

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

£1.50

**Northern Ford RFL Premiership
v Oldham Roughyeds**

Sunday 27th June 1999

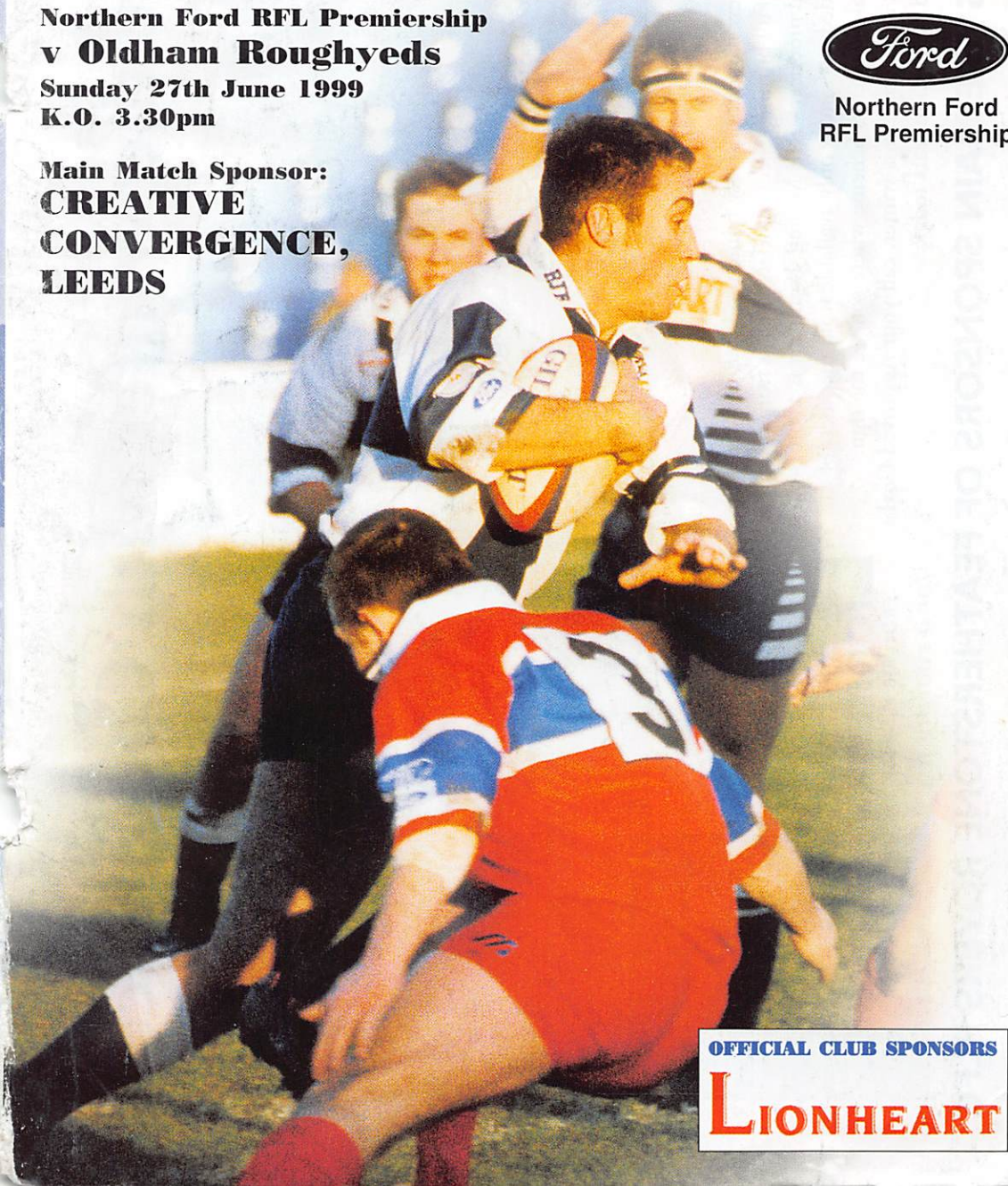
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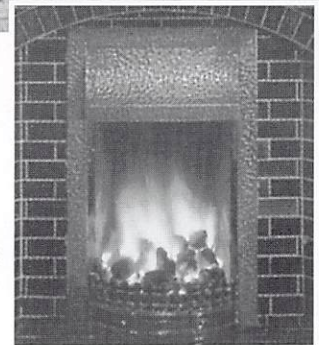
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Game On!

With Terry Mullaney

FOR this afternoon's very important clash in the Northern Ford Premiership, it is our pleasure to welcome the players, officials and staff of the Oldham Roughyeds to the Lionheart Stadium.

Strictly speaking this is the Roughyeds' first ever visit to our ground as the club was newly formed last year following the demise of the former Oldham Bears club which will be remembered as Super League's second fatal casualty in a three year existence following on from the French farce which was Paris, an unfortunate experiment that wasted a reported £3 million of the game's money.

As the cracks well and truly start to appear in the 'elite' competition, the obvious question that springs to mind is, 'Who will be next?'. Halifax's horrendous problems have been well documented of late, although it is unlikely that we know the full extent of their financial crisis and over on Humberside the Sharks' existence must also be in great peril if their on field slump continues which it probably will.

Apart from the very occasional 10,000 plus crowd the attendances at Super League games have fallen alarmingly and none more so than at Wigan, the game's most successful club over the past twelve years, where they are now attracting as little as 6000 fans to their home matches. Last week's attendance for the derby game at Knowsley Road was a pathetic 12,000. Before the days of Super League those two clubs could confidently expect double that amount of people to turn up. Crowds of less than 2,000 (if they tell the truth) for games at London, Sheffield and the destined-for-doom Gateshead, prove beyond doubt that the game of Rugby League at the top level is a major disappointment. The disastrous performance of Super League is wholly down to the maladministration of its leading administrators and the individual club chairmen who have allowed those people the scope to do as they please. The Rugby League press has also played its part in this.

The editors of those journals made it clear at the outset of Super League that the likes of Featherstone should be content playing at 'their level' in division one and be happy to see the game developing in the nation's big cities. Well Messrs Sadler and Brady we are now four years down the track and Paris have gone and London and Sheffield's attendances are on a considerable decline. Can either of these learned Rugby League men honestly say that Featherstone and a host of others currently in the Northern Ford Premiership wouldn't attract twice the attendances of the Broncos and Eagles? It's time to climb down gentlemen and admit you were wrong. There's

nothing wrong with expansion but not at the expense of the traditional clubs such as Featherstone which have served the game so well and won every major honour over the years. As a result of the strategy of the last four years, lifelong fans of the sport have been lost possibly never to return. Clubs will die over the next couple of years unless we embark upon a radical rethink in terms of management of the game.

Those people at the helm who purposely deprived Wakefield Trinity of an equal share of News Corp money with the obvious aim of immediately getting them relegated should now do the honourable thing and resign. Trinity have struck a major blow for the Northern Ford Premiership by proving that our clubs can 'hack' it in the big league despite the huge cash disadvantage imposed upon them by the unscrupulous individuals that are destroying our game. Trinity have also proved in assembling a fine side on such a limited budget that there are many players in other Super League clubs that are grossly overpaid.

