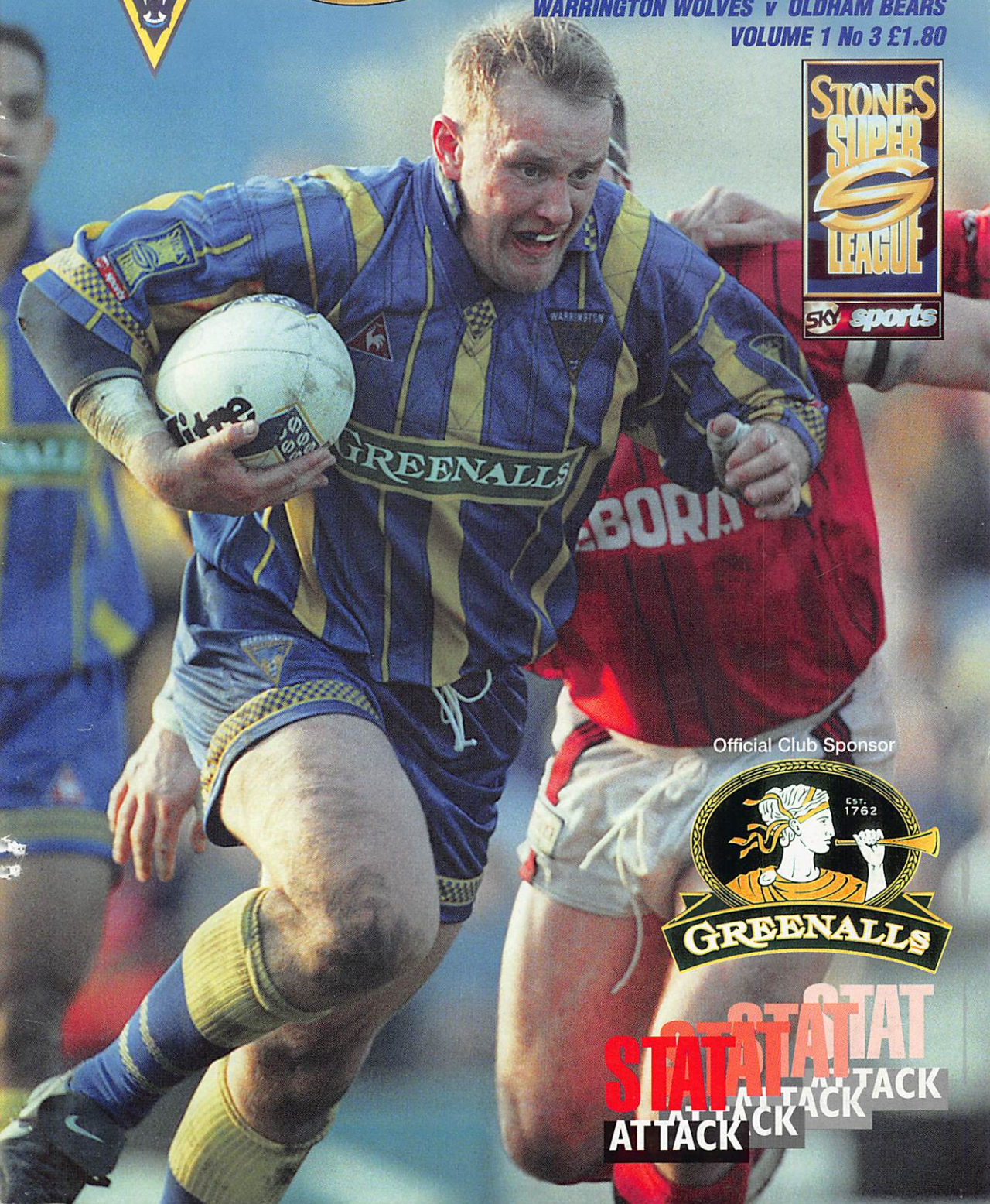
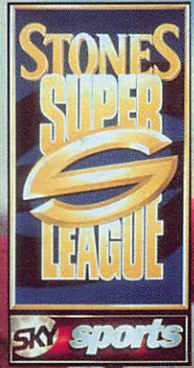


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The sign of a great time



Welcome to Wilderspool

Message from the Chief Executive



John Smith
Chief Executive

"The other heroes!"

After a disastrous start to the season the match on Friday 28th March 1997 against Sheffield Eagles reached a level which nobody would believe could happen to a Superleague Club! Action was needed and agreements were reached to move on and the team responded magnificently as you will all have witnessed when we beat Wigan at home for the first time in ten years. Compared to how they had previously been playing they responded like heroes and the feeling was unbelievable both for them and all the supporters. !

In the match programme I asked our supporters to get behind the team and cheer them on emphasising the difference this can make to the team morale. You were magnificent in your support

for the team and the Wilderspool roar was a treat to the ears of all. If the team is the heart of a club, then the supporters are the life-blood. On the day our supporters were also heroes in the way they got behind the team. Your roar of encouragement does make such a difference, you can help to win games! To go quiet when things are not going well sometimes can appear as disapproval. Lets hear at all times and especially more so if the going gets tough!

Thanks again for the tremendous support and keep it up!

John Smith
Chief Executive

Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club
Wilderspool Stadium, Fletcher Street
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Telephone: (01925) 635338
Fax: (01925) 571744

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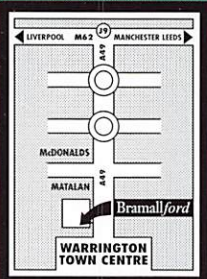
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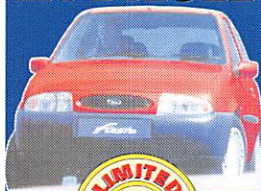
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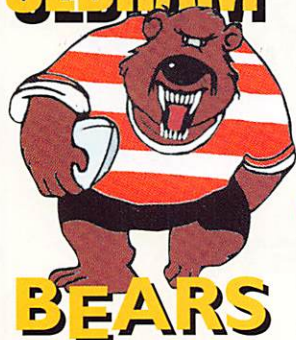
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MAIN DEALER

Today's Super League Opponents

OLDHAM



BEARS

Oldham Bears details:-

Ground:	Boundary Park
First Season:	1895-96
Nickname:	Bears
Highest Score:	70-10 v Bramley, 12/2/1995
Highest against:	67-11 at Hull K.R. 24/9/1978

Oldham's leaders in League 1996

Tries	Atcheson 11, Crompton 9, Abram 8, Belle 8
Goals:	Maloney 45, Topping 18
Appearances:	Atcheson 21, Belle 19, Crompton 19, Maloney 18 + 1, Faimalo 17 + 5,

Super League 1996 record:

position 8th pld 22 won 9 drawn 1 lost 12 for 473 agst 681 pts 19

Super League Results - 1996

Home	Opponents	Away
lost 16-56	WIGAN	lost 16-44
won 34-22	HALIFAX	won 20-14
won 24-6	PARIS	drew 24-24
won 25-16	LEEDS	won 28-26
lost 20-30	CASTLEFORD	won 24-20
lost 18-54	ST. HELENS	lost 18-66
lost 10-30	BRADFORD	lost 0-56
won 34-25	SHEFFIELD	lost 10-23
lost 27-29	WORKINGTON	won 30-24
lost 14-22	LONDON	lost 22-28

Oldham repeated their final placing of 8th in the Centenary season by occupying the same place at the end of the first Super league campaign.

The Bears had a nightmare start to Super league, losing heavily in their televised home fixture with Wigan. A remarkable recovery featured seven points gained from the next four fixtures. Unfortunately for the Bears though, a general lack of consistency proved to be a

major problem throughout the campaign. On the one hand they gave a number of outstanding performances, like the 'double' over Leeds but on the other, they were the only team to lose at home to relegated Workington Town. Coach Andy Goodway will be hoping for an improved effort from the Bears and a challenge for a top four

placing in Super league 2.

The Bears began this season well with Challenge Cup victories over Rochdale (home) and Wakefield (away) but they lost at home to the powerful Bradford Bulls in the Quarter Finals. In the opening round of Super league 2, Oldham gave Leeds Rhinos a few problems at Headingley but eventually lost 22pts - 32. In a tough opening, the Bears then welcomed the Bulls again and caused a ripple or two before succumbing by 18pts -30.



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SUPER LEAGUE 2

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH 1997 AT WILDERSPOOL

WARRINGTON W. 18 20 LONDON B.

Vagana	1	Barwick
Forster	2	roskell
Kohe-Love	3	Smith
Roper	4	Krauss
Henare	5	Offiah
Shelford	6	Tollett
Duffy	7	White
Mead	8	Bawden
Roden	9	Beazley
Chambers	10	Mestrov
Holden	11	Gill
Tatupu	12	Roselen
Hume	13	Matterson
Finau	14	Dunford
Mann	15	Best
Rudd	16	Spencer
Currier	17	Maguire

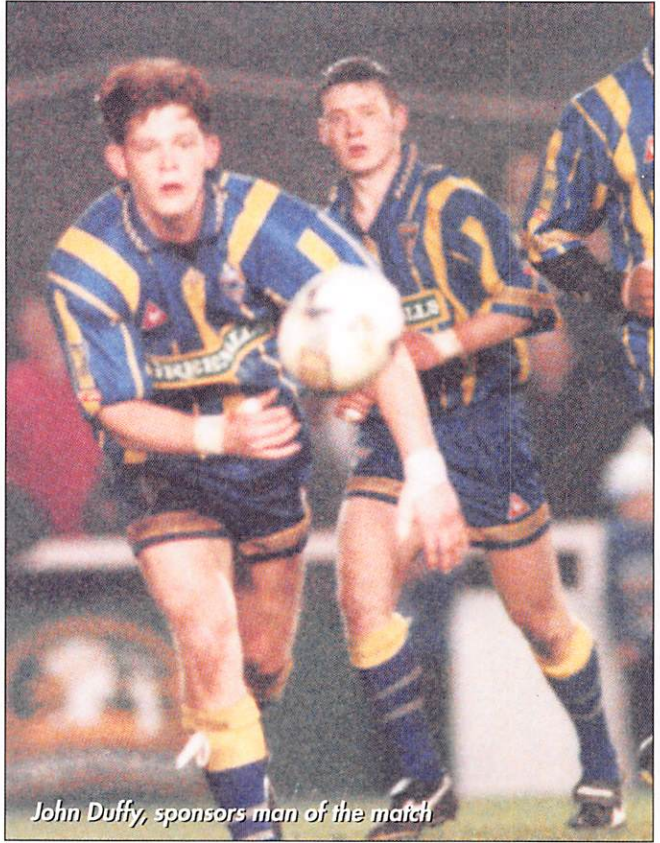
Penalties: 10-9

Scoreline: 0-4, 0-10, 4-10, 4-16, 4-22,
8-22, (HT) 14-22, 14-28,
14-32, 18-32, 18-38

Substitutes: All used

Referee: J. Connolly

Attendance: 4,094

*John Duffy, sponsors man of the match*

Nothing's changed with Broncos. They played the robust up the middle drives as last season with Matterson picking up the crumbs and making good use of them from his No 13 role. Despite valiant efforts the Wolves pack was not holding them. It was a high kick which found no-one at home to give SMITH the opener on seven minutes, then eight minutes later Matterson took the ball at the base of the scrum and gave WHITE space to make the line. BARWICK took the score to double figures with the kick.

HENARE on 22 showed the way with an electric dash to the heart of the visitors' defence but the kick went wide. This only jolted the Broncos to more action with Matterson and White again working the scrum oracle to send ROSKELL in. ROSKELL liked what he saw and three minutes later was over the line again from a wide ball. BARWICK converted both and, at 4-22, we were in for another beating. Hope on 35 as Duffy and Shelford swung the ball wide for HENARE to fly in again. The conversion was again missed.

Inspiration for the faithful as two minutes after restart Shelford and Finau combined and KOHE-LOVE

showed what we expected of him with a jinking run to the line. ROPER found the target and, at 14-22, things did not look so bad. Not for long. Error-ridden Wolves were again on the back foot as KRAUSE ran in two tries in ten minutes, the former goaled by BARWICK. Seventeen minutes to go and some of the less resolute were on their way home.

On 69 a great burst down the middle was enthusiastically supported by HENARE who ran in his third to show what determination and enterprise can achieve. No conversion again. With two minutes to go the impoverished defence watched GILL crash down with BARWICK taking the tally to 18-38.

The minimum requirement for success in Super League is to win all home matches. Broncos are efficient but not world beaters. Wolves made them look good. Jon Roper, Mark Forster and Chris Rudd can all kick goals but they are not 100 per season kickers. That too must be a priority. Paul Hulme and Gary Chambers played themselves to a standstill and John Duffy showed great promise. This is Super League, and Super League is now...

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WARRINGTON

GUARDIAN

THE BIG MATCH PREVIEW WITH SPORTS EDITOR MIKE PARSONS



IF Warrington Wolves repeat their Wigan form today then Oldham Bears are on a hiding to nothing! But no matter who gives the pre-match team talk and no matter how much effort the team puts in, I don't believe we will see those dizzy

heights reached again this season. It is not meant as a slight against the side but there were hidden reasons behind the sensational Easter Monday display. All of Warrington's anger, frustration, confusion and fear of the past month were

vented against Wigan Warriors in a powerpack of emotion that no team would have lived with. But maybe now Warrington have at least turned the corner and the team can concentrate on gaining more winning points. Monday's performance came as a surprise to everyone. And the game brought that many pleasant surprises that in the end the biggest surprise was probably star winger Richard Moses Henare not making it on to the scoresheet.

He will want to make up for it this afternoon and emulate last August's hat-trick heroics against the Bears at Wilderspool - and even that came while suffering from mild concussion!

