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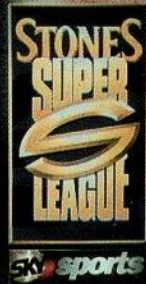
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TOUCHJUDGES
FRANK HAWLEY
STEVE WRIGHT

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PETER TAVERNER



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line-up

Oldham Bears

No.		Played	T	G	DG
1	PAUL ATCHESON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	ADRIAN BELLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	HOWARD HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	PAUL TOPPING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	SCOTT RANSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	FRANCIS MALONEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	MARTIN CROMPTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	IAN GILDART	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	MATT MUNRO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	JASON TEMU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	GARY LORD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	JOE FAIMALO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	DAVID BRADBURY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBS					
27	PAUL CROOK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	JIMMY COWAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	PAUL DAVIDSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
31	REECE GUY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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St. Helens

No.		T	G	DG
1	STEVE PRESCOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	JOEY HAYES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	ALAN HUNTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	PAUL NEWLOVE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	DANNY ARNOLD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	KARLE HAMMOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	BOBBIE GOULDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	APOLLO PERELINI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	KEIRON CUNNINGHAM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	ADAM FOGERTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	CHRIS JOYNT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	DEREK McVEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	CHRIS MORLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBS				
18	ANDY HAIGH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	VILA MATAUTIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	ANDY NORTHEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	IAN PICKAVANCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Photos courtesy of The Oldham Evening Chronicle
Comments in this programme are not necessarily
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Club Directory

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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

STICK with summer.....stick with Super League. That's my positive reaction to the rumblings of discontent which are being heard in our game just now as attendance figures, in the main, fail to come up to expectations.

Bradford Bulls are an outstanding exception, but I think it is fair to say that gates generally have been disappointing to those of us who had such high hopes for the first Super League season.

Of course, we have changed the habits of a lifetime by switching from winter to summer and it is clear that a lot of fans will need time to come to terms with the culture shock.

A lot of confusion has also been caused by vastly differing kick-off times. Supporters have clearly demonstrated that they expect uniformity of kick-off times wherever possible and that is something we at the Bears will be taking on board for next season.

We have already tried to clear up uncertainty about the remainder of this season by announcing that our two remaining home games, against London Broncos on August 11 and Sheffield Eagles on August 25, will be played at Watersheddings with 3 o'clock starts.

One thing that has proved particularly interesting to me is the players' reaction to summer rugby. I can honestly say I don't know of one player - and I speak to a lot - who would want to go back to winter rugby.

The grounds have not proved as hard as some people feared they might and the players in Super League, most of whom are now full-time professionals, are thoroughly enjoying their training outdoors at this time of year.

Many of them vividly recall their training stints on cold, wet, dark winter nights. They can also tell you tales of ice-bound pitches when they were forced indoors into cramped conditions and expected to prepare themselves for a game at the weekend: a game that might or might not beat the freeze.

No, the players want summer rugby and they are

determined to make it work, as I am sure it will judging by the way Bradford Bulls are packing in the crowds at Odsal.

To see 17,000 fans, in shirt sleeves or wearing replica jerseys, enjoying the thrilling Bradford-Wigan game only seven days after a similar spectacle against Saints, warmed the cockles of any Super League man's heart and I am sure that if it can happen at Odsal it can happen elsewhere in Super League, too.

I detect a certain resentment to change from the traditionalists, but if we can continue to produce the terrific football that has been in evidence in this inaugural summer season I feel sure that we will win them round in the end.

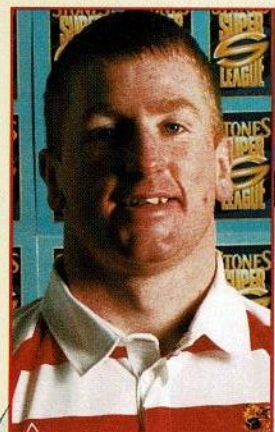
Super League is the future of Rugby League football - and, believe me, it's going to be a big future. There is still a lot of optimism around and no wonder when you see 17,000 fans at Odsal (the biggest league crowd there since the fifties) and over 9,000 French fans in Paris the following day for the game against London.

Time will tell whether the town of

Oldham can sustain a successful Super League side because our future fortunes will depend to a large degree on the amount of support we can generate. It is only by generating support that we will have the revenue available for serious team strengthening. We need to build a side which will command an audience. We are charged to do that and we will do all in our power to achieve it. On a lighter note, we welcome all from St. Helens to Boundary Park this evening. The Saints will be roaring after regaining top spot in Super League but I am confident that the Oldham boys will be giving their all in a bid to put another cracking Super League match in front of a national TV audience.

JIM QUINN





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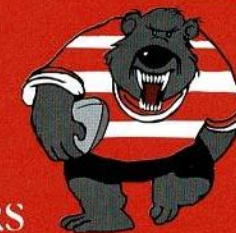


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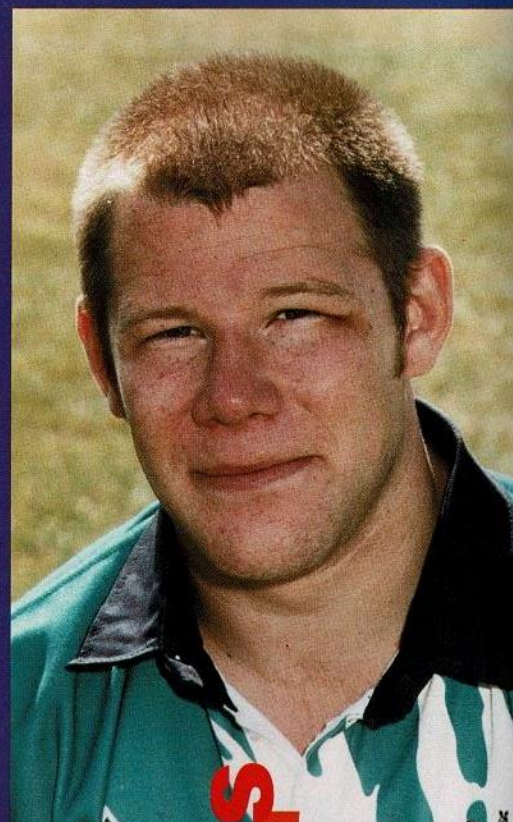
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Oldham

JOHN CLARKE

Autograph

Talks...



If the time ever comes when I feel we have gone as far as we can I will have to sit down and think seriously about the future, but that's a long way down the track and I hope it never comes to that anyway.

