

TODAY'S TEAMS

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

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DANNY RATCLIFFE
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DAVID CLAYTON
STEVE LEWIS
ADAM MITCHELL
PAUL MARCH
ADAM SULLIVAN
PAUL HUGHES
DAVID BUCKLEY
ROSS DIVORTY
TOM HABERECHE
DAVID MARCH
TOM HODGSON
SCOTT WOODCOCK
ANDY BAILEY
MARK APPLGARTH

1
FULL BACK
2
RIGHT WING
3
RIGHT CENTRE
4
LEFT CENTRE
5
LEFT WING
6
STAND OFF
7
SCRUM HALF
8
PROP
9
HOOKER
10
PROP
11
SECOND ROW
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SECOND ROW
13
LOOSE FORWARD
14
SUBSTITUTE
15
SUBSTITUTE
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SUBSTITUTE
17
SUBSTITUTE

OLDHAM

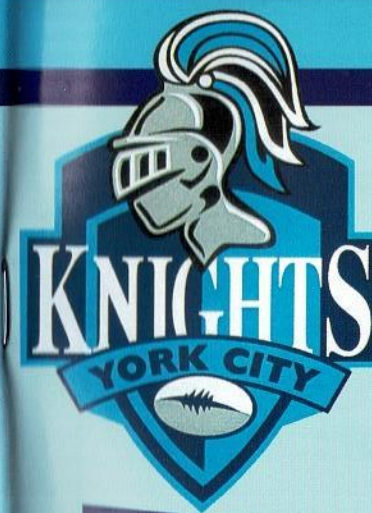
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TOMMY GOULDEN
DANNY HALLIWELL
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LUKE SUTTON
SAID TAMGHART

TODAY'S OFFICIALS:

Ref: T Alibert Touch Judge: M Beadle Touch Judge: A Sweet

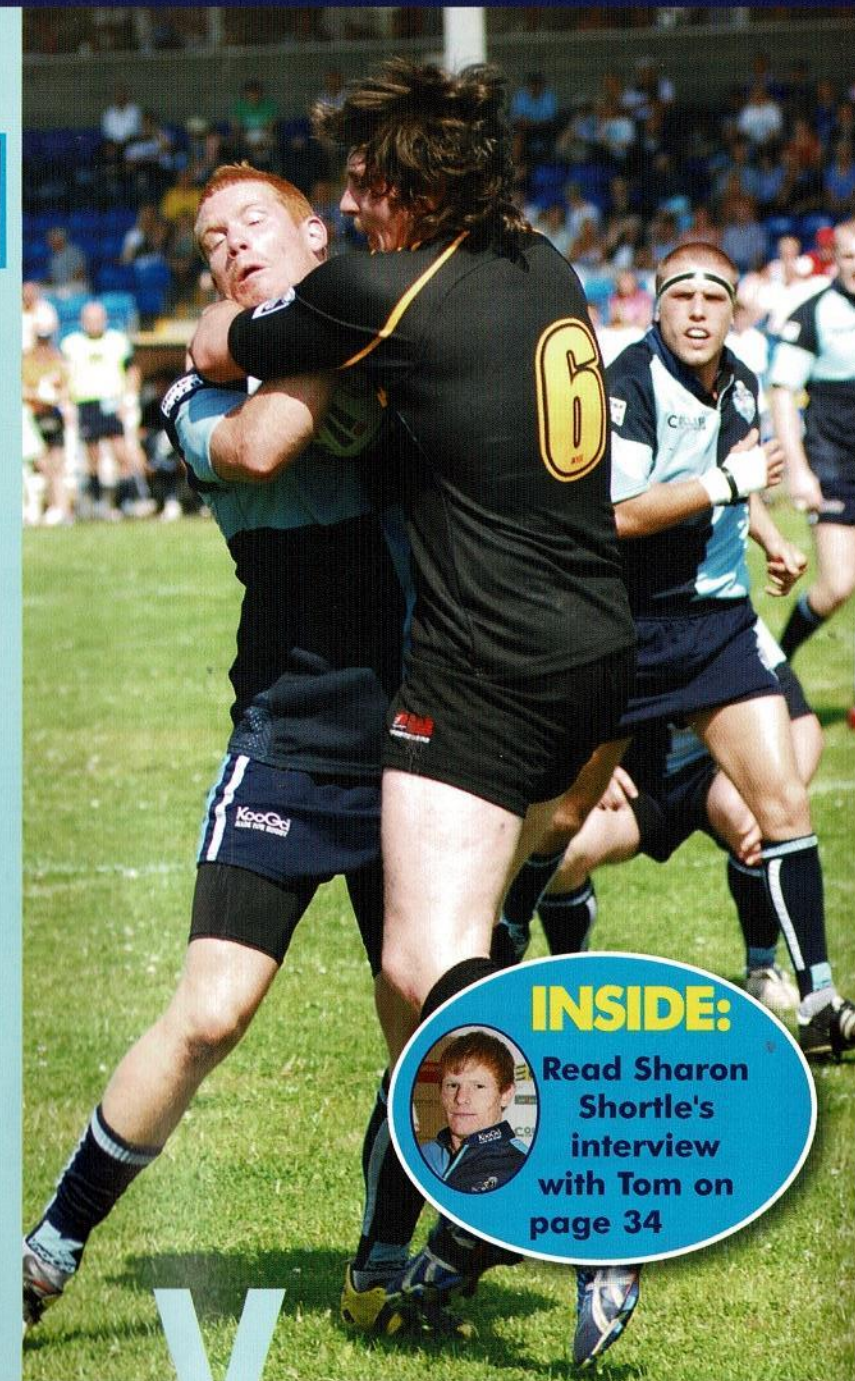
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INSIDE:

Read Sharon Shortle's interview with Tom on page 34

YORK CITY KNIGHTS

OLDHAM

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2008, K.O. 3PM.
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Welcome...

from the chairman



When the concept of Super League franchising was first mooted (some time ago now), it helped me focus my own thoughts on where the National League Competition stood (or rather should stand) in the overall scheme of things; it seemed to me to be essential that the two divisions competing within the National League should be "uncoupled" from Super League; as I have mentioned previously in this column, I began to resent (on behalf of all those who commit so much of their time and effort so as to provide us with our National League entertainment) that they should be regarded as some form of "under class" in the Rugby League firmament; this never seemed to me to be the right way of looking at things. Instead of looking at National League as being "underneath" Super League, my view was that the National League should be looked at as being "in parallel" with Super League; each competition deserved respect in its own right; Super League was the ultimate competition for the full time professional whereas National League was the ultimate competition for the part time professional.

All those participating in the National League Competition deserve respect; each Club deserves to be resourced appropriately and rewarded significantly for success whether in Division 2 or in Division 1; it was therefore particularly pleasing to hear of the announcements last week that those competing in the National League will receive significant prize money in the event of ultimate success; the prize pot will extend not only to those Clubs who succeed in coming top in their respective Divisions but also to those who come in runners-up spots. In common with all those who support National League Clubs, I am jealous of the integrity of the competition; no one should ever forget or under-estimate the level of commitment which each player and all back room staff put into providing us with our entertainment each Season. It is now time for such efforts to be rewarded appropriately.

That said, it is not just the responsibility of the RFL to dignify/resource the National League; each individual fan,

local firm and institution has his/her/its own part to play in sustaining their home town club, during not just the playing season but also the close season; those who stayed on for the after Match Presentations last Sunday afternoon will have heard the timely remarks of John Stabler; he reminded us all that, unless we continue to commit our support for the Club to the full, there is always an inherent risk of former times being re-visited. None of us must take anything for granted; there is absolutely no room for complacency. If I may adapt and adopt phraseology from a very different era and spoken in a very different context, it is not a question of each of us asking what our Club can do for us but rather us asking ourselves what each of us can do for our Club; let none of us ever forget that!!

It was lovely to see Jim Bone back at the Stadium following his recent spell in hospital; I know that all of you would want to join with me in wishing him every good fortune with his continuing recovery; I cannot think of anyone more deserving of that element of good luck which all of us need to get through this life!

It was also grand to see Mick Ramsden and his young son Daniel back within our midst; Mick has been and continues to be a tremendous servant of rugby league in York and the surrounding area; I am so glad that he and Daniel were able to witness the sort of committed performance which Mick always produced when he put on the shirt for the Knights.