No doubt Oldham will have him down as a key man but the talented Nigel Vagana last week proved he is no slouch either. Outpacing Wigan's backs over 80 metres makes him a danger to any defence.

I just hope today's game is not a case of 'after the Lord Mayor's Show' for Warrington. No disrespect to Oldham, but Warrington will find it much tougher to motivate themselves for this battle than they did for the Wigan one.



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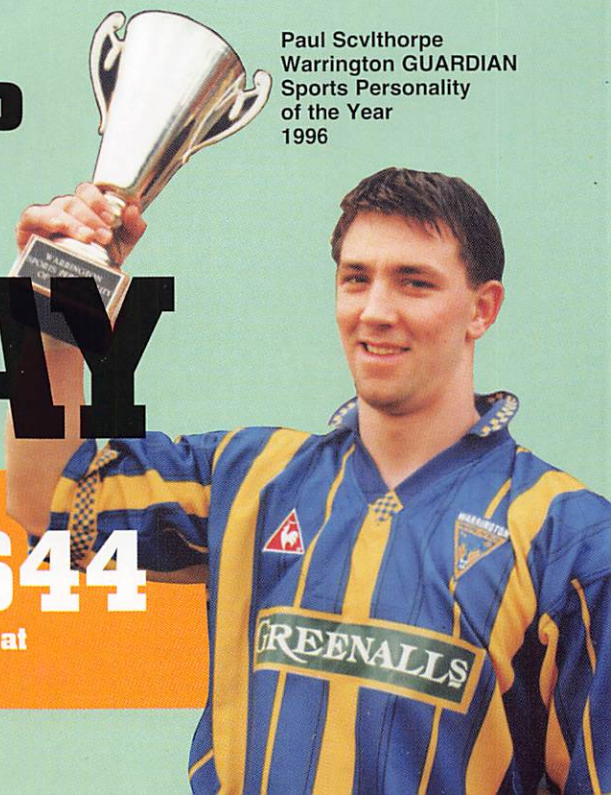
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History of the Clash



WARRINGTON WOLVES
v
OLDHAM BEARS



Warrington have enjoyed a clear advantage in the tussles between the club since 1973-74 and were particularly dominant during the early seasons.

Oldham suffered through a constant struggle to retain top flight status and were prone to heavy losses during the seventies. Two such beatings were meted out by Wolves in both fixtures of 1976-77, with a remarkable four try contribution from Dennis Curling being a memorable highlight in the away game.

After eight successive victories over the 'Roughyeds', Wolves finally lost in the Watersheddings contest of 1982-83. The following season witnessed the only draw to date between the clubs. Wolves were leading the game at Widerspools with less

than five minutes left but a try and conversion secured a 22-22 draw for the visitors. Oldham's only victory at Widerspools to date occurred in a dramatic contest in 1984-85. Glyn Shaw made his Wolves debut but unfortunately the game was best remembered for teenager Paul Bishop received emergency treatment. The earlier fixture at Watersheddings had featured a dramatic ending as Wolves, trailing to the then league leaders Oldham, scrum and so the super cool Bob Eccles stepped up to calmly slot over the conversion and hand Wire a 16-15 victory. The 1990-91 meeting at Watersheddings was won by Oldham 4pts-2 in somewhat controversial circumstances, as T.V. evidence left the visitors generally feeling hard done to. The 1994-95 meetings produced a remarkable turnaround in fortunes. Warrington had totally dominated the Wilderspools fixture to secure a resounding 55pts-6 success, but Oldham gained satisfying revenge in the return match as a 24 point contribution from Paul Topping helped them towards a 52-22 victory.



SUPER LEAGUE IN 1996

WILDERSPOOL

Warrington 42

T: Henare 3, Finau 2
Knott 1, Watson 1,
Cullen 1
G: Knott 5

Oldham 24

T: Neal 2, Belle 1
Crompton 1
G: Maloney 3, Crook 1

An entertaining contest which often looked comfortable for Wolves but the Bears would not lie down.

Off to a flying start through tries from Finau and Watson, Warrington were initially pegged back by a Belle try. Another two try burst, as Cullen and Henare collected tries again indicated a Wolves stroll but Neal crossed for the Bears and with all tries converted, 24-12 at H.T.

An early Crompton try threatened the home advantage but the spring - heeled Henare collected another two tries to complete a superb hat-trick and with other tries from Knott and a second for Finau, Wolves had assumed control. A late Neal try for the Bears did not affect the issue.

WATERSHEDDINGS

Oldham 35

T: Myler 1, Abram 1, Belle 1,
Sherratt 1, Bradbury 1
Henare 1,

Warrington 24

T: Kohe-Love 2,
Roper 1,
Swann 1

G: Topping 7, Crompton 1 d.g. G: Harris 2

Forced into numerous changes to accommodate the worsening injury situation, Wolves at least had new signing Paul Hulme on the bench. Although a Henare try gave Warrington an early lead, Oldham dominated the first half and built up a 26-4 advantage by the break, thanks to tries from Abram, Myler, Sherratt and Bradbury. A more positive approach from the visitors after the interval produced two tries from Kohe-Love and one from Roper. Wolves then appeared to be dominant but the Bears broke free for Belle to score and with Topping's great form with the boot, helped secure a fine victory for the home side.



Jon Roper at Oldham

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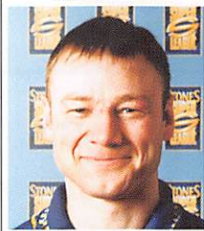
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WINS AT LAST FOR M&M

Dave Hadfield the Independent Rugby League correspondent reports on wins at last for Monie and Meninga

At least part of the pressure was lifted from the shoulders of Auckland Warriors coach John Monie last weekend when his side scraped a badly needed victory over in-form Penrith. The Warriors' dismal start to the season has led to calls for Monie's head from disgruntled Auckland fans. Already, their other bete noir, the club's chief executive Ian Robson, has gone. The worse the Warriors' results got, the more certain it began to seem that Monie would soon follow.

Monie, so successful and popular during his four years at Wigan, would admit himself that the chemistry has not worked in New Zealand. The reasons are complex, but they include what amounts to a philosophical divide between the Warriors and many traditional Auckland leaguies, and the special skills needed to coach a team of largely Maori and Islander extraction.

For those and other reasons, the Monie magic has not worked. The man himself has seemed increasingly beleaguered and unhappy; it is surely indicative of something having gone badly wrong when someone so highly regarded by the British media for his accessibility and honesty should not even be speaking to the southern hemisphere's biggest league publication, Rugby League Week.

Inevitably, his unsettled position in New Zealand means that he will be linked with every possible coaching vacancy in Britain, where his stock remains sky-high. But Monie would dearly love to at least go out of

Auckland as a winner.

He's got one win to be going on with – and a memorable one at that – when the Warriors beat the Panthers 16-14.

It took a late try from Denis Betts to clinch the win. Betts' form since he was signed from Wigan has not impressed everyone in New Zealand and there has been criticism that Monie has used him too much as a battering ram, rather than in his more natural wide running role.

Betts showed New Zealand crowds what he can do in Britain's Test series there last autumn – and he has once more become the dangerous strike forward he can be for the Warriors.

If it was a good weekend for Monie, then it was too for another coach who has been feeling the heat.

Mal Meninga's Canberra Raiders got their first win of the season, even though it was only a late try against the Hunter Mariners that stitched up an 18-12 victory.

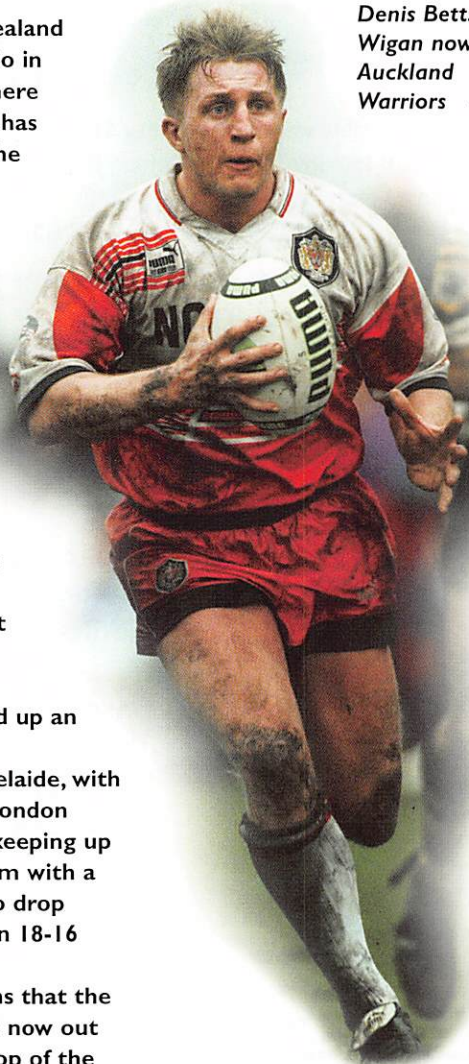
Perth got up over Adelaide, with former Widnes and London player Julian O'Neill keeping up his recent scoring form with a try, two goals and two drop goals as they edged an 18-16 result.

Penrith's defeat means that the Brisbane Broncos are now out on their own at the top of the

table, although on a weekend of close fought games they only beat Cronulla 14-12.

There was yet another two point victory – this time for Tim Sheens' North Queensland Cowboys. They did tremendously well to come to Sydney and beat the Canterbury Bulldogs 16-14 – sign that the heavy investment in Super League's Townsville outpost is starting to pay off.

Denis Betts ex-Wigan now Auckland Warriors



Lottery News

Now with 3 months of the year behind us. The Lucky Seven Weekly Lottery can proudly boast to have paid over £30,200 in prizes to our Lottery Winners. But perhaps more importantly we have raised over £27,000 for the WOLVES YOUTH IN SPORT FUND, to help develop the fine youth programme the club runs.

We can now say that our weekly Lottery is among the very best in the Super League and shows no signs of flagging.

If you would like to help in fundraising, then why not contact me Rob Edwards on 01925 635338 for more details

LAST WEEK'S MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS IN THE LUCKY SEVEN WERE

£1000 Mr L. SPOJA, Wilderspar Causeway

£500 Mr A. KNIGHT, Trefoil Close

£250 Mr R. BLOCK, Arlington Drive

£125 Mrs T.B. ASHLEY, Birchmer Close

PLUS 45 MEMBERS WON A £10 CONSOLATION PRIZE

LAST WEEK'S MAJOR PRIZE WINNERS IN THE LUCKY SEVEN WERE

£1000 Mrs J. CRADDOCK, Landseer Ave

£500 Mr E FIELDING, Clift Road

£250 Mr NUTTALL, Brunswick Lane

£125 Mrs WATSON, Councilor Lane

PLUS 45 MEMBERS WON A £10 CONSOLATION PRIZE

Golden Gamble

Golden Gamble winners on Monday 31st March 1997 No 1263 Mrs Pat Taylor from Grappenhall won £220.

We are still looking for more Golden Gamble ticket sellers. If you are over 16 and would like to see the home matches free of charge plus earn good commission. Then contact me Rob Edwards on 01925 635338 for more information

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Supporters Notes

Super League Round 5 4/6/97

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our good friends from Oldham. With the season "bearly" started the bear necessities will today be two league points. Let's not "loose" our bearings lads. Howl or growl your support through the match. It will be vital for the team ... we're a huntin' bears.

FOR BOTH CAMPS

Following on from last week's programme we once again look and field a team (from the last 15 years) whose players have played for both clubs. Here goes: Rob Myler, Kevin Meadows, Darren Abram, Steve Peters, Mike Ford, Francis Maloney, John Fieldhouse, Paul Lowndes (who?) Ronnie Duane and Chris O'Sullivan, Rowland Phillips and Roger O'Mahony

LANCS FED

The April meeting of the Lancashire Federation of Supporters Clubs takes place here in Warrington tomorrow at the Causeway pub, starting at 8pm.

PREDICTION TIME

This week's challenge is to one of Warrington's staunchest supporters - Craig Garner. He's looked into his pint pot and come up with: Friday...Warriors by 4, Saturday...Saints by 10, today...Bulls by 2, Blue Sox by 10, Eagles by 2 and, for this match, the Wolves by 30 (yes, 30!).

CALDWELL LTD

Our kind sponsors for this season's Player of the Year awards are once again Goldwells Ltd, Dallam Lane. Supporters voted man of the matches for our opening two league games: Bradford (a) Nigel Vagana and London (h) John Duffy - well played youngster.

THE END OF AN ERA

"it was the coldest, wettest, most miserable place in the Northern Union, beating Thrum Hall and 'new'Craven Park out of sight in the inclement stakes," was how Dave Hadfield of The Independent described Watersheddings, Oldham's ex-ground. Love it or hate it, we all have our own memories of it. An excellent souvenir brochure costing £3 was recently produced title End of an Era. It's highly recommended.

QUIZZER

1 Name the season Oldham last won here in the league - 1989-90, 1986-87 or 1984-85?
2 How many years had rugby been played at Watersheddings - 85, 98 or 107?

3 From which Oldham amateur club did Warrington sign Iestyn Harris - Waterhead, St Annes or Saddleworth?

GOOD LUCK FOR APRIL 9

Finally, all supporters wish the Alliance team all the best in this Wednesday's Challenge Cup final against dear rivals Wigan, here at Wilderspool. Get down and support. Adults £4 Children/Concessions £2.

WOLFMAN
1 - 1984-5, 2 - 107, 3 - St Annes.

Wolfpack News

First, let's say welcome to Oldham directors, staff, players and supporters to our ground for this afternoon's titanic match.