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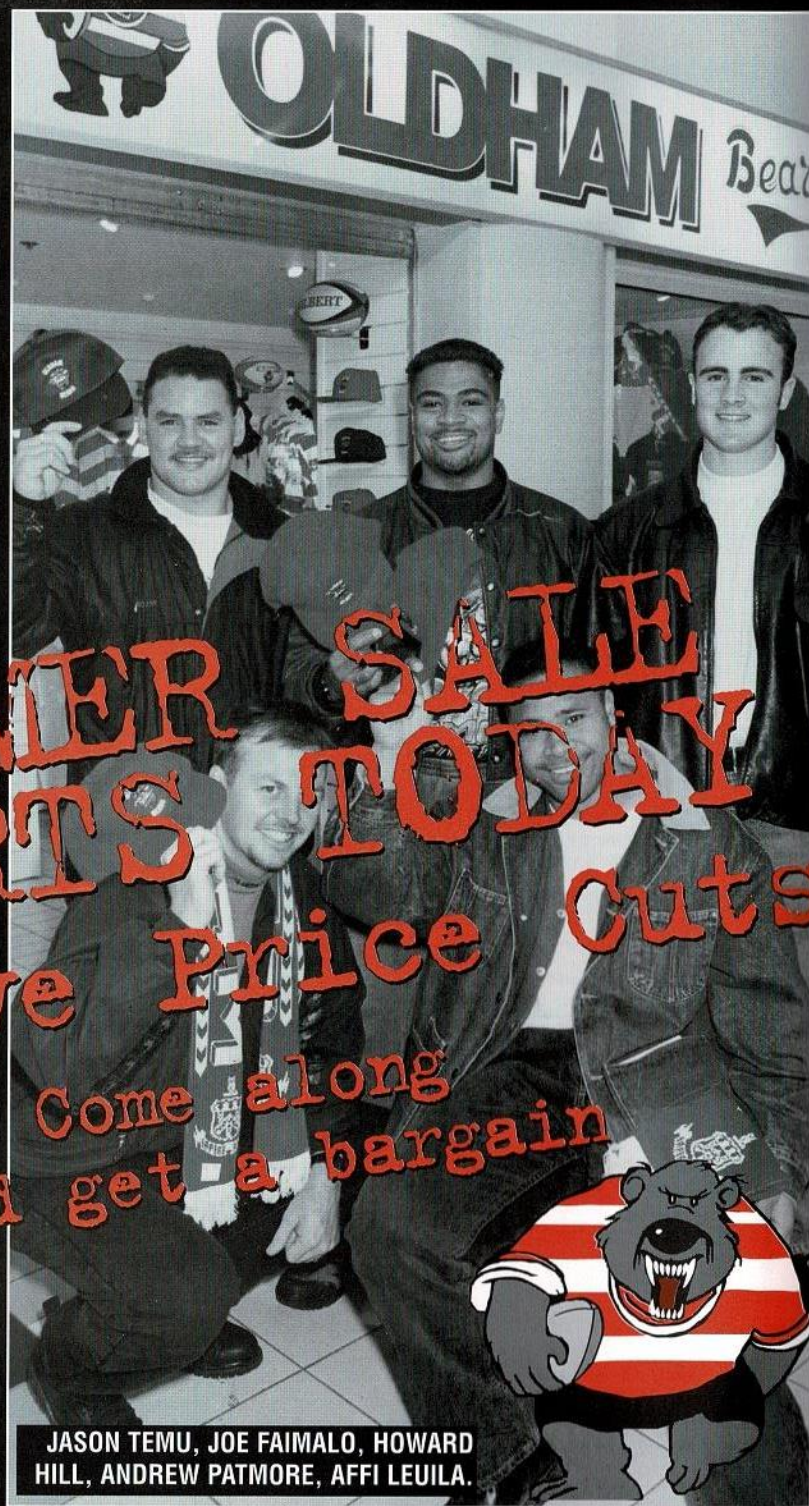
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Bears



JUNIOR BEARS

This evening we wish a warm welcome to the players and supporters of St Helens RLFC and the SKY cameras to Boundary Park from all the 'Junior Bears'. At the present 'The Saints' are riding high at top of 'Super League', well done to them for their form this season so far. After Sunday's defeat by Castleford let's hope we can bounce back to winning ways this evening.

The mascot for tonight's game is Ben Dewhirst. Ben is 7 years old and he attends Hodge Clough Primary School. His favourite player is Joe Faimalo. Last time we played, Joe had a 'stormer' let's hope he does tonight. Ben is sponsored by **LANDSOWNE BUILDING SUPPLIES**.

Mascot for last Sunday's match was Danny Day. Danny is 13 years old attends Counthill School and he also plays Rugby League for Waterhead at the position of Prop. Danny's favourite player is Paul Atcheson.

Did you know the answer to last week's teaser? Richard Russell, easy wasn't it, I bet you all knew that. This week's may be a little bit harder. "Which teams has Bobbie Goulding played for before settling at Saints?" Have a good try at this one.

The 'Saints' will probably have brought along a large following, which will mean plenty of vocal supporters. Let's hope we can drown out their noise with "Come on you Bears". Anyone travelling to Bradford and Workington have a safe journey, make plenty of noise and see you back at Watersheddings for the Match against the 'Broncos' in August.

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Memory Lane

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear.

Tonight's visitors to Boundary Park are St. Helens whose tremendous run of success this season still has them in the Championship chase with the Challenge Cup already in the trophy cabinet. Oldham will be determined to dent their Championship aspirations this evening as they continue a rivalry which was at its peak during the mid-fifties when both clubs had teams to match the best in the land. The two met in the final of the Lancashire Cup during October 1956, a final which will be long remembered by those lucky enough to have been there that day.

The 1956-57 season was one of the most successful in the history of this club. Oldham began that campaign with ten consecutive victories before suffering a shock 16-8 reverse at lowly Liverpool City. Before suffering that defeat, Oldham had already reached the final of the Lancashire Cup despite being drawn away from home at every stage. They won 18-16 at Wigan in the first round, demolished Salford 31-0 in the quarter-finals and then won 18-9 at Leigh in the semi-finals. Cup Final opponents St. Helens had a slightly easier passage. They beat Swinton 27-7 in round one and Liverpool City 34-3 in the quarter-finals, both at home. They then had a difficult semi-final tie away at Warrington but came through that with a 17-9 victory. The final was staged at Central Park, Wigan and attracted a crowd of 39,544. The teams lined up for that final as follows:

Oldham: Bernard Ganley; Dick Cracknell, Vin Nestor, Alan Davies, John Etty; Frank Stirrup, Frank Pitchford; Ken Jackson, Jack Keith, Don Vines, Charlie Winslade, Sid Little & Derek Turner.

St. Helens: Glyn Moses; Steve Llewellyn, Duggie Greenall, Bill Finan, Frank Carlton; Austin Rhodes, Todder Dickinson; Alan Prescott, Len McIntyre, Nat Silcock, George Parsons, Walter Delves & Vince Karalius.

Oldham had already won 25-16 in a league match at St. Helens six weeks prior to the final so they were slight favourites to win. They began well and a try from John Etty plus two Bernard Ganley goals put them in the driving seat. Frank Carlton crossed for Saints but Oldham looked well in command at half-time with the score at 7-3.

Saints came back strongly after the interval and put Oldham under tremendous pressure. However, Oldham hung on and were able to retain enough possession to frustrate Saints. The Oldham pack were magnificent, especially loose-forward Derek Turner who revelled in the tough going and fully deserved the late try he scored to clinch the match at 10-3 and give Oldham the first of three major trophies they were to win that season.

Two years later Oldham defeated Saints again in the Lancashire Cup Final to chalk up a hat-trick of Lancashire Cup victories. Saints, too, had their share of success in this now defunct competition. They lifted the trophy five seasons in succession during the sixties and hold the record for the biggest victory in a final when they beat Oldham 30-2 in 1968.

They have also upset Oldham on a number of occasions in other competitions but indications are that Oldham are now strong enough to mix it with the best. Tonight's match should be a reliable barometer with which to judge the progress made by Oldham since they have been full-time. If the match is as close and exciting as that final in 1956 then I feel that everyone will go home satisfied with the entertainment provided.

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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

Saturday, 19th July 1958 was a glorious day in British rugby league history. For it was on that day 38 years ago that the British Lions met Australia at Sydney Cricket Ground in the decisive third test of that 1958 tour. The Lions had lost the first test 25-8 but recovered to win the second test 25-18 in memorable circumstances. Skipper Alan Prescott (St. Helens) broke his arm in the first few minutes and four other players accompanied him to Brisbane General Hospital after the match. There were no substitutions in those days so the British victory was quite remarkable. And so to July 19th, to Sydney Cricket Ground and the third test which attracted a crowd of 68,720. Britain played magnificently in this match. The Kangaroos were fortunate to be only 14-12 behind at half-time but the Lions ran riot in the second-half to win 40-17. Centre Alan Davies was the only Oldham representative and he scored one try and put his winger, Mick Sullivan, over for another three. Saints had three players on view, prop Abe Terry and scrum-half Alec Murphy who both scored tries, and loose-forward Vince Karalius who terrorised the Kangaroos. In 1970 the

Lions were once again on tour and after beating the Australians in the test series they went on to New Zealand where, on Sunday, 19th July they clinched the series against the Kiwis with a 23-9 victory at Addington Show Grounds, Christchurch. The Kiwis led 9-6 at half-time before Britain recovered to register a deserved victory. Oldham's Bob Irving was a non-playing substitute but both Saints tourists played. Prop Cliff Watson gave his usual powerhouse display whilst skipper and centre Frank Myler scored one of the five British tries. Staying 'down under', it was on this day in 1964 that the all conquering Sydney St. George outfit suffered a rare defeat when they lost 11-5 against Balmain at the Leichhardt Oval. St. George won eleven consecutive Premiership titles between 1956 and 1966 and, in fact, gained revenge by beating Balmain 11-6 in the final of that 1964 competition. Nearer home, it was on this day in 1994 that Workington Town signed the powerful Leeds centre or winger Vince Fawcett. Since then Fawcett has made over 50 appearances for Town and has averaged a try every other match, a very respectable ratio considering Town's lowly league placing.

