

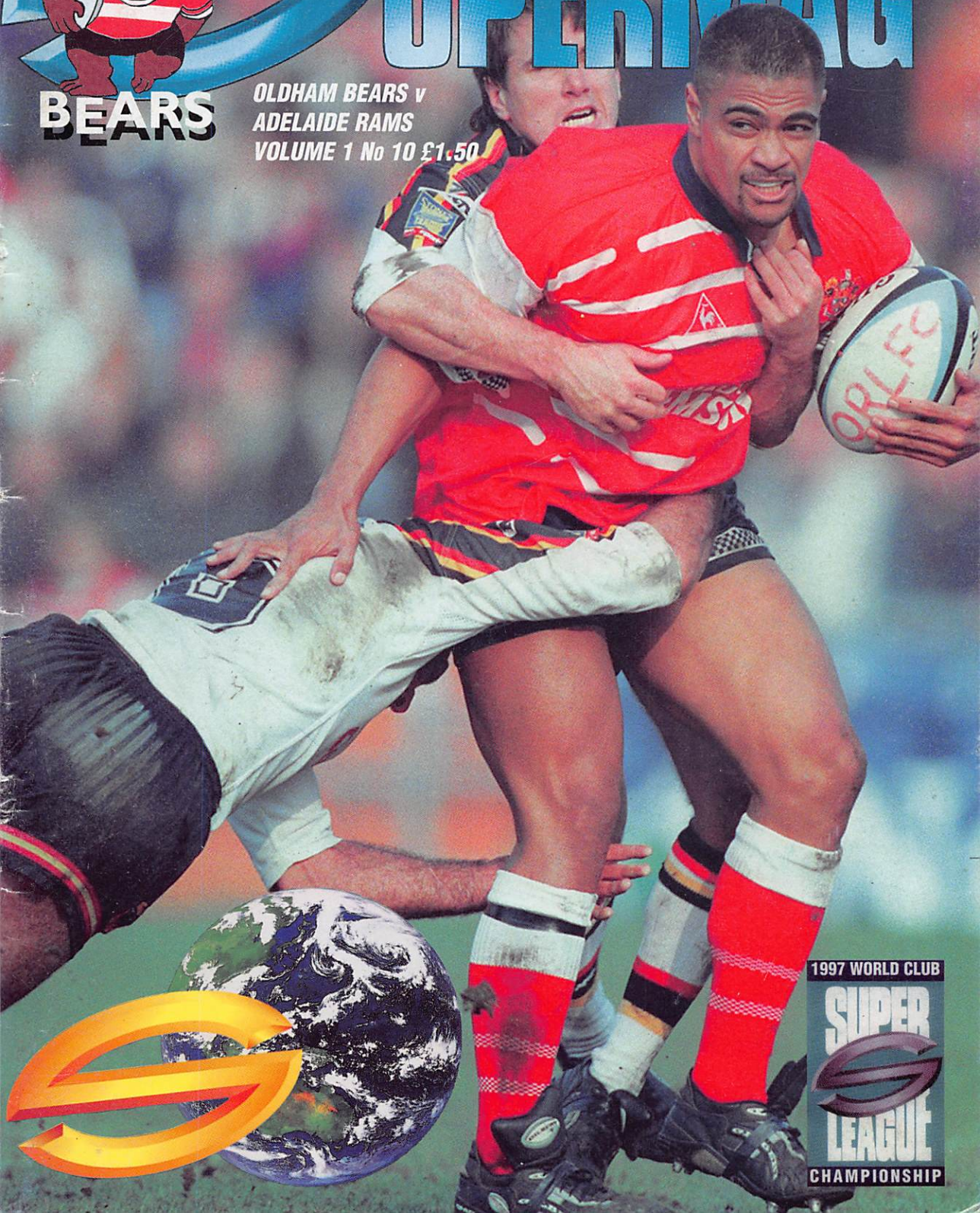
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LEAGUE

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HONOURS

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57 Runners Up

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

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1904-05

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

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

1957-58

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

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

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

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

Runners Up 1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968,

1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

SECOND DIVISION PREMIERSHIP WINNERS

1988, 1990 Runners Up, 1992

CLUB RECORDS

RECORD VICTORY

63-0 v Goole, March 18th 1899 (Challenge Cup Rd 1)

67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959 (League)

RECORD SCORE

70-10 v Bramley, Feb 12th 1995 (Challenge Cup 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

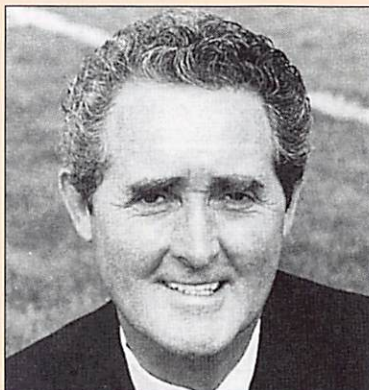
A Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN

JIM QUINN

This evening we have our second game in the second phase of the world club championship. Following our victory against North Queensland Cowboys here at Boundary Park last Friday, we welcome tonight the players, coaches and officials of Adelaide Rams.

We enjoyed a fine evening with the Rams in Adelaide last month and it was generally agreed that the score did not accurately reflect our contribution to a hard-fought game.

It was quite a night just seven days ago when we beat the



Cowboys 20-16 with a performance that was well above that of a side sitting at the bottom of Super League.

We should not be in that lowly position, but at least we now have the confidence of knowing that we CAN compete with good teams, we CAN play a tough match without conceding a lot of penalties and we CAN control our possession without making a lot of unforced errors.

Hopefully, we can carry this forward into tonight's game and also into Super League, in which we have six games still to be played.

Tonight's clash with the

Rams..and their well known coach Rod Reddy.will be another high-intensity game. But I applaud the concept of this World Club Championship. It is good for the game on a World-Wide platform.

If nothing else, and no matter how painful it has been, the World Club Championship has identified many weaknesses in our game in this country and has made us realise that our "cushy" little corner of the rugby league world is perhaps not as satisfactory as we might have believed.

The message has come through loud and clear. We need to look seriously at our game, plot and plan its restructure and develop an environment in which we can produce a lot more quality professionals.

