

OLDHAM



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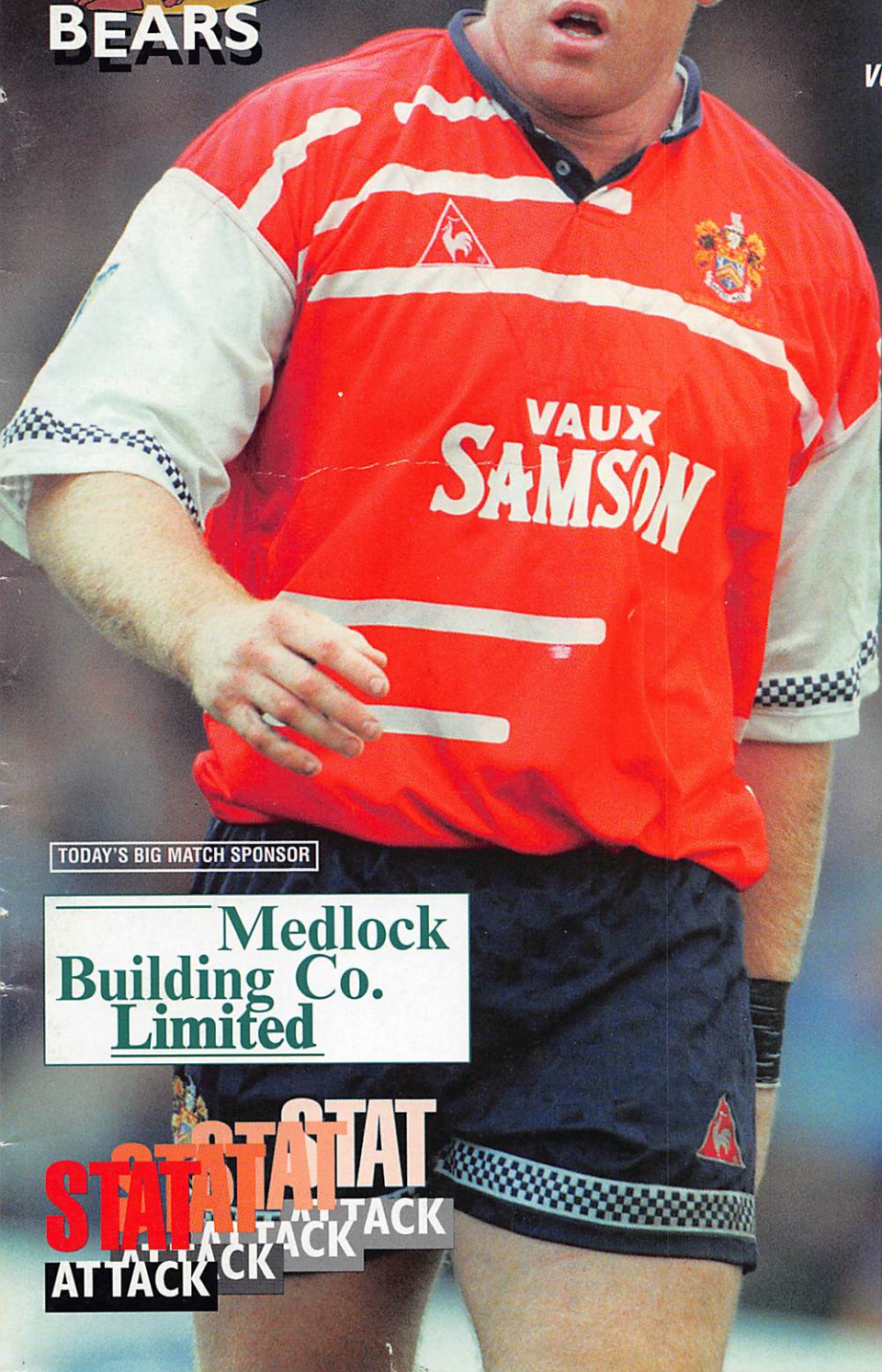
Sunday 29th June 1997 K.O. 3pm

OLDHAM

OLDHAM BEARS v

ST HELENS

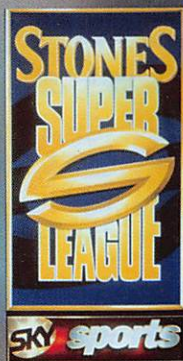
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HONOURS

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

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1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1904-05

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

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

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

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

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958
Runners Up 1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968,
1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

SECOND DIVISION PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

1988, 1990 Runners Up, 1992

CLUB RECORDS

RECORD VICTORY

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

RECORD SCORE

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

RECORD ATTENDANCE

All Time 28,000 v Huddersfield, 4th Feb 1912
Last 20 years 11,254 v Bradford Bulls, 9th March 1997

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

TRIES IN A SEASON

Reg Farrar 49 1921-22

TRIES IN A CAREER

Alan Davies 174 1950-61

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 1950-61

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 1950-61

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

A Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN

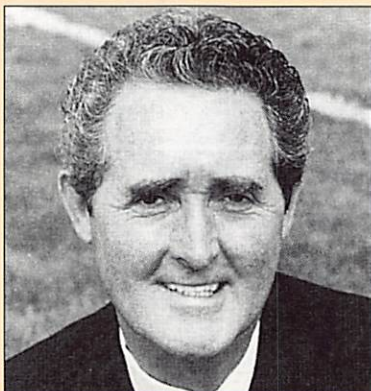
JIM QUINN

IN welcoming St Helens to Boundary Park today as we resume Super League activities, it is perhaps an appropriate time to reflect on the first stanza of the new World Club Championship.

The Bears and the Saints were but two of several English clubs which found the going tough against opponents from the southern hemisphere – the Bears in Australia and the Saints at Knowsley Road.

Both clubs felt the full blast of the Australians competitive intensity, which forms part of their sporting culture. As far as I can see, the Aussies have it over us in two key areas – support play and intensity.

If English teams learn to run from all parts of the field to support the ball



carrier and learn to become competitively intense for 80 minutes they will be half way there in their attempts to close the gap in standards. Another thing I have noticed about how the Aussies play is the speed with

which they will accept a tackle and quickly play the ball. The North Queensland Cowboys treated us superbly off the field, but it was a different story out in the middle, as the Bears players will testify. British clubs can repay the compliment when the Aussies come to England soon. The Aussie clubs will have to tough it out from the day they arrive. We always knew in England that there was a major difference in speed and intensity between the Aussies and the Brits. Now the whole country knows.

Fundamental changes need to be put into

operation immediately, not least the introduction of a system in which the development of a young player is monitored and structured from the moment they first handle a rugby ball to the time when they make the professional grade and beyond. Our game must be united from top to bottom as we strive to reach our goal but we cannot afford to spend the next ten years arguing about it. If change is to happen that change should be made now.

We must have young players coming through the system from an early age and that means a united front with the RFL and BARLA meeting as one.

I am all for the continuance of the World Club Championship next year because European sides will be a lot more competitive. They will learn only by playing the Australians as often as possible. If they do, then the English boys will soon be catching up. Incidentally, I don't go along with those claims in some quarters that Aussie coaches and players are affecting the game here in England.

The truth is that there are not enough good players in England, so to help maintain standards the English clubs need to look further afield and bring in players from overseas.

In the main these players are every bit as good as any Englishmen that would become available and they have much to offer our sport at a time when it is passing through a difficult period. Just at present there is a major need in our game for the men from Down Under to fill any number of posts in our sport.

The youngsters are not coming through in sufficient numbers to allow the English game to stand on its own two feet.

We need the imports right now, but there may come a day when there are any number of locals fighting to get with a pro club. Let's hope so.

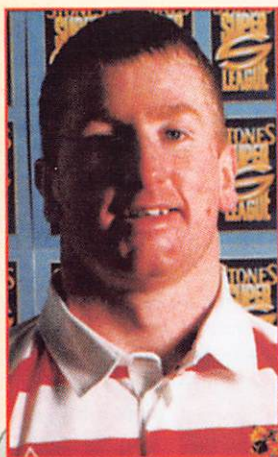
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DOWN MEMORY LANE

DON YATES

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

After the demanding World Club Championship trip to Australia, Oldham return to Boundary Park this afternoon for an equally demanding confrontation against Super League champions St Helens. Last year's double triumph by Saints was their second league and cup double success and the eighth time that they have been crowned Champions of the Rugby Football League.