Still on Trinity, you will remember that they were forced to take their home game against St Helens to Barnsley FC as Belle Vue wasn't considered suitable for Sky TV coverage. That enforced move cost Trinity an £18,000 fee to Barnsley. We offered the Lionheart Stadium which Sky producer, Neville Smith, thinks is a wonderful venue, for a great deal less than that sum. We have heard a rumour that S.L.E. thought the screening a game at Featherstone would 'lower the tone' of Super League. So instead they preferred that £18,000 would be better going out of the game and into football. Trinity, I understand would have been quite content to play here.

Ironically Sky have decided to feature another of Trinity's home games in a few weeks' time against Bradford Bulls and this time the game *will* take place at Belle Vue. Now, since there has been no massive redevelopment at Belle Vue it would appear that Trinity, who can expect a bigger crowd against the Bulls than could be anticipated for the Saints, have been forced to part with £18,000 for no good reason at all. One has to pose the question of whether the SLE Management would throw their own personal money around in such an irresponsible manner.

Sadly this is the sort of thing that is all too prevalent in today's selfish and greed-ridden environment of Rugby League football. Until we rid ourselves of the present deluded management of S.L.E. the game of Rugby League will continue to decline in popularity to an extent that may well turn out to be irretrievable.

Coach's Comments



AFTER a very frenzied commencement to my coaching tenure here at Lionheart Stadium I was relived to have a clear week last week to prepare for the Rochdale fixture. The days of having to play three fixtures in a week I thought had come to an end, due mainly to the advent of summer rugby, however, to play Dewsbury, Oldham and Whitehaven respectively was a tough task especially in the first fortnight of your reign. However, the players performed to the best of their ability and the coaching staff have been pleased with the player co-operation we have received and also with the support staff and in particular Barry Evans our Academy Coach who has been very supportive and helpful.

The players performed very well in certain areas at Rochdale last Sunday. We have introduced a new defensive pattern in terms of areas of responsibility and intensity and at Spotland we were pleased with some aspects. We do though, have to improve in many others if we are to achieve top five status and I can assure you that in training we are working hard to correct bad habits and raise the levels of awareness within the camp.

Enjoy the game.

Peter Roe



ASA AMONE



FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC SEASON 1999

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Reformed: 1908
Elected to NR FL: June 1921

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 Grad. Dip. Phys, MCSP, SRP, MSc (Sports
 Medicine)

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 Hodgson, D F Hunt, A Jepsen, A Morris, T M
 Mullaney, J Reed, J Williams, T Jones, P
 Jones, M Ashby, J A Jarvis & L Hawkins

REPRESENTATIVE PLAYERS

Great Britain:
 T Askin, C Bibb, J Bridges, T Clawson,
 M Dixon, S Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox,
 D Hobbs, G Jordan, S Molloy, A. Morgan, S.
 Nash, P. Newlove, P. Smith, J. Thompson

Tourists
 T Askin, C Bibb, J Bridges, G Cooper,
 C Dooler, S Evans, Deryck Fox, Don Fox,
 D Hobbs, S Nash, P Newlove, I Smales,
 J Thompson

World Cup Tourists:
 A Morgan, P Smith, J Thompson

England:
 J Bridges, I Butt, M Dixon, S Evans,
 V Farrar, J Hirst, D Hobbs, A Morgan,

J Mullaney, P Newlove, P Smith, R Stone,
 J Thompson, A Wood
Wales: P Banner, D Hobbs, T Ramshaw
Ireland: L Casey
France: D Divet, F Banquet
New Zealand: B Tuuta

Great Britain U21s:
 C Bibb, P Bonson, Deryck Fox, P Lyman,
 P Newlove, M Pearson, I Smales

Great Britain U24s:
 K Bell, S Evans, D Fennell, V Farrar,
 M Gibbins, J Gilbert, D Hobbs, T Ramshaw,
 P Smith, V Thomas, J Thompson, L Tonks

Academy Tourist: Jamie Stokes

Academy Internationals: J Stokes,
 N. Lowe, K. Pratt & S. Dickens

U21/Academy Representative:
 D. Hunt

CLUB HONOURS

Championship Runners-Up: 1927/28
 Division One Champions: 1976/77
 Division Two Champions: 1979/80, 1992/93
 Division Two Premiership Winners: 1992/93
 Division Two Premiership Runners-Up:
 1987/88

RL Challenge Cup Winners: 1966/67,
 1972/73, 1982/83

RL Challenge Cup Runners-Up: 1951/52,
 1973/74

Yorkshire Cup Winners: 1939/40, 1959/60
 Yorkshire Cup Runners-Up: 1928/29,
 1963/64, 1966/67, 1969/70, 1970/71,
 1976/77, 1977/78, 1989/90

Captain Morgan Trophy Runners Up:
 1973/74
 Yorkshire League Runners-Up: 1928, 1962
 1st Division Grand Finalists Runners Up:
 1998

RECORDS

In a Match:
 Goals: 13 by Mark Knapper v Keighley -
 17 Sept 1989

Triès: 6 by Mike Smith v Doncaster -
 13 April 1968
 6 by Chris Bibb v Keighley - 17 Sept 1989

Points: 40 by Martin Pearson v Whitehaven -
 26 Nov 1995

In a Season:
 Goals: 163 by Steve Quinn - 1979/80
 Triès: 48 by Paul Newlove - 1992/93
 Points: 391 by Martin Pearson - 1992/93

Appearances: 46 by C Woolford - 1959/60

In a Career:
 Goals: 1,210 by Steve Quinn - 1975/88
 Triès: 162 by Don Fox - 1953/66
 Points: 2,654 by Steve Quinn - 1975/88

Appearances: 440 by Jim Denton - 1921/34
 Highest Score: 86-18 v Keighley - 17 Sept
 1989

Highest Score Against: 70-2 at Halifax - 14
 April 1941

Attendance: 17,531 v St Helens (RL Cup) -
 21 March 1959

Yorkshire Cup: 10,700 v Leeds - Sept 1959

League: 14,990 v Wakefield - January 1962

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1 MRS M. OLIVER
2
3 ISTANBUL SC - MIKE
4 ISTANBUL SC - MIKE



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1 PAUL COX
2 B. WILFORD
3 B. WILFORD
4 B. WILFORD



Jamie Stokes
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2
3
4 D. MARCON



Richard Chapman
1 B & D WILFORD
2
3 ISTANBUL SC - COLIN
4 ISTANBUL SC - COLIN



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3
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2
3 ISTANBUL SC - SARA
4 ISTANBUL SC - SARA



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2 J. WAGNER
3 O. WAGNER
4 N. WAGNER





Phil Hodgson

Of the Rugby Leaguer

AS the countdown for the Rugby League World Cup 2000 begins in earnest, some of the game's leading international players have been speaking about what their inclusion will mean for the sport back home.