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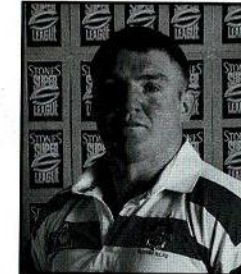
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BEARS Question

Time... with Ian Sherratt

FULL NAME: Ian Sherratt
DATE OF BIRTH: 09.08.1967
BIRTHPLACE: Lancaster
HEIGHT: 6' 3"
WEIGHT: 16.5 stone
NICKNAME AT CLUB: Shaz
OCCUPATION: Professional RL Player
HOME: Oldham
CAR: None
MARRIED: No
CHILDREN: No
FAMILY: Mum & Dad, sister Julie.
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? Rugby Player
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Paul Topping - used to watch him as a 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, 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 Toppo's 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 & HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE? Golf & Chess.



WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL EVENING OUT? Pictures & 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 Watkins.
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? Player of the Year. Players/Player - 1994
WHICH FAMOUS PERSON WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Pamela 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 A SPORT OTHER THAN RUGBY? To play at Wembley
FAVOURITE TV PROGRAMME: Home and Away.
FAVOURITE TV STAR: Jack Duckworth
FAVOURITE FILM: McVicar
FAVOURITE FILM STAR: Arnold Swarzenegger
FAVOURITE SOAP OPERA: Home and Away
FAVOURITE SOAP CHARACTER: Alf Stewart (Home and 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 INJURY UPDATE

Yet again the senior squad suffered a major blow, with the loss of John Clarke who broke his thumb against Castleford, and now joins an injury list that now includes Darren Abram, Andrew Patmore, Rob Myler, Affi Leula

and Ian Sherratt. Add to that list of players Tony Nuttall, Paul Norman and Steve Gartland who broke a bone in the back of his right hand against Leeds 'A' team, and yet again we are a bit depleted for this weekends games. Of the injured, at the time of writing, none of these players will be ready to play the following week with the exception of Tony Nuttall who is not far off full fitness.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

15

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GMR'S Malcolm

Lord...

Times have changed

I know you're not going to believe this, but last Friday night I actually had an ice cream at Odsal.

How times have changed, for I well remember the days in the press box at Bradford when icicles falling from my nose was more likely to be the norm.

The temperature was not the only thing red hot on the night of course, the game served up by both sides was one of the best I can remember and once again the title race is wide open. The game though will already have been reported on fully

by this time, so I would like to concentrate on the pre-match entertainment because to be honest I think Peter

Deakin and his crew have got it dead right.

I had to be at Odsal really early and apart from a very good standard Academy game, the antics of a very energetic announcer, live pop music and the obligatory dancing girls, there was a carnival type parade that featured floats including elephants, fishes and military vehicles, there were fire eaters, stilt walkers, jugglers and cyclists and perhaps most importantly of all an abundance of boys and girls.

As a Marketing/Public Relations exercise it was a superb success and the couple of hours prior to the game absolutely flew by, all concerned are to be congratulated. I am also convinced that the producers of the big match on Sky television are all avid GMR listeners, otherwise how else could they consistently let off the fireworks at exactly the same time that I start my match preview. Once again it sounded like the start of world war three and the noise was so intense that I perhaps should have ended my piece with the words "Kate Adey News at Ten Baghdad".

Malcolm Lord
BBC GMR

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"A" Team



The away visit to Castleford last week followed a successful run of 4 wins including the defeat of top of the table Leeds. Again as is often the case with the Alliance side there were a number of significant changes with forwards Paul Norman, Chris Parr and Tony Nuttall out of the side due to sickness, a potential transfer, and sickness respectively. Also out was Steve Gartland who has probably been the most influential player over the last 6 weeks. Steve unluckily broke a bone in his hand when chasing his own kick in the last minute of the game against Leeds. Going into the game at Castleford we had enforced changes with Gary Burns back from injury at stand off, youngster Chris McAndrews at hooker, and 2nd row forward Mike Prescott at prop with four Academy aged players on the bench. Castleford meanwhile had selected their strongest team of the season with established players like Richard Gay, Richard Goddard and Graham Steadman in the backs, Paul Round and Richard Russell in the forwards. After a promising 10 minutes when we made good progress down the left

side of the field we gave Castleford an interception when pressing 10 metres from their try line. After that the 1st half was littered with mistakes such as failing to put penalty kicks into touch, allowing restarts to go dead, giving away penalties for talking when we were in possession. Against such a strong Castleford side it was criminal to allow them so much possession and we fully deserved to be 32-0 at the interval. The half time team talk consisted of a blasting regarding the ball control, a call for an improvement in the intensity of the tackling with less respect shown for the names in the Cas side and a showing of pride and courage in the 2nd half. During the 2nd half there was an improvement all round, considering the amount of time that had been spent tackling in the first half. Despite conceding a further 3 tries we played with more conviction with Gary Burns scoring a consolation try goaled by Paul Deacon. In the end it was a very disappointing 50-6 defeat especially considering that 2 League points would have given us the opportunity to leap frog over 3 teams in the Alliance League.

'Oldham Born ...

... and Read'

From H.Q.



St. Helens are back on top of the Stones Super League Championship table after a sensational weekend of matches. First the bubbling Bradford Bulls outfit beat Championship hopefuls Wigan 20-12 in front of 17,360 fans at Odsal, then, 24 hours later Paris St. Germain clinched a dramatic victory over London Broncos before Saints put paid to Halifax Blue Sox, clinching a 56-20 triumph. It was Bradford's biggest championship crowd for more than 40 years and their biggest attendance for any game since the Challenge Cup third round replay against Leeds attracted 18,424 in 1984. Paris, determined to keep their place in Super League next season left it late. With just three minutes to go the Broncos were leading but then Paris winger George Wilson raced in for two tries and the home side celebrated. Saints bounced back from their defeat at Odsal and inspired by skipper Bobbie Goulding and hat trick hero Keiron Cunningham, they turned on a dazzling 11 try super show to leave Halifax reeling. Salford Reds are now four points clear at the top of the First Division table after a 42-24 victory over Wakefield Trinity while Hull KR keep top spot in the Second Division following their 44-16 win against Chorley Chieftains.

JOHN BENTLEY CHASES TRY CENTURY

John Bentley of Halifax Blue Sox needs three tries for a career century of touchdowns for the club. The international winger's tries have come in 121 appearances. Bentley's most prolific season was 1994-95 when he scored 20 tries to finish eighth in the try chart. His only other Top Ten finish was 10th with 25 in 1993-94. His four tries at London Broncos last month is a record for Super League. He has achieved one other four try feat for Halifax plus five hat tricks. A former Sale and England Rugby Union player, Bentley switched codes in November 1988 when he signed for Leeds where he totalled 53 tries in four seasons. He was transferred to Halifax for about £50,000 and made a try-scoring debut in the centre in a Division One 26-8 home victory over Leeds on 6 September 1992. Bentley has also scored one try each for England and Great Britain to give him an overall total of 152 touchdowns.

BRADFORD CROWD BOOM

Bradford Bulls had their biggest league crowd for over 40 years when 17,360 saw them beat Wigan 20-12 in the Stones Super League. It was also their biggest crowd for any game since a Challenge Cup third round replay against Leeds attracted 18,424 in 1984. Bradford are now averaging just over 10,000 per Super League game and look certain to smash their record of 7,236 in 1977-78 since the old one

division system was scrapped in 1973. Bradford's record home crowd remains 69,429 for a Challenge Cup tie against Huddersfield in 1953. The biggest home league crowd is 30,500 for the visit of Hull in 1952.