Finally, may I extend a very warm welcome to Chris Hamilton and his colleagues and the Supporters and playing staff of our guests from Oldham this afternoon; what a magnificent Season you have enjoyed so far; I should like to offer personal congratulations to Chris on his appointment as President Elect of the RFL; it is a great honour for both him and for the Roughyeds. It is another example of the respect which is now being shown to the National Leagues.

Yours sincerely
Roger Dixon



YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOU

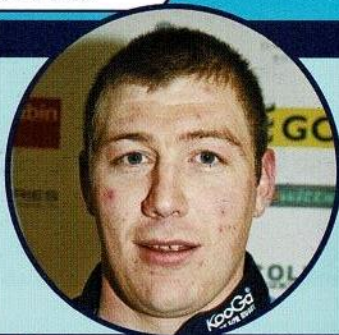
We urgently need canvassers for the Knights Lancelotto.

Please contact the club office for further details
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Head Coach

PAUL MARCH



Welcome to Huntington stadium for today's clash with one of the title favourites Oldham, we are hoping there's a big crowd today to cheer both sets of players on and also watch a spectacular Game of rugby league.

We come into this game on back of three victories against Blackpool, Workington and Swinton, in these games we have scored 184 points and only conceded 34 points which is pleasing.

With ball in hand we showed that tries can be scored from any part of the field we just have to be patient and take our chances when they come along, which we have in recent weeks.

Defensively we are not conceding many points now, but still feel we put ourselves under a lot of pressure with individual misses and mental shut down at times so the lads have been working hard this week to put things right.

Our visitors coached by my good friend Steve Deakin brings his side today on back of some impressive win's beating Doncaster and Keighley, they will want to keep the pressure on Gateshead and Barrow at the

top but it's up to us to spoil that and put ourselves in a very good play off position. They have several good players in their ranks; James Coyle at half back is one to watch, as well as my former team mates Rob Roberts and Marcus St Hilaire and big strong centre Mick Nanyan who I've never seen miss a goal.

It was good to have Mark Applegarth back last week and he showed some of his earlier form and will be looking to back it up. The three new signings Adam Mitchell, David Clayton and Tom Haberecht have also impressed me since they have arrived and all have added something different to the squad.

As we build for 2009 I am pleased to announce that myself and James will be here next year, along with Adam Sullivan and Danny Ekis who signed extensions last week and we are hoping many more players will follow suit in the next couple of weeks.

Enjoy the Game!!!

Paul March



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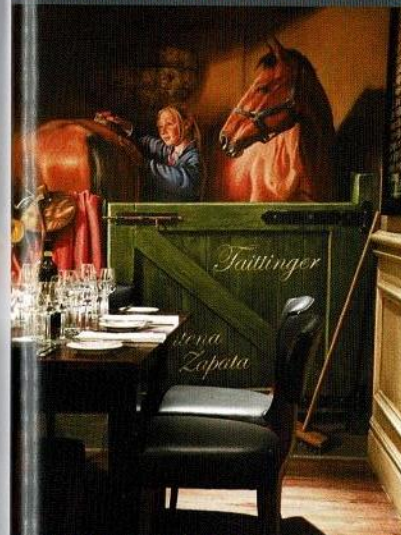
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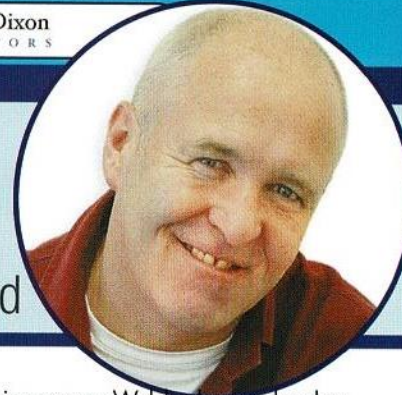
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LEAGUE WEEKLY

Danny
Lockwood



'Ahead of the Game'

Paul Bennett, League Weekly

I STILL can't get over all the fuss that's followed the announcement of the 14 Super League licences for 2009.

Particularly the amount of times that the inclusion of the Celtic Crusaders – a bold and brave move by the Rugby Football League – has been branded a "disgrace".

The RFL should "hang their heads in shame" Leigh told us. Why? Because they have the courage and the vision to back an exciting new venture in south Wales which could help grow our great game immeasurably over the next three years?