Who knows. The way the results are going in the World Club Championship might prove a blessing in disguise in the long run. Over to you, Joe Lydon and the panel of personalities who have been hand-picked to examine our game.

Finally, I would like to express the wish that the form we produced against the Cowboys can be repeated this evening and carried through to our remaining six games in Super League.

It would be nice to make for our disappointments throughout the year with a rip-roaring end to the season.

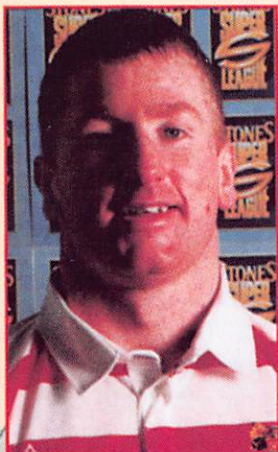
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DOWN MEMORY LANE

DON YATES

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

When Great Britain visited Australia in 1914, they opened the tour in Adelaide, at the Hawthorne Oval, where a crowd of 2,000 saw Britain defeat South Australia 101-0

Oldham's Alf Wood landed 15 goals in that match but the opening weeks of the tour were not so comfortable for the tourists who encountered no end of administrative and injury problems.

The first test was switched from Queensland to Sydney and put back eleven days to a date just 48 hours before the second?

Britain won that first test 23-5 despite a mounting injury list but Australia hit back to level the series with a 12-7 victory two days later. Unbelievably, the third test was brought forward six weeks and played at Sydney Cricket Ground the following Saturday. The Lions management complained bitterly at the prospect of playing three tests in eight days with a depleted squad but the message from England instructed them to play and added, 'England expects every man to do his duty'.

They did more than that. Before a crowd of 34,420 the following two teams line up to do battle: Australia: Howard Hallett: Bob Tidyman. Wally Messenger, Sid Deane, Dan Frawley; Chook Fraser, Pony Holloway; Frank Bruce, Sandy Pearce Don Sullivan, Tedda Courtney, Bob Craig & Bill Cann. Great Britain: Alf Wood (Oldham), Frank Williams (Halifax), Harold Wagstaffe (Huddersfield), Billy Hall (Oldham), Willie Davies (Leeds): Stuart Prosser (Halifax), Fred Smith (Hunslet), Chick Hanson (Widnes), Percy Coldrick (Wigan), Dave Hooland (Oldham), Doug Clark (Huddersfield), Dick Ramsdale (Wigan) & Jack Chilcott (Huddersfield).

Britain's misfortune was carried over into the third test in the opening minutes winger Frank Williams

suffered a twisted ankle and Doug Clark broke his thumb later in the half. With no substitutions in those days, both players carried on. The muddy conditions caused by weeks of rain in the Sydney area, suited Great Britain. They took an early lead when Alf Wood landed a penalty but then spent much of the match on desperate defence.

Tedda Courtney had a try disallowed and both Frank Burge and Wally Messenger went close but Britain held out and then increased their lead before the interval. First Willie Davies was awarded a penalty try which Alf Wood converted and Wood then added a penalty. Half time and Britain led 9-0.

The opening ten minutes of the second-half could have proved disastrous for the tourists. Doug Clark added a broken collar bone to his broken thumb

and was taken off. He was followed by Frank Williams who aggravated his ankle injury and then Billy Hall was carried off with concussion. With only ten men on the field, Britain's task looked hopeless but remarkably, the tourists extended their lead. Harold Wagstaffe made the decisive break and Chick Johnson, a second-row who had been switched to the wing, carried on the attack by dribbling the ball half the length of the pitch to score. Alf Wood again converted and to the astonishment of

everyone present, Britain led 14-0. The depleted British side could just not hold out for 30 minutes and late on centres Wally Messenger and Sid Deane scored tries nevertheless Great Britain had won 14-6 and the Ashes were on their way to England. The heroic performance of the British team was not lost on the Australian press. The match was named the 'Rourke's Drift' test after a famous battle in the Zulu War of 1879 when 80 British officers fought of 4,000 Zulu warriors at Rourke's Drift settlement. One leading Sydney writer put the initials 'RD' behind each players name after future appearances. Their efforts that day have gone down in Rugby League history and it is only right that we should recall them from time to time.

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(MOTTHAM & STALYBRIDGE)

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HORTON ARMS 624 7793

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£100 WINNER (WEEK 24) 620 2547

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BLACKHORSE 624 2721

BULL'S HEAD 624 5822

DOG & PARTRIDGE (ROUNDTHORN RD)

634 3335

SROTTON 624 2376

PEELS 665 2272/628 3979

TOP HOUSE 624 1556

ELEVENWAYS 624 8830

BULLS HEAD 624 5822

FLOWERPOT 624 3446

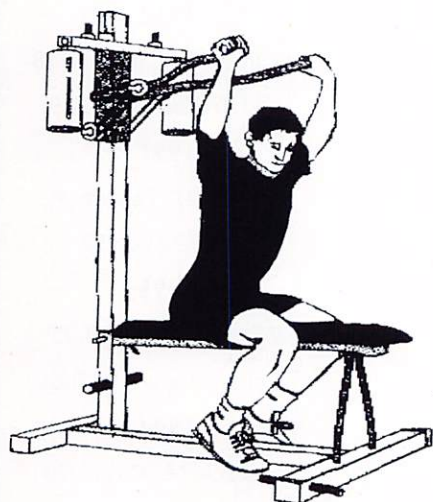
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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

DON YATES

For the second week running Boundary Park stages an international, indeed inter-continental, rugby with the visit of Adelaide Rams who follow quickly in the footsteps of the North Queensland Cowboys. The Rams are one of the two Australian Super League outfits who are enjoying their first season of competition, Hunter Mariners being the other. Adelaide are

enjoying a satisfactory if not spectacular season and currently lie in mid table. Oldham will be aware that the Rams have enjoyed greater success away from Adelaide Oval. Indeed the three Australian outfits who created havoc in the north of England last month - Auckland, Penrith and Cronulla - have all lost at home to Adelaide. The heavy defeat suffered by Adelaide was the 42-22 defeat when