POINTS SCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has the longest points scoring run covering 34 successive club matches, including all 17 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. In addition Blakeley has also scored a try in one appearance for England during the sequence.

TRYSORING RUN

Darren Rogers of Salford Reds has scored at least one try in seven successive matches as follows: 1-1-1-1-1-2-3.

WINNING RUN

Salford Reds have the current longest winning run of eight matches, all in Division One. Their last defeat was 28-30 at Hull on 12 May. Bradford Bulls have the best Super League run of four successive wins.

LONGEST LOSING RUN

Batley Bulldogs have gone 14 matches without a win in Division 2, including two draws, and a current run of 11 successive defeats. Their last win was 20-13 on the opening day of the season.

MILESTONES

Phil Veivers of Huddersfield Giants scored the 100th try of his career with one in the 56-6 Division One home defeat of Batley Bulldogs. All but two of his total was scored 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 10 points for a career total of 2,000 including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers. Martin Offiah of Wigan is one short of his 50th hat trick of tries in club and representative matches. Anthony Sullivan of St. Helens needs two tries for a career century of touchdowns. Keith Dixon of Keighley Cougars needs seven points for a career total of 1,000 for the club.

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DEAN BUSBY

At 6 feet in height and weighing 13 stone 9lbs he is a very tough skillful and clever back rower who Saints regard in a similar mould to Chris Joynt.

KEIRON CUNNINGHAM

As one of the game's most talented youngsters Keiron burst onto the big league scene in the most spectacular way during 1995 with a string of mature, hard working performances which belied his age. Particularly strong in gaining yardage at the play the ball, forming a platform for many of Saints attacking moves and in his defensive qualities Keiron is a sure bet to be one of the stars of Super League.

ADAM FOGERTY

Last season, Adam was possibly Saints most improved player, turning in blockbusting displays in the prop forward position. He crossed the opponents try line on 6 occasions in 24 + 3 appearances and became a firm favourite with the Saints faithful.

SCOTT GIBBS

Joined Saints in a blaze of publicity during the summer of 1994 from Bradford RUFC after previously turning down offers from Wigan and Hull. Phenomenally strong, Scott made a great start to his Saints career before two serious injuries sidelined him for the remainder of the campaign.

BOBBIE GOULDING

At 24 years of age Bobbie is Saints youngest ever skipper. A rugby genius, Bobby is arguably the best scrum half in the world and is an integral part of Saints plays with a magnificent footballing brain and kicking game. Idolised by the fans, he cost Saints a club record £185,000 when he joined them from his home town club Widnes in the summer of 1994 following turbulent spells at Wigan and Leeds.

JOEY HAYES

Despite being only 20 years old, Joey is an outstanding prospect. His speed off the mark, elusive step and phenomenal strength are his trademark. Joey made a try scoring debut for Saints against Bradford Bulls on the opening day of the Centenary season deputising for the injured Alan Hunte and became an instant favourite with the Saints faithful.

CHRIS JOYNT

Currently regarded as one of the game's top backrowers. Chris is a linchpin of the Saints pack and an integral part of England's World Cup plans. Still only 25 years of age, he has been handed the vice captaincy of Saints. The Harry Sunderland Trophy winner for his performance in the 1993 Premiership Trophy final. Chris's main assets are his ability to read a game, his speed for a gap, his speed and mobility and his defensive qualities.

TOMMY MARTYN

At 24 years of age, Tommy joined Saints in the summer of 1993 from Oldham and is one of the club's most gifted footballers. Currently Tommy is Saints first choice stand off and last season developed a useful understanding with half back partner Bobbie Goulding. Despite a number of injuries, he is a firm favourite with the Saints speccies and todate has amassed 189 points for the club from 28 tries, 33 goals and 11 drop goals in 42 + 2 appearances.

VILA MATAUTIA

Vila joined Saints from Doncaster in March 1995. A huge fan he is equally at home at prop or in the 2nd row. A former junior Kiwi and Auckland rep. Vila is set to become one of the stars of Super League with his blockbusting runs, awesome strength and bone crunching tackles. An immediate favourite with the fans.

ANDY NORTHEY

Andy joined pro ranks from Waterloo RUFC and has proved to be a more than useful addition to the Saints squad. Growing in confidence and experience from each game he plays his game is steadily improving and he is becoming a firm favourite of the fans.

APOLLO PERELINI

Western Samoan forward who has made a very fast successful transition from RU to RL. Joined Saints in 1994 and was an unknown entity but soon established himself as Saints first choice prop forward with some solid displays. Apollo's major assets are his mobility, speed strength and defensive capabilities and he is now fulfilling his immense potential.

STEVE PRESCOTT

One of the "finds" of 1994-95 Stephen established himself as not only Saints first choice full back. As one of the fastest players on Saints books his main assets are his eye for a gap, his lightening pace his step his kicking game and his magnificent one on one tackling.

ANTHONY SULLIVAN

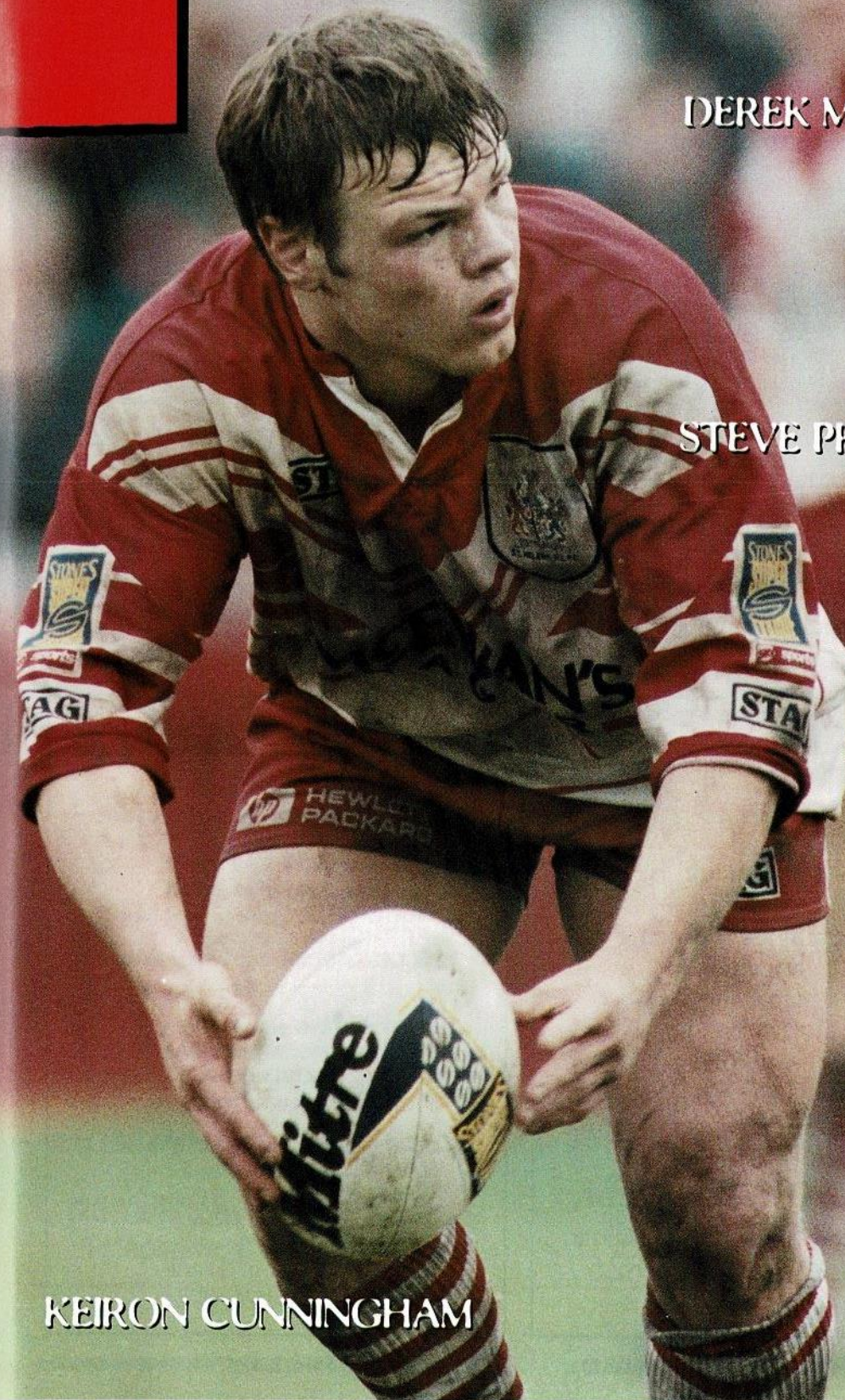
One of the best left wingers in the British game, Anthony has earned Yorkshire, Wales and Great Britain representative honours. He signed for Saints for £80,000 in the summer of 1991 from Hull KR and is a popular player with the Saints faithful. His main strengths are his blistering pace and balanced running and often scores the most magnificent tries.