The 13-a-side code will have to brace itself next month when Rugby Union's World Cup begins to hog all the media limelight, but next year, the stage is set for the running code's international extravaganza.

And stars like Papua New Guinea and Hull KR's Stanley Gene just can't wait.

"The World Cup means a great deal to me," he told Rugby Leaguer.

"There is no bigger stage, and appearing in the competition in 1995 changed my life. Where I come from you play simply for the love of the game, but when I came to England four years ago my eyes were opened to the possibilities. I turned professional and I've never looked back.

"The forthcoming World Cup will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for our younger players who can only pick up vital experience from the event. That experience will be crucial for the rise of Papua New Guinea as an international force."

Ralph Rimmer, Ireland Manager and also Sheffield Eagles' chief executive, said the World Cup will do wonders for emerging Rugby League nations like his.

"We've been drawn in a tremendous group, obviously we'll be doing it tough," he said.

"We are serious in our intent, although it wouldn't surprise me if Samoa are not close to being favourites in our section.

"Having said that, we've never had so many Super League players in our squad, and neither have Scotland. There is obviously some way to go yet, and the chances are that the players selected for this year's Home Series with Scotland and Wales will form the bulk of the World Cup squad. But it is equally true that we could have a new-look team by the time the World Cup does come around.

"Our main aim is a place in the quarter finals, and then it's one match at a time. And, coming from Sheffield Eagles, I know what can be achieved."

Halifax Blue Sox's banned centre Jamie Bloem will be hoping to resurrect his career with a strong performance as captain of South Africa next year. And he revealed that South Africa could include a number of Springboks in their ranks.

"We'll be looking to bring over eight or nine Springboks, who will be current and former South Africa Rugby Union internationals," he said.

"They will be certain to add a bit of beef and skill to the side. It's the best group we could have asked for, particularly as two teams go through to the last eight. And the Springboks will not be coming along for the ride.

"They are world champions in Union, and I know that they will be enthused by taking part in the Rugby League World Cup. We will not be coming along to make up the numbers."

Dean Bell, who will help his father, Cameron, coach the New Zealand Moaris, has a 'shopping' list of Harrods quality to work on.

"New Zealand have first call on players, but Bell hopes that fringe men will rally to the Moari cause. Tawera Nikau is a possible captain while an impressive list of English-based players who could figure include Martin Moana and Gary Mercer (Halifax), Tony Kemp and Frank Watene (Wakefield), David Watson (Sheffield), Toa Koe-Love (Warrington), Tahī Reihana (Bradford), John Timu (London), Latham Tawhai (Hunslet), Brad Hepi (Castleford), and Tane Manihere (Barrow).

Says Bell: "I Don't see the Moaris as a second team, far from it. Australia can put out two or three teams of equal strength, and we too have a lot of experience in New Zealand. Realistically we more or less know who is going to be selected for New Zealand, but such as Gene Ngamu and Sean Hoppe may not be in. I'm pursuing the authorities in New Zealand for a list of players who would be eligible for us, and I believe we will have enough quality players available to select men in form. I wouldn't be involved if I did not believe we had a chance of winning, I've never been interested in making up the numbers. I am conscious of, and proud of being, a Moari - we are a very proud race - and I will be putting my heart and soul into our World Cup bid. I've been fortunate enough to wear a Moari jersey, on the 1983 tour to England, and there will be many players who will be equally proud to do the same in the next World Cup.

"I know a lot of other countries will be singing the same song, and it will be a very intense competition, nowhere more so than in our group, which is what the fans and the players want. I think our group will be one of the hardest."

More than a Game

With Alan Brookes



ROVERS v OLDHAM

Last time at Post Office Road . . . 23 April 1995

MANY fans will remember the last occasion we entertained an Oldham side – maybe not much for the actual match, but more for the incredible scenes off the field.

It was of course the time of the announcement of the new league formats and our proposed merger with “two other” clubs in our immediate vicinity, as a result of the Murdoch take-over.

Such was the feeling at these announcements – and carrying on from a dignified half time pitch invasion and demonstration in a previous home game – around four-hundred spectators had marched from Pontefract, prior to the kick-off, to peacefully drive home the message that mergers were most definitely not wanted by the fans.

As it turned out the game itself was not the end of season routine that you might expect from two teams playing for nothing but pride and winning pay.

Some early in-discipline from Oldham led to three successful penalty goals to Freddie Banquet with the game only eleven minutes old whilst Paul Topping kept Oldham in touch with one similar effort.

Rovers, dominating the opening stages, finally broke the Oldham defence on nineteen minutes when Mark Nixon sent in Matt Calland, – Banquet adding the conversion.

The Frenchman only five minutes later added another conversion – this time to his own try after

latching on to a high Nixon “bomb” and racing to the Oldham line.

A fourth penalty on the half hour meant Rovers had a commanding 20 - 2 advantage.

They could not however hold a strong Joe Faimalo burst just before the break and centre Darren Abram crossed Rovers line for Topping to convert and claw something back for Oldham.

Even so at 20 - 8 as they went in at half time Rovers still looked on course for a win.

Three minutes into the second period however Oldham had again crossed the Rovers line, courtesy of Faimalo, and Topping’s conversion meant they were now only six points adrift and well in contention.

The game swung back to Rovers on the hour when a blatant obstruction on Ikram Butt, as he was looking for a try-scoring pass from Molloy, resulted in Stephenson being sin-binned.

Tuuta, Rodger and Nixon combined well to utilise the extra man with the latter joining the list of try scorers – again Banquet added the conversion.

To add to Oldham’s problems Jason Temu was shown the red card for an apparent head butt on Steve Molloy.

Two tries in the final two minutes, one from Molloy, to which Banquet surprisingly could not add the extras, and then, crowning a superb individual performance, a spectacular solo effort from the Frenchman (clinching him the man-of-the-match award) together with a final conversion from Gibson, completed the scoring.

RESULT ROVERS 36 : OLDHAM 14

(Half Time 20 - 8)

Teams:

ROVERS :

GIBSON (G); BUTT; BANQUET (7G,2T); CALLAND (T); SIMPSON; RODGER; NIXON (T); MOLLOY (T); SOUTHERNWOOD; SIMMS; CASEY; NAIDOLE;

TUUTA :

SUBS. THOMPSON; GUNN :

OLDHAM :

TOPPING (3G); GOLDBOURNE; NEAL; ABRAM (T); DAVIDSON; GARTLAND; CROMPTON; RICHARDS; STEPHENSON; TEMU; LORD; FAIMALO (T); KUITTI :

SUBS. BURNS; BRADBURY :

Referee: Mr. R Connolly (Wigan)

Attendance 3,284

ROVERS v OLDHAM • PAST RESULTS

HOME

1994/95	Rovers	36	Oldham	14
1993/94	Rovers	30	Oldham	24
1992/93(2)	Rovers	52	Oldham	14
1992/93(1)	Rovers	24	Oldham	20
1990/91	Rovers	28	Oldham	20
1988/89	Rovers	18	Oldham	14
1987/88	Rovers	8	Oldham	8