Oldham, like ourselves, have not had much luck this season. Remember Wolfpackers, we must support our team all the way. So let's hear you all shouting as loud as you can and get behind the boys.

Next week we travel to Castleford so if any of you want to travel on the Wolfpack coach please book early to avoid disappointment. The number to ring is Dougie on 825658. To travel on the adult coach you can book at the souvenir shop on the ground or ring Barbara on 639842. This coach leaves the Kentucky Fried and Dougie's coach leaves the Waterhead Hotel. But you must book early to avoid being disappointed.

There will be a Wolfpack disco in late April so look in the theme shop for the date as it has not been arranged yet.

There will be a prize for anyone who can tell the Wolfman who won the Lance Todd Trophy at Wembley last year. First postcard to be drawn out of the hat with the correct answer will win the prize. Put your answer on a postcard and hand it in to the theme shop in the Cockhedge Centre. The winner will be announced at the disco.

Enjoy the game.

Wolfman.

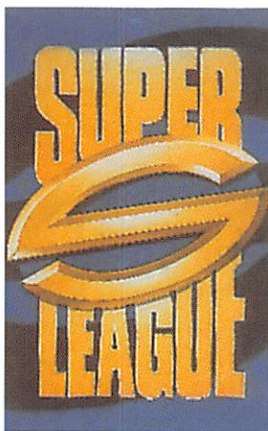


TODAY'S MASCOT

Our mascot for today's game is 12-year-old Rachel Conner who goes to Woolston High School. Rachel loves going to Wolfpack Discos as she is very fond of dancing. She goes with her good friends Cathy Shaw and Sarah Gately. Her favourite players are Richard Hanare, Jon Roper and Paul Sculthorpe. Have a nice day Rachel.

The mascot for the Wigan game was Stuart Wright, aged 11, who goes to Broomfields Junior School. He enjoys karate, Rugby League, football and his favourite player is Richard Hanare. Sorry we missed you out of the Wigan programme Stuart.



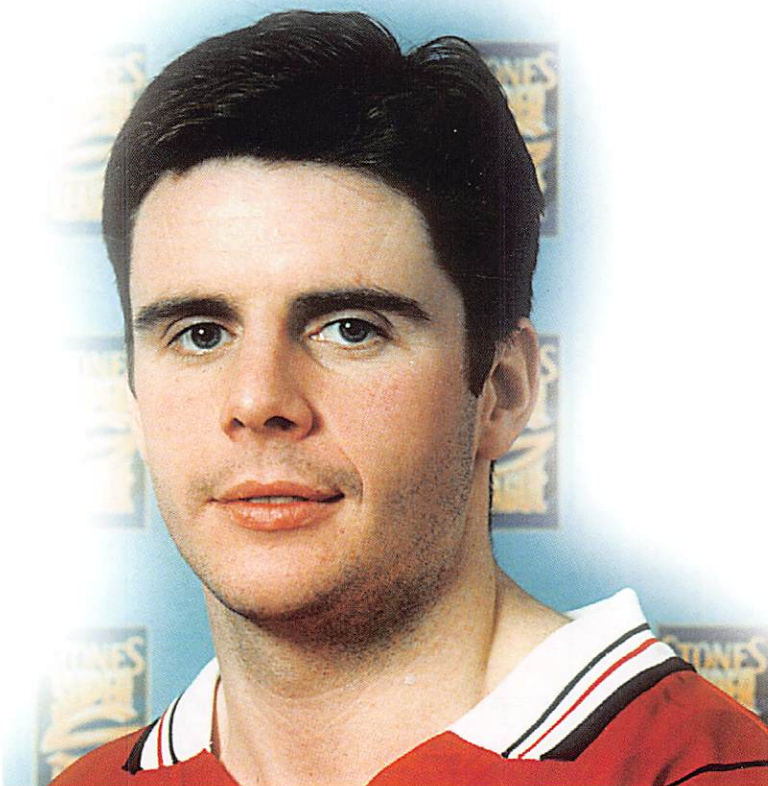


STAT ATTACK

Raymond Fletcher, Co-author of the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook

Salford picked up a bargain when they signed Steve Blakeley from Wigan for a giveaway £28,000 in November 1992. Blakeley scored 18 points in just eight sub appearances for Wigan but is now only 17 off a Salford career total of 1,000. The 24-year-old stand-off's 983 points has been piled up from 45 tries and 404 goals, including five drop goals, in 115 matches.

Blakeley passed the 1,000 points mark in all matches during the defeat of Paris St Germain on Easter Monday, having scored a try for England in addition to his 18 Wigan points. He made his senior debut as a tryscoring substitute in a reserve-riddled Wigan side that lost 26-31 at home to Featherstone Rovers in the 1991 Premiership first round.



BLAKELEY N POINTS FOR

Since moving to Salford he has taken over the captaincy and been their most consistent scorer. He was the First Division's top goal scorer last season with 84, including a personal match best of 10 against Batley Bulldogs when he also scored two tries for his biggest points haul of 28.

OFFIAH NOTCHES 50th HAT-TRICK

Martin Offiah hit the try trail again with the 50th try hat-trick of his career in London Broncos' defeat of Paris St Germain on Good Friday. But Offiah is only halfway to the record total of

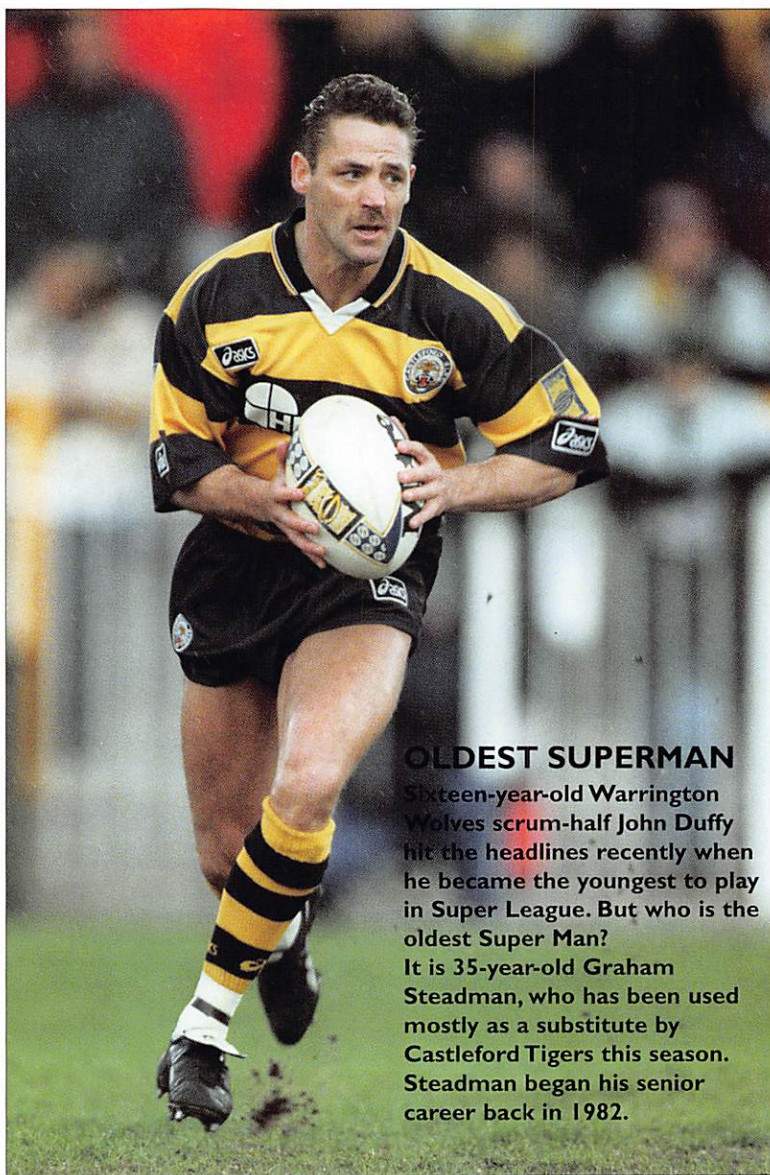
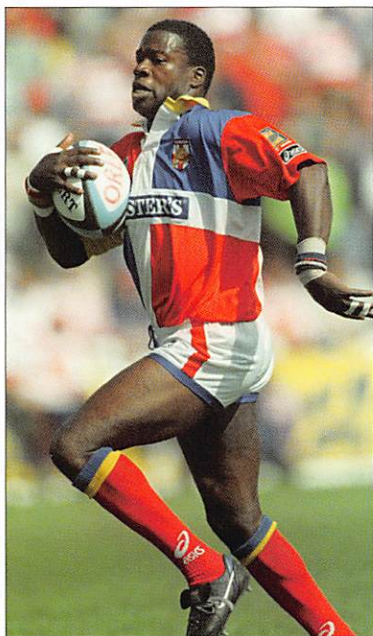
QUIZ

1. Who was the last Australian to finish as top tryscorer?
2. Add surnames to this Super League threequarter line: Paul, Jamie, Jason, Anthony
3. How many Smiths have played for Britain and who was the last?
4. Who holds the record for most tries by a forward in a season?
5. Who has scored most points in a match for England?
6. Who made most appearances on the 1996 British Lions tour?
7. Which full back scored most Super League tries in 1996.
8. Which current Super League chairman captain Great Britain?
9. Which 1990 Kangaroos tourist is playing in Super League?
10. For which English club did John Dorahy first play?

EARS 1000 SALFORD

hat-tricks. The incomparable Brian Bevan scored three or more in a match on exactly 100 occasions!

Offiah's best match feat was a Wigan record of 10 in a Premiership semi-final defeat of Leeds in 1992. He also holds the Great Britain record of five tries and equalled England's best with four last year.



OLDEST SUPERMAN

Sixteen-year-old Warrington Wolves scrum-half John Duffy hit the headlines recently when he became the youngest to play in Super League. But who is the oldest Super Man?

It is 35-year-old Graham Steadman, who has been used mostly as a substitute by Castleford Tigers this season. Steadman began his senior career back in 1982.

BLAKELEY'S SCORING RECORD

	App	T	G	D	Pts
Wigan					
1990-91	0+2	1	0	1	4
1991-92	0+6	2	3	0	14
1992-93	0+1	0	0	0	0
Salford					
1992-93	14	4	34	0	84
1993-94	27+5	7	70	1	169
1994-95	24	12	79	2	208
1995-96	17	9	63	0	222
1996	22+1	11	105	1	255+1t England
1997	5	2	18	1	45
Totals					
Wigan	0+8	3	3	0	8
Salford R.	109+6	45	399	5	863
England	1+1	1	0	0	4
Grand Totals	110+15	49	402	5	1001

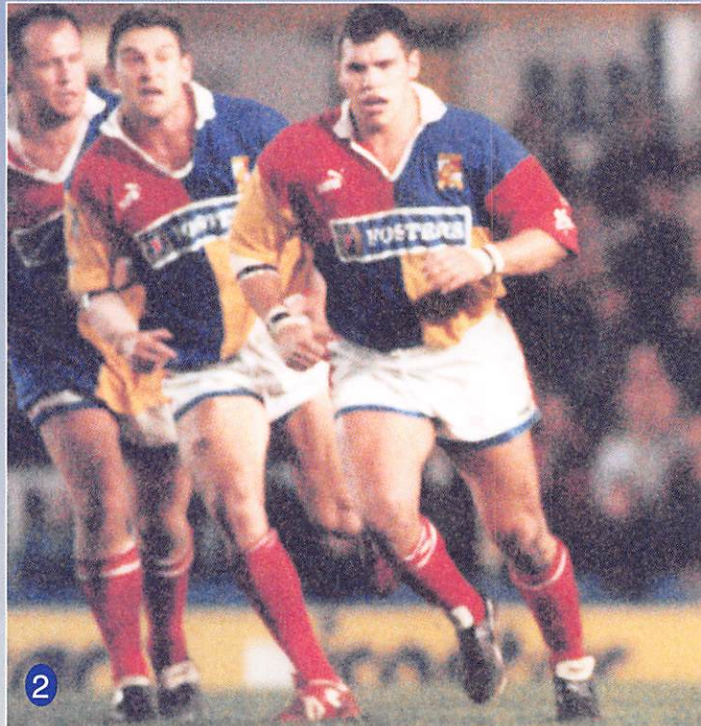
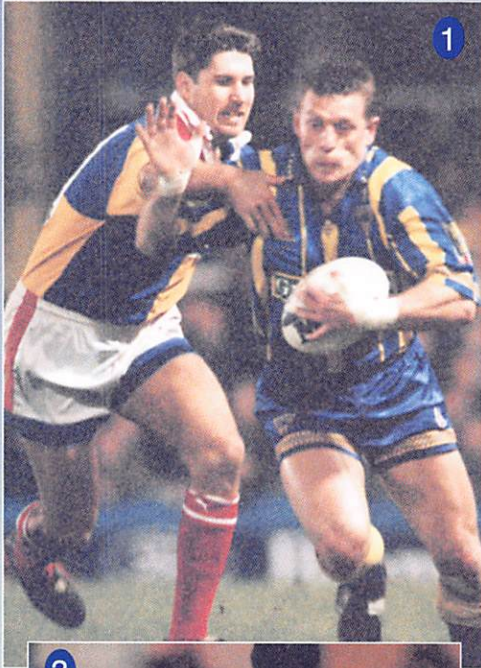
ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Steve Halliwell (Leigh) 49 in 1985-86
2. Evans, Olejnik, Keough, Wall (Paris St Germain)
3. 10 - Tony Smith (Castleford) in 1996
4. Ellery Hanley (Leeds) 41 in 1994-95
5. Steve Prescott (St Helens) 22 v France in 1996
6. Daryl Powell - seven (Bradford Bulls) 12
8. Eric Ashton (St Helens)
9. John Cartwright (Salford R.)
10. Leigh