Perhaps their most dramatic Championship victory came in season 1958-59 when they ended their league campaign at the top of the table five points clear of second placed Wigan. In those days the title was decided by a play-off involving the top four clubs and although Saints were undoubtedly the best club in the land they had won nothing as they lined up for their 47th and final match of the season. Featherstone Rovers had knocked them out of the Challenge Cup, Oldham had beaten them in the Lancashire Cup Final and a 15-14 defeat at Watersheddings in their final league match enabled Wigan to pip them by a point for the Lancashire Championship. Saints gained revenge for those Oldham defeats when they hammered the Roughyeds 42-4 in the Championship Semi Final. They then met Hunslet in the Championship Final with the teams lining up as follows:

Hunslet: Billy Langton, Ronnie COLin, Jack Stockdill, Alan Preece, Willie Walker, Brian Gabbitas, Kevin Doyle, Don Hatfield, Sam Smith, Ken Eyre, Harry Poole, Geoff Gunney and Brian Shaw.

St. Helens: Austin Rhodes, Tom van Vollenhoven, Dougie Greenall, Brian McGinn, Jan Prinsloo, Wilf Smith, Alex Murphy, Abe Terry, Tom McKinney, Alan Prescott, Brian Briggs, Dick Huddart and Vince Karalius.

The opening twenty minutes of that final proved to be a nightmare for Saints who struggled against an inspired Hunslet outfit. Centre Jack

Stockdill and scrum-half Kevin Doyle scored early tries with fullback Billy Langton landing three goals to become the first player in the history of the game to land at least one goal in each of his club's matches throughout a season. All the bewildered Saints had to show for their efforts were a couple of penalties from Austin Rhodes. Hunslet's 12-4 lead looked likely to be extended in the 25th minute as they forced Saints back on their own line. Then, suddenly, Tom van Vollenhoven made a half break, beating first a couple of opponents, then another, and another as he continued to race round and through a Hunslet defence which was as astonished as the 50,562 Odsal crowd. He even beat one Hunslet defender behind the try line in order to give Austin Rhodes an easier conversion attempt. Considering the importance of the

match, the impact the try had on that match and the execution of the effort which included sheer pace, baffling body swerve and intelligence; that try must rate as the best I have ever seen and, believe me, I have seen a few.

The impact the try had on a Saints team playing well below their best was immediately apparent. It gave them confidence to attack Hunslet for the first time that afternoon. Another penalty from Austin Rhodes took Saints to within a point of Hunslet and within minutes Alex Murphy scored to

nudge Saints in front. A sweeping passing move saw Jan Prinsloo cross in the corner and just before the interval, Vollenhoven scored again to enable Saints to turn round with a commanding 24-12 lead.

Within minutes of the restart Vollenhoven had completed his hat trick and further tries came from Wilf Smith, Alex Murphy again, and Dick Huddart. Austin Rhodes ended with a total of 10 goals and although Harry Poole and Geoff Gunney scored tries for Hunslet and Billy Langton took his total to five goals, Saints were Champions by a score of 44-22.

It took a remarkable transformation for Saints to claim that Championship title and a similar transformation is required now if Saints are to overtake Bradford this season. But don't back against Saints in the exciting chase for the 1997 Super League Crown.

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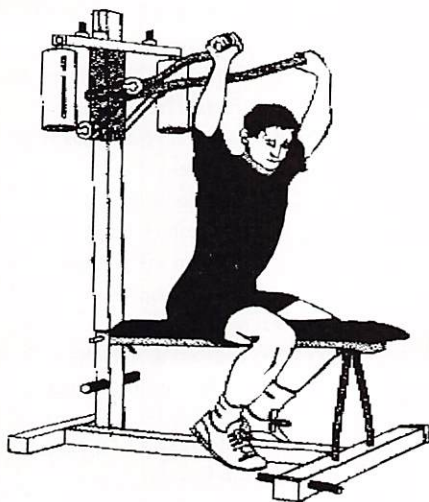
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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

DON YATES

Two of the biggest defeats suffered by Oldham in last year's Super League were against this afternoon's visitors St Helens who won here at Boundary Park 54-18 after beating Oldham 66-18 at Knowsley Road where Paul Newlove crossed for a hat trick of tries. That 48 points margin of defeat at Knowsley Road equals the worst ever defeat suffered by Oldham at St Helens, the other defeat bring by 50-2 in October 1971.

Second-row forward Kel Coslett landed ten goals in that match. Oldham's heaviest home defeat against Saints came in April 1970

when the Saints won 43-0 at Watersheddings. One has to go back many years to recall the best Oldham successes against Saints. In September 1908 Oldham won 38-0 at Knowsley Road and in March 1924 second row forward Herman Hilton scored a hat trick of tries as Oldham beat St Helens 48-10 at Watersheddings. These two clubs have now met on 206 occasions with Oldham claiming 97 victories, St Helens winning 103 times and six matches ending all square.

Francis Maloney – scorer of three Oldham goals on Saints' last visit



DETAILS OF SAINTS' LAST VISIT TO BOUNDARY PARK

Friday, 19th July 1996

Super League

OLDHAM 18 ST HELENS 54

Half time 14-18 Attendance 4354

OLDHAM Tries: Adrian Belle, Scott Ranson and Chris McKinney
Goals: Francis Maloney (3)

ST HELENS Tries: Joey Hayes (2), Alan Hunte, Paul Newlove, Danny Arnold (2), Karle Hammond (2) and Apollo Perelini (2)
Goals: Bobby Goulding (7)

OLDHAM: Paul Atcheson, Adrian Belle, Howard Hill, Paul Topping, Scott Ranson, Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton, Ian Gildart, Matt Munro, Jason Temu, Joe Faimalo, Gary Lord and David Bradbury.

Substitutes: Chris McKinney, Paul Crook, Reece Guy and Paul Davidson

ST HELENS: Steve Prescott, Joey Hayes, Alan Hunte, Paul Newlove, Danny Arnold, Karle Hammond, Bobby Goulding, Apollo Perelini, Keiron Cunningham, Adam Fogarty, Chris Joynt, Derek McVey and Chris Morley

Substitutes: Andy Northey, Andy Haigh, Ian Pickavance and Vila Matautia

Results of

OLDHAM v ST HELENS

matches during the past 10 seasons
(League Matches except where stated)

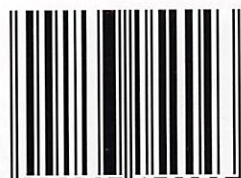
- 1987-88 Oldham 8 St Helens 18
(at Wigan, Regal Trophy semi final)
- 1988-89 Oldham 22 St Helens 26
St Helens 58 Oldham 12
- 1989-90 St Helens 6 Oldham 36
(Lancashire Cup)
St Helens 32 Oldham 18
(Regal Trophy)
- 1990-91 Oldham 16 St Helens 20
St Helens 33 Oldham 22
- 1991-92 St Helens 39 Oldham 26
(Lancashire 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 33
St Helens 32 Oldham 22
- 1996 St Helens 66 Oldham 18
Oldham 18 St Helens 54