Canterbury visited South Australia last May, Adelaide's biggest domestic victory was their 28-4 away win against Perth Reds last month but, once again, it must be noted that all three World Club Championship fixtures at the Adelaide Oval brought victories for the Rams which were by wider margin Oldham 12-14, Leeds 32-8 and Salford 50-8 indicate just how difficult a task Oldham face this

DETAILS OF BRITAIN'S LAST TRIUMPH IN THE WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

Wednesday, 1st June 1994

At the ANZ Stadium, Brisbane

BRISBANE 14 WIGAN 20

half-time 4-12

Attendance 54,220

WIGAN *Tries* Jason Robinson, Barne-Jon Mather & Denis Betts
Goals Frano Botica (4)

BRISBANE *Tries* Wendell Sailor, Michael Hancock & Julian O'Neill
Goal Julian O'Neill

WIGAN: Gary Connolly, Jason Robinson, Sam Panapa, Barne-Jon Mather, Martin Offiah, Frano Botica, Shaun Edwards, Neil Cowie, Martin Dermott, Billy McGinty, Denis Betts, Andy Farrell & Paul Clarke.

Substitutes Va'aiga Tuigamala, Martin Hall, Paul Atcheson & Mick Cassidy

BRISBANE: Willie Carne, Wendell Sailor, Steve Ronouf, Chris Johns, Michael Hancock, Kevin Walters, Allan Langer, Glen Artemis, Kerrod Walters, Andrew Gee, Mark Hohn, Alan Cann & Julian O'Neill

Substitutes John Plath, Peter Ryan, Brett Galea & Chris McKenna

RESULTS OF ALL

PREVIOUS WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE FINALS

1976

Eastern Suburbs 25 St Helens 2
(Sydney Cricket Ground -
26,856)

1987

Wigan 8 Manly 2
(Central Park - 36,895)

1989

Widnes 30 Canberra 18
(Old Trafford - 30,786)

1991

Wigan 21 Penrith 4
(Anfield - 20,152)

1992

Wigan 8 Brisbane 22
(Central Park - 17,746)

1994

Brisbane 14 Wigan 20
(ANZ Stadium - 54,220)

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*No purchase necessary. You can still enter the draw by sending your name and address on a postcard to: Rugby Competition, TNL Competitions Dept, 1, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD. Entries must be received by first post Monday August 18th, 1997.

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Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

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ACADEMY NEWS

BRIAN GARTLAND

Since my last notes we have had two great wins against Leigh Academy by 34 points to nil and Rochdale academy, whom we beat 36 points to four. The win against Leigh was really pleasing because we lost to them at Hilton Park earlier in the season, but I honestly thought then that we were the better team. Dale Aldred our young loose forward from Leigh was outstanding against his home town club and deservedly was the man of the match, but this

wasn't just a one man show this was a great team effort from one to thirteen. Local rivals Rochdale came looking for revenge from our win in the Hornets nest but again on the day we were too good for them. Ben Simpson, Rhys Orriss and Paul Rushynsky showed up well to say they are all just out of under 16's schools rugby if they are prepared to work hard then I am sure we have got three good youngsters.

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ADELAIDE

Player Prof

1 - Rob Maybon - Dynamic full back who has been in great form this season. Made first grade debut with South Sydney in 1988. South Sydney first grade player of year in 1992 and 1993. Played 6 seasons with South Sydney (1988-93), then two seasons with St. George (1994-95) before playing with Parramatta in 1996. Displays tremendous courage for his size.

3 - Michael Maguire - Form in '97 has been hampered by injury. Smooth moving centre who has filled in on the wing when required. Joined RAMS from the Canberra Raiders where he played 4 first grade games in 1995.

4 - Elias Paiyo - Made Australian first grade debut for RAMS this season. Joined Adelaide from Wadag, Enga Province, Port Moresby. Played for Papua New Guinea in '95 World Cup and was named Captain of Papua New Guinea in three Tests in 1996. Plays half back and hooker.

5 - Jason Donnelly - Kiwi international who made late start to season following knee reconstruction in 1996. Tough, hard playing winger who joined RAMS from St. George where he made his first grade debut in 1992. Donnelly was pursuing an athletics career, training with Olympic decathlete Daley Thompson, before deciding on Rugby League. Had two seasons with Keighley (UK) in 1990 and 1991.

6 - Chris Quinn - Inaugural Adelaide Rams Club Captain. Versatile utility who joined Adelaide from St. George where he played over 100 first grade games from 1989-1996. Not afraid to take risks and his creative ability can cut the opposition down to size.

7 - Stuart Topper - Pocket dynamo. Half back/hooker who made good start to '97 season before injury sidelined him for several weeks. Has played with Cronulla, St George and Gold Coast. Played in Cronulla's Reserve grade grand final team in '94. He stands at just 164cms.

8 - Alan Cann - Strong forward who played in two grand finals with Brisbane Broncos. State of Origin representative for Queensland. Played 80 first grade games to Brisbane between 1990 - 1996. Named Brisbane's most improved player in 1992. Played in 1992 and 1993 Brisbane Grand Final teams. Experienced and adds bite to RAMS forward pack.

9 - Steve Stone - First player signed by Adelaide RAMS back in December '95. Creative half back/hooker who "reads" the game exceptionally well. Has proved to be a top man for a crisis. Played in Canberra Raiders losing Reserve grade Grand Final in 1991. Made two first grade semi-final appearances with Canberra Raiders in 1993.

10 - Cameron Blair - Forward who works hard and is known for rough tackles. Always wears a yellow headband. Former Dally M Rookie of the Year in 1988. Played 72 first grade games with Wests (1988-1991) before making his mark with Parramatta (1992 - 1995). Joined RAMS from PARRAMATTA, but had a season with Perth Reds when Super League was put on hold in 1996. Scored RAMS first try at Adelaide Oval.

11 - Andrew Hick - Standing at 192cms. Hick is the RAMS tallest player which enables him to stand and off-load. He enjoys an enormous appetite for hard work. Played with Cronulla and Wests before joining RAMS.

12 - Brett Galea - Back in form after missing six weeks with stress fractures to a foot. Solid all-round forward with deceptive strength. Joined RAMS from Brisbane Broncos (1992-96). Two semi-final appearances as an interchange.