Super League Acti

youngest player for forty

Eddie Fuller's
view from the
touchline

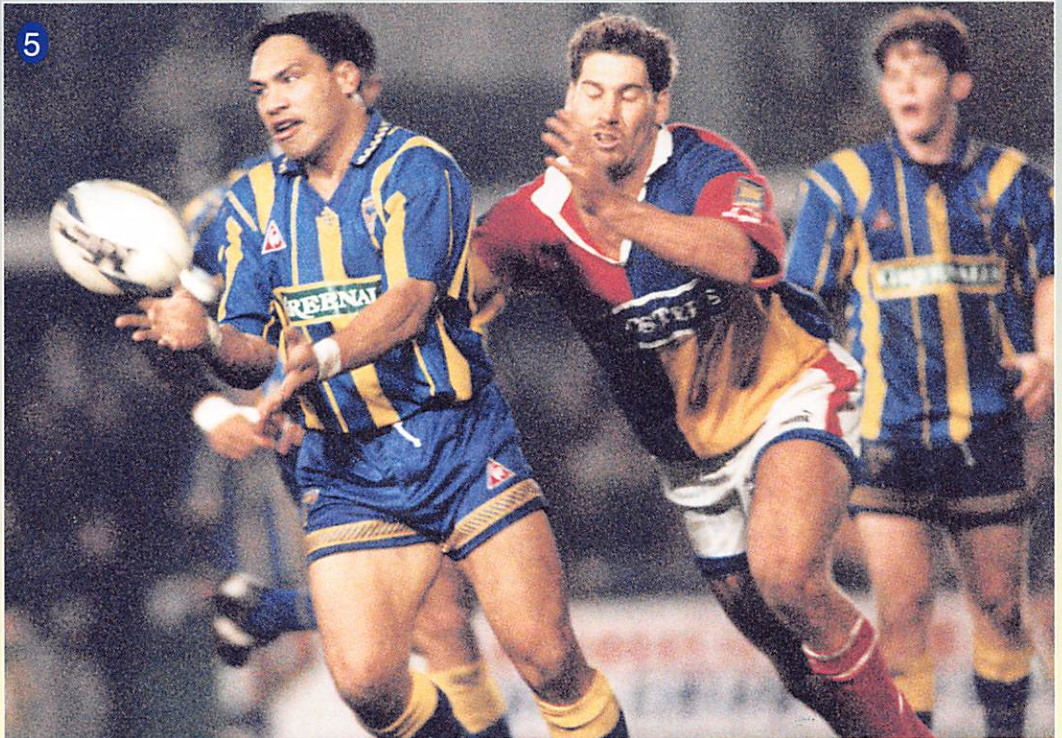
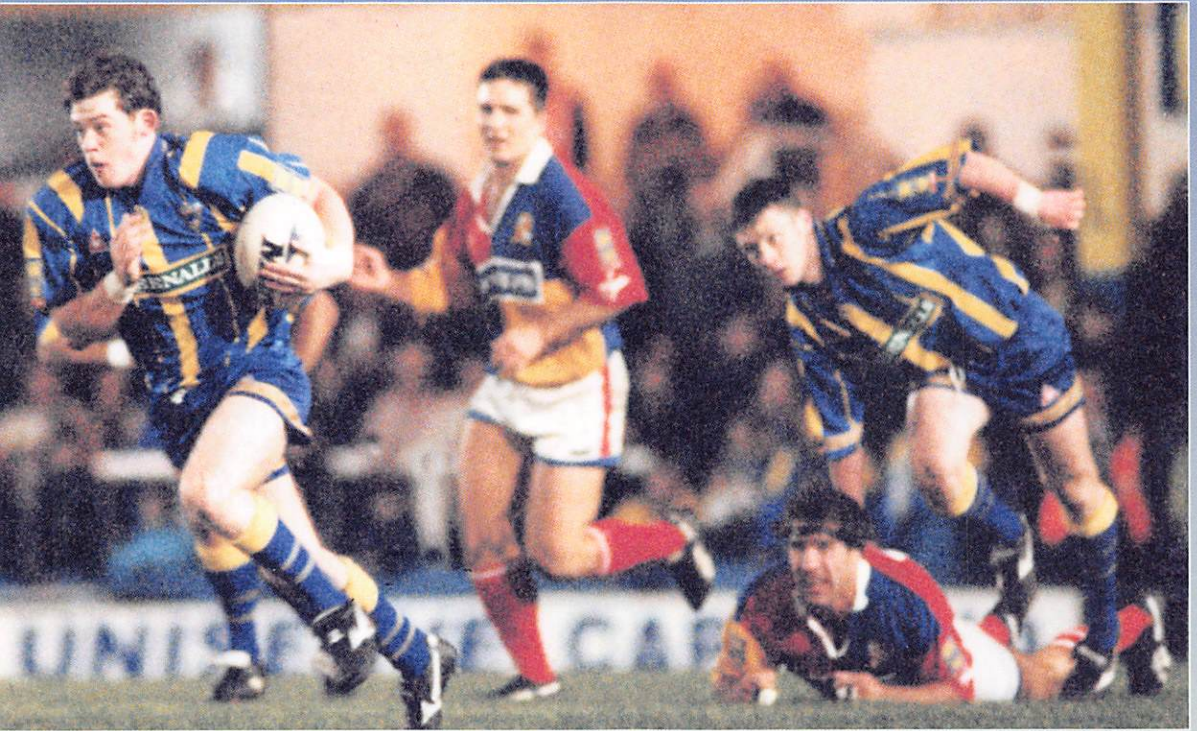


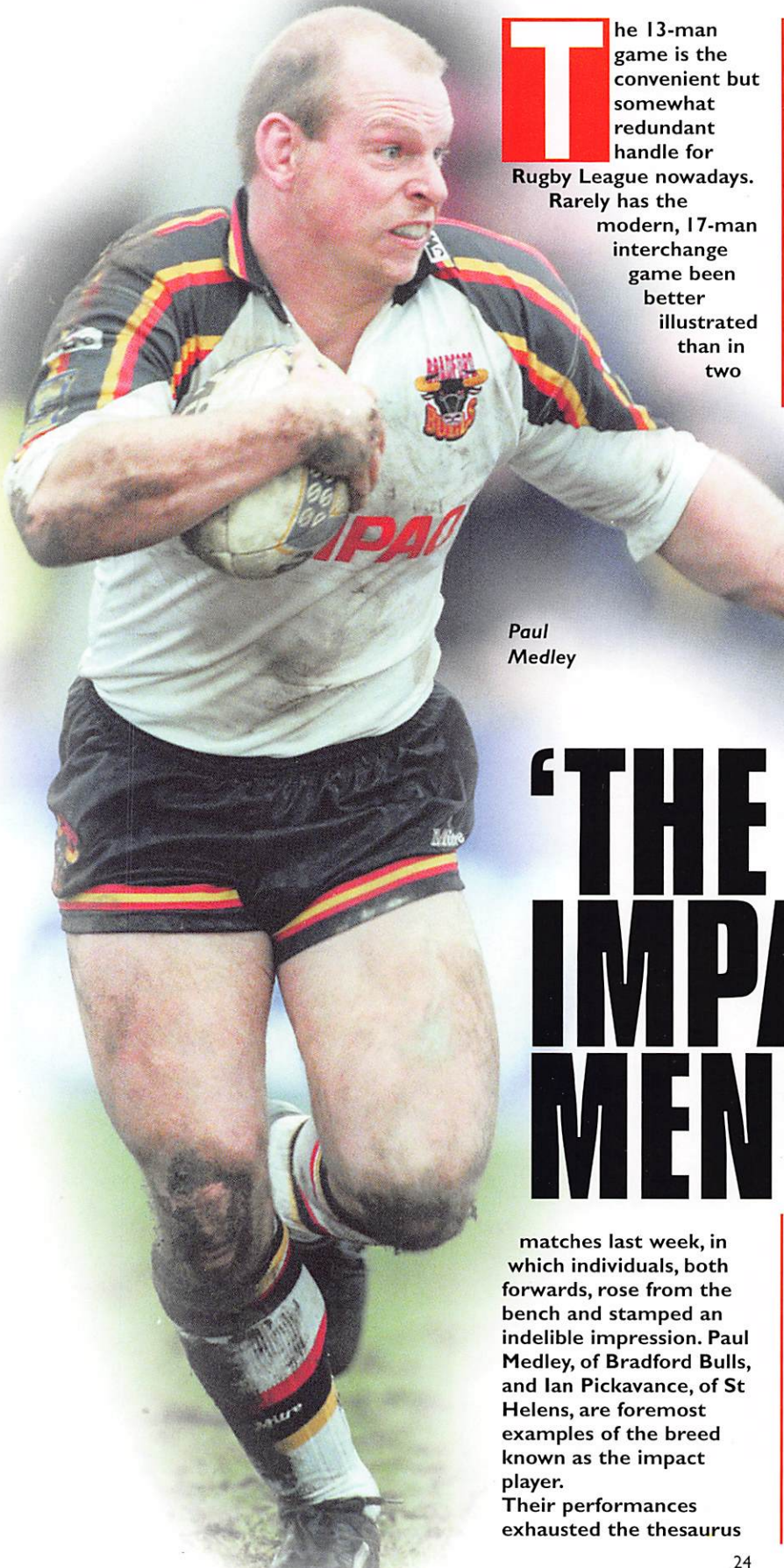
1. Veteran Mark Forster starts yet another campaign in the Primrose and blue.
2. Electrifying burst from our 16 year old debutant.
3. young Duffy first to congratulate the hat trick scorer.
4. Hat trick hero Hevare heads for the Bronco's line.
5. Entertainer Kelly performs his conjuring tricks.



Warrington Wolves v Bronco's

years makes his senior debut





The 13-man game is the convenient but somewhat redundant handle for Rugby League nowadays. Rarely has the modern, 17-man interchange game been better illustrated than in two

Paul Medley

of the work impact – ram, butt, batter, dint, dent, push, shove, heave, thrust, boost. Scoring is not mentioned in Roget's but Pickavance and Medley managed to do that, too, in tour de force displays that helped put down the foundations of their respective team's victories over Easter, St Helens at Wigan in the Super League and Bradford to thwart Leeds Rhinos and reach Wembley for a second successive year in the Challenge Cup. Between them last season, Pickavance and Vila Matautia began nine matches for St Helens. Their substitute appearances totalled 29. They are not on the bench as a pair of book ends; they are there to make the right impact at the right time. The art of substitution is a considerable one, even if some coaches still have the occasional difficulty with the mathematics of adding up to six. Most

'THE IMPACT MEN'

matches last week, in which individuals, both forwards, rose from the bench and stamped an indelible impression. Paul Medley, of Bradford Bulls, and Ian Pickavance, of St Helens, are foremost examples of the breed known as the impact player. Their performances exhausted the thesaurus

sides, even if the likes of Apollo Perelini and Derek McVey have been contained for 50 or 60 minutes, can greet the fresh legs of Matautia and Pickavance thundering into them as anything other than demoralising. Thus, at Central Park on Good Friday, when McVey came off injured after 24 minutes, the only distinguishable difference in Pickavance replacing him, was that St Helens looked more dangerous. A defence-splitting try and

burst out of the tackle to put Anthony Sullivan away sealed a mighty display by him. The same could hardly be said of Wigan, whose loss of Henry Paul after half-an-hour was the beginning of the end for them. By comparison with the St Helens bench, Wigan's lacked strength and, vitally, impact. By the time they met Warrington on Monday, the wheels had dropped off the wagon altogether. The Bradford bench is another that bristles with power and flair. Forgetting the bare knuckles, bad blood and bad mouthing that characterised a vitriolic semi final, Bradford's clever rotation of players maintained the pressure on Leeds for 80 minutes, and although Medley is used to coming on a little later than four minutes, due to an injury to Tahī Reihana, his sterling commitment in two substitute spells lasting an hour, and a try from 40 metres out of the veteran forward's top drawer, made him a worthy man-of-the-match. Medley, 30, only began one Super League game last year, but contributed to 17 more in his "super sub" capacity, which has probably extended his career in the top flight. "Matthew Elliott is always telling us it is a 17-man game now," he said. "Rotating the forwards is the way the game is going, and on the bench you are there to do a job, at whatever time in a match. At my age, I couldn't last 80 minutes anyway!"

