidding ourselves?" he asked, before going on to express the view that Rugby League's future was perhaps to be found in "new" areas rather than many of the established heartlands.

The message is clear. Super League is on the march and clubs which cannot keep pace may find themselves left behind in the rush for recognition and membership.

If further proof were needed it came from the chief executive's remarks about the poor state of Watersheddings and Derwent Park. He stressed that clubs were not under threat but he also made it clear that League officials were closely watching developments in Oldham regarding the proposed new stadium.

By Roger Halstead
 of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

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