AWAY

1999	Oldham	18	Rovers	25
1994/95	Oldham	10	Rovers	20
1993/94	Oldham	22	Rovers	8
1992/93(2)	Oldham	24	Rovers	22
1992/93(1)	Oldham	4	Rovers	24
1990/91	Oldham	18	Rovers	20
1988/89	Oldham	40	Rovers	18
1987/88	Oldham	15	Rovers	18

2ND DIV PREMIERSHIP FINAL (OLD TRAFFORD)

1987/88	Rovers	26	Oldham	28
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WELCOME everyone to Lionheart Stadium this afternoon with the visit of Oldham. Of course Rovers have only just played Oldham from the postponed fixture earlier in the season, which has resulted in three consecutive away fixtures. It's nice to be able to welcome Oldham supporters here after so nearly going out of business, and fate threw our two clubs together in that never to be forgotten night before all this mess Rugby League put itself in when mergers were announced. The number of people on the pitch that evening, the passion felt by both sets of supporters. Sadly many of those supporters no longer attend Rugby League games anymore. A look at the fixtures last week show the depressing state attendances are in. Hull K.R. fans are bleating on about how they are the best supported club and talking as if it's 'when' and not 'if' they get promotion. What short memories they must have. Last season they were never out of the top three and looked a good bet to at least make the Grand Final until Fev came along to burst that bubble. This year they're not as good as last season, but sadly neither are we, or Hunslet or Dewsbury, so who knows maybe they will make it. My moneys on Widnes though, they looked good against us earlier in the season and that was on the back of a tough Challenge Cup encounter against Leeds.

Rovers next trip away is to Widnes on 11th July. Booking can be made in the hut with a departure time of 12.45pm. The turn out at Rochdale last week was fantastic. Out of the 821 paying spectators 500 must have travelled across the Pennines supporting Rovers. Why not come along with us to Widnes even if it's only to see their magnificent stadium. The League Express reporter said it was a close call between Richard Chapman and Paddy Handley for the Man of the Match, but I thought Richard Newlove was outstanding with Mickey Clarkson revelling in his starting role, having his best game in a Rovers shirt. The effort the players put in was there for all to see and is all we supporters can ask. Well done lad, more of the same this afternoon. Let's get behind them, with two home games and then Widnes, three victories could take us into the top five. Enjoy the match, safe journey home.

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

This week's loyal supporters is ALLAN BARKER

ALLAN has watched Rovers since the late 1940's. His late mother was a tireless worker for the Rovers working for many years in the tea hut at the Post Office Road end of the ground. Here is his finest memory.

Having supported Featherstone Rovers for 50 years I have very many memories, both highs and lows, but the one that stands out amongst them all must be the 1983 Cup Final against Hull F.C.

To win against all odds was fantastic, the day's build up was something that I will always remember. Early hours of Saturday morning Station Lane was awash with supporters, blue and white was everywhere, the atmosphere was brilliant.

As we all know our chance of winning was no more than the survival of a snowball in an oven. History shows that Featherstone Rovers rose to the occasion. This is my finest memory.

Do you know someone who has been watching Rovers for over fifty years and would like to be included in our "Memories Are Made Of This" feature. If so please contact the Club Shop with their name and address.

The Flat Capper



ANOTHER WIN! Things seem to be improving and there is certainly a welcome trend to be seen in the team's play. The general consensus from supporters, apart from the hardy perennial moans, is that the team is doing okay. There is a general agreement that to open play out will be a good thing. Competition for places never hurt anybody, and the more players there are vying for the first team the better.

I noticed recently a coach in our division suggested we had our own Challenge Cup competition. This would certainly generate interest and give us a chance of a bit of silverwear, apart from the income generated. Played on a home and away basis up to the final I think it might just spark off some interest. The

final could be played on a double programme at wherever the Cup final is being played in that particular year. If it was introduced for next year then it would be Murrayfield of course.

By the way, you know of course the World Cup draw has taken place don't you? I wouldn't blame you if you didn't. Some publicity that got! I understand there's a rumour going round that the Rugby Union planted the Dallaglio story - you know that other game that slightly resembles ours, about his drug taking in the News of the World on the same day as the draw took place, thereby pinching the headlines. Funny old world isn't it?

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS RLFC CASHLINE RESULTS

THIS WEEKS WINNERS

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Saturday	A0317 J. Craven
Sunday	A9540 J. Durrow

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Other winners this week: Y. Hatfield, A. Snelling, M. Simpson, J. S. Newnham, M. Chambers, C. Robinson, P. Spence Hirst, T. Davies.

Agents Draw Winner: No.65 - NIGEL HARPER, FEATHERSTONE

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Up Close & Personal

..... by Chris Westwood



Peter Roe has appointed Brendon Tuuta skipper. A role which Brendon will no doubt enhance with his usual enthusiasm and leadership from the front.

A Rough Guide to...

Oldham Roughyeds



OLDHAM, at the moment, are very much in a transitory period. They started in the original Super League, but were unable to hold their own and dropped back to the First Division.

The bug of so many Rugby League clubs, finance, hit them badly. By trying to stay in Super League they stretched their financial limits to the utmost.

One of the oldest grounds in the League was becoming out of date, and a new ground was required. Every avenue was explored without a satisfactory conclusion. It sounds now as if they are to share a new stadium with the town's soccer club, Athletic. I believe this is being constructed at the moment.

This season they are ground sharing with Rochdale Hornets at the town's football ground. Not a very satisfactory situation, especially as the ground is not the best drained in the world, in the early wet Spring this caused numerous problems as we know to our cost.

This has been unsettling for the club, who celebrated their centenary in 1995. With their usual tenacity they are fighting back to take them to the front of Rugby League.

Their captain, Leo Casey, is a former Featherstone favourite and Irish International.

AIDE MEAD

Product of Oldham Bears Academy this utility back is a handy member of the Roughyeds squad. Has played on the wing this season and has been very consistent.

AFI LEUILA

Only member of the Bears Super League squad to join the 'new' Oldham team. Of Tongan origin. Afi is a strong running three-quarter who likes nothing better than to attack the opposition. Has just returned to the team after injury.

BRIAN QUINLAN

Local born goal kicking centre or second row. Missed most of last season through injury and is struggling to make an impact this season.

MICK FARRELL

21 year old utility back was outstanding for Rochdale in 1997 but had a disappointing 1998. The ex-Waterhead amateur will be looking for a bigger season with his hometown club. Played at centre and also fullback this season.

JOE McNICHOLAS

This young winger is one of the most exciting prospects in the new first division. Having turned down an offer from Bradford Bulls Joe was unfortunate to miss most of '98 after breaking his leg in the early season. Rochdale born, he is armed with pace and a great side-step.

PAUL CROOK

Half back who previously played with Dewsbury, Oldham Bears and Hull Sharks. Creative player who is happy at either stand off or loose forward. Scored two tries in the recent defeat of Workington.

CRAIG BARKER

Local halfback or hooker who was not always a first choice in '98 but never lets the side down when selected.