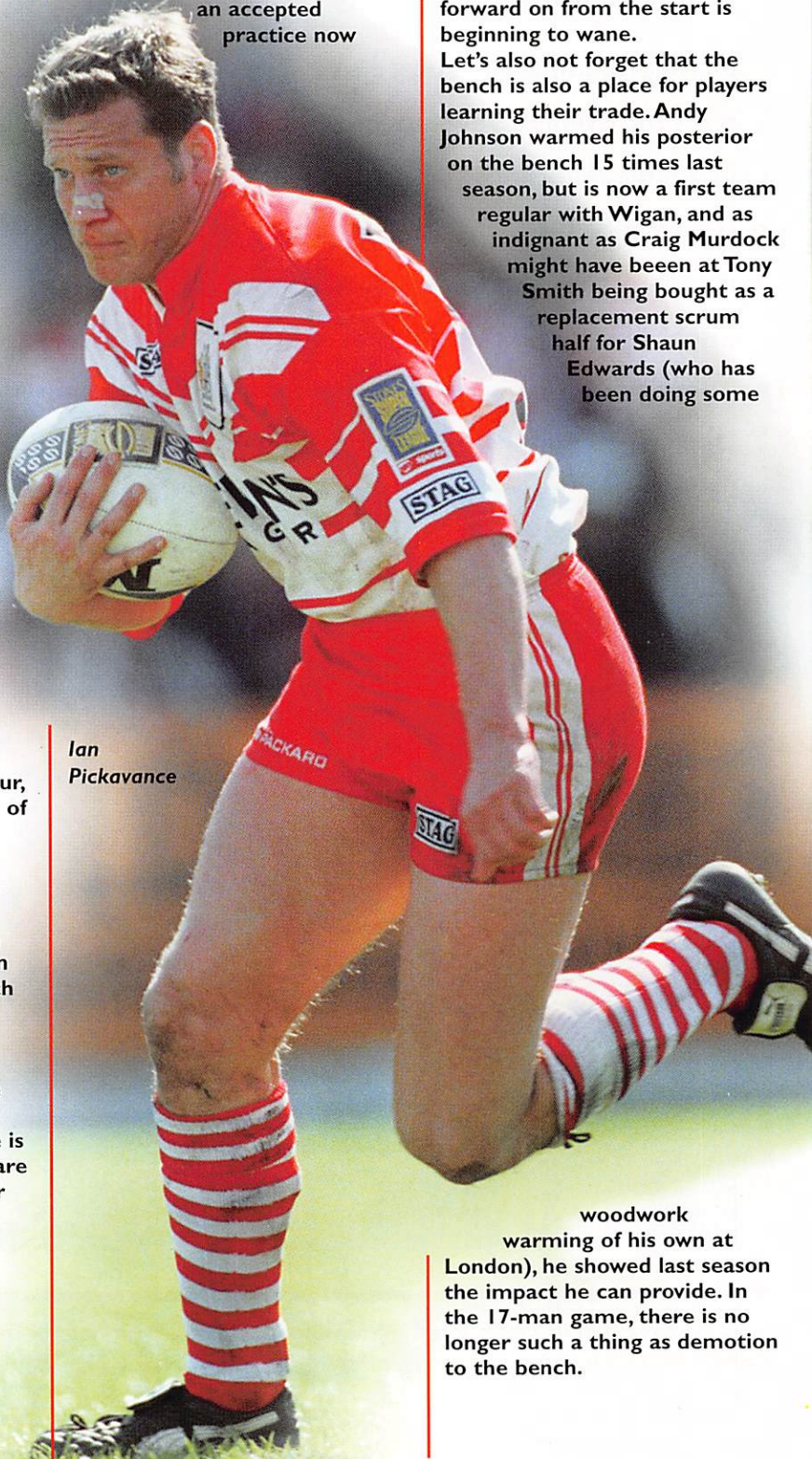
The scenes at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, last Saturday, had more comings and goings than a Brian Rix farce, with 12 substitutes, three sin binnings, two blood binnings and a

sending off. It is all a far cry from 1964, when substitutions were first allowed, but only up to half time and then only for injured players.

Tactical substitutions are such an accepted practice now

that coaches devote considerable energies on when and where to inject their impact men. At London Broncos, the estimable Russell Bawden is some player to bring on when a forward on from the start is beginning to wane.

Let's also not forget that the bench is also a place for players learning their trade. Andy Johnson warmed his posterior on the bench 15 times last season, but is now a first team regular with Wigan, and as indignant as Craig Murdock might have been at Tony Smith being bought as a replacement scrum half for Shaun Edwards (who has been doing some

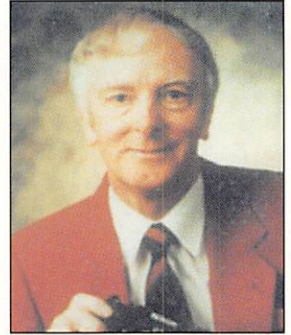


Ian Pickavance

woodwork warming of his own at London), he showed last season the impact he can provide. In the 17-man game, there is no longer such a thing as demotion to the bench.

Eddy - torial

Top Cameraman Eddie Fuller has been 'shooting' the Wolves for twenty five years and Wolves fans have enjoyed his reflections on the game both in the Guardian and your match programme. As a way of 'commemoration' Eddie has composed a compilation of many of the stars attracted to his camera over those years.



The younger generation might need some assistance from their parents or uncles but can any of you out there name them?



Send your effort in to 'Eddie Torial', Widerspools Stadium, Warrington. The most successful will receive two tickets to the Paris game at Wilderspools on Sunday 27th April. If several winners the names will go into a hat - Winner take all.
(Closing Date 20th April 1997)

ALLIANCE UPDATE

THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 1997 ALLIANCE CUP

SEMI FINAL AT POST OFFICE ROAD

FEATHERSTONE 24 37 WARRINGTON

Millington	1	Penny
Gleadhill	2	Welsh
Stokes	3	Davies
Arundell	4	Wingfield
Thompson	5	Arnold
Price	6	Bretherton
Frankland	7	C. Highton
Wood	8	Stevens
Heptonstall	9	Murray
sims	10	Barrow
Miller	11	Geritas
Dunn	12	Knott
wildman	13	Wainwright
Morgan	14	Bennett
Dooler	15	Thursfield
Riley	16	Heaton
Wray	17	rushton



Mike Wainwright back to his best form

A good crowd enjoyed a fine game with both sides coming out with credit.

Rovers took an early initiative with the ex Leeds flyer GLEADHILL scoring two tries in the first ten minutes and FRANKLAND converting one. On seventeen minutes Wolves responded when good passing between WAINWRIGHT and Davies saw the former touch down. The visitors maintained the pressure and on twenty eight BRETHERTON went in at the corner 10-8 acceptable but five from the break the home prop SIMS crashed over by the posts FRANKLAND accepted a dubious conversion. Fev the happier side at the interval 16-8.

Wolves resumed with a vengeance as in two minutes DAVIES scored in the corner and WINGFIELD added a beauty. FRANKLAND responded with an 'off-side' penalty, but on fifty WAINWRIGHT found space and cut through to score by the uprights. WINGFIELD put Wolves ahead at 18-20 for the first time.

Rovers, not dispirited, came back immediately with a try from ARUNDELL with FRANKLAND adding the two.

On fifty nine, from the scrum, WELSH took the pass and scored in the corner with WINGFIELD again on the mark. CHRIS HIGHTON extended the lead with a well placed 'dropper' then WINGFIELD, an ever improving player, with strength and pace opened up the defence to score, then improve. Fev, now desperate, conceded two late penalties which WINGFIELD punished in the time honoured manner. Mike Wainwright turned in an outstanding display with Ian Knott (still the best place kicker on the books) and Chris Highton made major inputs.

In the other semi-final played at Oldham's Alliance retreat - Salybridge - Wigan won 3pts to 2 pts.

THE FINAL

WARRINGTON WOLVES v WIGAN WARRIORS

WILL BE AT WIDERSPOOL ON WEDNESDAY 9th
APRIL KICK OFF 7.30pm.

Paul Cullen and the lads would like you to be there
Adults £4 - Children / concessions £2

In the latest of his weekly interviews with some of the major characters in Super League SKY's Ian Proctor met up with Paris coach Peter Mulholland immediately after his side's slender defeat at Salford on Easter Monday, and the Australian was a less-than-happy figure after a one-point defeat

Q PETER, TO SAY YOU'RE A DISAPPOINTED COACH WOULD BE UNDERSTATEMENT, WOULDN'T IT?

A I'm devastated to lose by one-point to Salford after my players gave absolutely everything. At the risk of copping a fine, I felt that we suffered defeat because of a diabolical refereeing decision which brought about the dismissal of centre Paul Evans after 14 minutes. It was no more than a reactionary tackle, non-malicious, yet he received his marching orders and the Paris team had a mountain to climb from then on. Amazingly, the referee later put Paul Forber 'on report' for a high shot which I considered to be a worse tackle - why couldn't the referee have put Paul Evans 'on report' instead of sending him off?

A week earlier, the Paris players were in the firing line from a series of high tackles from the Leeds players, but when we complained about it, no action was taken. Leeds produced exactly the same sort of stuff in the Challenge Cup semi-final and there was a hue and cry about it all. Where's the consistency? I just didn't know what to say to my players, afterwards at Salford, because words can't do justice to their performance. It was one of the gutsiest efforts I've ever been involved with at any level of rugby league. I was proud of the players.

Q WHAT'S THE CURRENT SITUATION FOR PARIS

REGARDING INJURIES, BECAUSE YOU'RE ALMOST DOWN TO THE BARE BONES OF YOUR SQUAD, NOW, AREN'T YOU?

A My squad is depleted once more. We suffered a further four injuries against Salford, on top of those picked up against London on Good Friday, and it means that I'm really struggling to put a side together for the round five match against champions St Helens at the Charley Stadium.

Key players like Deon Bird, Jason Martin and Jeremy Robinson are all out of contention for that game and we're literally down to thirteen fully fit players.

I'm hoping that we'll have last year's Paris captain, Pierre Chamorin, available for selection again, but it almost certainly means that I'll have to throw some French youngsters into the fray - and I'd prefer not to have to do that against a side like St Helens.

Q WOULD YOU RATHER BLOOD THE YOUNGSTERS THAN GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO THE MORE EXPERIENCED FRENCH PLAYERS AVAILABLE TO YOU?

A I think it's better for Paris St Germain, in the long-term, if I give youth it's chance whenever possible. I'm contracted to be with Paris for two years and by the end of that time, I want to leave a legacy of promising young French players who have

experience of playing at Super League level.

For the game against Salford, I almost called up a young back named Jerome Alonso, who is a former skipper of the French youth team. Fortunately, Phil Bergman and Tony Wall were able to take their places on the wings against the Reds, otherwise we'd have given Jerome his first opportunity in Super League. But that's the way I'm looking at things - the

MOVERS

ONE TO ONE -

best of the youngsters will get their chance, although I was delighted with the effort of 27 year-old Didier Cabestany in defeat at the Willows.

Q HOW DO YOU FEEL THINGS HAVE THINGS GONE FOR PARIS IN THE OPENING FOUR SUPER LEAGUE MATCHES OF 1997?

A Well, we got smashed by London Broncos, who are the best team we've faced so far, and we got rolled by Leeds in circumstances which also left me unhappy. But the plus factors are that we've managed an away win (at Sheffield) which is something which proved beyond Paris throughout 1996 and the players showed enormous guts and character to score five tries to four with 12 men in this defeat by Salford. Team

spirit has to be sky high for the players to produce a showing like that in front of the SKY viewers and we're gradually earning some respect from the supporters in England.

The annoying thing is that we've only got 2 league points on the board, whereas our efforts deserve more than that. But we'll have to roll our sleeves up and prepare as best we can for the visit of St Helens.

Q IS THERE AN 'AUSSIES ON TOUR' METALITY ABOUT THIS PARIS SQUAD, GIVEN THE NUMBER OF

us. For instance, Didier Cabestany only arrived for the Salford game at 11am on the morning of the match, yet he was warmly welcomed by the players and he slotted in and did a fine job in the circumstances.

Q WITH YOUR INJURY SITUATION WORSTENING IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF SENDING AN S.O.S. BACK HOME FOR FURTHER AUSTRALIAN PLAYERS OR WILL YOU LOOK TO FRENCH-BASED PLAYERS?

A I'll look at the French guys

what I've seen, so far. Defensively, it's not quite up to the level of Sydney first-grade football, but, for me, one of the major problems is the inconsistency of the referees. That's the biggest bee I've got in my bonnet.

Preparation is another problem for us, sometimes on our travels, and I didn't think we were mentally right for our game at London on Good Friday. The Broncos ought to have scored more than 28 against us, yet we 'bombed' three tries as well, so we know we can open up the best of British defences. That's encouraging for when these sides come over to Paris.

Q HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON PERTH'S FORM BACK IN AUSTRALIA, BEARING IN MIND THE FACT THAT YOU PUT THE CLUB TOGETHER PRIOR TO THEIR 1995 ENTRY TO THE AUSTRALIAN COMPETITION?

A That's history, for me, now and all my energies are geared towards the future with Paris. This job has a lot of similarities with the one I had in Perth, but you can't afford to look backwards in this game. I'll be keeping a close eye on the Western Reds form when it gets closer to June, though, because they visit us at the Charley Stadium, before we travel to play them in Australia in August. The whole concept of the World Club Championship is exciting for all concerned and I know the Paris players are keen to make an impression in their matches against the Hunter Mariners and the Perth Reds - hopefully our injury crisis will have eased by then!

& SHAKERS

PETER MULHOLLAND

ANTIPODEANS IN THE PARTY?

A Well, when you're living and working together in such close proximity, it does bond you together, Ian. We're going through a lot of difficult circumstances, right now, and it's certainly a lot harder and less comfortable than it might have been back home. But we're over here to do a job and there is a resolve to do that job to the best of our ability.

We're a pretty solid unit and, as we saw on the field at the Willows, Paris aren't a side that will roll over and die. We're just gutted not to get any reward from a performance like that. But, while we're one-for-all and all for one, we're also ready to accept the French players when they become available to

and give them their chance. They deserve that much and with quality players around them I'm sure they'll feel the benefits and improve accordingly. I'm due to meet one or two of them, this week, with Pierre Chamorin and Fabien Devecchi now available. But we've lost last year's leading try-scorer Pascal Bomati who has joined the rugby union club Brive. We'll keep trying to blood the younger French players.

Q HOW HAVE YOU FOUND THE STANDARDS OF THE EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE, COMPARED TO THE STANDARDS YOU WERE USED TO BACK HOME WHILST IN CHARGE OF PERTH REDS?

A The standard is pretty good and I've been impressed with



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Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday 11.00am to 4.00pm



The Return of... THE LOOSE FORWARD

Ray French, *BBC Rugby League Correspondent*

No one knows better than Hollywood the returns from producing the sequel to a Blockbuster film.