DEREK McVEY



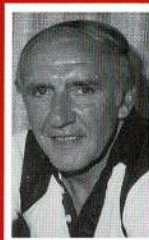
STEVE PRESCOTT



KEIRON CUNNINGHAM

Academy...

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A blank weekend that is what our Academy side have just had, and hopefully the rest will have done them some good. We are due to play Widnes at home on Monday night which should be an excellent game. Widnes gave us a good hiding in our first game of the season but we have had a few chances in our personnel since then so, I am hoping for a better result this time around. With a bit of luck we should also have one or two new faces in the team for you to have a look at so come along and give our youngsters some encouragement. We would all like to be winning every week but at the end of the day if we can keep getting the odd player through to the first team then all our efforts have been worthwhile. Jimmy Cowans is just one who springs to mind as an Academy lad pushing for a regular spot in the A Team well done Jimmy. He hasn't forgotten where his roots are either, he was out with me in the schools last week putting youngsters through their skills once again. Well done Jimmy you deserve a pat on the back.

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	L 18-26
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	W 42-32
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	W 16-13
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	W 28-20
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	W 56-14
Sunday	16/6/96	Rochdale H.	A	2.00pm CR	L 60-6
Sunday	23/6/96	Hull K.R.	A	4.30pm CR	L 24-12
Monday	1/7/96	BATLEY	H	7.30pm	L 24-20
Sunday	7/7/96	Salford Reds	A	4.00pm CR	L 50-6
	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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Club Call: 0891-122778 **Match day information:** 01274-733899 **Office address:** Odsal Stadium, Rooley Avenue, Bradford BD6 1BS **Office telephone No:** 01274-733899 **Ticket information phone no:** 01274-733899 **Capacity:** 28,000

Number of seats: 5,850 **Advance ticket availability:** Contact Club Office

Price reductions for: Children: Yes Pensioners: Yes Unemployed: Yes (With passport to leisure card)

Students: No

Disabled: No **Disabled supporters:** Facilities: Yes. Bars accessible to the disabled Wheelchair access: Yes

Disabled toilets: Yes **The Blind:** No special facilities. **Club Shop:** opening hours: Weekdays except Thursday: 9.00am to 5.30pm, Thursday: 9.00am to 9.00pm. Match days: 3.30pm to 6.00pm and 7.30pm to 8.00pm. Mail order service: To club shop, or credit card orders by telephone.

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Food and Drink: In the ground: A catering kiosk, including pies, burgers and hot drinks. Touchdown Restaurant: Advance reservations only. Special matchday package available. Contact the marketing department on 01274-733899. Bars: Trevor Foster lounge.

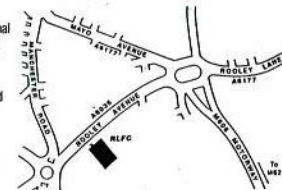
Transport: Car Parking: Car parks at Richard Dunn sports centre (free) and Stadium car park (£1) Public transport: Information: 0113-245-7676

Nearest BR station: Bradford Forster Square & Metro interchange stations, both in town centre. Buses: From Metro Interchange 268, 363, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 634, 681, 682, 508 (Leeds to Halifax)

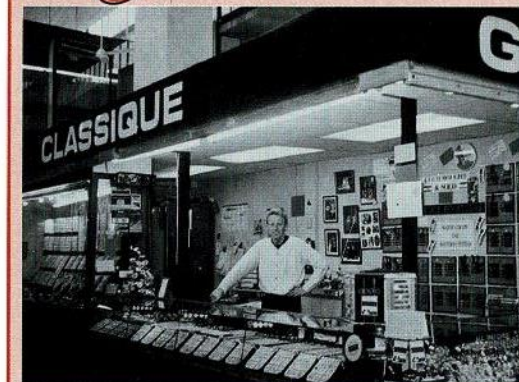
General Facilities: Lounge can be booked for private parties, also for meetings, seminars etc. Telephone: 01274-724583

Tourist Information: Bradford Tourist Information Office, National Museum of Photography, Film & TV, Pictureville, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 1NQ. Tel: 01274-753678

Directions by Road: Take M62, junction 26, then M606. At end of M606, take A6036 (Rooley Avenue). Odsal stadium is on left. From north of Bradford: Take ring road (A6177) to junction with M606, then as above. From city centre: Follow signs for M606, then as above.



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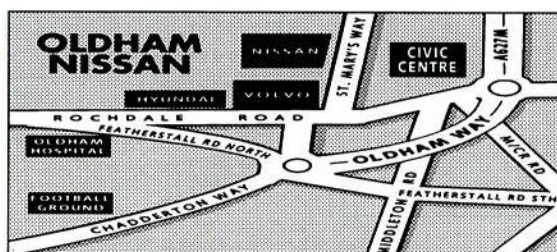
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WHAT'S New

Today Don...

CELTIC CLASH

Two weeks next Wednesday, 7th August Scotland entertain Ireland at the Partick Thistle football ground, Firhill Park, Glasgow. It promises to be a closely fought match which should attract a reasonable crowd to a city with the sporting traditions which Glasgow has.

The strength of the two teams will be under particular scrutiny following last month's heavy defeat suffered by the French in Gateshead. It could be that in the very near future the 'Five Nations Championship' involving Wales, Scotland, Ireland, England and France will be under league rules now that the union version of the tournament has been abandoned because of financial disagreements.

In any event Oldham supporters should have more than just a passing interest in the match. It is likely that Jimmy Cowans will be included in the Scotland squad whilst the Irish outfit could include Paul Topping, Tony Nuttall and Martin Crompton who is favourite to skipper the side.

OLDHAM IN THE PLAY-OFFS

It is going to be an interesting end to the Super League season and not only at the top where Wigan and tonight's visitors, St. Helens, are fighting neck and neck for the title. Oldham still have an outside chance of reaching the Premiership play-offs particularly as they meet both Warrington and London Broncos during a six day spell next month. All matches in the Super League are like cup ties, it really is that intense, so anything could happen. In addition to that, should the Super League

Australian Rugby League court battle be concluded in our favour then there could be a trip down under for the Roughyeds. I wonder how the Kangaroos will cope with Buster Bear.

DIARY DATES

The Champions Challenge, the best pre-season tournament on the amateur rugby league calendar kicks off at Twist Lane, Leigh Miners Welfare ground on Saturday, 3rd August at 1.30pm. There are two quarter finals on that Saturday (Ellenborough v Skirlaugh & Wigan St. Judes v Thatto Heath) with the other two ties the following afternoon, 4th August (Wigan St. Pats v Simms Cross & Leigh Miners v Woolston). The semi finals are on Saturday, 10th August with the final on Saturday, 17th August.

The Students World Cup competition commences on Saturday, 17th August with the final two weeks later on Saturday, 31st August. Six matches are being staged in the Greater Manchester area and these are as follows:

Sunday, 18th August 3pm Australia v Wales at Hilton Park, Leigh
Sunday, 25th August 5.30pm England v Japan at Heywood Road, Sale
Tuesday, 27th August 6pm & 8pm Plate semi-finals between 5th and 8th placed countries at Central Park, Wigan.

Saturday, 31st August 2pm Play off for 3rd / 4th place
4.30pm World Cup Final. Both at the Willows, Salford.

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Thoughts from the Terraces...