LEO CASEY

Now at the veteran stage, Leo has returned to Oldham in the close season. Has represented Ireland at international level. This tough prop forward was delighted to be named as Captain for this seasons campaign and his performances have been outstanding. Leads from the front and usually plays 80 minutes, which is a rarity in today's modern game.

JASON CLEGG

Formerly a Bradford Bull this prop has opened this season in barnstorming form. Scored a typical rampaging try in the Law Cup against Rochdale. 'Cleggy' is becoming a favourite with the Oldham spectators and is a member of a very consistent front row.

PAUL ROUND

Now in his second spell with Oldham, Paul is a real veteran of the game. Formerly a back rower he now tends to lead from the front row. Former clubs include St. Helens and Castleford. Has been back to his abrasive best of late and is really turning back the clock.

DANIEL BROWN

Australian halfback or hooker who played for Hull K.R. last season. Daniel is Oldham's chief play maker and also an extremely hard working tackler. Has recently taken over goal kicking responsibilities.

JOHN HOUGH

John will go down in the 'new' club history books as the first player to officially sign for the Roughyeds. A bright future is predicted for this ex-Warrington Wolves hooker who is renowned for his hard work and sportsmanship. Has had an outstanding season and is one of the divisions form hookers.

MARK PERRETT

This Welsh International is another of the Roughyeds major close season signings. Mark is a hard working prop or second row who is determined to restart his career after injury.

MIKE PRESCOTT

Another player who will be determined to have a good season after last season was wrecked through injury. Mike is a deceptively quick back row forward.

EMERSON JACKMAN

A BARLA tourist in the summer of 1998 this eye-catching stand-off or loose-forward established his reputation at Saddleworth Rangers and Oldham St. Annes. Played at centre most of this season but is showing his best form now that he is back in the back row.

NATHAN VARLEY

Started most games from the subs bench last season but was still one of the clubs top tacklers. This ex-Bradford back rower has had his pre-season ruined by an ankle injury picked up on New Year's Day at Rochdale. Returned to his tackling best but was unlucky again when injuring his wrist against Rochdale!!

GRAEME SHAW

Hard working back row forward signed from Bradford Bulls, became the 'new' clubs first international in October 1998 playing for Scotland. Always guaranteed 100% commitment from Graeme.

LAURENT MINUT

French fullback signed from Villeneuve. Courageous tackler and good under the high ball. Known as 'Mins' to his team mates. Was absolutely exceptional in the recent defeat of local rivals Rochdale.

EMMANUEL PERALTA

Came to Oldham with his team mate Laurent. 'Manu' is no stranger to England having previously played for Keighley. Presently a squad member.

RICHARD DARKES

Played for the club last season but could not sign this year due to work commitments. However, has recently returned to help the club through an injury crisis. An aggressive and committed centre it is good to have Darkeyes back at the club.

MICHAEL COATES

Son of the coach Michael is a very promising young stand-off who has just started to make the first team squad. He is a product of Saddleworth Rangers ARLFC.

IAN SINFIELD

Like Richard Darkes, Ian returned to the club during the season after a spell in France. Plays in the back row and is another good addition to the squad. His younger brother Kevin plays for Leeds Rhinos.



Head to Head

by Alan Brookes

ROVERS V OLDHAM

WITH fortunes being mixed since our last outing at Lionheart Stadium, it is vitally important that we build on last week's victory at Rochdale and record our second league double for 1999, by beating Oldham this afternoon.

Hopefully our fortunes will now turn around and some sort of consistency can be achieved as we enter the latter third of the season - remember it was only at this stage last year that we finally started to produce the sort of form that we all knew we were capable of - so lets hope we can repeat it this term.

With only ten matches remaining we simply cannot afford any more bad results if we are going to claim a place in the Grand Final Play-offs.

The new Oldham outfit will obviously be looking to gain revenge for the defeat inflicted on them by Rovers only a matter of days ago, and whilst our performance at Spotland last week did produce a

win, the general feeling was that we can still do a lot better - particularly in the attacking ideas department.

Currently Oldham sit second from bottom in the league table with just four wins and a draw to their credit from sixteen games played although they have only lost one of their last four matches.

As we keep saying there are no easy games in this division and this one looks no different!

OLDHAM FORM GUIDE - LAST TEN RESULTS

1	BRAMLEY	A	L	18-24
2	YORK	H	L	14-43
3	ROCHDALE	A	L	18-29
4	KEIGHLEY	A	L	28-32
5	SWINTON	A	L	24-31
6	WHITEHAVEN	H	L	24-32
7	WORKINGTON	A	W	22-17
8	FEATHERSTONE	H	L	18-25
9	ROCHDALE	H	W	26-18
10	BATLEY	H	D	20-20

1999 Match Results as at 20/06/99

	Barrow	Batley	Bramley	Dewsbury	Doncaster	FEATHERSTONE	Hull KR	Hunslet	Keighley	Lancashire	Leigh	Oldham	Rochdale	Swinton	Whitehaven	Widnes	Workington	York
Barrow				36-24	30-10	43-20		21-22		26-44					18-12		25-12	18-25
Batley	32-19		14-12	24-28			8-14	20-25		25-16	30-0	14-19					42-8	
Bramley	24-16			16-17	28-10			14-12	32-45	8-39	24-18	36-16						
Dewsbury	46-7				42-3	25-14		35-8		31-16		12-19			16-26	58-24	30-4	
Doncaster		20-29				33-24		18-23	18-45	12-27		22-18	30-40	18-38			18-28	
FEATHERSTONE	16-15	12-20	24-24				15-26	32-18			32-12	50-20			28-12			
Hull KR	8-6	12-0		12-2	23-12			48-12		8-8		30-10	44-18	14-2	18-10	22-16		
Hunslet	46-14	11-16	20-21	30-18		14-26		50-8	33-12	44-2	33-12	22-8	36-16		48-6			
Keighley				42-16	18-32	2-17			40-14		32-28		30-16	24-22	18-22	8-10		
Lancashire	16-58	28-47	13-12	22-12			12-53			24-44			10-56		24-38			
Leigh				72-16	16-12	27-20		28-16						24-20	22-23	42-10	16-12	
Oldham	24-20		20-20		18-25					20-26		26-18		24-32	18-33		14-43	
Rochdale	36-16			26-10	14-29	14-20			22-27	22-40	29-18		6-44			18-10		
Swinton	24-31		23-8	19-29			10-21	14-15		22-34	31-24	28-24						
Whitehaven	32-26	21-8	40-16	18-20		19-14			24-12				4-12		28-6			
Widnes	34-16	16-17	36-18	30-12			32-24		40-4			6-2	25-10					
Workington			22-16	22-22	10-15	14-21			36-8		17-22		37-20	30-16	30-24		26-14	
York		20-20	22-12			18-21	16-6		32-6	12-14			16-15	46-0	10-25			

Junior Lionhearts



WELCOME back to Post Office Road after what seems ages.

A very good win at Rochdale last Sunday and plenty of commitment which was good to see. More of the same today please.