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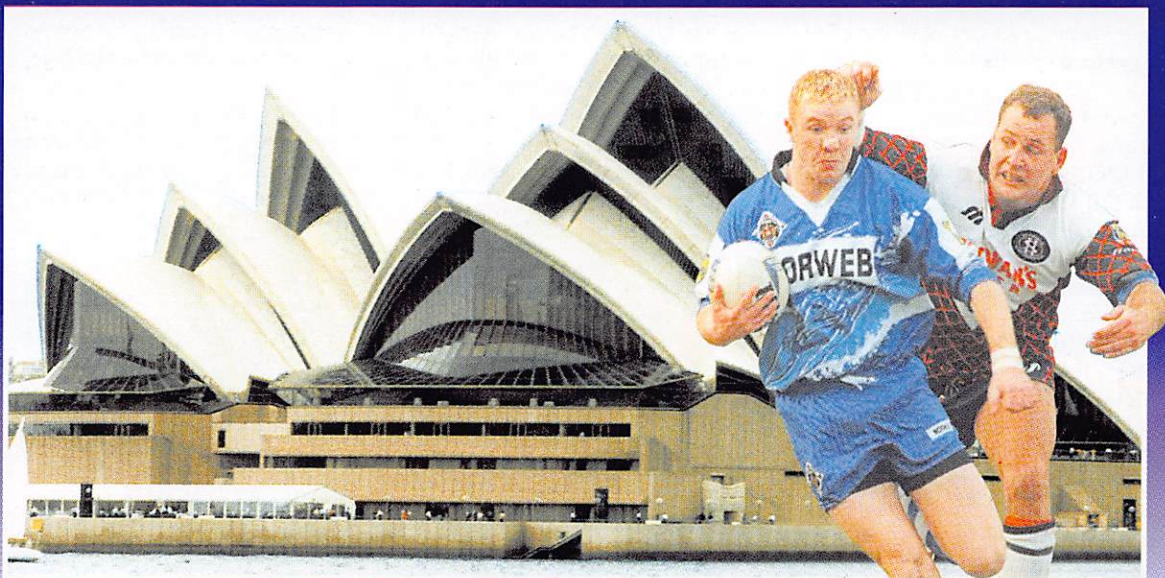


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By taking up our offer of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* FREE for one week you will automatically be entered into our prize draw* with the chance to win a 14-night holiday for two in Sydney with flights and full board in a top hotel.

The prize includes two tickets to the World Club Championship final on October 18, and £500 spending money. Normal *Times Newspapers Ltd* competition rules apply, available on request. The winner will be notified by post.

*No purchase necessary. You can still enter the draw by sending your name and address on a postcard to:

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AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE ROUND UP

From Dave Hadfield, the Independent's Rugby League Correspondent

Europeans, still licking their wounds from the first batch of games in the World Club Championship,

will look at this weekend's resumed Australasian Super League programme in a whole new light.

Players who were just names a few weeks ago are now familiar figures to British audiences and their doings in the competition down under will have all the more significance.

Take Cronulla, for instance. Of all the sides that came to Britain for the first phase, they were the ones who caught the public imagination, with the pace and skills of players like David Peachey, Mat Rogers, Russell Richardson and Paul Green proving a constant delight.

Their coach, John Lang, said that they were going home a more confident and complete team than they were when they arrived, but they have a searching test first-up against Brisbane Broncos, who showed in their victories over London, Wigan and Halifax that they deserve to be the favourites, not just for Super League but for the World Club Championship as well.

Two other sides who thoroughly enjoyed their visit to England meet this weekend when Auckland go to Penrith. Their three weekends over here proved the perfect rehabilitation exercise for Auckland, who came off a long losing streak to win all three matches here in some style. The question now is whether they can take that revitalised form back to the southern hemisphere with them. Or will it be the case, as Penrith's coach Royce Simmons, puts it, that, "We need the points more than them. We need them to make

the play-offs, whilst their chance has gone?"

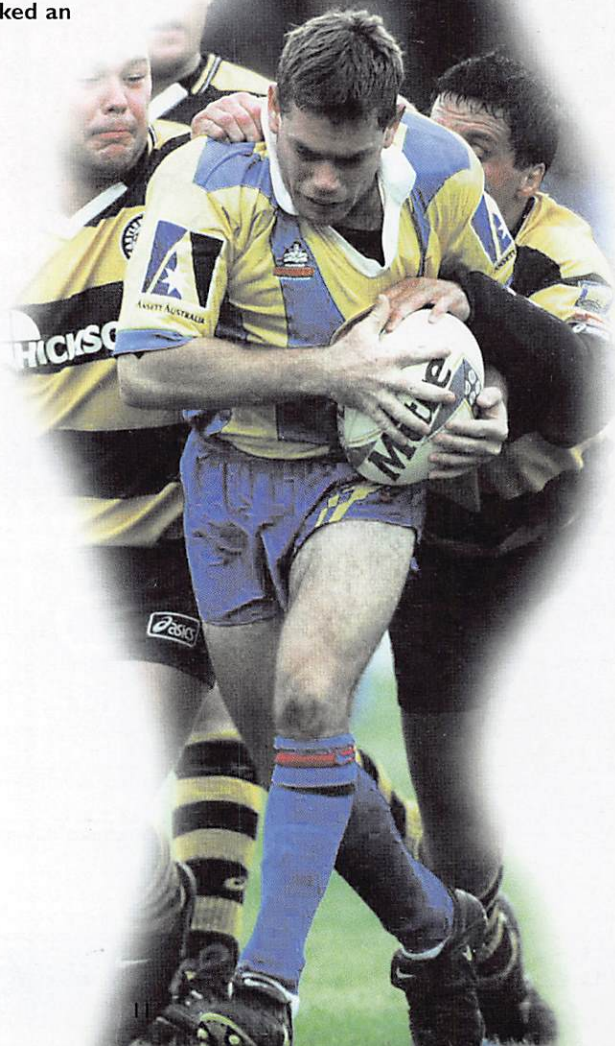
The worst home-coming must have been that of Perth Reds, mortally embarrassed by losses to Sheffield and Paris and their credibility perhaps fatally dented as a result.

The Reds had to prove that Super league - or, as now seems increasingly certain, a merged competition next season - needs a team in Western Australia. Instead, they have managed to make themselves look highly dispensable and they must start recouping some pride at Adelaide this weekend.

The Hunter Mariners looked an

impressive, progressive type of side over here, where they beat Paris, Castleford and Sheffield. With all due respect to that calibre of opposition, they are having to step up just a notch or two this week against the Canberra Raiders - and that's after the long flight home. North Queensland, victorious at home over Leeds, Oldham and Salford, entertain Canterbury, who blotted their record by losing to Wigan. The question there, as here, is who will adapt

back to domestic demands the more smoothly.





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AUSTRALI

By Chris Irvine, Rugby League Correspondent, The Times

When former Australian cricket captain Richie Benaud, during his T.V. match commentary from Headingley, reminds the viewers that Darren Gough or Robert Croft is bowling from the Football Stand End the B.B.C. are invariably inundated with calls from irate League devotees. Our friend from the Antipodes is taken to task, mistakenly, by the viewers for not referring to the pride of Headingley as the Rugby League Stand. But the angry letters and Benaud's observations only highlight the many differences between the two countries in the vocabulary surrounding Rugby League. For Rugby League in Australia is Football, while Rugby refers to Rugby Union only. Yes, fans standing close to the trainers bench or sitting next to any visitors from Down Under during the first leg of the World Club Championships have been forced to review their terminology and brush up on their dictionaries as before casting strange looks at their

neighbour's outbursts. And I'm not referring to infantile terminology like 'Hits', 'Busts' and 'Scoots.' (Have you ever heard anything as barmy as 'Scoots' which is to be found in one magazine describing a winger's darting runs!)

In the dressing room, before kick-off, Aussie Test stars Andrew Ettinghausen, Bradley Clyde or Allan Langer take their 'jumper' off the peg, not their jersey and check their 'sprigs,' not their boots, before proceeding onto the 'Paddock,' not the Pitch. Once on the pitch the Locks, (the second rows) and the 'Five Eighth' (stand off) take up their positions in readiness to receive the ball from the kick-off. As does the 'dummy half' (acting half back) who will be close at hand to carry out the first movement of the ball from the 'Ruck' (Play the Ball). Sadly, for the purist, even the Australian players, during the recent Anglo/Aussie clashes, were forced to conform to the ludicrous numbering system which now blights

the domestic game in Britain. Canberra Raiders' loose forward Bradley Clyde had the choice of any number 1 to 50, instead of the number 8 jumper, once worn by his predecessors Johnny Raper or Ron Coote in the Australian teams of yesteryear. Yes, you've guessed it, the pack Down Under was once numbered the reverse of the British domestic game.