The talk on the terraces near me last week was all about the club's questionnaire and incidentally, it was good to see the terraces slightly fuller than for some other recent matches. What a pity we couldn't sustain the superb form of recent weeks, and of the first half against Cas, to make for an even bigger crowd next time. There is no doubt that one factor in bringing people in is playing success - just ask the hordes currently flocking to Odsal. But that is not the only factor, and Salford's absurd claim to be more suited to being a Super League club than us is hardly justified by their attendances this season - just over 3000 last week when they are winning virtually every game, and playing some attractive rugby in the process.

But to return to the questionnaire. I must first congratulate the club on the concept. It is good to be asked our views. And the question on preferred kick-off times seemed to me to be perfectly valid. I suspect that the Sunday 5.30 option will be comfortably the least popular, with quite a fair amount of support for the other two. But what matters most, I feel, is that people know well in advance what the arrangements are - and here Sky have a lot to answer for. In the second half of the season, presumably, they have to give only relatively short notice of which games they wish to televise - which means we fans have to second guess their intentions in order to plan our weekends. I don't think that is acceptable, at least without a great deal more

compensation to clubs. Just imagine if you were a Wigan or Saints fan - I can't see either having more Sunday matches this season, as they will be on TV every week.

The question on Watersheddings or Boundary Park was much less valid. Along with many others, I suspect, my preferred venue is Watersheddings. But I recognise that it is not feasible. The facilities are atrocious, even though potentially they could be much better. Presumably we have to move after 1997 anyway because of the agreement with the Local Authority? And the RFL would not allow us to play at present Watersheddings as a Super League club, certainly not beyond 1997. So what is the point in asking the question? My ideal option, of course, would be for a benevolent multi-millionaire to materialise who would completely revamp the ground as a modern stadium so we could be a Super League club at the "New Watersheddings". But where is he? No, the real question, even if the local authority would have let us stay at Sheddings beyond 97, should have been: "Would you prefer us to play as a small feeder club at a gradually deteriorating Watersheddings?" My choice would have been very clearly for the second option, though I fear there would be a significant minority voting for the first. The crucial job of the club, then, should be to get the people of the town to really believe in the second.



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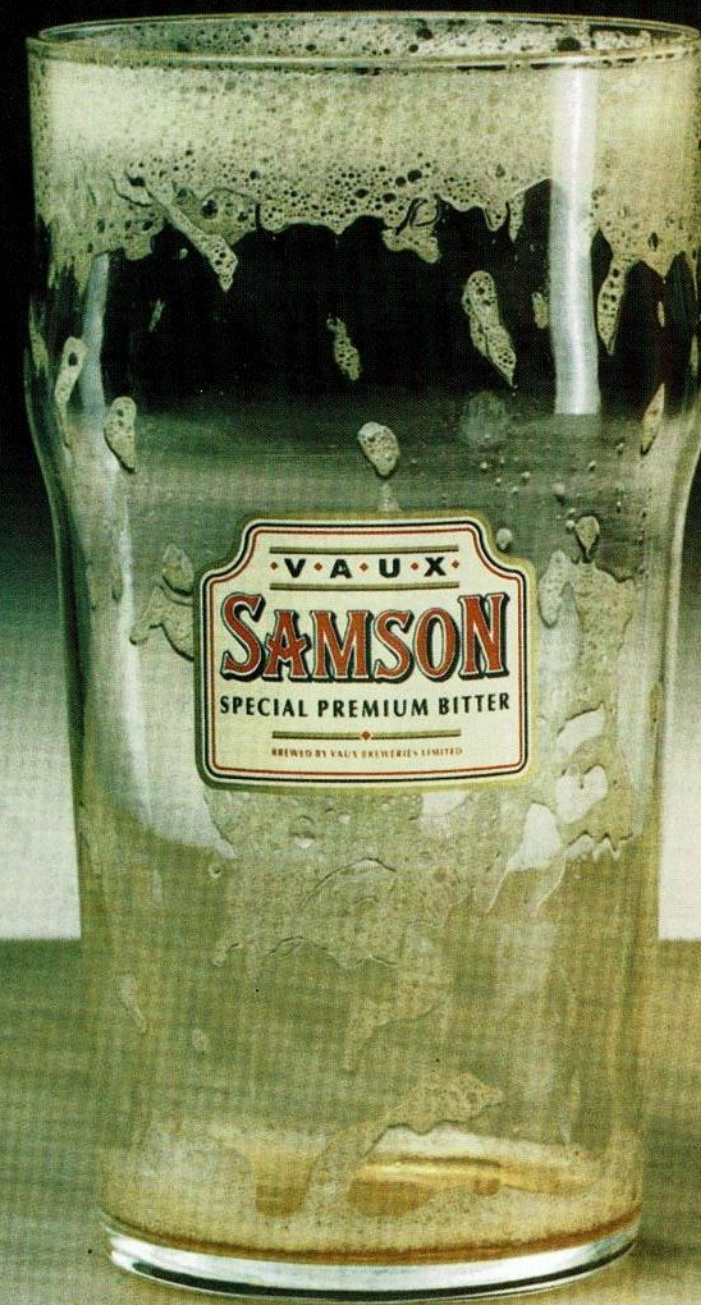
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Record

Tonight's match against Saints is the 206th meeting between these two famous old clubs. Of the previous 205 matches, Oldham have won 97, six have been drawn and Saints have won the other 102. The clubs have met 166 times in league matches with Oldham just having the edge in these confrontations with 81 wins to Saints 80. Five have ended all square.

Saints 66-18 victory last May equalled their widest margin of victory over Oldham, their other big win being by 50 points to two during October 1971. Their biggest win at Watersheddings was the 43-0 hammering Oldham suffered in April 1970. One has to go back quite a while for Oldham's biggest wins against the Saints. The Roughyeds won 38-0 at Knowsley Road in September 1908 and by 48-10 at Watersheddings in March 1924.

RESULTS OF ROUGHYEDS v SAINTS MATCHES DURING THE PAST TEN SEASONS

1987-88	Oldham 8 St. Helens 18 (Regal Trophy semi-final at Wigan)
1988-89	Oldham 22 St. Helens 26 St. Helens 58 Oldham 12
1989-90	St. Helens 6 Oldham 36 (Lancashire Cup) St. Helens 32 Oldham 18 (Regal Trophy)
1990-91	Oldham 16 St. Helens 20 St. Helens 33 Oldham 22
1991-92	St. Helens 39 Oldham 26 (Lancashire Cup) Oldham 18 St. Helens 24 (Regal Trophy)

1992-93	did not meet
1993-94	Oldham 2 St. Helens 12 St. Helens 26 Oldham 30
1994-95	Oldham 18 St. Helens 18 St. Helens 32 Oldham 22
1995-96	Oldham 18 St. Helens 44 St. Helens 32 Oldham 22
1996	St. Helens 66 Oldham 18

DETAILS OF SAINTS' LAST VISIT TO OLDHAM

Wednesday, 23rd August 1995 Stones Centenary Championship at Watersheddings

OLDHAM 18 ST. HELENS 44

half-time 10-18

attendance 4,316

Oldham	tries Darren Abram & Francis Maloney
	goals Francis Maloney (5)
Saints	tries Joey Hayes (2), Scott Gibbs (2), Andy Northey, Appollo Perelini & Vila Matautia.
	goals Bobby Goulding (7) & Steve Prescott

Oldham: Wally Gibson; Mike Neale, Paul Topping, Darren Abram, Rob Myler; Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton; Ian Sherratt, John Clarke, Chris Parr, Ian Gildart, Joe Faimalo & Gary Lord. **Substitutes:** Paul Atcheson, Iyan Green, Jason Temu & Howard Hill.
St. Helens: Steve Prescott; Joey Hayes, Andy Northey, Paul Loughlin, Anthony Sullivan; Scott Gibbs, Bobby Goulding; Adam Fogarty, Keiron Cunningham, Apollo Perelini, Vila Matautia, Sonny Nickle & Chris Joynt. **Substitutes:** Andy Haigh, Phil Veivers, Bernard Dwyer & Ian Pickavance.