The history of the cinema is littered with titles featuring "Son of —", "The Return of —", or concluding with a numeral as in *Omen 1, 2, 3* ad infinitum.

Super League, at last, is learning from the film moguls and encouraging a re-run of some of its biggest Hits of Yesteryear. Yes, crowds are flocking back to see the Hit of '97 – "The Return of the Loose Forward".

Remember those heroes of a decade or two ago who prised open a gap, in the tightest of defences with the sleight of hand ball skills, who could launch a speedy centre down the flanks with a delicate pass, or who could burst into the tackle, and yet somehow still manage to slip the ball to a colleague in support?

Do you recollect *Workington Town's* Billy Ivison, *St Helens'* Vince Karalius, *Hull's* John Whiteley, *Oldham's* Derek Turner and more recently, *Saints'* Harry Pinner?

Well, they are back and "The Return of the Loose Forward" is producing instant returns at the Box Office.

Saints No 13 (oops, sorry, squad number 6!) *Karle*

Hammonds' display in the recent *Silk Cut Challenge Cup* Semi Final clash with *Salford* proved the value of encouraging a ball handling loose forward to roam free on the pitch.

His quick hands, speed of thought, and shrewd positional sense contributed to at least half a dozen of *Saint's* nine tries at *Central Park*.

Bradford Bulls' *Steve McNamara's* perfectly timed pass out of a tackle found the *London Bronco's* defence wanting in an

earlier round.

Wigan and *Great Britain* skipper *Andy Farrell's* play over the past couple of seasons has marked him out from the "crash, bang, wallop" style that has characterised loose forwards of the Eighties and Nineties.

And *Warrington's* shaky start to the 1997 season can, in part, be attributed to the loss, through injury, of their young international star, 19-years-old *Paul Sculthorpe* – surely a young *Karalius* in the making.

For the past fifteen years, with the odd exception, the influx of Aussie coaching methods has brought about the decline of the once highly respected British loose forward. In his place we have suffered the all powerful, all tackling, all barnstorming hulk roaring onto the ball at *First*

Receiver, his sole purpose being to charge seven or eight metres upfield.

Not so in 97. And, ironically, it is Aussie coaches like *Shaun McRae*, and *Matthew Elliot* who are leading the way and promoting the return of the loose forward to our *Big Screens*.

If it's good enough for Hollywood, it's good enough for Super League. Grab your popcorn, check your programme, settle in your seats – "The Return of the Loose Forward" is now showing at a ground near you.



Paul Sculthorpe

Pen Pics

PAUL TOPPING

Utility player who is equally effective whether at centre, stand-off or loose-forward. Terrific defender. Topping is a former Wigan St. Patricks junior who turned professional with Swinton in 1985. He had a spell on loan with Mansfield before joining Leigh in 1990 and then transferring to Oldham in September 1993. Prior to turning professional, Topping toured Australia with the British Schoolboy squad in 1984 and his only representative honour since has been one appearance for Lancashire in 1991.

ROB MYLER

Verastile back equally at home whether at Full-back or on the wing. A former Widnes - St. Maries junior who turned professional with Warrington in 1989. Has a spell on loan at Salford in 1995 but returned to Warrington before transferring to Oldham in July 1995 for £50,000.

JASON TEMU

Hard running and tough tackling prop who first came to notice with the Marist club in New Zealand. He joined the Counties-Manukau outfit for the New Zealand Lion Red Cup competition of 1994 and it was after that successful campaign that Temu joined Oldham. He has represented New Zealand Residents during their 1994 tour of Australia and was a member of the Cook Island team which lifted the 1995 Emerging Nations Championship. Also represented Cook Islands in the 1996 Fijian Nines.

CHRIS MCKINNEY

Outstanding young forward who can play either hooker, second-row or loose-forward. Signed from the Hensingham junior club (Whiteheaven) in August 1994. Toured New Zealand with the British Academy squad last October.

MATT MUNRO

Powerful mobile second-row forward with a terrific workrate. Has also turned out at hooker. An Australian who joined Oldham at the beginning of the 1996 campaign from Sydney Tigers, and featured in almost every match scoring 6 tries.

NATHAN TURNER

Goal kicking centre or full-back who joined Oldham last November from Queensland Crushers. A former Queensland and Australia under-21 rugby union international.

DARREN ABRAM

Prolific try scoring centre. A former Thatto Heath junior (St. Helens) who won BARLA international honours before turning professional with Warrington in 1985. He had a spell on loan with Swinton before moving to Chorley Borough and then in November 1990 he was transferred here to Hornets. Later that month Abram made his debut in a First Division match at Leeds which Hornets lost 64-4 but it was Abram who scored the Hornets' try. He made a total of 71 appearances for Rochdale scoring 40 tries, 9 goals and a dropped goal. He

was club top try scorer in both the 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons. Abram moved on to Oldham in February 1993.

PAUL ATCHESON

Outstanding attacking full-back and Oldham's top try scorer last season. A former Blackbrook junior (St. Helens) who turned professional with Widnes in 1990. Moved to Wigan and then joined Oldham in June 1995 for £50,000. Has represented Great Britain at academy and under-21 level and has been a member of the Welsh team in the various international competitions during the past three years.

DAVID BADBURY

Utility forward who gives 100% in every match. Oldham signed him from Leigh Miners juniors in August 1991. Has toured down under with both the BARLA and the senior British Lions.

JOHN CLARKE

Hooker. A former East Leeds Junior who turned professional with Oldham in May 1993. Clarke toured Australia with the BARLA under-18s in 1993 and further honours came his way when he represented Great Britain under-21s against the 1994 Kangaroos.

MARTIN CROMPTON

Scrum-half, captain and the orchestrator of most of Oldham's attacking play. A former Wigan St. Patricks junior who began his professional career with Warrington in 1986. Moved back to Wigan in 1992 when he joined the senior Central Park outfit. Oldham snapped him up for a bargain £35,000 fee in September 1993. A brilliant tactical kicker who has been a regular in the Irish team during the past couple of years and who played for Great Britain in the world Nines last weekend.

JOE FAIMALO

Hard working second-row forward who was an everpresent during the 1996 Super League season. A product of the Eastern Suburbs club in New Zealand, Faimalo had brief spells with Warrington Town, Oldham and then then Swinton during the 1991-92 season without impressing. He returned home and enjoyed success with Hawkes Bay which prompted him to return to Oldham in September 1994. His determination and stamina since then have made him one of the mainstays of the Roughyed pack.

IAN GILDART

Hard working forward. A former Wigan Colt who turned professional at Central Park in 1986. After eight years with Wigan he moved on to Wakefield Trinity in 1994. Moved back over the Pennines to Oldham for £45,000 in August 1995. Represented Great Britain at under-21 level during his Central Park days.

BRETT GOLDSPIK

Giant prop who joined Oldham last November from Perth Western Reds (Australia). Goldspink

previously played for South Sydney, Illawarra and Canberra.

LUKE GOODWIN

Match winning half-back who joined Oldham last November from Perth Western Reds (Australia). Experienced campaigner who has also enjoyed spells with Penrith, Sydney Bulldogs, Parramatta and Canterbury-Bankstown.

VINCE FAWCETT

Big powerful threequarter who played for Middleton juniors (Leeds) before turning professional with Leeds. Then had spells with Workington Town and Parramatta before joining Oldham last december for £28,000.

HOWARD HILL

Talented young back-row forward who has also turned out in the centre position. Joined Oldham in July 1994 from the Hensingham junior club of Whitehaven after securing BARLA international honours. Hill was included in the Great Britain under-21 squad for the match against France in January 1996 which was unfortunately cancelled. Should eventually gain senior representative recognition.

AFI LEUILA

Tough tackling centre or winger. He was signed in September 1995 from the Counties-Manukau squad of New Zealand. Leuilala has enjoyed spells with St. Helens in 1994 and with North Queensland Cowboys the following year. He has played rugby union for Tonga.

GARY LORD

Experienced professional. A former Stanley Rangers (Castleford) junior who joined the senior Castleford club in 1984. He appeared at full-back for Castleford at Wembley in 1986 but has since developed into a hard working second-row forward. Lord was transferred to Leeds in 1988 and then on to Halifax in 1991 before joining Oldham in July 1994 for £35,000.

FRANCIS MALONEY

Powerful stand-off and accurate positional kicker. A product of the St. John Fisher junior club (Dewsbury) who turned professional with Leeds in 1990. Moved to Featherstone Rovers in 1992 and won Great Britain under-21 recognition whilst at Post Office Road. Transferred to Warrington in 1994 but did not settle at Wilderspool and so he moved on to Oldham in July 1995 for £50,000. Took over the goal kicking duties at Watersheddings and has been Oldham's top point scorer during the past two seasons.

SCOTT RANSON

Fast and elusive winger. A former Thatto Heath junior (St. Helens) who turned professional with Swinton in 1987. Developed into a dangerous attacker whilst with the Lions. Joined Oldham in February 1992 and has continued his prolific try scoring feats with the Bears.

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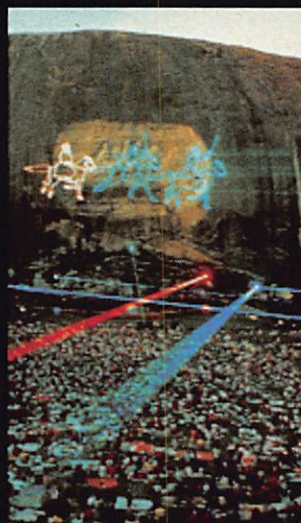
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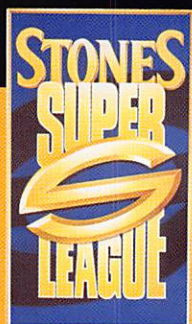
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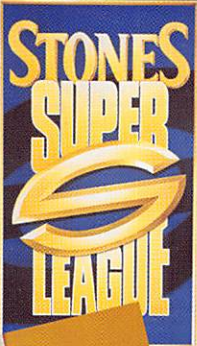
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STONES

COMMENTARY

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As we embark on the new season, Stones is delighted to welcome you to the second year of its sponsorship of the Stones Super League.

The Stones Super League last year was marked by some explosive action on the pitch and significantly increased attendances. The 1996 season put the sport on a world stage where it belongs, as St. Helens clinched the Stones Super League title from Wigan on the last day of the season.

1997 is sure to be a truly exciting season as St. Helens try to replicate their success closely contested by rivals Wigan, Bradford Bulls and London Broncos. Newly promoted Salford Reds should not be underestimated as they set out to make their mark on the Stones Super League.

The forthcoming season provides us at Stones with the opportunity to build on the success of 1996, support will continue for the prestigious Stones Gold Awards and the Stones Premiership Finals at Old Trafford on Sunday, September 28th.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of the teams the best of luck for the 1997 Stones Super League season.

Richard Thompson

Sponsorship Manager Bass Brewers Ltd.

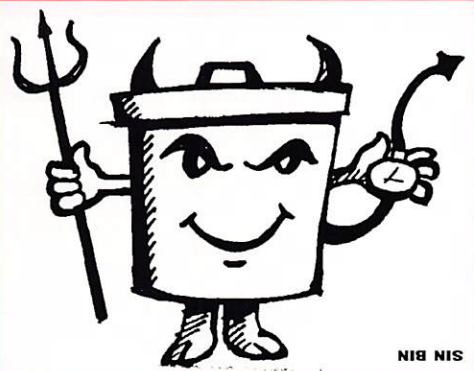


the Great Stones Giveaway

To mark the kick off of the season, we have 20 limited edition Stones Super League T-shirts to give away. All you have to do is answer the simple question below and complete the coupon provided or send the answer with your name and address on a postcard to the promotional address. There are 20 T-shirts to be won:

Who came 3rd in the Stones Super League title in '96?

WHAT AM I ?



Send your entry to: The Stones Super League T-shirt competition, PO Box 56 Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5UU, to arrive no later than 07.04.97. Winners will be informed by 14th April. To obtain a list of winners please send an SAE to the promotional address.