It's the first chance there's been to officially welcome our new coach **Peter Roe** – we wish him well.

Hope you all enjoyed the Karaoke on Tuesday night. Notice of another meeting coming soon.

A warm welcome to all young Oldham fans. Enjoy the game.



Not much room for more news this week as we have a backlog of mascots.

MASCOT AT OLDHAM AWAY TODD MARTIN



Age: 9
School: Wakefield Independent
Fav. Player: Brendon Tuuta
Fav. TV: Goosebumps
Fav. Food: Tomato Soup
Fav. Band: Five & Steps
Hobbies: Rugby, Football, Swimming

Todd's shirt was sponsored by:
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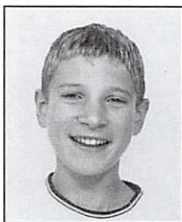
MASCOT AT WHITEHAVEN AWAY AMY JACKSON



Age: 10
School: St Thomas'
Fav. Player: Richard Slater
Fav. TV: Sabrina the Teenage Witch
Fav. Food: Sunday Dinner
Fav. Band: Steps
Hobbies: Swimming, Rugby, Football

Amy's shirt was sponsored by:
JENNIFERS HARIDRESSERS
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MASCOT AT ROCHDALE AWAY BYRON STOGDEN

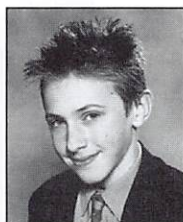


Age: 13
School: Featherstone High
Fav. Player: Brendon Tuuta
Fav. TV: Match of the Day, Friends
Fav. Food: Salad
Fav. Band: Robbie Williams, Oasis
Hobbies: Weightlifting,

Swimming, Rugby, Football, Cricket, Modelling

Byron's shirt was sponsored by:
JENNIFERS HARIDRESSERS
FEATHERSTONE LANE

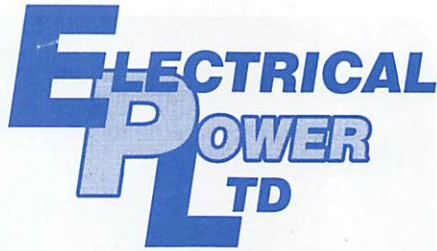
TODAY'S MASCOT NICK SAXTON



Age: 12
School: St. Wilfrid's, Featherstone
Fav. Player: Carl Hall
Hobbies: Football, Rugby

Nick's shirt is sponsored by:
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The Blue Lagoon



NOT so long ago an away game to me meant arriving at the oppositions gaff in time for the pubs opening, getting absolutely blathered, then just making it to the ground for kick off after being dragged kicking and screaming out of the boozier. I'd then spend all the game shouting at the opposition fans, our own fans, the opposition players, our own players, the committee, the government of the day, Castleford RLFC, the Welsh, the Scots, the Irish, the sun, the moon, my own reflection if I came across it in a mirror, short people and people chewing gum. In short I'd have a right good laugh. Nowadays because of the state of the game that fun has all but disappeared. Well I'm bringing it back and from now to the end of the season this column will be written in the style we used in the Wild Rover.

When I sat down to write this article I couldn't remember who we were playing and when I thought about it I realised that I couldn't care less 'cos they'll be rubbish and we'll stuff them. We've got a new coach and we're unbeatable. Then we are going to stuff every other team in the league, win the play-off, get back in super league and then walk up to Chris Caisley's front door and say yah boo sucks to you pal. I could write a thousand words about Caisley and not one of them would be repeatable. And as for his bosom buddy, little Mo (I'll give you five to one) Lindsay I'd like to put him in a cell with mad Charles Bronson and then tell Bronson he called him a berk.....I'd clear the bits up myself! I'm trying to find out Lindsay's official leaving date so I can organise a bus trip to say goodbye in that special Featherstone way. You know the way I mean, bye bye Maurice and good luck for the future.....not.

I didn't get to Rochdale last week, but I wasn't that bothered 'cos the pubs aren't up to much and all they talk about is someone called

Lisa Stansfield. I got a full match report though from Tony the butcher and he reckoned we played a lot better than we did at Whitehaven. It's good to see young Coventry back in the side (you know you're getting old when you start calling players young), Coventry is a class act and just the sort of finisher this side needs. By the way if you're reading this young Coventry, don't get carried away I once said the same thing about Alfie Gouldbourne.

Have you noticed how the letter pages in the rugby league press are starting to fill up with the professional whingers again, Mr Disgusted of Bradford and Mrs Outraged of Wigan. One Wigan fan even said he hoped Hull F.C. were relegated because their fans language was so appalling. Well why do we have to suffer the west Hull loons in our division, anyway it was never the language that bothered me at Hull it was the thought of getting my head kicked in that I couldn't stomach, I like my nose straight and in one piece.

Personally I've always been offended by fans who applaud politely, drink tea before a game and bovril at half time. I mean how can anybody drink bovril when there's lager available. Well I'm off now to watch the super league show presented by Harry (aren't Leeds lovely) Gratian...

I'm back; the super league show has been cancelled yet again so I'll finish off with a joke.
Q. What do you get if lay out all the Cas fans end to end?

A. You get a steam roller and fast.

Finally, if you have any jokes or suggestions for The Blue Lagoon you can now E-mail me at Error! Bookmark not defined.

Enjoy yourself, leave the bovril alone and have a LAGER.

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THE BOVRIL TOO**

Andrew J. Peaker

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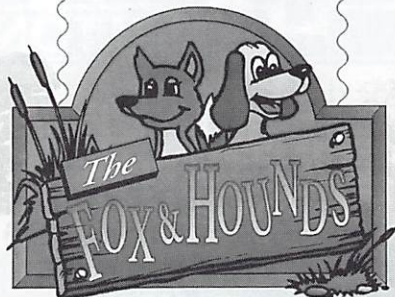
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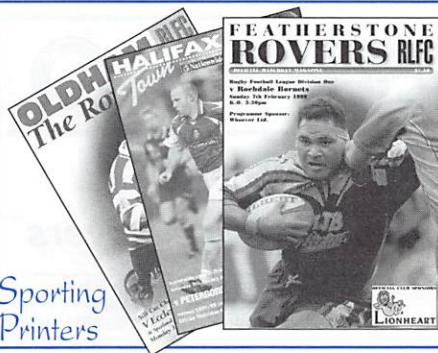
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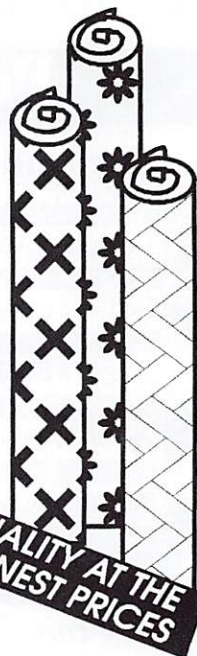
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ALLIANCE MATCH REPORT

DEWSBURY RAMS
v
FEATHERSTONE ROVERS
3RD JUNE, 1999

ROVERS were under strength owing to first team calls and injuries. Players promoted from the Academy showed well.