13 - David Boughton - Tough tackler with high work rate in all aspects of play. Made debut with Cronulla in 1991 playing with Sharks until he joined the RAMS in 1997.

20 - Marty McKenzie - Queensland Schoolboy

THE RAMS

les

1997

representative. Made debut with Parramatta in 1994. Playing 36 first games from 1994-1996. Hernia operation has kept Marty on sidelines for most of '97 season.

21 - Dean Schifilliti - Creative utility who has proven tremendous value to Adelaide RAMS in the club's inaugural year. Former Illawarra hooker and Captain who played with Souths (1994) and North Queensland Cowboys (95 and 96) before moving to Rams in 1997.

22 - Wayne Simonds - Quick and elusive winger. He played over 100 first grade games with six clubs since 1987 (Penrith, Western Suburbs, Parramatta South Queensland, Brisbane, Adelaide RAMS). Missed several games early in 1997 because of a badly broken finger. Experienced.

23 - Bruce Mamando - Only RAMS player to have played in ever game so far in season '97. Captain of Papua New Guinea for World Nines and Oceania tournament '97. Played 3 Test and World Cup selection for PSG last year. Joined RAMS from Canberra Raiders where he made first grade debut in 1994. Has made his mark at the RAMS as an impact player from the interchange bench.

25 - Solomon Kiri - Kiwi who toured Australia with NZ Residents team. Played reserve grade with Auckland Warriors in 1995. Made first grade debut with Western Reds (Perth) in 1996 before joining RAMS.

27 - Kerrod Walters - RAMS on field Captain. Champion hooker who played 181 first grade games with Brisbane Broncos between 1988 - 1995. Dally M Hooker of year 1989 and 1990. Played in two grand finals (1992 - 1993). Has represented Queens and in 6 State of Origins and has played 8 Test matches for Australia. Member of Kangaroo Tour (1990). Papua New Guinea (1991) and World Cup (1992).

30 - Mark Corvo - Consistent forward. Five seasons

with Canberra Raiders (1992 - 1996). Made first grade debut in 1993. Found it tough going breaking into Canberra Raiders but has made his mark with the Adelaide RAMS.

33 - Kurt Wrigley - Centre who transferred from Brisbane to Cronulla in 1992 - 94, then had season with St. George (Reserve Grade final captain) before returning to Cronulla in 1996 and RAMS in 1997. Accomplished goal kicker.

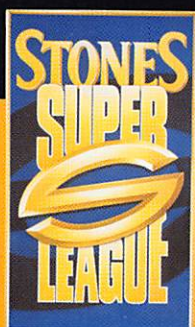
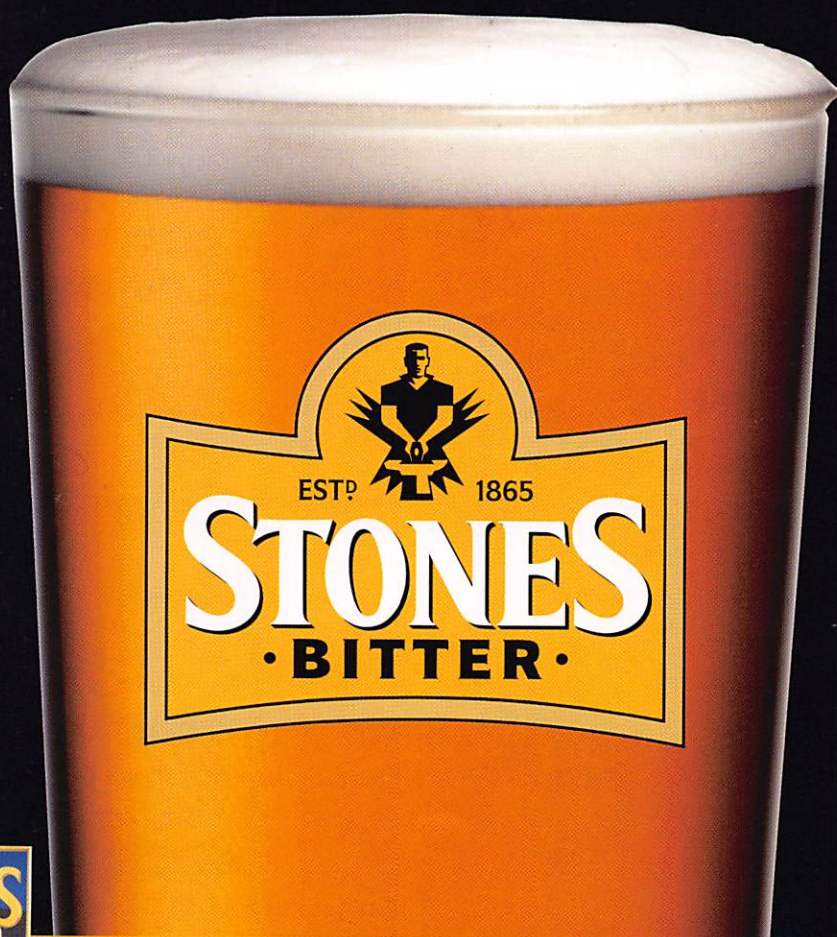
36 - Kevin Champion - First Adelaide RAM to earn senior representation. Playing for Old in 1997 Tri Series. From Sarina in North Queensland. Played with Gold Coast from 1992 - 1995 before playing with St. George in 1996 Grand Final. Injury has interrupted his '97 season with RAMS. Tenacious tackler with high work rate.

44 - Joe Tamani - Australian born Fijian who played rugby union with Randwick in 1995 before trialling with St. George. Strong winger with good hands and made an impact during one season with Bradford Bulls in 1996 before returning to Adelaide. Played one Test for Fiji against Great Britain in 1996. Represented Fiji at 1997 World Nines. Has missed five games because of ligament damage to an ankle.

50 - Andrew Peirce - Has missed the last six weeks of competition with a knee injury. Played with Cronulla from 1993 - 1996, making his mark with 19 first grade games last year. Played in Reserve Grade grand finals with Cronulla in 1994, '95 and '96. Youngster with promising future.