Away from the terminology, however, the fans, both in Britain and Down Under, have noticed that the biggest difference between the two Hemispheres still lies on the scoreboard where record scores have been posted by a succession of Aussie clubs. And those differences are far more worrying for League in Britain than any confusion in a dictionary.

The decision to ask the game's new Technical Director, Joe Lydon, to lead an inquiry into the state of play in Britain will only be of value if the former Great Britain full-back is given a free hand to carry out his recommendations. If his

AN RULES

report is to be swept under the carpet like all discussion documents of the past and clubs continue to interest themselves in only their little patch of territory then there will never be rugby parity between the two

Hemispheres.

The choice is ours. We can continue to enjoy an inferior brand of rugby at home but we cannot continue with it for much longer if we want to consider ourselves a major sport in the British

Isles.

Whether in Britain or Australia it matters not how you talk about rugby league but, for the future of the sport worldwide, it matters if the differences on the field are allowed to continue.



TOP OF THE LEAGUE



TASTE THE ACTION

THE OLDHAM OWLS - INTO THE BEARPIT

TODAY's match is an important event in the promotion of sport in Oldham, as we adopt

THE OLDHAM OWLS

DISABLED SPORTS CLUB

as our official charity.

At the half time interval we would be very grateful if you would show us all your vocal support in welcoming the Owls to the "Bear Pit" in our combined bid to promote both able-bodied and disabled sport within our Community.

WHO ARE THE OLDHAM OWLS?

The Oldham Owls were established over twenty years ago, its aim being to gain integration through sport. Their successes to date, include: Angie Payne, 3 gold medals, 2 silver and a world record at the recent world disabled water skiing championships. Terry Morley who incurred terrible injuries whilst serving in Northern Ireland, leaving

him wheelchair-bound, won gold and silver medals in weightlifting and the javelin at the veterans World Games in America.

The Owls wheelchair basketball team are current British league and cup champions, European honours include winning the Andrew Vergauwen Cup. In the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta, five out of six Oldham Owls' participants returned with silver medals.

Perhaps the most valuable part of the Owls' legacy is their dedication to development of disabled sport at all levels.

This is why the Oldham Bears are honoured to be associated with a charity organisation geared towards the same goals we aim to aspire to:

THE CHALLENGE ...

One of the main problems that the Oldham Owls have to overcome, is achieving the required level of funding their competitors' need, in

order to gain the success they deserve and travel to the international elite events. Hopefully all of us involved in the Oldham Bears will be able to assist the Owls in their plight.

The aim of this exciting relationship, is to combine as patrons of both able-bodied and disabled sport in Oldham. To boost the awareness, opportunities, facilities and ultimately the growth of our sporting community, focusing on the youth element - for all our tomorrows.

Again I would like to ask you all today to offer a big welcome to the Oldham Owls, and as lovers of sport, continue to give us all of your backing on our combined desire for ... SUCCESS

OLDHAM HOTLINE

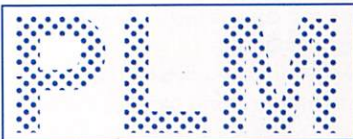


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JUNIOR BEARS



Well hello there

Junior Bears,

How long is it since we last saw a good game of Rugby League... too long.

Today we welcome back our Bears from across the seas after their trip to 'Oz' not really the results any English club hoped for but we will fare better when the return matches are played.

We welcome to Boundary Park today all the players, officials and supporters of St Helens. The 'Saints' didn't travel this time so they actually jet off later in July.

The winner of our reporting competition has not been named as yet because Roger 'Scoop' Halstead has also just returned from down under and he is still adjusting to the tranquil life back in Oldham.

However we do hope to announce the winner at our next Junior Bears meeting next Monday 7th July, why not try and come along to see the winner announced.

Are we going to get behind the team this afternoon, drums banging, hands clapping, whatever it takes let's do it for the Bears...

Come on OLDHAM,

Come on OLDHAM

Have we any teasers to get you back into the swing of things let's see... How many of these can you get?...

1. Name the two present Saints players who both played for Oldham.
2. What animal is the Mascot for St Helens?
3. Name the ex-coach of Saints who is now in charge at another Super League Club.

Our Mascot for the game today is *Thomas Hibbert.*

Nine years old Thomas attends Our Lady's School at Moorside. Thomas has named Martin Crompton as his favourite player. Rugby League is the only hobby Thomas has. He plays for the Waterhead Wolverines and was voted Best Tackler of the Year for the Under 10's last season, he has also just competed in the Manchester Youth Games.



Along come those Junior Bears birthdays again let's see who is going to be celebrating in the near future. Here goes...

June 29th Steven Wall

July 2nd Robert Clayton
Lauren Wolstenholme

...and a very special mention for July 4th, Daniel Laney will be one year old.

Happy Birthday Junior Bears...

One Junior bear had a special present for her birthday, Samantha Brown was nine years old on 17th June and with the money she got for her birthday she has sponsored her favourite player who is Jason Temu for the rest of the season, it was a really special present she bought, just for herself, well done Sammy...

That's all for now, let's hear those cheers this afternoon, loud and clear and remember...

*BE THERE,
SEE THE BEAR...*

*Come on, Come on
OLDHAM*

**Be there -
see the
Bear!**

A PAL FOR BUSTER

Hey Junior Bears,

I just wanted to give you a big "Buster" welcome to Boundary Park today to watch us crush the Saints. I also just wanted to tell you about a great new competition I am launching for all you Kool Kids into sport out there!

The truth is, I'm a lonely old Bear really – while the team were 'Down Under' in the history making World Club Challenge, I just sat in my cave and had no one to go out and play with.

I was thoroughly miserable, until our newly adopted charity, the Super Cool Oldham Owls Disabled Sports Club, gave me this egg. They said: "This is a very, very special egg, because inside lives our mascot 'Ollie Owl'. He's a very shy Owl and says he won't hatch until he knows that you will all be his friends. I told him you will all love him, this made him happy.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OLLIE OWL WILL LOOK LIKE?

My competition is for you to draw an 'Ollie Owl' – one of these will be chosen

by Ollie's friends, and the winning artist will win some great prizes ...

- ★ **Tickets for you and your family for our home game against North Queensland Cowboys on July 18th.**
- ★ **Your design of Ollie Owl will be taken by professional artists and will appear with me on Tee shirts, in the Match Programme and other promotional packages.**
- ★ **Also as a special friend of mine, you will be my special guest at the Cowboys game and I'll introduce you to my Oldham Owls friends and the Bears players.**

**All entries should be sent to:
BUSTER BEAR'S "OLLIE"
COMPETITION
Bear House, 52 Union Street
Oldham OL1 1DJ**



Please state your name, address, telephone No, and your age. Entries must be received by Tuesday 15th July.

And remember, you're all winners! So get those entries rolling in, so as I can decorate my cave with them!



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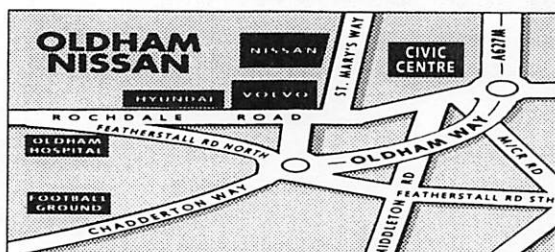
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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DAILY MIRROR

Well done, Oldham, congratulations are the order of the day for all our teams who represented Oldham in the Greater Manchester Youth Games. The U9s won their competition losing just one game along the way. The Under 10s won all their matches, losing none and playing some outstanding rugby along the way.

The Under 12s were fantastic, losing none and winning the gold medal. In the final game against Salford again playing some outstanding rugby along the way.

It would be hard to mention

individual names because it was teamwork that got them through. One more team to mention (and this was worth saving till last) was our girls Under 15s who didn't have a point scored against them and also won gold. Well done girls! Our Mini League Tournament has just come to an end and was enjoyed immensely by all the teams involved, who all received a medal from Councillor Jim Greenwood, who turned up in atrocious weather conditions to present the trophies. Thanks Jim.