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1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709																															
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932																															
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327																															
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm	25-16	3,350																															
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396																															
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181																															
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	27-29	2,228																															
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm	28-22	4,629																															
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm	35-24	3,243																															
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm	16-44	7,226																															
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm	14-20	4,591																															
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm	6-24	2,548																															
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm	28-26	6,754																															
16	Sun 14 July	CASTLEFORD	H	6.00pm	20-31	3,480																															
17	Sun 19 July	ST HELENS	H	7.30pm																																	
18	Sun 28 July	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00pm																																	
19	Sun 4 Aug	Workington	A	3.00pm																																	
20	Sun 11 Aug	LONDON BRONCOS	H	3.00pm																																	
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																																	
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	3.00pm																																	

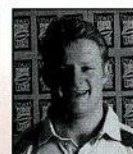


	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
St Helens	16	14	0	2	678	365	28
Wigan	16	13	1	2	610	237	27
Bradford	16	12	0	4	544	316	24
Warrington	16	10	0	6	420	373	20
London B.	16	8	1	7	439	353	17
Sheffield	16	8	0	8	459	488	16
OLDHAM	16	7	1	8	353	458	15
Halifax	16	6	1	9	392	426	13
Castleford	16	6	0	10	404	416	12
Leeds	16	4	0	12	381	484	8
Paris	16	3	1	12	312	600	7
Workington	16	2	1	13	221	697	5

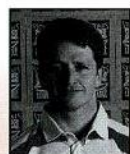
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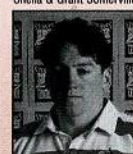
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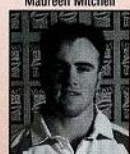
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Dave Askew



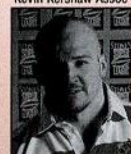
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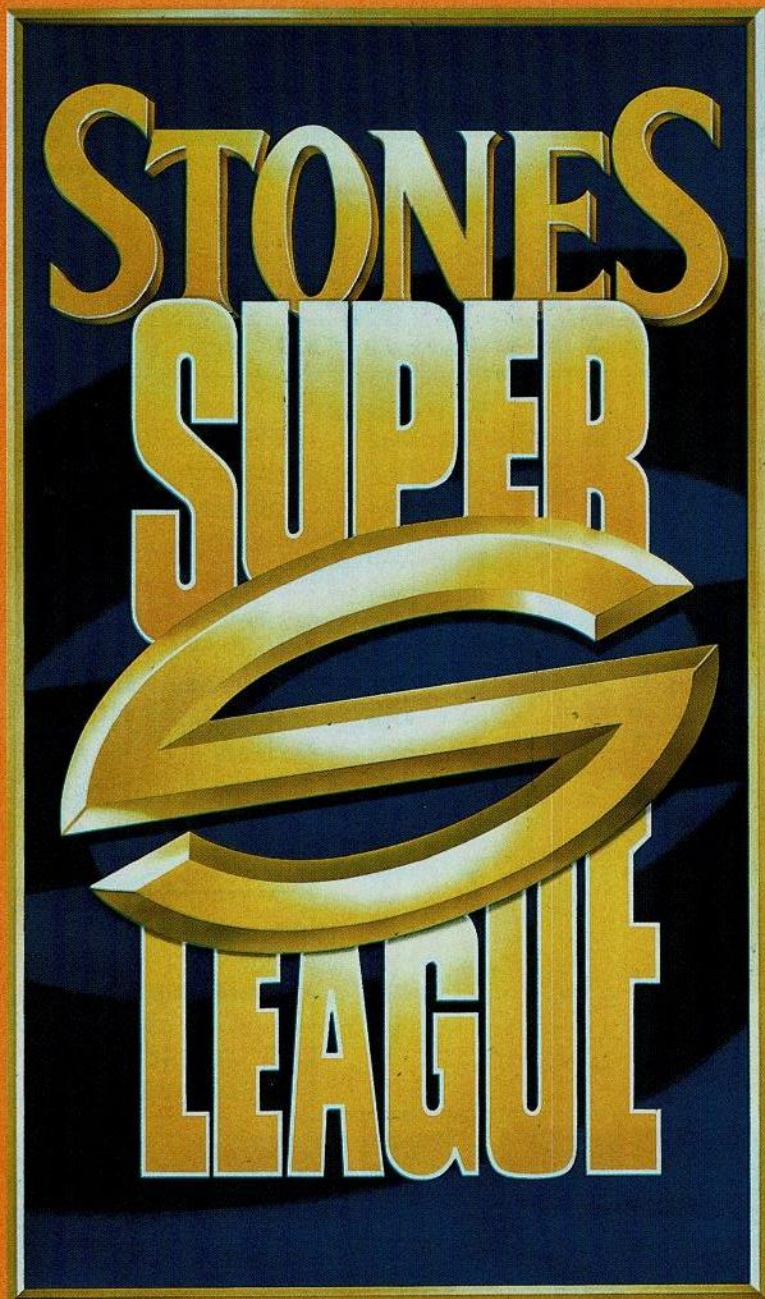
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NEWS From

Down Under...

TRAINING RUN FOR WORLD CHAMPIONS

AUSTRALIA 84 NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE (FIJI) 14

The Bookmakers were for once wrong. They were offering the Fijian minnows 92 points start against Australia.

As it turned out, the Aussies won by just 70 at Marathon Stadium on Friday night.

They were on target early in the match scoring tries at the rate of one every three minutes.

And at the break they were ahead 50-2.

But in the second half they seemed to step down a gear or two and actually let in a couple of tries, including one, a 70-metre dash by Fijian fullback Malakai Kunahau, which stemmed from a gaping hole in the Australian defence.

The try avalanche began after only five minutes when Norths' winger Brett Dallas went over for the first of four tries.

Those who claim Test match status for the game, say he is now in the record books with Dale Shearer, John Ribot and Michael O'Connor for the most number of touchdowns in a full international.

And they claim another record hooker-cum-halfback Andrew Johns who scored 32 points - two more than he notched against South Africa in last year's World Cup match at Gateshead. At the very least Johns was in superb form against the park footballers from Fiji's western coast.

He played for most of the game with a grin from ear to ear as the Australians went through what was little more than a training run.

Former Great Britain captain and coach, Ellery Hanley, was asked his opinion on the match on TV yesterday morning.

"There was nothing gained by playing it. It didn't achieve anything," he said, with disarming frankness for a man aligned with the ARL. "All it did was congest the season".

Disappointing loss - the first time the Raiders had lost a home match to Cronulla. "There was a problem mentally".

Sheens knew before the game there was a big problem.

His thoughts were echoed by captain Laurie Daley who was unimpressed by the way the Raiders performed in their warm-up.

So Sheens cleared everyone except the players out of the dressing room and gave them what Australians like to call "a massive spray".

It didn't help.

At one stage the Sharks scored three tries in the space of just 13 tackles - including two to the old maestro himself, Andrew Ettingshausen.

As a result, they went to the break leading 24-6 and the match was as good as over.

Another spray from Sheens at half-time saw the Raiders lift their performance in the second half.

But it was a case of too little, too late.

They are now three points out of the top eight and in the danger zone.

They come up against the spirited, if unfashionable, Tigers on Friday night. But in their favour they have a relatively easy run home with games against lesser sides such as Wests, Penrith Souths, the Gold Coast and South Queensland still remaining.

The only other current top eight side they've still to play is Auckland.

Cronulla, on the other hand come up against the big guns, Brisbane, Norths and Manly in the next three weeks.

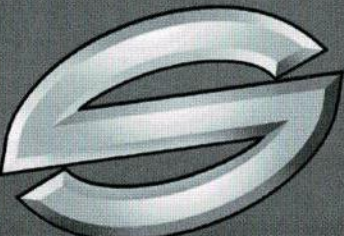
AUSTRALIA 1. Tim Brasher 2. Rod Wishart 3. Terry Hill 4. Mark Coyne 5. Brett Dallas 6. Brad Fittler (c) 7. Geoff Toovey 8. Paul Harragon 9. Andrew Johns 10. Mark Carroll 11. Steve Menzies 12. Gary Larson 13. Jim Dymock.