51 - Luke Williamson - Joined RAMS from Brisbane Wests. Originally in RAMS Under 19's team for season '97 but promoted to first grade squad. Made first grade debut against Auckland in round four of Telstra Cup season. Represented Old Under 19's (1996 - 1997) and played for Australia (Under 19's) in this year's test against New Zealand. Has played centre and 5/8th.

TOP OF THE LEAGUE



TASTE THE ACTION

ON THIS DAY...

DON YATES

It was on this day in 1981, Saturday 25th July, that Papua New Guinea staged their first official test match. Boroko Oval Port Moresby was the venue with France providing the opposition. The visitors led 10-6 at half-time but the Kumuls hit back to force a 13-13 draw before a sell-out crowd of 14,000.

France have been involved in international competition since 1934 but their introduction to this game all began at a Management Meeting of the Rugby Football League in Leeds which was held on Tuesday 25th July 1933. At that meeting it was decided to attempt to spread the game in France, following the severing of relations between the French Rugby Union and the Home Unions because of alleged professionalism within French rugby circles. A match was arranged between Great Britain and Australia in Paris and that led to the game eventually becoming established in France.

Rugby League had been played in England since 1895 with regular tours

to Australia having been undertaken since 1910. It was during the 1914 tour that the British Lions met Auckland on Saturday 25th July with the tourists winning 34-12. Oldham had three tourists on that trip and all three played and scored in the match. Prop Dave Holland scored two tries centre Billy Hall one try whilst full-back Alf Wood landed five goals. The British Lions were back in Auckland on Saturday, 25th July 1970 when they completed a 3-0 whitewash of New Zealand by winning the third test 33-16. Oldham had only one tourist that year, second-rower Bob Irving but he played in that Auckland test although failed to get on the scoresheet. One player who frequently figured on the scoresheet was that brilliant inside back Brett Kenny. It was on this day in 1993, Sunday 25th July that he broke the Parramatta appearance record with his 259th first grade match for the Eels. Unfortunately Kenny failed to score that afternoon as Cronulla won 14-12 at Parramatta

but Kenny did score 110 tries during his record 265 club matches. That very same afternoon, Sunday 25th July 1993, centre Steve Renouf equalled the Brisbane club record of four tries in a match. His four tries came in a 38-18 home victory over Canterbury which incidentally, was watched by a crowd of 54,751. That Brisbane club record has been achieved on four occasions, and each time their scorer has been Renouf. It was on 25th July 1908 that the now defunct Cumberland club of Sydney suffered their biggest ever defeat when they lost 45-0 to North Sydney. Cumberland existed for only one season, 1908 during which time they won only one of their eight matches and finished bottom of the Premiership table. Finally, it was on this day in 1978, Tuesday 25th July that the World's first test tube baby, Louise Brown, was born just across the road from this stadium at the Royal Oldham Hospital. Happy Birthday Louise.

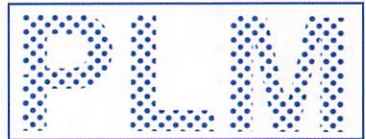
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JUNIOR BEARS



Come on you Bears,

I hope that's what we are going to hear around Boundary Park this evening for another match against the 'Aussies'.

Tonight we welcome players, officials and supporters of the Adelaide Rams in our final match of the World Club Championship. We may already know where we stand in the competition before this evening's match, wherever it is lets hope for a good match of Rugby League.

Adelaide is situated in the New South Wales Territory in southern Australia. I didn't see the match down under properly like most of you, but I believe we played some pretty good football... lets hope there is more to come tonight...

Who will be the Oldham Carnival tomorrow, I will, don't forget to come along to Kings Road field by 12.30pm dressed in your red and white and have your face painted to join in the fun of the Parade, come and ride on our very own float and see how much noise we can really make around the street of the town... show the rest of'em how you enjoy being Junior Bears.

Remember what we say
BE THERE SEE THE BEAR
What's all that noise I hear

Come on OLDHAM,

Come on OLDHAM

Teasers answers from the game against North Queensland....

Q. Who is Coach of North Queensland Cowboys

A. Tim Sheens

Q. What was the score in the first meeting between the two clubs.

A. 54-16 to the Cowboys

Two more for you this evening.

1. Which of the Walters Brothers play for the Rams
 2. Name the other two Australian teams in Pool B of the World Club Championships.
- Samantha Brown is our Mascot for the match this evening.

Sammy is nine years old and she attends St.Paul's Junior School in Royton. We all know that her favourite player is Jason Temu as she has sponsored him for the Season...lets hope he has got over those early season injuries and she can look forward to seeing him in the rest of the Bears matches. As well as being a keen follower of the 'Bears' Sammy is a Purple belt in Ju-jit-su and is at present training for her Brown belt, she is also a keen swimmer...

As our next home match is not until 22 August we have a lot of Junior Bears birthdays being celebrated...

July	25th	Ben Fox
	26th	Erin Kirwan
	27th	Aaron Brown
	28th	Daniel Arnold, Frances Scholes
	31st	Rebecca Mellor, Michael Brown, Mark Reville, Jack Hunter-Holden, Shelly Simpson

August

1st	Graham Littlewood
2nd	Sean & Paul Rankin (twins)



4th	William Hilton
6th	Daniel Wood, Vikki Chatterley
12th	Keiran Lewis
13th	Christopher Tarkenter, Chloe Stott
14th	Thomas Hibbert
15th	David Gough
17th	Ashley Hutchinson
18th	Mark Langley

To all you Junior Bears Happy

Birthday!!!

Nearly forgot to say hello to the Sky presenters who are here tonight 'Hiya' Eddie and Stevo, remember to tell your camera men to get a good shot of me!!! I just love being on T.V.