Answer:

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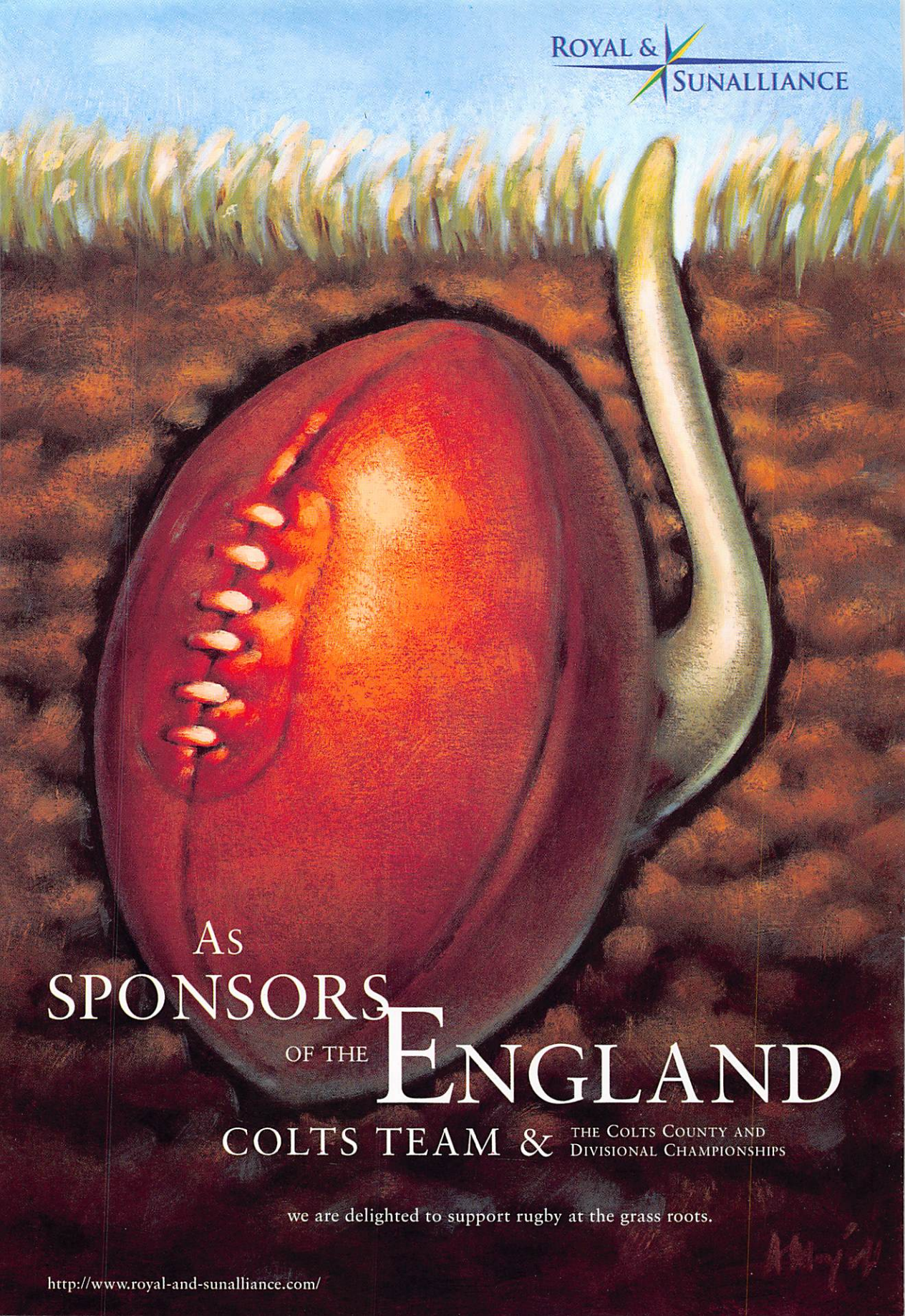
Address:

Daytime Tel:

SUPER LEAGUE 1997

GOALS - GREEN DROP GOALS - BLUE

								SQUAD NUMBERS	1997 SEASON					ALL SEASONS					
1	12	13	14	15	16	17		APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP		
		¹	⁴	25	23	27	1	Lee Penny	-	-	-	-	-	121	4	46	-	-	
1	12	13	17	22	27	³ 32	2	Mark Forster	2	-	-	-	-	348	15	147	3	-	
¹	12	13	3	18	28	17	3	Toa Kohe-Love	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
							4	Jon Roper	5	-	1	15	-	48	3	27	16	-	
25	¹ 12	22	¹ 17	¹ 31	23	18	5	Richard Henare	3	1	7	-	-	21	2	24	-	-	
25	12	11	17	31	19	18	6	Nigel Vagana	5	-	5	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	
							7	Willie Swann	4	-	4	-	-	19	1	8	-	-	
							8	Dallas Mead	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
RESULTS GRID 1997								9	Martin Dermott	3	-	1	-	1	3	-	1	-	1
								10	Cary Chambers	5	-	-	-	-	92	32	6	-	-
								11	Paul Hulme	4	-	1	-	-	14	1	3	-	-
							12	Tony Tatupu	5	-	1	-	-	5	-	1	-	-	
							13	Paul Sculthorpe	3	-	1	-	-	43	10	15	-	1	
							14	Paul Cullen	-	-	-	-	-	330	20	56	-	-	
							15	Mateaki Mafi	4	-	1	-	-	14	9	8	-	-	
							16	Kelly Shelford	5	-	1	-	-	152	5	40	1	7	
				58-20			17	Chris Rudd	1	3	1	-	-	125	17	39	98	-	
							18	George Mann	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	
						14-22	19	Salesi Finau	4	1	1	-	-	14	11	5	-	-	
		18-16					20	Mike Wainwright	-	-	-	-	-	20	9	7	-	-	
							21												
							22	Gareth Davies	1	1	-	-	-	9	4	3	-	-	
4-28							23	Warren Stevens	-	2	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	
							24	Paul Barrow	-	-	-	-	-	3	14	2	-	-	
							25	Chris Holden	2	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	
							26	Paul Wingfield											
							27	Carl Roden	1	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	
							28	Paul Darbyshire	-	1	-	-	-	56	44	9	12	-	
							29	Andy Bennett	-	-	-	-	-	17	44	13	-	-	
							30	Antony Murray	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
							31	Andy Currier	-	2	1	-	-	17	2	7	-	-	
							32	Iestyn Harris	1	1	-	3	-	90	2	37	182	4	
							33	John Duffy	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	



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Dave Swanton 'Man on the Mike'

Since my first game here at Wilderspool we have tried various pieces of music to enhance the presentation - entry to a Wolf howl and fanfare, which has now been changed to a Wolf howl and the Rocky theme.

Music for tries has built up from Born to Run and Catch Me If You Can to a selection of over 50 sound pieces. But I want more and this is where you come in. Let me know what you want to hear and now we have a pitchside mini disk we can access over 180 pieces of music within seconds.

Wolfie has settled in well but he can't understand why you all don't cheer "Come on you Wolves" instead of Wire. I know it's been the Wire for 100 years but we have to move on - so follow the Wolf in Primrose and Blue.

The club telephone line on 0930 168874 continues to bring all the news from Wilderspool FIRST. The service is advertised on regional teletext pages 171 and 172 and we are about to start running competitions for top prizes.

The pre-match entertainment planning is well under way. Today it's a welcome return for the Screaming Beavers, a top soul band who you all enjoyed at the Wigan and Leeds games last summer. Keep the letters rolling in. Let us know your ideas. Each letter will be read and you will get a letter of thanks in reply.



Regards. DAVE SWANTON

RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE/COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

The Rugby Football League has devised a 13-point action plan against racism in Rugby League. Warrington Wolves believe this action plan to be a practical basis for outlawing racist behaviour and encouraging greater participation in the game. A copy of the plan is available on request. The following statement has been issued by the club.

Warrington Wolves Rugby League Football Club fully supports the 'Lets Tackle Racism in Rugby League' campaign, and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place within our game, and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Allow everybody to enjoy the game.

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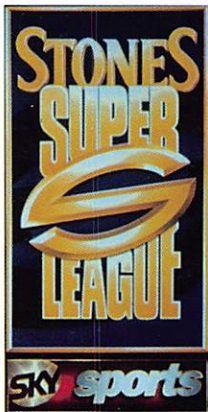
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SUPERLEAGUE ACT II



Ian Proctor continues his review of the status of Super League clubs as they progress through the season. This week he looks at Bradford and Leeds.

BRADFORD BULLS

SUPERLEAGUE ACT II

Bradford Bulls are undeniably the emerging force in Super League and their form in reaching a second consecutive Silk Cut Challenge Cup final and racing to the top of Super League has underlined just what a formidable squad Matthew Elliott has at his disposal.

No rookie coach has ever gone into a job with such confidence or with such high expectations weighing on his shoulders. Yet, Elliott, who has added shrewdly to the impressive player personnel left behind by his mentor Brian Smith, has already shown that he is more than capable of fulfilling the dreams of the Odsal faithful.

Bradford have been awesome in the opening month of 1997, but there have been disappointments, and it seems certain that the Bulls will go into the Wembley showdown with Saints minus the services of stricken back-rowers Jeremy Donougher and Warren Jowitt, while prop Brian McDermott was anxiously awaiting the verdict of the game's disciplinary committee, following his late dismissal in last week's fiery Cup semi-final against Leeds.

All the hectic wheeling-and dealing of a year or so ago laid the foundations of what followed in the summer of '96, and it meant that Elliott only needed to fine-tune a squad which lost Joe Tamani (to Adelaide), Davide Longo (Swinton), Jon Hamer (York), Karl Fairbank (retired) and Carlos Hassan (Keighley) at the end of last season.

Inevitably, Elliott did his recruiting in the Australian market he knows so well and Danny Peacock looks an outstanding capture from the Crushers and a player who will attract a cult following with the Odsal fans. His addition to a sizeable three-quarter line makes the Bulls backline look particularly dangerous - clearly Elliott is a believer in the old Bob Fulton maxim that big is beautiful when it comes to League players. Tahi Reihana, from Perth Reds, and ex-Leeds and Halifax man Paul Anderson

have beefed up the Bulls pack and added to the competition for places. Reihana will be hoping to make the kind of impression on the growing crowds that made fellow Donougher, Graeme Bradley and Glen Tomlinson so popular last summer. Bradley discovered some of the best form of his career and the Bulls moved quickly to extend his contract, realising just how influential he is to the side.

As if the Bulls three-quarter line wasn't big enough, Bradford have added giant ex-Halifax winger Abi Ekoru to their playing staff and he could prove a worthy successor to the popular Tamani, once he gets a chance

The name on everyone's lips, however, is the irrepressible Robbie Paul and his switch from half-back to stand-off in the early weeks suggests that Elliott will give him an even freer rein than the one he had when operating under Smith at scrum-half. The genial Kiwi was quite magnificent in 1996 and looks an even greater threat to opposing defences, a point illustrated with his magnificent try hat-trick on the opening night against Warrington and two touchdowns in the midweek triumph at Castleford.

The swap deal which brought Sonny Nickle, Paul Loughlin and Bernard Dwyer to Odsal, in exchange for Paul Newlove was a deal which left both parties satisfied. And, certainly, the Bulls' ascent towards the top of Super League can be traced back to the arrival of the 'Knowsley Road Three', each of them showing a fierce determination to prove Saints wrong. Loughlin and Dwyer have produced some of the most consistent football of their careers and Nickle is on a par with any forward in the competition. Odsal will not be the same place without Karl Fairbank around, but there is still plenty of menace in a pack which includes 1996 Lions tourists Brian McDermott, the admirable, ever-improving Steve

BRADFORD BULLS

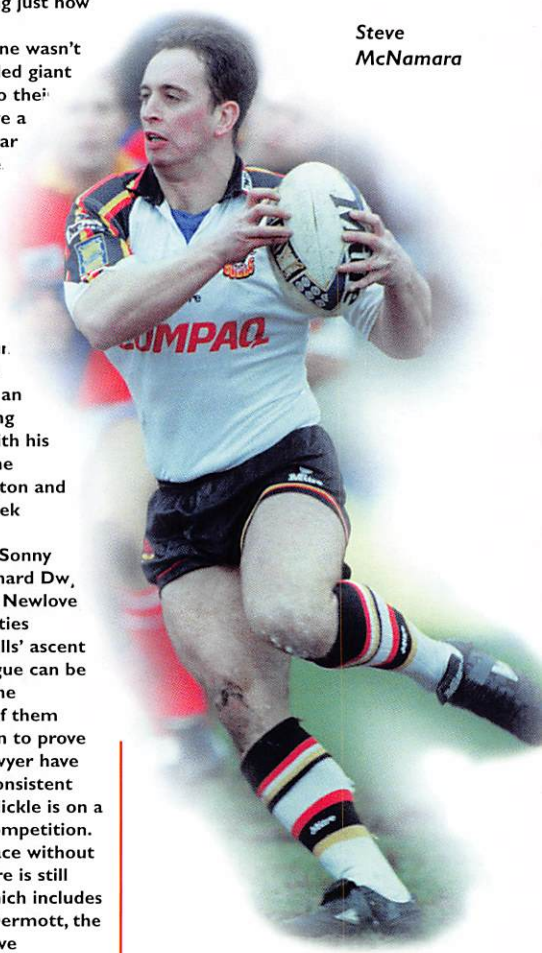
McNamara and influential James Lowes, who is regarded by many opposing coaches as an even more important figure than the effervescent Paul.

The Bulls were near-invincible in front of those huge Odsal crowds, last year, winning 10 of 11 matches on home soil and only losing their 100% record in the last game of the season to Halifax. Once again, their home form will form the bedrock of a committed title challenge as they aim to discover the form which swept Saints and Wigan aside on those two unforgettable Friday evenings last July.

Stand by for more such occasions as the Bulls' marketing wizard, Peter Deakin, continues to show other Super League clubs the way forward. With World Club Championship matches against Penrith, Auckland and Cronulla just around the corner, in June, the summer of '97 is set to sizzle in an Odsal bowl which should be packed to the rafters.

This time, with a bigger, more settled squad, it is hard to see Bradford failing to emerge as the major threat to the Wigan-St Helens duopoly. And, this time, nothing less than silverware is expected.