Dewsbury went into a first half lead of 6-4. Richard Gibson had taken over the scrum half berth to which he was unfamiliar. This did not trouble his open play, which was very good and his kicking game excellent. He kicked two penalties in the first half and 20-40 touch finder.

After the break both sides became more adventurous, in spite of the heavy conditions. A lot of pressure by Rovers resulted in a try by Lee Williamson.

Gavin Swinson took the loose forward position, with Andy Heptinstall on first team duty. He was always busy and scored a try.

Rovers were unlucky to have a first half try disallowed.

Dewsbury won 18 - 16.

RE-ARRANGED
ALLIANCE MATCH
17TH JULY, 1999
(HOME)
ALLIANCE
v
BARROW BORDER
RAIDERS
K.O. 2.30

ACADEMY MATCH REPORT

FEATHERSTONE
v
HEAVY WOOLLEN ROOKIES
W 34 - 0

ROVERS came under heavy pressure at the start but weathered the storm well, in spite of having to defend for 18 tackles.

David Williamson scored the first try, by following a well charged down kick by Sam Smallman, which Danny Patrickson inspired. This was followed by a try by Patrickson.

Strong pressure by Heavy Woollen in the second half was repelled by Rovers. This good win should give the side confidence and to keep a clean sheet was an added bonus.

Other scorers included Carl Langton, Stephen Jones, Matt Turner, Lee Williamson tries, with goals by Danny Patrickson 3, Richard Thaler 2.

ACADEMY FIXTURES

APRIL

28th Wed Hull Kingston Rovers A L 41-0

MAY

9th Sun Lancashire Lynx A L 34-38

15th Sat CARDIFF DEMONS H W 90-24

20th Thur Rochdale Hornets H W 46-16

24th Mon HUNSLET HAWKS H L 21-28

30th Sun York Wasps A W 76-10

JUNE

6th Sun HEAVY W. ROOKIES H W 34-0

13th Sun Gateshead Thunder A 12.45pm

18th Fri Keighley Cougars A 7.30pm

27th Sun HEMEL STAGS H 1.15pm

JULY

4th Sun WEST CUMBRIA H 1.15pm

Appearances & Scorers



1999 Season Senior Record

	Apps.	Sub.	T	G	DG	Pts.		Apps.	Sub.	T	G	DG	Pts.
ASA AMONE	14	6	3	0	0	12		38	12	3	0	0	12
MATT BRAMALD	20	0	6	0	0	24		20	0	6	0	0	24
RICHARD CHAPMAN	16	3	8	22	0	76		65	20	36	125	1	395
MICKY CLARKSON	5	10	2	0	0	8		6	30	5	0	0	20
JAMIE COVENTRY	9	4	0	0	0	0		25	10	3	0	0	12
STUART DICKENS	17	2	0	37	2	76		41	5	6	39	2	104
STEVE DOOLER	6	5	3	0	0	12		10	10	4	0	0	16
DANNY EVANS	7	13	3	0	0	12		34	37	13	1	0	54
CARL HALL	12	1	4	0	0	16		39	1	14	0	0	56
PADDY HANDLEY	19	1	7	0	0	28		67	17	18	0	0	72
ANDY HEPTINSTALL	3	2	1	0	0	4		6	4	3	0	0	12
RYAN HORSLEY	12	5	2	0	1	9		12	5	2	0	1	9
MARTIN LAW	20	0	6	0	0	24		20	0	6	0	0	24
NEIL LOWE	7	10	3	0	0	12		42	29	11	1	0	46
DALE MORGAN	0	1	0	0	0	0		0	1	0	0	0	0
RICHARD NEWLOVE	3	4	4	0	0	16		12	7	7	0	0	28
HITRO OKESENE	18	2	2	0	0	8		18	2	2	0	0	8
ROB PADGETT	1	3	0	0	0	0		5	6	1	0	0	4
JAMIE ROONEY	5	1	2	12	2	34		5	1	2	12	2	34
WAYNE SIMONDS	16	0	12	0	0	48		16	0	12	0	0	48
RICHARD SLATER	14	2	2	0	0	8		87	13	11	0	0	44
JAMIE STOKES	20	0	11	0	0	44		33	1	17	0	0	68
GAVIN SWINSON	0	1	0	0	0	0		11	6	5	0	0	20
IAN THOMPSON	3	0	1	0	0	4		7	0	1	0	0	4
BRENDON TUUTA	13	1	1	0	0	4		165	4	30	0	1	121

Northern Ford RFL Premiership as at 20/06/99

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Drn	Lst	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
1	Hull K.R.	18	14	1	3	377	235	142	29
2	Leigh C.	18	14	0	4	532	342	190	28
3	Hunslet H.	18	13	0	5	531	252	279	26
4	Dewsbury R.	17	12	1	4	458	294	164	25
5	Widnes V.	18	12	0	6	430	311	119	24
6	Featherstone R.	18	10	1	7	403	346	57	21
7	York W.	18	9	1	8	354	289	65	19
8	Batley B.	17	8	2	7	371	290	81	18
9	Whitehaven W.	18	9	0	9	400	402	-2	18
10	Keighley C.	17	9	0	8	343	377	-34	18
11	Workington T.	18	8	1	9	374	453	-79	17
12	Barrow B.R.	18	7	0	11	440	483	-43	14
13	Bramley	18	7	0	11	312	378	-66	14
14	Rochdale H.	17	6	0	11	309	401	-92	12
15	Swinton L.	17	5	0	12	340	402	-62	10
16	Oldham	17	4	2	11	311	444	-133	10
17	Lancashire L.	18	5	0	13	340	644	-304	10
18	Doncaster D.	18	2	1	15	300	582	-282	5



Rovers

Reflections

WELL I have succumbed to the offer of free digital boxes and decided to install one. Not one of those from the nice Mr Murdoch's organisation I hasten to add, but one of those that is On, but you still get Sky Sports. I duly plugged in the set top box (under the telly because is kept slipping off the top). I then rang the register to become 'on line'. I rang and rang and rang (well you know the rest) after three days I got through. I was so surprised and by this time overwhelmed, that I almost forgot what I had contacted them for. The young man asked the relevant questions and it sounded as though he was typing, when he said put on channel 27 I had never had to go so high to find a channel before, but here I was the last of the sceptics tuning into channel 27. The number came up, nothing happened, "It's alright sir" he said (me a sir!) "it will come on within the hour". Now I don't know about you, but isn't that what the doctors tell patients who are trying out Viagra for the first time? You can guess the rest, it did not 'come on within the hour' so I had to try and get through to them once more. It only took me two days this time. I got a sweet sounding young lady who listened to my problems (No, not about Viagra). "Oh, it's your aerial" she said (I told you once, it's not about Viagra!) "What shall I do" I enquired. "Well I can send someone to your house to see to you, and we will only charge £40" as they say in the newspapers, I declined the offer and rang off. The aerial doctors arrived, plugged in a machine and

declared 'there's nowt wrong with thee aerial'. That's a relief I thought. "It's them at t'other end o't phone". I reached for my Valium and decided to just take the recommended dosage before beginning to try and use the phone again. Only one day this time, I got hold of a young man called Nigel, he was sweet too, "Ooh" he said in his butch falsetto voice "I know what YOUR problem is, I'll just twiddle my buttons for you and voila! you should have channel 27". He was right I did have channel 27, but that was cartoons I wanted channel 21 or 23, but Nigel was so sweet and he did twiddle his buttons for me so I just let it go, and had a good cry.