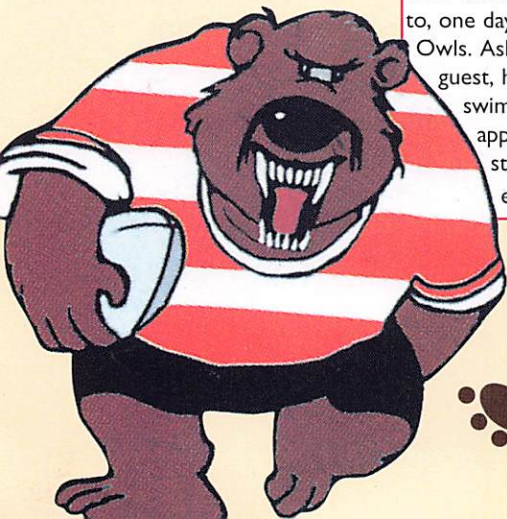
Come on, Come on OLDHAM

Enjoy the match...

Buster

Design 'Ollie Owl' competition - Winner

Hey Cool Kids, Our pal 'Ollie Owl' from the 'wild' Oldham Owls Disabled Sports Club has finally hatched! We were so excited by ten year old Ashley Boycott's picture of 'Ollie' in his Basketball kit and his super cool Oldham Bears shades, the Ollie couldn't stay in his egg a moment longer. Shaw Tiger's player Ashley who hopes to, one day, play for Oldham like his hero Paul Atcheson, is also a big fan of the Owls. Ashley is here today to watch our lads beat the Adelaide Rams as my special guest, he tells me his favourite food is Fish & Chips. He enjoys drawing and swimming and his favourite film is Jumanji. Ashley's picture of Ollie Owl will appear in future programmes in a comic strip with me. Thanks for all your super entries. **Buster**



HERE AND THERE

DON YATES

The latest recruit to Oldham is ball playing loose forward Ian Russell. He is an experienced player who has spent the biggest part of his career playing with Illawarra. Russell played in 110 first grade matches for the Steelers. Only eight players have made more appearances in the history of that club. It was during his Illawarra days that Russell spent the 1991-92 winter season here in England playing for Sheffield Eagles. Russell made 17 appearances that season with the Eagles and scored three tries. He was loose-forward in the Eagles team which lost 24-14 at home to Oldham in October of that year. In 1995 when the North Queensland club was formed, he was recruited by the Cowboys and to date he has made 12 appearances for them. Last June he enjoyed a short spell in Europe where he played in three Super League matches for Paris St Germain. Although he was with PSG when they visited Boundary Park, he was absent from their line up. However, he is now at Boundary Park on a more permanent basis and we wish him well as he assists Oldham to maintain their Super League status and perhaps enjoy a lucrative run in September's Premiership competition. As the professional season reaches an exciting climax, the amateur game gets out on its winter season this weekend with the first of the pre-season Challenge competitions. Tomorrow afternoon the action begins over at Dewsbury Moor where an eight club knock-out competition is staged involving Conference League clubs. The draw for the tournament had not been made at the time these notes were compiled but tomorrow two quarter-final ties will be played, kick-off 1pm and 3pm. The other two quarter-finals will be staged next weekend, Saturday 2nd August with the two semi-finals the week after, (Saturday 9th August). The final is on Saturday 16th August with a 2.30pm kick off.

The big pre-season competition on this side of the Penines is the Champions Challenge, a most prestigious tournament. It is staged at Twist Lane, Leigh, home of the Leigh Miners Rangers. That competition begins next weekend, Saturday 2nd August with two quarter final ties, Thatto Heath v Siddall and Askam v Wigan St Judes and then Sunday 3rd August, Wigan St Patricks v Farnworth and Leigh Miners v Simms Cross. The semi-finals for that competition are on Saturday 9th August with the final on Saturday, 16th August.

The National Conference League season begins on Saturday 23rd August and just like last season, we in Oldham are fortunate enough to have a Premier Division match in the town each week with St. Anne's and Saddleworth Rangers at home on alternate Saturdays. On 23rd August, Rangers are at home to League Championship West Hull and then on Saturday, 30th August Saints entertain Heworth, The Conference League provides superb entertainment so why not give it a try. I am sure that you will not be disappointed.

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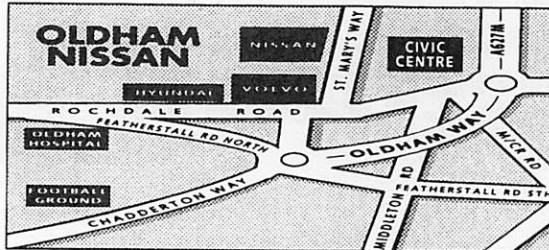
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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

in association with the

DAILY MIRROR

What a win we had last week against the North Queensland Cowboys. It must have been great for all our youngsters who played before the game to see an Oldham team beat a team from Australia. It is always good to see our young sides playing before the big games I just hope we can get some more games on for them. The local District Development Association is after a sponsor to help them to provide extra kit mini posts and cups and medals for competitions we are hoping to run for all the coming season so

if there are any business men out there who want to put some money in to grass roots we would be glad to hear from you. Anyone who would like to help on the committee of the DDA would also be welcome.. It is always the same people who do a lot of work for the youngsters and any help would be gratefully appreciated. Town team training for our U11s and U13s starts next Thursday at Hathershaw Sports Centre. Anyone who wants to try for places on the teams should come along at 6pm.