B Gartland

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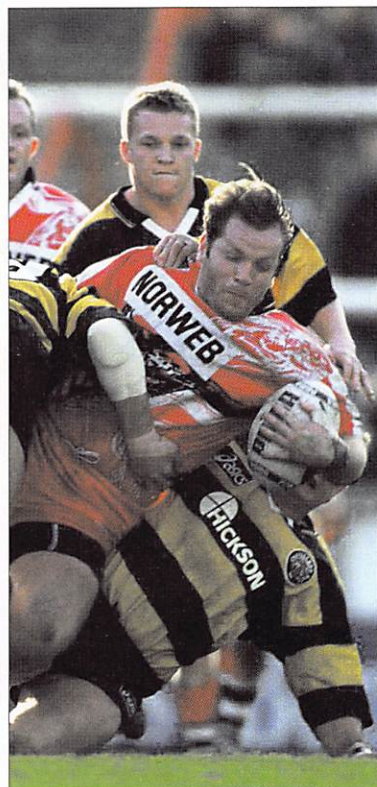
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former Great Britain coach, Phil Larder, in his "Rugby League Coaching Manual" describes the art of tackling as "one of the most important individual skills in the game, and the aim of most tackles should be not merely to stop the other sides progress but to go forward and attempt to gain possession by forcing the ball carrier into handling errors." He further elaborates on the needs for expertise in 'marker defence,' 'sweeper defence,' and 'goal line defence' and then proceeds to take his readers onto an even higher, advanced plain, with detailed analysis of a team's 'wedge defence,' 'umbrella defence,' or even 'channel defence.'

All good reading and first class advice for any aspiring or current player or coach. So why is it then that so few of the modern day Super League players really do relish tackling the opposition? Why is it then that, in the recent World Club Championships, every time the Penrith Panthers, Cronulla Sharks, Brisbane



Terry O'Connor - averages around 24 tackles a match

Helens concede a staggering 158 points in three home matches and Halifax an amazing 204 points in their three games Down Under? The answer surely must lie not with the coaches, who I'm sure conduct the necessary and regular

TACKLING AIMS

Ray French,
BBC Rugby League
Correspondent

Broncos, etc. were awarded the head and ball at a scrum in a British team's twenty meters area, the fans had no confidence in the favourites not conceding yet another try?

Why should clubs like St



tackling practices with their squads on a weekly basis, but with the individual players and the way they approach the game.

The modern era, when a front rower like Apollo Perelini, Brian McDermott, and Terry O'Connor will average around 24 tackles per match and a backrower like Paul Sculthorpe, Chris Joynt, or Any Farrell is credited with an average of around 30 tackles per match, must seem strange to the forwards of yesteryear who plied their trade in an age of unlimited tackles.

The days have long gone when the likes of Vince Karalius, Derek Turner, and John Whiteley were forced to withstand a barrage of tackling on their try line for up to twenty minutes at a time. But human beings are still the same, surely. Sadly, in Britain, the players' approach to a game is not.

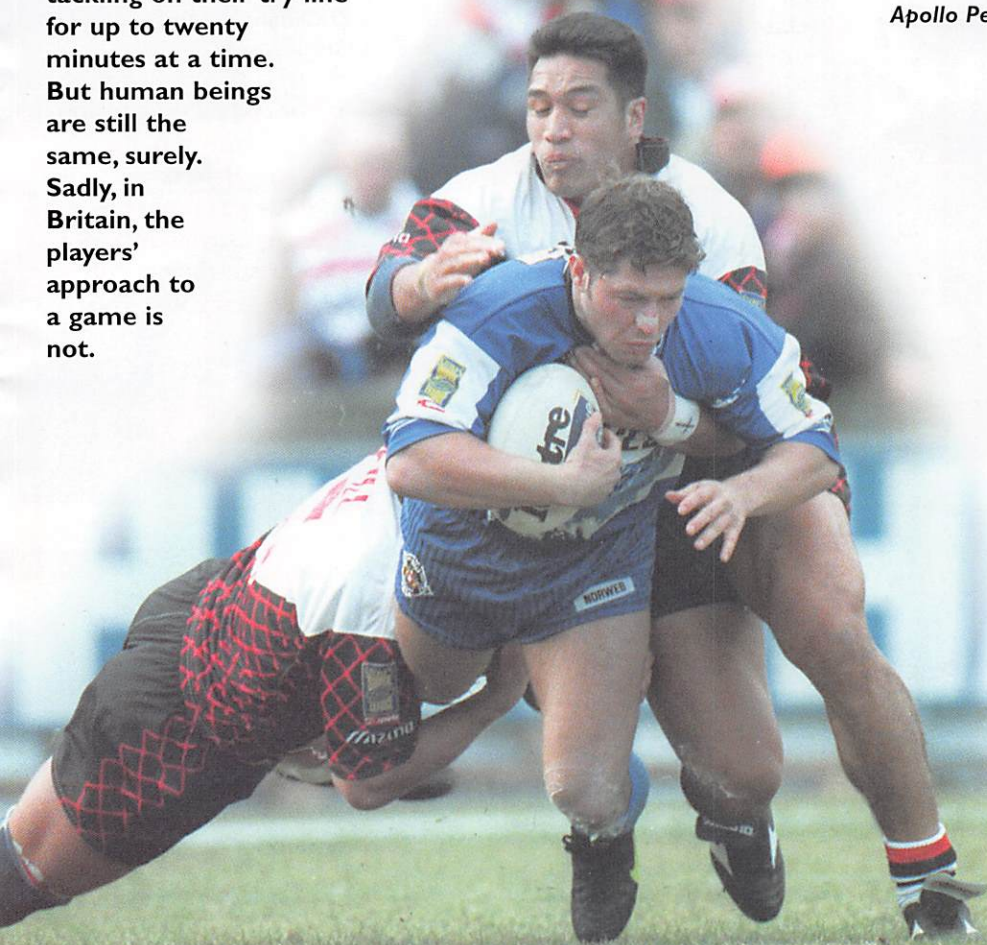
Modern players are conditioned to defending for a mere five tackles (invariably the opposition kick at the sixth Play the Ball) and the occasion does not assume the importance it once did. Nor do the modern players attack, legally, the opposition with the aggression and ferocity their predecessors once did. Nor do they appear to practice the art of tackling in a real situation as did teams of the Fifties and Sixties who, often on a Tuesday and Thursday evening, would be pitted against the 'A' team without

the ball for fifteen or twenty minutes at a time - real tackling, with a competitive edge and the occasional flare up between mates.