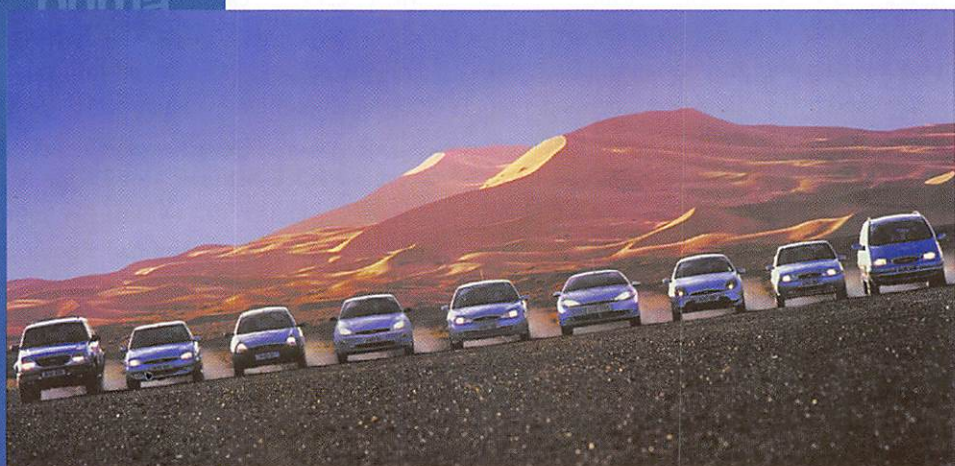
I finally got ON-line and prepared to watch Super League. The style, the elegance the costumes, the whole sense of occasion. The presenters, with such enthusiasm and then the stars of the show. Pavarotti and the three sopranos, what wonderful television, not a missed note and superb relaxing television. Then when I arrived home from Rochdale, I saw an ex-coach extolling the virtues of his ex side and the commentators having a go at the ref. I wonder if there are points awarded to the player who can knock most heads off in a match? It's not the same as being 'there'. I love matchday atmospheres and having a go at the poor old ref! Now I've got the channels I might as well use them, now what time is Pavarotti repeated.

Bob Fowler

mondeo
galaxy
fiesta
focus
escort
cougar
ka
explorer
numa



Northern Ford



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Rovers Review -	
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ALLIANCE CHALLENGE CUP - ROUND ONE

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THURSDAY 29TH JULY

KICK OFF 7.30PM

MANY of you will, by now, have received the Rugby Network Sponsors Card which will enable the holder to obtain substantial discounts on a variation of consumer items.

Use of this card will also greatly benefit the Club due to a generous commission scheme which operates as purchases are made by card holders. Full details of outlets and services available can be obtained by ringing the telephone number on your card.

The cards have been sent out direct from Rugby Network at no expense to the Club whatsoever. We must apologise to parents of certain younger fans who may have received a Sponsors card due to Rugby Network inadvertently utilising certain sections of the Club's junior data base.



DON'T forget the Featherstone Rovers Golf Day which will be held at the Oulton Park Golf Club near Leeds, on Wednesday 28th July.

The tournament which will consist of teams of four will include Dinner at a cost of £45 fully inclusive, per person. This is always a tremendous event and is already attracting a great deal of interest.

If you're not a golfer you can still be part of the day by attending the evening Dinner at a cost of just £15 per person.

For further details of this great sporting day out contact organiser, Reg Stranks on 01924 863614 or the Club's Office on 01977 702386.

Call ROVERLINE

for all the news and views about Featherstone Rovers

0839 333077*

*calls cost 49p per minute at all times

My Call

By Chris Westwood



THE proposed rule changes for Rugby League attracted, surprisingly, only one letter in 'League Express', whilst 'Rugby Leaguer' had no response at all from the middle aged men in car coats, who no doubt write their missives to 'The Bible Of The Game' in green ink. This was amazing. You would have thought that the 'Bible Of The Game', would have received some reaction about the suggested alteration to its ten commandments, especially as one of these changes relates to, wait for it . . . scrums.

Anyway, let's check them out and be thankful that they aren't being introduced in mid-season. Although there will no doubt be some mileage in the fact that the proposals come from a think tank based in Australia.

Like the street vendor cries of Old London Town, we should be able to hear shouts of "Feedin'!", "Own feet!" and "Never retired!" The latter last seeing any kind of serious use when Geoff Grayshon was on the scene. That's right people, they are intending to reintroduce scrums where the half back puts the ball into the middle of the scrum and the hookers kick hell out of each other. The difference being that this time around there will be only one feed and if the scrum is not won cleanly then someone or other will be penalised. In a world where it is impossible sometimes to tell whose fault it is when things go wrong at a play the ball, the ref is certainly going to be between a rock and a hard place in the minefield of a 'contested scrum'. Even Rugby Union scrums always go with the head and feed and look at the rehearsal, technicalities and macho posturing that goes into them. So, the refs point of view is going to have yet another influence on the outcome of a game and I can't say that it's something I fancy.

Next up is the idea of players playing the ball forward if there is no marker at the ruck. This should certainly concentrate the minds of errant marker defenders, but reintroduces

another grey area into a phase of play that has more of them than the Channel Five programme schedules.

What about this one; a try scored from a bomb inside the opposition 20 would be only worth two points. When is a bomb not a bomb, but just a kick into the air? Why add complications to a game who's beauty is its simplicity? A well taken attacking kick should surely be rewarded by the full points tariff. We are into rewarding skill aren't we?

Figure this one out; interchange will be limited to two players who could not return to the field if replaced and one or two players involved in unlimited interchange. I can't comment on this because I don't understand a word of it. We are going to have fourth officials with law degrees at this rate.

A fifty twenty kick with the loose head will replace the forty twenty. Well I suppose the old forty twenty rule has outlived its usefulness. I mean to say, we've had it for an entire half season haven't we?

Lastly and try and envisage this one yourself . . . a siren will sound five minutes before the end of each half. From then on until the whistle the team in possession must make at least 3 passes after each play the ball, so the final five of each half will be a kind of musical chairs, or pass the parcel. No thank you very much.

"It's a Knockout" is set to return to our screens soon and its Rugby League connections are strong. It's rich traditions intermingle with ours through the presence of Eddie Waring. In honour of this and in the spirit of these proposed rule changes, why can't teams play one or two 'Jokers' per season. All right so you think there are enough jokers on the field already. If a team's got a tough game they play their 'Joker' and get double points. Or what about teams having to play blindfold for say fifteen minutes for each game . . .



Rovers

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