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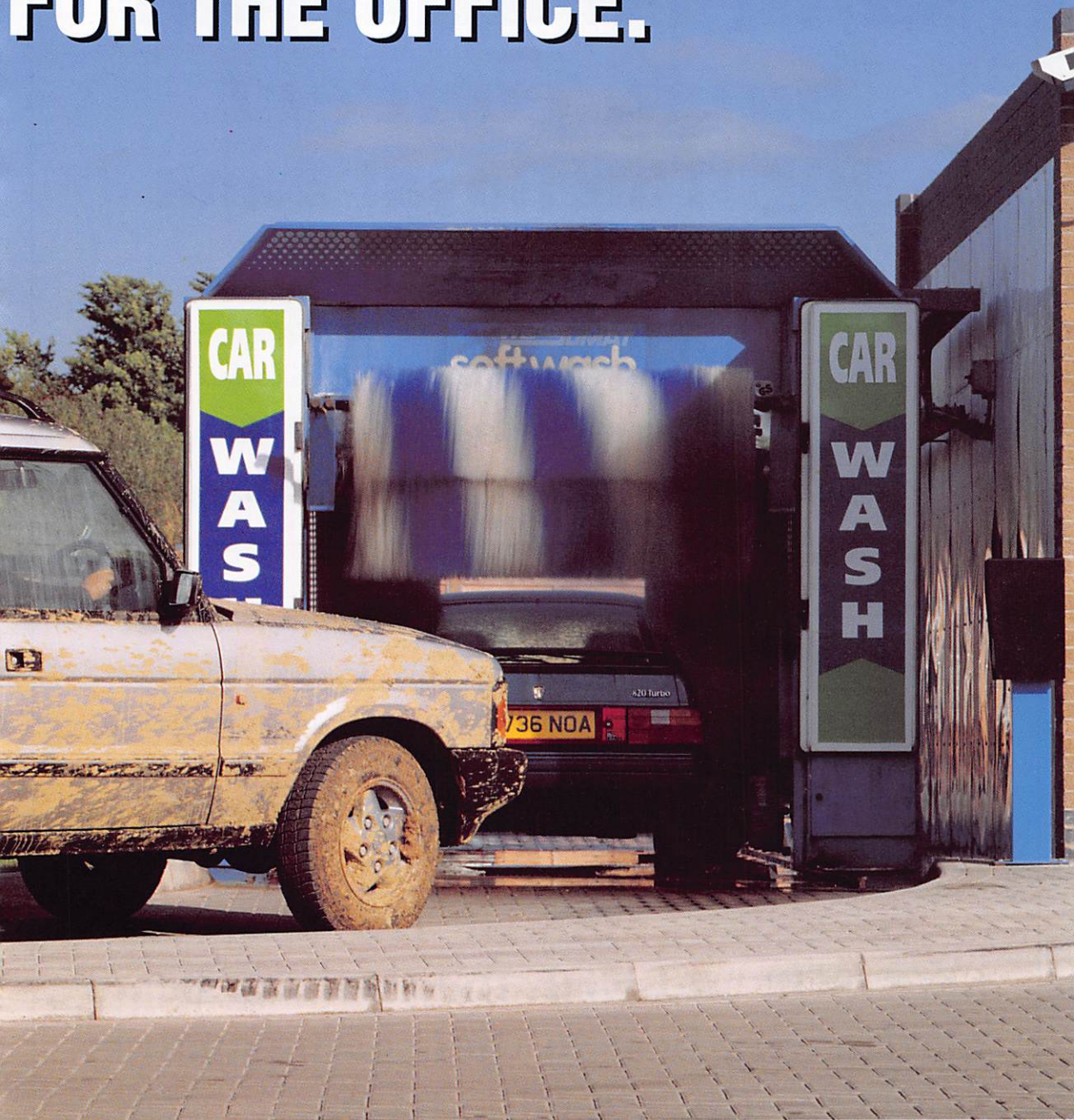
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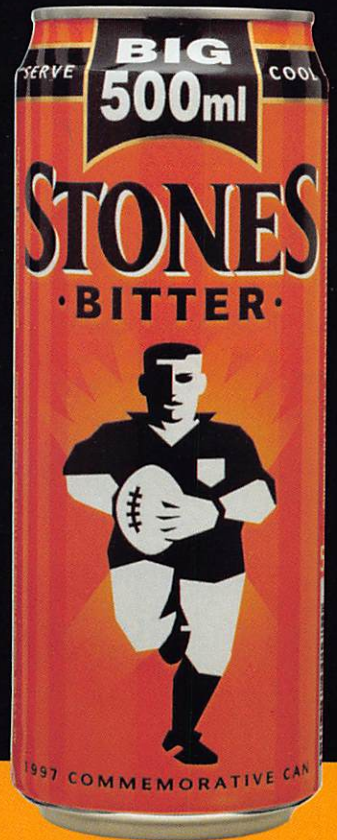
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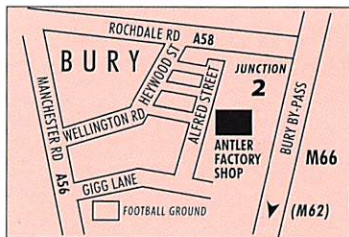
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ALLIANCE NEWS

PADDY KIRWAN

The Alliance team followed up the splendid result against Castleford with a 28-10 victory against a Hull K.R team which boasted seven players who had played for their first team on the previous weekend. During the first 30 minutes the whole team defended really well keeping Hull K.R in their own half and forcing several errors. Unfortunately we squandered several chances trying to score every time we broke the line when a little patience would have brought better results. With 10 minutes to half time all we had to show for our effort was a great individual try from Aidie Meade converted by Paul Deacon. A couple of mistakes and the award of three penalties allowed Hull K.R back in the game before half time. A sustained period of pressure in which Hull

K.R had three consecutive sets of six led to a short cross field kick which Alfie Goldbourne followed up to score in the corner. After turning around 6-4 in the lead we matched Hull K.R again for the first 15 minutes of the second half with honours even. Hull K.R then snatched the initiative diving over from acting half back to score a converted try near the posts. Within minutes Paul Deacon converted a penalty to bring the score to 10-8 then 10 minutes later prop Danny Guest broke the deadlock coming strong off Paul Deacon from 15 yards out he broke the 1st tackle and carried two players over the line to score by the posts. Paul Deacon converted to put us ahead 14-10. From here the pressure applied in the first half told on

the Hull K.R forwards, for as they tired we went from strength to strength with first Mike Prescott scoring and then Chris McKinney scoring in the last five minutes. Both tries were converted by Paul Deacon who also added a penalty to give a convincing 28-10 victory. Without Jimmy Cowan who has been promoted to the 1st team and Mike Prescott, who covered the sides shortage, by playing in the centre, the pack lacked the viability of the last few weeks. It did however look very powerful with Jason Temu, Danny Guest and Paul Norman, and was further strengthened by the return after a long absence of Tony Nuttall. With 5 out of the remaining 6 games at home we can look forward to a steady climb up the table.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

1997

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

ROGER HALSTEAD

The Bears struck a blow for English Rugby League with their 20-18 win against North Queensland Cowboys on a memorable night at Boundary Park. Perhaps more importantly, so far as the club's Super League credibility is concerned, Bob Lindner's boys did a wonderful PR job locally.