The same sort of crowing occurred three years ago when Widnes were relegated at the expense of Catalans Dragons – but just look at where they are now; proving us all wrong at the top end of Super League in only their third season in the division.

I've all the sympathy in the world for Widnes Vikings who have, effectively, missed out again to an expansionist club. They're a fine organisation with passionate supporters and an illustrious history. The current administration is also incredibly committed and – handily for us members of the press – down to earth and approachable.

But had the Catalans not entered Super League and had Widnes taken their place, would anyone really expect the Vikings to be up in third in the competition right now – going toe-to-toe with Leeds and St Helens? It's possible; it's also incredibly unlikely given the sheer amount of local competition the Vikings find themselves up against in the shape of the Saints, Warrington and Wigan.

The RFL is right to expand its boundaries. It is right to look to new clubs and new areas in which to grow the game and attract new players. Soon we

should see promising young Welsh players develop in the manner that the Frenchmen have over in Perpignan, which will be great for the game at both club and international level.

It's worth noting that the majority of the dissent has not come from the Widnes Vikings camp. They have taken the decision on the chin with dignity and seem genuinely determined to come back stronger in three years' time.

Looking at their current set up and speaking with their owner Steve O'Connor, you'd certainly have to fancy them for a real crack at a licence for 2012.

But as for supporters of some other clubs who have ripped into the RFL because of the decision – well, some people just aren't for real, I'm sure.

They say it's a slap in the face to the traditional clubs who have been playing the game for a hundred years or so; but surely those clubs have had their chance? They've had 100 years to build and grow and they still find themselves way below the standard required for Super League.

If they really want to be invited to play with the big boys again then they have three years to prove it. Go out there and get your house in order. And, in the meantime, let the fresh-faced Crusaders see if they can do any better than you've managed. That may seem harsh – but the truth hurts.

LEAGUE WEEKLY

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National Leagues Talk

with GARETH WALKER

In association with

Defining moments. By GARETH WALKER of Rugby Leaguer & League Express

THIS weekend is shaping up to be the most important yet for many clubs in National League One and Two. A series of crunch fixtures should ensure that we are some way closer to discovering the fortunes of several teams by Sunday evening.

By the time you read this, the biggest match of the weekend will already have been played, with NL1's top two Salford and Halifax clashing at the Shay on Thursday night. But plenty more is to come after that.

Celtic Crusaders continue to chase that leading duo, despite a run of three consecutive defeats including Sunday's setback at Batley. They know they have to beat Sheffield Eagles, whose play-off place remains under threat, in Bridgend on Saturday.

Then on Sunday four teams chasing top six spots meet each other, as Featherstone entertain Batley and Widnes travel to Leigh. The second of those games takes on another dimension with both clubs having missed out on Super League licences, and their respective official responses being almost as contrasting as you can get. Clashes between the Centurions and Vikings have been fascinating, often fiery affairs in recent years, and Sunday's promises to be a cracker.

At the Chris Moyles Stadium, Featherstone will look to bounce back from their heart-breaking defeat to Sheffield when then take on Batley. A win for the Bulldogs would condemn their local rivals Dewsbury to relegation, regardless of the Rams' result at home to in-form Whitehaven, who find themselves fourth after

outstanding wins over Sheffield, Celtic and Halifax in the last month.

It's no less interesting in Co-operative National League Two, where the top six clubs all face each other. The pick of the games takes place on Saturday evening, when second placed Barrow Raiders host leaders Gateshead in a match that could ultimately decide the NL2 title race. A win for Thunder would see them at least five points clear of the Raiders, who would still have a game in hand.

The other team currently in the race for the two automatic promotion spots, Oldham, face a tough trip to in-form York City Knights, who have moved into fifth place in recent weeks. Then at Cougar Park, Keighley take on Doncaster, whose fixture backlog is now really kicking in – they had to play at Rochdale in midweek.

Then the bottom six clubs all meet, and with the play-off places now going right down to eighth under the new format, everybody still has plenty to play for. Rochdale Hornets will be looking to follow up their stunning win over Barrow with some rare consistency at Blackpool; the two teams fought out a thrilling draw at Spotland earlier this year.

Workington Town currently occupy eighth position, and know that with a tough run-in, their home game against improving London Skolars is crucial to their campaign. And finally two teams struggling for form at present, Swinton Lions and Hunslet Hawks, meet at Park Lane hoping to kick-start their campaigns ahead of the final weekends.