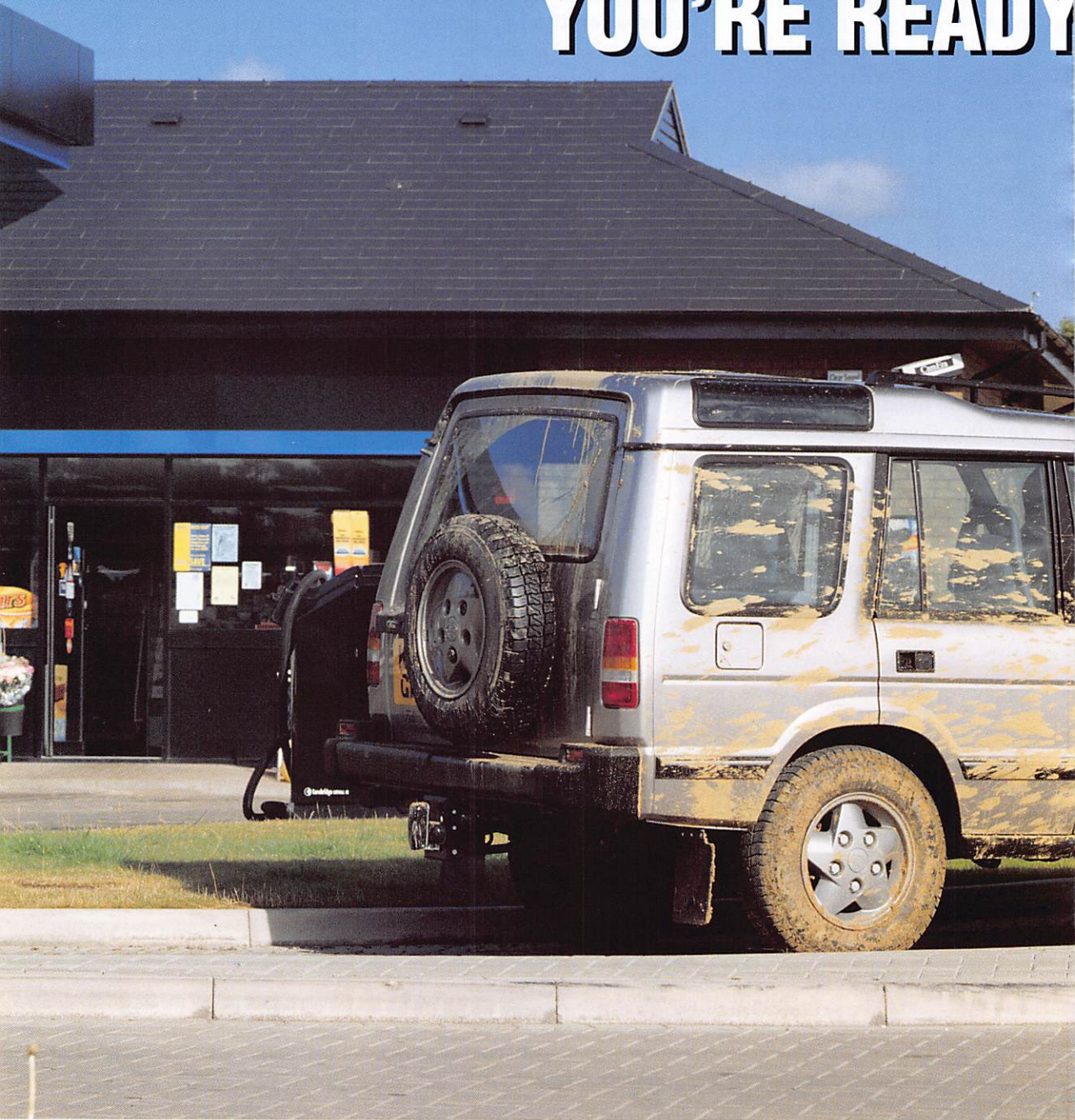
But all profited far more than today's players appear to do from the Tackle Shields, introduced to this country over a decade ago by the Aussies.

Too much hype and adulation is given over to players who indulge in fancy footwork, we must redress the balance and sing the praises of those who can, will, and want to tackle. Or we will never again be able to take on the world.

*Apollo Perelini putting
in a tackle*

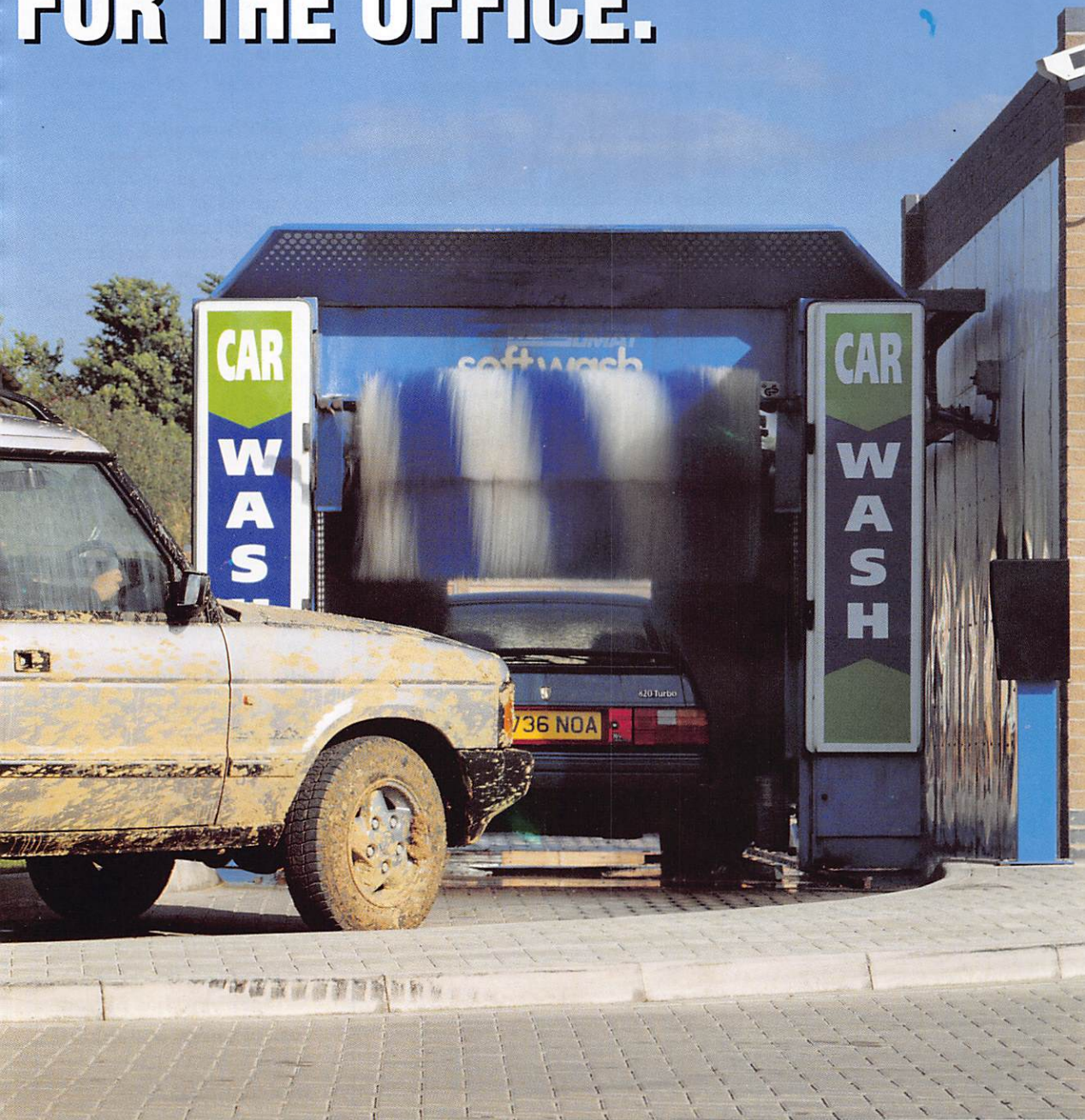


AFTER A TOUGH GAME YOU'RE READY

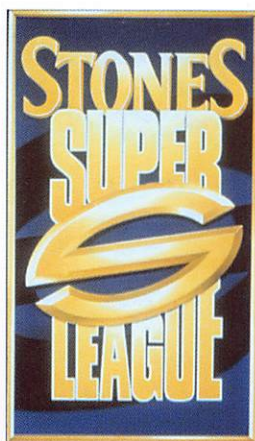


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Only three players have been in the starting line-up for each round since the Stones Super League was launched in March 1996 - and they are all forwards! A big hand then for Bradford Bulls hooker James Lowes plus Wigan Warriors pack stars Andrew Farrell and Mick Cassidy. They have each begun all 35 Super League matches for their club. Including substitute appearances, just two other players have appeared in every round. And again they are forwards - Sheffield Eagles prop Paul Broadbent, who has made one sub appearance, and Wigan second row Simon Haughton (eight sub appearances).

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

ROBINSON AND NEWLOVE HEAD TRY CHART

Jason Robinson and Paul Newlove begin the second phase of the Stones Super League as the top try scorers since it was launched 15 months ago. Both have totalled 33 tries over the two seasons. St. Helens centre Newlove headed the chart last season with 28 but injury has restricted him to five this time. Robinson scored 24 in 1996 and has added nine this year. The Wigan winger is the only

player to have retained a Top Ten place, being second last year and joint fourth now. Wigan captain Andrew Farrell heads the other two scoring charts with 168 goals and 370 points, including nine tries and two drop goals. Farrell scored 103 goals and 226 points in 1996 when Bobby Goulding of St. Helens led with 120 and 257.