Steve
McNamara



Leeds went into Super League 96 on a wing and a prayer and gave all the signs of a club reluctant to promote the benefits of summer football at the best-appointed ground in the game. Sadly, their apathy reaped what it sowed and the year ended with one of the world's most famous sporting venues being up for sale. Only the timely intervention of businessman Paul Caddick and rugby league entrepreneur Gary Hetherington prevented the unthinkable prospect of Leeds ground-sharing at Elland Road. A further injection of capital allowed coach Dean Bell the opportunity to strengthen a youthful squad which was clearly out of its depth in the 1996 Super League. Wholesale changes ensued. Remarkably, only three players remain from the side which contested the 1995 Wembley Cup Final - skipper Gary Mercer, Graham Holroyd and Francis Cummins - and that represents a massive upheaval in player personnel. But Leeds, on the evidence of the opening weeks, look meaner and hungrier than for some time and their fearless effort in the Cup semi-final against Bradford erased

Wayne Collins



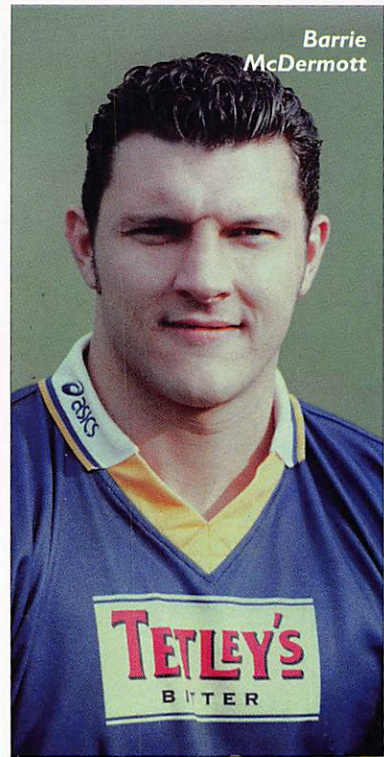
some of the embarrassment of last year's semi-final humiliation against the same opponents at the same venue. The lesson to be learnt from that first defeat of 1997, though, is that the Rhinos must learn to temper their enthusiasm with self-discipline - they cannot afford to let their hearts rule their heads in big matches because, ultimately, it is only a recipe for disappointment. But it was good to see a Leeds pack breathing fire and brimstone, once again. Bell, with more than a little help from Hetherington, has altered the complexion of the entire playing staff and Leeds seem much healthier for the influx of new players. But they still have a lot of ground to make up on the leading clubs and the Cup wins against modest opposition have not answered the questions surrounding the make-up of the new-look squad. The Rhinos have certainly embraced the second season of Super League in a positive manner and the upshot should be a big increase in attendances, better performances on the field and an air of optimism around Headingley. But their loyal supporters would be wise not to expect too much too soon from the new charges with such a daunting programme ahead of them.

Certainly, the addition of Richie Blackmore, Martin Masella, Wayne Collins, Paul Sterling, Jamie Mathiou and Damian Gibson, plus the ex-Sheffield trio of Anthony Farrell, Ryan Sheridan and Dean Lawford, has bolstered the playing squad.

There are some tremendous young footballers at the club, with 1996 Lions tourist Adrian Morley the pick of the crop, and Adam Hughes, Jamie Field, Nick Fozzard, Leroy Rivett, Gavin Brown and Terry Newton ranking with the best youngsters in Super League. They will form the basis of a team for the future - but Leeds have to address the present. Tony Kemp will hope for an injury-free season, and his partnership with former Castleford colleague Blackmore should benefit the outside backs, Mercer has shown already that he will lead the forwards by example and his performance in defeat at Halifax, on Tuesday, was quite magnificent.

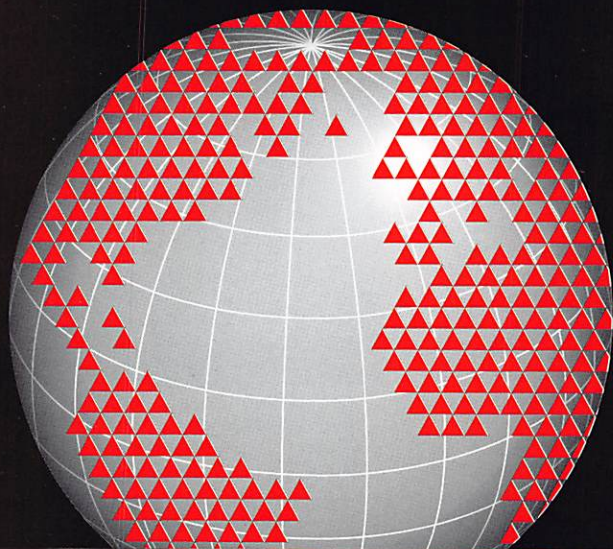
Headingley is witnessing the emergence of a genuine folk-hero in bulldozing prop Barrie McDermott, who was virtually unstoppable in Challenge Cup football and Masella and Mathiou showed their capabilities in that bruising cup-tie against the Bulls last week. McDermott created history by becoming the first Leeds prop to score a try hat-trick in the Cup, against

Barrie McDermott



Dewsbury, and he poses a threat every time he is close to the opposition line. Nor should it be forgotten that long-established Graham Holroyd and Francis Cummins are just 21 and 20 respectively, and maturing into influential figures. They have a wealth of experience, now, and should thrive in a stronger Leeds outfit, but they have to start taking more responsibility on the field. There is plenty to build on and with greater support (Leeds are aggressively marketing the club in the schools and the Rhinos tag is slowly becoming accepted) they have every right to expect a major improvement on last season. That won't take much, having finished third-from-bottom with a record of just six wins from 22 matches and only two successes on their travels. But, although their worst effort in 50 years meant that Super League's inaugural season was a disaster from their point of view, it proved a watershed for a great club and the climb back from the abyss starts here.

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Academy News

with Peter Wakefield

SUNDAY MARCH 23 1997 AT WILDERSPOOL
WARRINGTON WOLVES 7 LONDON BRONCOS 26

Broncos fielded a stronger-looking side, physically, and had the advantage of their recent first team full back Tony Martin. He turned in a most competent display, giving the visitors a 4th minute two-point start with a penalty goal.

Wolves matched the opposition for the first 40 minutes but, despite this, wasted opportunities left them with just a 38th minute CAUSEY drop goal. The scoreboard resembled a soccer game, but that soon changed. On 44 minutes a Broncos attack came to nothing and Wolves full back David Highton caught the opposition on the hop by picking up a loose ball and racing 80m before being overhauled. A quick play sent substitute IAN PHAIR diving under the posts leaving LEE RUSHTON an easy conversion. Instead of building on that score Wolves retired to their lair and allowed Broncos to seize the initiative. On 52 minutes Broncos hooker SODON crashed through three would-be tacklers to score with MARTIN adding the extras. On 62 SODON did a repeat and so did MARTIN.

Broncos, now with a 14-7 lead, looked dominant and Wolves were losing their shape with poor handling and tackling. Martin Carney made great efforts to regain the advantage lost but the support given to his surges was found wanting. In the last two or three minutes

WOLVES: David Highton; Lee Rushton, Stephen Arnold, Neil Callon, Gareth Doherty, Darren Geritas, Andrew Hill, Lee Tyman, Ian Ure, Chris Causey, Martin Carney, Graeme Howard, Paul Fisher.

Subs: Ian Phair, John Wilcock, Neil Kearns, David Gordon.

Wolves were bystanders as second row PETERS scattered them from 40m, then SODON completed his hat-trick by taking the ball over the line from a close-in play. MARTIN, needless to say, converted both to give his side a well-deserved win. With new faces, Wolves never really settled but that's the name of

the game. John Myler has to give them the opportunity to bring out the skills which earned them a place in the Wolves Academy. Apart from the excellent Carney, Howard looked useful until injury took him out of contention and one or two others will improve with time. The London lads looked pretty seasoned and, at this level, that can make all the difference.

Martin Carney 'outstanding'



1997 APPEARANCES & SCORERS

Player	P.	S.	Tries	GlS	D/Gls
Arnold S.	2	-	-	-	-
Callon N.	2	-	-	-	-
Carney M.	1	-	-	-	-
Causey C.	2	-	-	-	1
Conway C.	-	1	-	-	-
Doherty G.	1	-	-	-	-
Fisher P.	2	-	1	-	-
Geritas	2	-	-	-	-
Gordon D.	-	2	-	-	-
Highton C.	1	-	-	-	-
Highton D.	2	-	-	-	-
Hill A.	1	-	-	-	-
Howard G.	2	-	2	2	-
Kearns N.	1	1	-	-	-
Phair I.	-	2	1	-	-
Rushton L.	2	-	1	1	-
Tyman L.	2	-	-	-	-
Ure I.	2	-	-	-	-
Welsh A.	-	1	-	-	-
Wilcock J.	1	1	-	-	-



Today's

SuperLeague Fixtures 1997

Date	Team	Venue	K.O.
Sun Mar 9	Chall Cup 6th Rnd		
Fri Mar 14	Bradford Bulls	A	7.30pm
Fri Mar 21	London Broncos	H	7.30pm
Sat Mar 22	Silk Cut S.F. (1)		
Fri Mar 28	Sheffield Eagles	A	7.30pm
Mon Mar 31	Wigan Warriors	H	3.00pm
Sun Apr 6	Oldham Bears	H	3.00pm
Sun Apr 13	Castleford	A	3.30pm
Sun Apr 20	St Helens	A	3.30pm
Sun Apr 27	Paris St Germain	H	3.00pm
Sat May 3	Challenge Cup Final		
Sun May 11	Halifax Blue Sox	A	3.00pm
Sun May 18	Bradford Bulls	H	6.35pm
Fri May 23	London Broncos	A	7.30pm
Mon May 26	Sheffield Eagles	H	3.00pm
Fri May 30	Leeds Rhinos	A	7.30pm
Sun June 8	Cronulla Sharks	H	6.35pm
Sun June 15	Penrith Panthers	H	3.00pm
Mon June 23	Auckland Warriors	H	7.30pm
Sun June 29	Salford Reds	A	3.00pm
Wed July 2	Wigan Warriors	A	7.30pm
Sun July 6	Halifax Blue Sox	H	3.00pm
Fri July 11	Leeds Rhinos	H	7.30pm
Sat July 19	Penrith Panthers	A	
Sat July 26	Cronulla Sharks	A	
Sat Aug 2	Auckland Warriors	A	
Sun Aug 10	Salford Reds	H	3.00pm
Sat Aug 16	Paris St Germain	A	8.00pm
Fri Aug 22	St Helens	H	7.30pm
Mon Aug 25	Castleford Tigers	H	7.30pm
Sun Aug 31	Oldham Bears	A	3.00pm

WARRINGTON WOLVES

	T	G	DG
1 Lee Penny	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Richard Henare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Neil Vacana	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 John Roper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Mark Forster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16 Kelly Shelford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
33 John Duffy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Warren Stevens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Paul Hulme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Gary Chambers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Toni Tatupu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18 George mann	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Paul Sculthorpe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17 Chris Rudd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Gareth Davies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24 Paul Barrow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 Paul Darbyshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Today's SuperLeague Officials

Referee: **S Granson**

Touch Judges: **J Molyneux, P Brooks**

In Goal: **D Blood, F Royals**

SCRUMS

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

PENALTIES

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

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Teams



OLDHAM BEARS

	T	G	DG
1 Paul Atcheson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Scott Ranson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Darren Abram	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Rob Myler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Francis Maloney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Martin Crompton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Ian Gildart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 John Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Gary Lord	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Joe Faimalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 David Bradbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14 Matt Munro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15 Paul Davidson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20 Afi Leuila	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22 Vince Fawcett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23 Brett Goldspink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 Luke Goodwin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SCRUMS

PENALTIES

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

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

Alliance Fixtures 1997

Date	Team	Venue	K.O.
Thu Mar 13	Bradford Bulls	H	7.30pm
Thu Mar 27	Featherstone R	H	7.30pm
Thu Apr 3	Oldham Bears	A	7.30pm
Thu Apr 10	Castleford Tigers		POSTPONED
Thu Apr 10	Wigan Warriors	H	7.30pm
ALLIANCE CUP FINAL			
Thu Apr 17	St Helens	H	7.30pm
Thu Apr 24	Featherstone R	A	7.30pm
Thu May 1	Hull	A	8.00pm
Thu May 8	Halifax Blue Sox	H	7.30pm
Thu May 15	Bradford Bulls	A	7.30pm
Thu May 22	Hull	H	8.00pm
Thu May 29	Leeds Rhinos	H	7.30pm
Wed June 4	Wigan Warriors	A	7.30pm
Thu June 19	Hull Kingston Rovers	H	7.30pm
Thu June 26	Salford	H	7.30pm
Thu July 3	Halifax Blue Sox	A	7.30pm
Wed July 9	Leeds Rhinos	A	7.30pm
Thu July 17	Wigan Warriors	H	7.30pm
Fri Aug 1	Hull Kingston R	A	7.30pm
Fri Aug 8	Salford Reds	A	8.00pm
Thu Aug 14	Castleford Tigers	H	7.30pm
Thu Aug 20	St Helens	A	7.30pm
Thu Aug 28	Oldham Bears	H	7.30pm

Academy Fixtures 1997

Date	Team	Venue	K.O.
Mon Mar 17	Featherstone R	A	7.30pm
Sun Mar 23	London Broncos	H	3.00pm
Fri May 28	Hull	A	1.15pm
Mon Mar 21	Wigan Warriors	H	12.30pm
Sun Apr 6	St Helens	H	12.30pm
Sun Apr 13	Castleford Tigers	A	1.30pm
Sat Apr 19	Bradford Bulls	H	2.30pm
Sun Apr 27	Wakefield T	A	1.30pm
Sun May 11	Halifax Blue Sox	A	1.00pm
Sun May 18	Featherstone R	H	4.00pm
Fri May 23	London Broncos	A	5.00pm
Mon May 26	Hull	H	12.30pm
Fri May 30	Leeds Rhinos	A	5.30pm
Sun June 8	Castleford Tigers	H	2½ hrs pre-1st team game
Sun June 15	Bradford Bulls	A	unconfirmed
Sat June 21	Wigan Warriors	A	2.30pm
Sun June 29	Salford Reds	A	1.00pm
Sun July 6	Halifax Blue Sox	H	12.30pm
Thu July 11	Leeds Rhinos	H	5.00pm
Fri Aug 8	St Helens	A	2.30pm
Thu Aug 10	Salford Reds	H	12.30pm
Sat Aug 16	Wakefield T	H	2.30pm



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