All of which should provide a tremendous weekend of Rugby League action.

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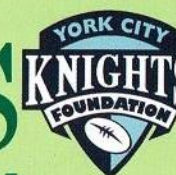
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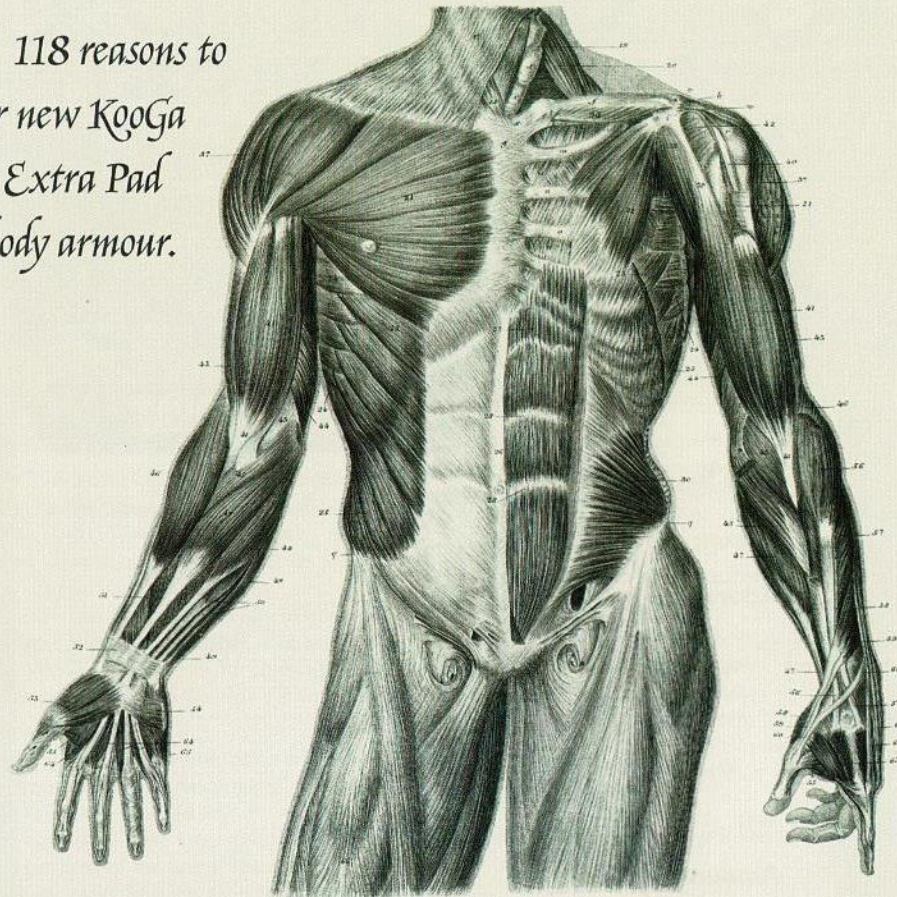


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Fig. XVI

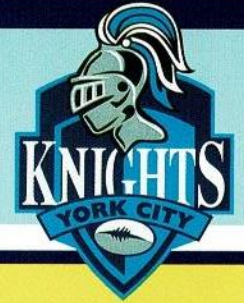


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KNIGHTS

1. Name the two current members of the Oldham squad to have played for the Wasps/Knights.
2. Against which club did the Knights record their biggest ever away win?
3. Against which club did Scott Woodcock score his first try for the Knights?
4. In our first season 2003 which position did we finish in the league?
5. Who was the Knights coach when we reached the Grand Final, CC Quarter Final and Arriva Trains Semi Final?

Answers:
 1. Rob Roberts (Wasps) Matty Brooks (Knights)
 2. Oldham 62-0
 3. Workington
 4. 4th
 5. Richard Agar

OLDHAM

1. Who is the current coach of Oldham?
2. Who knocked Oldham out of the Challenge Cup this season?
3. Oldham have won the Challenge Cup on three occasions, when?
4. How many times have Oldham appeared at Wembley?
5. Which clubs has Oldham centre Mick Nanyng played for?