Abe Kerr and his marketing and commercial team will be the first to recognise that this is nothing like a great team performance to get the fans talking rugby again in the pubs and clubs. We might be "marketing led" but Abe, Jacquie, Kaye, Liam, Jonathan and the rest of the commercial and selling crew in Union Street will see the happier side of supporters this week and that has got to make their job easier.

It needed to be, Three consecutive defeats in Super League by St. Helens, Sheffed Eagles and Castleford Tigers sent the team spinning to the bottom.

To pile on the agony, the fans were still wondering how the team lost at Wheldon Road after leading 18-2 at half-time when they learned that Paris had beaten Wigan. Then came claims in a Sunday Newspaper that the Bears were one of three clubs which had already been pencilled in for the Super League chop to make way for new, big city clubs in places like Dublin, Bristol, Newcastle and Leicester.

In the run up to the Cowboys match I have never known Oldham supporters be so downcast and it was reflected in the lowest Boundary Park attendance of the



season, only 2,961.

The stay-at-homes missed a treat, but the loyal 3000 who roared on the Bears to a famous victory were treated to a magnificent reward which rekindled optimism for the club's Super League future.

Enthusiastic fans never stopped their "Come on, Oldham" from the kick off to the final hooter and the players responded with a high intensity performance over 80 minutes which brought the house down when Paul Davidson scored the winning try four minutes from the end.

At the end of the game, the players did a lap of honour as the fans gave them a standing ovation - and numerous thoughts

ran through my mind as supporters began celebrations that went on long into the night.

I thought - where are all those fans who always promised to support the club if it was playing at the top level? You can't get much higher than Super League and the World Club Championship.

I thought - how much longer do the suffering loyal supporters of the Bears and Oldham Athletic have to wait before they are told something definite about new ground developments?

I thought - isn't it time the powers-that-be come clean so that, if nothing else, the sports lovers of this town know exactly where Oldham Athletic stand, Where Oldham Council stand and where Oldham Bears stand in the three-way dialogue.

The Bears resume Super League rugby next week after a break for the World Championship and they face a mighty battle to avoid relegation with six games left, four of them away from home. Athletic soon begin life in the second division after being relegated twice in three years.

Professional sport in Oldham needs a lift and it won't get it as long as new stadium talks are confined to the back burner. Are we to have a new joint stadium? Are we to have both clubs playing at Boundary Park? Are we to have a new rugby-only stadium? Are we to have nothing at all? The truth might hurt - but we need to know it and we need to know now.



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FRIDAY 25th JULY 19



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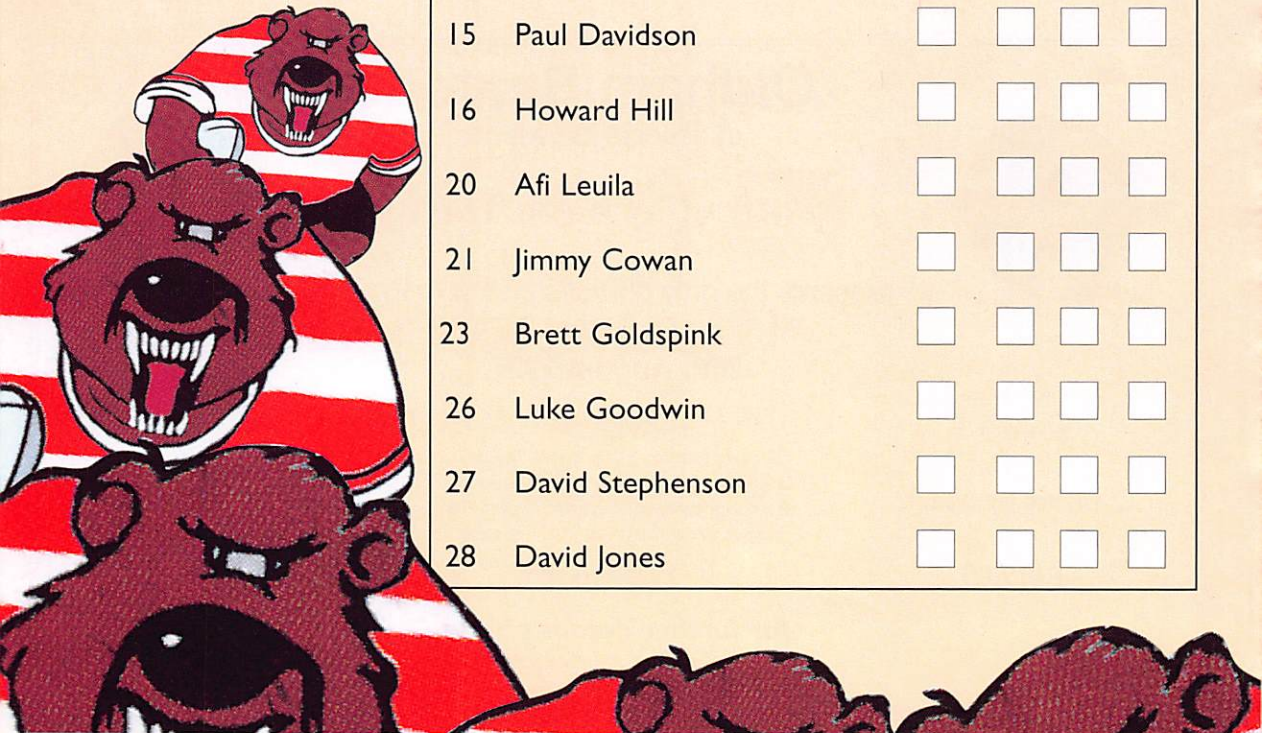
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PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5	6
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OLDHAM BEARS

	Team	T	G	DG	
1	Paul Atcheson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Paul Topping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Francis Maloney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Martin Crompton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Ian Gildart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	John Clarke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Gary Lord	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Joe Faimalo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Matt Munro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Paul Davidson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Howard Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Afi Leuila	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Jimmy Cowan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23	Brett Goldspink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Luke Goodwin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
27	David Stephenson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
28	David Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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