Subs: 14. Matthew Johns 15. Adam Muir 16. Billy Moore 17. David Fairleigh.

NRL (FIJI) 1. Malakai Kunahau 2. Luke Erenavula 3. Ratu Jone Bouwalu 4. Avenai Waqasaga 5. Roko Ketewai 6. Waisea Batibasaga 7. Savenaca Taga 8. Kaiyava Salusalu (c) 9. Kini Boletawa 10. Colin Saukuru 11. Nacanieli Seru 12. Api Degei 13. Akula Navuni

Subs: 14. Pita Nawaikula 15. Andrew Blake 16. Naibuka Nailagoliva 17. Manasa Nawaikula.

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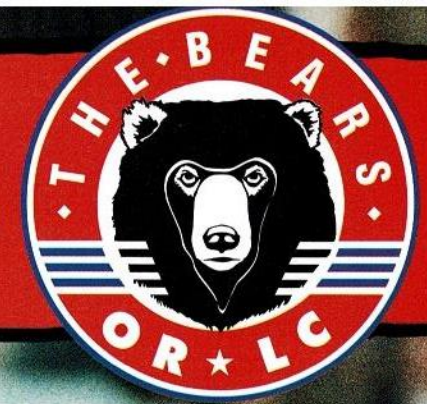
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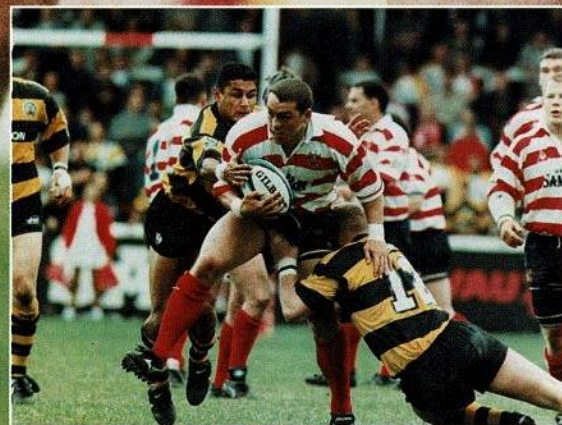
33

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

Oldham Bears

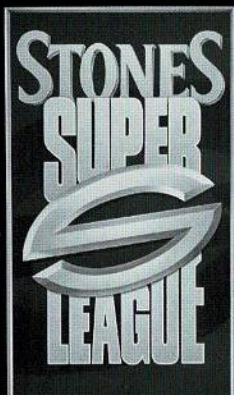


Main Picture: Big Joe Faimalo trying to break free.
Inset top: John Clark getting some close attention.
Inset middle: Gary Lord and Martin Crompton working hard on defence.
Inset bottom: Is this what "Stevo" calls a man and ball tackle?!



DO YOU KNOW A STONES SUPER FAN ?

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Stones Bitter are looking for nominations for the Stones Super League Fan of 1996.

If you know of a 'Super Fan' then let us know as they could win a VIP trip to the forthcoming Stones Premiership Finals.

It could be somebody who travels the length and breadth of the country to see their team both at home and away, or it could be somebody who collects every autograph from every Stones Super League player.

To enter, it couldn't be easier. All you have to do is explain, in no more than 100 words, who and why you think your nominee is the Stones Super League Fan of 1996.

The deadline for entries is 18th August 1996. The winner will be notified by post.

Send your entries to the Stones Super Fan Competition, P.O. Box 56, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5RF.



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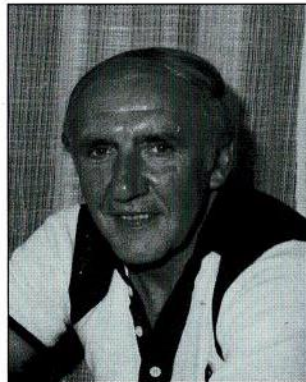
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For more info telephone hotline 9114225 or 6274497.

Book at least 3 courses and get cheapest one free.

Bronze	£5.00	Super League	£10.00
Silver	£7.50	Kicking Clinic	£15.00
Gold	£12.50	Conditioning	£10.00
Total	£25.00	Total	£35.00
Discount	£20.00	Discount	£25.00



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OLDHAM Rugby League Club

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Roger...

by Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

The last Friday night game I attended a month ago attracted 21,000 spectators, a large percentage of whom were teenagers who seemed more interested in their boy friends and girl friends than the action taking place on the pitch.

There were thousands of them, sitting on the grass on the popular side at Brookvale Oval and seemingly taking only a passing interest in the Optus Cup table-topper between Manly Sea Eagles and North Sydney Bears.

Throughout the match there was a constant stream of youngsters up and down the touchline in search of friends, a Coke or a hot dog.

They paid four dollars (£2) to get in and they packed the special buses from Manly Wharf, formed huge queues at the turnstiles and clearly regarded the Friday night footie game as their big social event of the weekend.

There was a certain amount of atmosphere, but when you consider that Manly v Norths would be something like a Wigan-Saints derby clash neither the action on the field nor the vocal interest generated in the stands and on the grass banks was anything special.

Most Super League games would compare favourably with the best that Manly and Norths had to offer, yet here we had a game that was going out live on television and still attracting a top audience.

I know it was a table-topper, but you only have to glance at last weekend's Optus Cup attendances to see that games of lesser appeal are still significantly up on crowd levels in this country. Canberra v Cronulla drew 11,500; Gold Coast v Auckland pulled in a similar figure; Canterbury v Tigers had nearly 12,000.

At the top end of the table North v City Roosters attracted nearly 17,000 fans, while Manly had more than 15,000 for their home game against Parramatta.

Thank heavens for the Bulls! It needed the Bradford-Wigan game on the same weekend to show Ken Arthurson that not all is lost in England.

The 17,000 plus crowd at Odsal was a triumph for all concerned with the Bulls' organisation and the thought struck me that it might be more than mere coincidence that there is such a major Australian influence behind the scenes.

Even marketing man Peter Deakin, while Oldham born and bred, spent some years in Sydney (and some in the USA studying marketing methods there) and I have no doubt that

his experience Down Under stands him in good stead now that he is surrounded by Aussie accents in managerial roles at Odsal.

On and off the field Bradford Bulls are setting Super League standards and when Oldham go to Odsal on Sunday week it will be intriguing to see at first hand what Peter and his staff are up to.

I have a hunch we might see almost as many youngsters at Odsal as they get at Brookvale Oval and if that's the case Bradford's long-term future as a successful Super League outfit is well and truly secure.

RUGBY LEAGUE COLLECTORS FEDERATION

69 Prince Rupert Drive, Tockwith, North Yorks, YO5 8QS.

Dear All,

Best wishes to all Oldham supporters from the Rugby League Collectors Federation. We bring together collectors of Rugby League material of all kinds including professional players shirts, programmes, supporters lapel badges, books, brochures, magazines, caps and medals, cig cards and silks, postcards and press photos, etc.

Collectors can receive from us a bi-monthly catalogue of collectables by simply sending us an S.A.E. For a small annual membership charge of £7 you can become part of the federation and receive our bi-monthly R.L. collectors booklet. New and old members are always welcome so why not give us a go!

We are constantly on the lookout for any of the material mentioned above and would appeal to you all to have a dig around your drawers and attics. Any old material we would be most interested in. In particular we are looking for any programmes connected with Oldham prior to 1960. Supporters yearbooks for 1953 and 1956, Testimonial souvenirs for E. Brooks (1948) and D. Goddard (1970's) and a version of the supporters club badge with sloping ball lettered 'Oldham F.C.S.C.'

Indeed we are looking for anything old and interesting and will pay a good rate. If you have anything rare or unusual you may be able to put it in our autumn auction list which we hope will be a success with keen collectors able to find elusive items and keen owners able to get a good price for their goodies!

Do have a dig around your drawers and attics or ask old relations who used to go to matches, and we'd be pleased to value and discuss items with you. If you fancy collecting some Rugby League items then we'd be pleased to hear from you. All in all our efforts over these last nine years have helped many people build up collections that preserve the history and heritage of the game. Do contact us if you can help or want to join.

Kindest Regards,

Mr. A. Hudson.

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