Answers:
 1. Steve Deakin
 2. Wakefield
 3. 1899, 1925, 1927
 4. 0
 5. Swinton, Rochdale, Whitehaven, Widnes and Oldham

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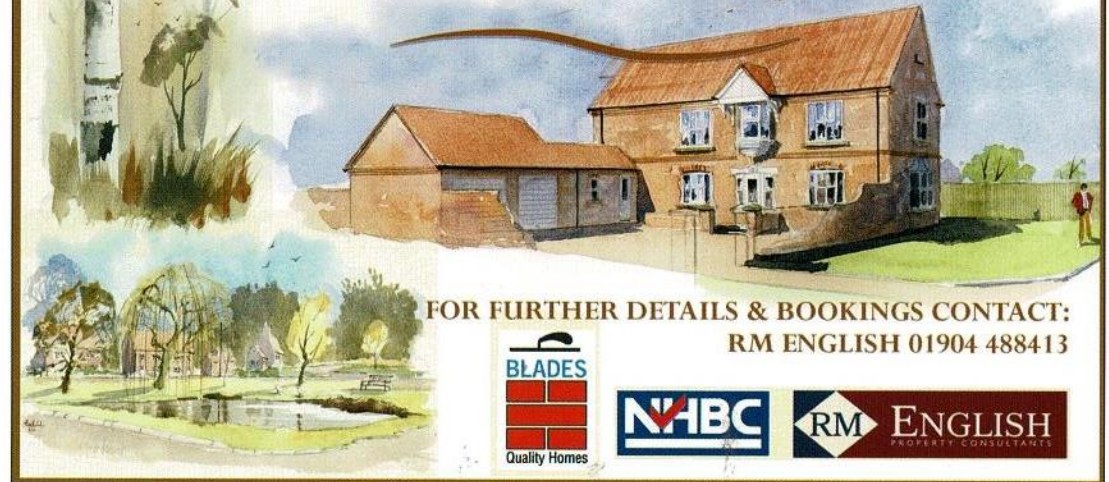
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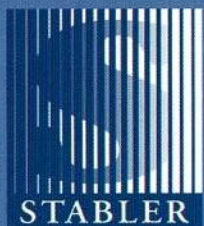
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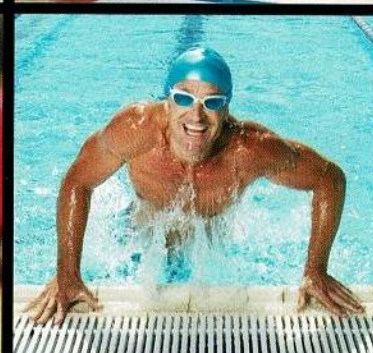
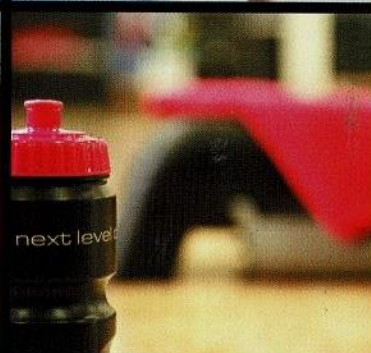
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STEPHEN GRUNDY
DOB: 02/12/85
WEIGHT: 82.8Kg
Loose Forward
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ROSS DIVORTY
DOB: 11/10/86
WEIGHT: 96.7Kg
Second Row
Sponsored by: CUE BALL SNOOKER CLUB

TOM HODGSON
DOB: 12/05/88
WEIGHT: 80Kg
Hooker
Sponsored by: [Sponsor]

ADAM ENDERSBY
DOB: 07/01/82
WEIGHT: 101Kg
Prop
Sponsored by: BALFOUR BEATTY

PAUL HUGHES
DOB: 28/12/84
WEIGHT: 83.1Kg
Hooker
Sponsored by: PAM CALVERT

DANNY EKIS
DOB: 17/01/82
WEIGHT: 98.3Kg
Prop
Sponsored by: SORRELL BUILDING CONTRACTORS

ROB KELLY
DOB: 01/03/86
WEIGHT: 92.9Kg
Second Row
Sponsored by: NORTH YORKSHIRE MOTORS

DAVID LEEKE
DOB: 12/02/90
WEIGHT: 78.1Kg
Wing
Sponsored by: SMITH WILSON

ROB SPICER
DOB: 22/09/84
WEIGHT: 89.5Kg
Loose Forward
Sponsored by: SHARON & WENDY