STONES SUPER LEAGUE TOP CAREER TRIES

1	Paul Newlove (St. Helens)	33
	Jason Robinson (Wigan Warriors)	33
3	Danny Arnold (St. Helens)	26
4	Robbie Paul (Bradford Bulls)	25
5	Richard Henare (Warrington Wolves)	24
	Anthony Sullivan (St. Helens)	24

STONES SUPER LEAGUE TOP CAREER GOALS (Including drop goals)

1	Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	168
2	Bobbie Goulding (St. Helens)	164
3	Steve McNamara (Bradford Bulls)	139
4	Mark Aston (Sheffield Eagles)	134
5	John Schuster (Halifax Blue Sox)	120

QUIZ

1. Who played for Wigan, Widnes and St. Helens this season?
2. Kicked record 29 one-point drop goals in a season?
3. Hunter Mariners brothers who played for Wigan?
4. Has coached Batley, Doncaster and Rochdale?
5. Last club to beat Bradford Bulls in Super League?
6. Has current longest run of ten Tests for Britain?
7. Winger who has played for Yorkshire and Wales?
8. Warrington's Irish international this season?
9. Started every Oldham match this season?
10. Last player to score 60 tries in a season?

STERLING INVESTS IN TRIES

Leeds Rhinos winger Paul Sterling goes into this weekend's match against Bradford Bulls seeking a try that will bring him a new Stones Super League record of touching down in ten successive matches. He shares the record at the moment with Paul Newlove, who scored at least one try in

nine successive matches for St. Helens last year. The record try-scoring run in the old Division One covered 11 matches and was shared by Gary Prohm (Hull Kingston Rovers) in 1984-86 and Martin Offiah (Wigan) in the Centenary Championship season of 1995-96.



Paul Sterling

Rogers on top of the World

Mat Rogers finished as the top pointscorer after the first stage of the Visa World Club Championship with 58. The Cronulla Sharks winger ran in five tries and kicked 19 goals to emerge from the shadows of his father and former Test centre Steve Rogers. Canberra Raiders players topped the other scoring charts with Ken Nagas grabbing eight tries and David Furner banging over 26 goals.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

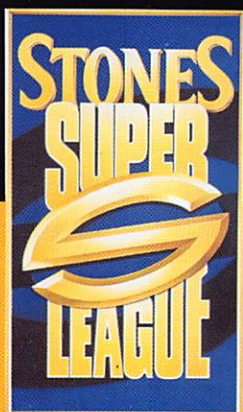
1. Sean Long
2. Lyn Hallett (Cardiff City) 1983-84
3. Kevin and Tony Iro
4. Peter Regan
5. Halifax Blue Sox
6. Andrew Farrell
7. Anthony Sullivan
8. Mark Forster
9. Martin Crompton
10. Martin Offiah in 1988-89

SUPER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS

TRIES	GOALS (inc drop goals)	POINTS
Nigel Vagana (Warrington)	14	65
Paul Sterling (Leeds)	12	59
Alan Hunte (St Helens)	10	47
Gary Connolly (Wigan)	9	44
Simon Haughton (Wigan)	9	39
Phil Bergman (Paris)	9	39
Jason Robinson (Wigan)	9	36
Jean-Marc Garcia (Sheffield)	9	29
Francis Cummins (Leeds)	9	28
Tony Smith (Wigan)	9	26
Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	65	144
Steve McNamara (Bradford)	59	137
Mark Aston (Sheffield)	47	110
Bobbie Goulding (St Helens)	44	106
Steve Blakely (Salford)	39	95
Martin Pearson (Halifax)	39	91
Iestyn Harris (Leeds)	36	89
Steve Blakeley (Salford Reds)	36	89
Francis Maloney (Oldham B.)	29	70
Greg Barwick (London B.)	28	62
Lee Briers (Warrington)	26	60
Terry Matterson (London B.)	26	60



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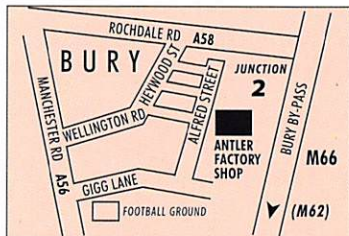
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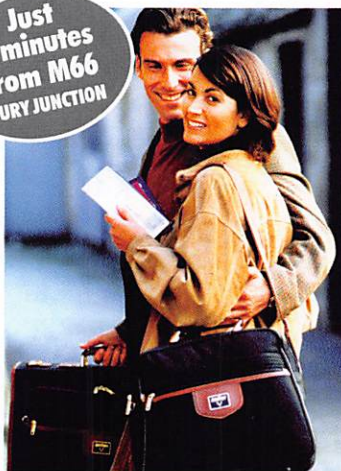
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ALLIANCE NEWS

PADDY KIRWAN

The three week trip to Australia for the World Club Championship, with a squad of 20 players, has affected the performance of the Alliance team in the last three outings away at Castleford, Hull KR and Salford. The defeat at Castleford, also brought with it injuries to Alliance team stalwarts Tony Nuttall with a broken bone in his wrist, Gary Burns who broke a rib, and Paul Deacon with a badly bruised shoulder.

The heavy defeat at Castleford, was particularly disappointing because of the first half display when we allowed 20 unanswered points to be scored. During the second half we salvaged some pride before two late tries gave a final score of 38-14.

We went up to Hull KR with a depleted team which included eight Academy or trialist players in the 17-man squad. The decision to play Australian Nathan Turner at stand off, was made out of necessity, however by his own admission he had a nightmare game such that

throughout the first half we were contained in our own half. Given their superiority in terms of position on the field I was really pleased approaching half time, only 6-0 down, however, with head and ball under our own posts and a minute to half time the inexperienced scrum half Craig Barker fed the scrum. Hull KR to the surprise of our back line won the scrum and scored directly to make the score 12-0 at the interval. Throughout the second half we played with determination and spirit without finding the link between forwards and backs to find the decisive thrust. Hull KR scored another improved try midway through the half to win 18-0. In adversity I was pleased with the performances and attitude of Jimmy Cowans, Mike Prescott, Danny Guest and youngster Mark Powell. Last week at Salford we had a glorious opportunity to record a victory. After a poor start we totally controlled the second quarter of the

first half to lead 10-6 at half time.

Our first try followed a great break by Nathan Turner who drew the full back for Joe McNicholas to score in the corner. Good approach play allowed Paul Deacon to take on the defence and score near the posts just before half time.

Despite the half time instructions we let Salford back into the game immediately in the second half but hit back immediately with a try by Mike Prescott to lead 14-0. We then had two sets of six on the Salford line before Paul Deacon knocked on direct from a drop out. At this point Salford went from strength to strength to capitalise on a series of Oldham errors and go 27-14 into the lead. The final try to Salford summed up the second half display when Joe McNicholas taking the ball from a scrum 10 yards from his own line passed to his opposite number to cross under the posts and give Salford a 33-14 victory.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

1997

MARCH

THURSDAY 13th	LEEDS RHINOS	(H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 20th	BRADFORD BULLS	(A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 27th	SALFORD REDS	(H) 7.30pm

APRIL

THURSDAY 3rd	WARRINGTON WOLVES	(H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 10th	HULL	(A) 8.00pm
THURSDAY 17th	WIGAN WARRIORS	(H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 24th	HALIFAX BLUE SOX	A) 7.30pm

MAY

THURSDAY 8th	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	(H) 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY 14th	LEEDS RHINOS	(A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 22nd	BRADFORD BULLS	(H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 29th	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	(A) 7.30pm

JUNE

THURSDAY 5th	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	(H) 7.30pm
FRIDAY 20th	SALFORD REDS	(A) 8.00pm
THURSDAY 26th	St HELENS	(A) 7.30pm

JULY

THURSDAY 3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	(A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 10th	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	(H) 7.30pm
FRIDAY 18th	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	(A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 31st	HULL	(H) 8.00pm

AUGUST

THURSDAY 7th	St HELENS	(H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 14th	HALIFAX BLUE SOX	(H) 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY 20th	WIGAN WARRIORS	(A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 28th	WARRINGTON WOLVES	(A) 7.30pm

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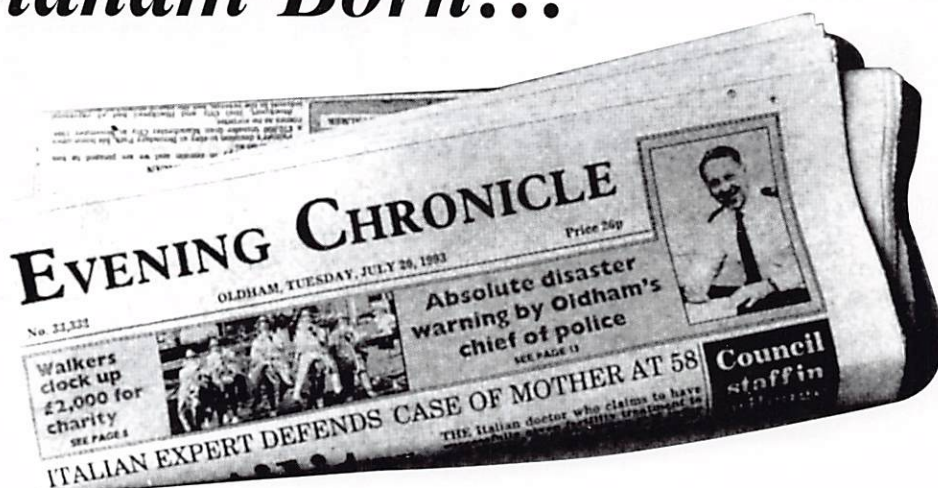
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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

ROGER HALSTEAD

While most impartial observers of the English rugby league scene are constantly pushing for the RFL and BARLA to sink their differences and run the sport as one body, many more in Australia are similarly looking to the ARL and Super League to smoke the pipe of peace and get together to run one competition next year.

Indeed, most people in rugby league Down Under fear for the game's survival if the two rival bodies fail to reach a compromise soon.

The signs are not looking good. I have just returned from a fortnight in Australia and, in rugby terms, Sydney isn't the city it used to be.

No longer do you see youngsters in their replica jerseys on every corner.

And the city centre department store that once devoted half a floor to official rugby league merchandise has now turned over that prime site to crockery and cooking utensils.

Turnover of a city sportswear manufacturing firm which specialised in rugby league jerseys has been slashed by millions of dollars.

Crowd figures both in ARL and ASL are dropping below expectations in



stark contrast to those for Aussie Rules games and even soccer matches following an upsurge in interest after the Terry Venables appointment.

"We are losing ground all round," said Parramatta-based former Oldham forward John Cogger. "If the two sides don't get together quickly the game in Australia will be in deep trouble."

"The man in the street in Sydney is totally fed up of the rivalry and frustrated at the uncertainty of it all."

"And he can't understand rival TV

advertises which come on the screen screaming that this organisation or that has the better competition. "The average bloke is just switched off by the whole thing, but it's a crying shame. We are all hoping that the rival parties sort something out pretty quickly."

The first half of the new World Club Championship has proved conclusively that, despite the big split, the Aussie can still put one over on us.

First-phase results and performances in the world tournament have done nothing to enhance the sport's popularity in Britain.

The concept of English club side v Aussie club side will be good for the game long term and will eventually drag the English teams into a higher sphere of competition.

But gates have been generally poor and the credibility of the competition has been knocked to some extent by the Australian monopoly.

It remains to be seen whether the Murdoch operation still believes the tournament should be run again next year as overheads and the massive cost of staging the hitherto one-sided matches continue to rise.

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£119.00

Option 2

Depart Monday night, arrive Tuesday lunch short sightseeing tour. Pick up late afternoon to travel to match, depart after match, arrive home early Wednesday

£69.00

Option 3

2 nights

Flight packages available from £159.00

for further details phone

0161 6332232



OLDHAM BEARS

SUNDAY 29th JUNE

SCRUMS

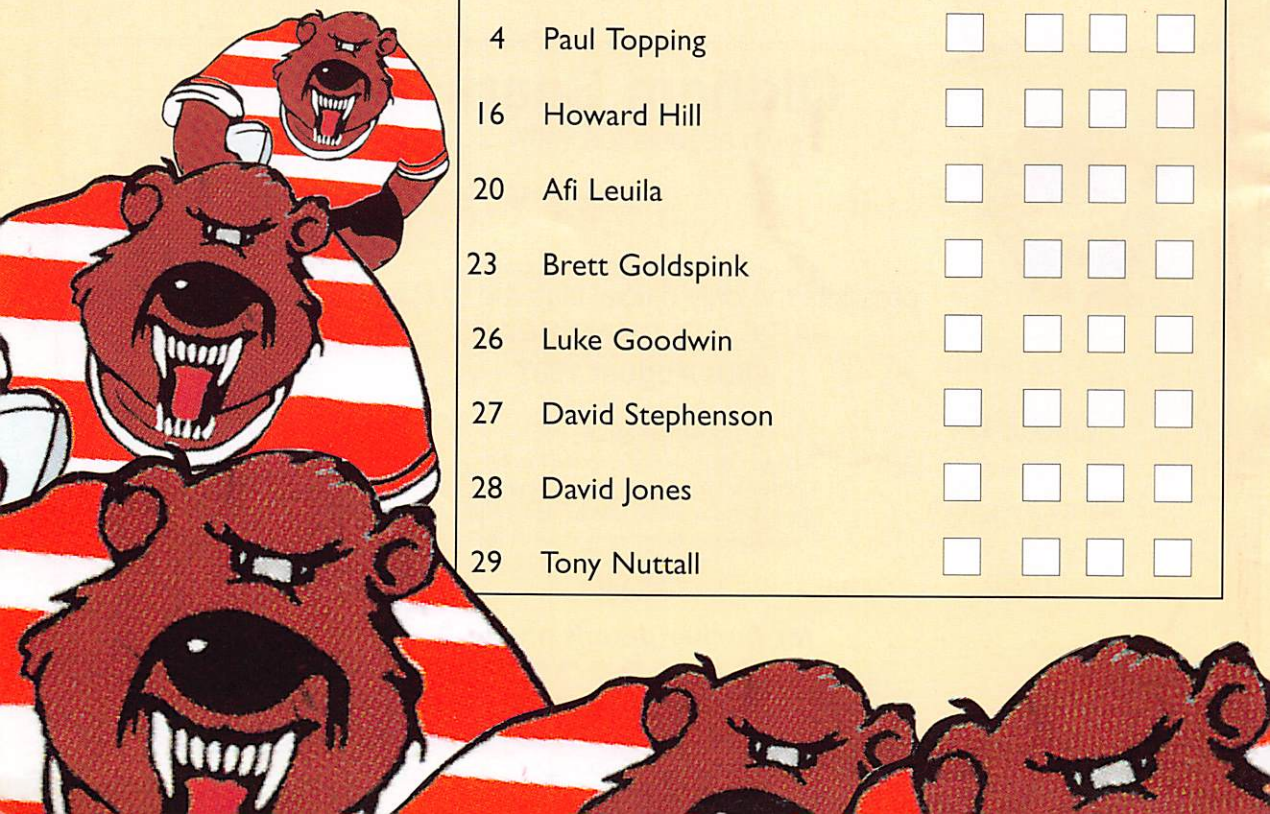
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

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

OLDHAM BEARS

	Team	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"/>
6	Francis Maloney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Martin Crompton	<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"/>
14	Matt Munro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Paul Topping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Howard Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Afi Leuila	<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"/>
27	David Stephenson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	David Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
29	Tony Nuttall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



RS v ST HELENS

1997 KICK-OFF 3pm



ST HELENS

	Team	T	G	DG
1	Steve Prescott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Danny Arnold	<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"/>
5	Anthony Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Karle Hammond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Sean Long	<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	Julian O'Neill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Chris Morley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Chris Joynt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Ian Pickavance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Derek McVey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Andy Haigh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Paul Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Vila Matautia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

OFFICIALS

REFEREE

David Campbell

TOUCH JUDGES

David Mairs

Frank Horley

IN GOAL

Kim Taylor

Phil Brooks

RESERVE

M. Kennedy

THE BEARS BRIGADE !