STEVE LEWIS
DOB: 22/10/86
WEIGHT: 93.5Kg
Centre
Sponsored by: MRS OBSTKNIGHT

JACK STEARMAN
DOB: 30/01/88
WEIGHT: 107.5Kg
Prop
Sponsored by: [Sponsor]

LEE MAPALS
DOB: 17/07/85
WEIGHT: 71.9Kg
Wing
Sponsored by: FELLINS

JOHNNY WALDRON
DOB: 22/10/82
WEIGHT: 70.3Kg
Wing
Sponsored by: JAMES DIXON

DAVID MARCH
DOB: 25/07/79
WEIGHT: 93.8Kg
Hooker
Sponsored by: DELTA TRAINING & CONSULTING

LUKE WATLING
DOB: 18/04/91
WEIGHT: 80.4Kg
Loose Forward
Sponsored by: [Sponsor]

JOHN OAKES
DOB: 12/02/88
WEIGHT: 94.1Kg
Centre
Sponsored by: LAURA DIXON

OLIVER WILCOX-HARRISON
DOB: 10/10/89
WEIGHT: 85.7Kg
Second Row
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KYLE PALMER
DOB: 07/01/85
WEIGHT: 105Kg
Prop
Sponsored by: BARTCARD

TOM WILCOX-HARRISON
DOB: 10/10/89
WEIGHT: 79.3Kg
Centre
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DANNY RATCLIFFE
DOB: 14/03/87
WEIGHT: 85.1Kg
Full Back
Sponsored by: THE RAYLOR CENTRE

SCOTT WOODCOCK
DOB: 15/11/83
WEIGHT: 111.4Kg
Prop
Sponsored by: MILLERS FISH & CHIPS

SCOTT RHODES
DOB: 21/06/80
WEIGHT: 81.1Kg
Stand Off
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Today's Opponents

OUR VISITORS TODAY – A FAN'S VIEW

Oldham has been a proud bastion of rugby league for well over a hundred years. The town's professional club has produced over one hundred international players, whilst its amateur clubs have nurtured literally thousands of players - many of whom have progressed to play at the highest level.

Nevertheless, in recent times the number of amateur clubs playing in the town has fallen and the financial problems surrounding the Roughyeds have been only too well documented.

The game locally was hit hard by the sale of Watersheddings, the former home to the professional club based in Oldham. Since then the club has led a somewhat nomadic existence and despite Boundary Park being made available for use by both the professional and amateur game, there is a strong feeling that somehow it's just not the same.

The current Oldham Roughyeds were formed in December 1997 after the demise of the previous club.

Now coached by Steve Deakin, known to many as Deaks, is a senior and well respected coach having had 24 years experience of coaching with various clubs. His CV has seen service with the likes of Chorley, Halifax, Sheffield, Keighley, Rochdale, London Broncos and Huddersfield as well as with French clubs Cannes and Catalans Dragons. It was whilst he was at Huddersfield he coach the Knights Player Coach and Paul March.

During his time Deakin has won the Challenge Cup as John Kear's assistant at Sheffield and won the French division championship as head coach with Cannes, and now has ambition of coaching a Super League team one day himself.

There are several big name stars in the Oldham rank, perhaps most recognised to the fans is former Super league Star Marcus St Hilaire. The former Bradford Bulls, Leeds Rhinos and Huddersfield Giants star, was a 'massive' signing for the club, signing a two-year contract with Roughyeds starting this year.

Now aged 31, St Hilaire, played 24 first-team games for the Bulls last season, only missing on a handful of occasions and that was when he suffered a fractured cheek bone. Throughout his long Super League career, that encompasses more than 200 appearances and more than 70 tries in the elite competition.

Born in Huddersfield in 1977, Marcus signed for Leeds in July, 1996 as a 19-year-old, scoring 39 tries in 111 senior appearances for the Rhinos before he moved to Huddersfield in 2003, adding another 37 tries in 74 outings. In two seasons at Bradford he ran in 14 tries in 39 games. Back then, in his Headingley days he was an integral part of Graham Murray's squad, and was a try scorer at Wembley in the 1999 Challenge Cup final.

Another key player and certainly one to watch out for is Welsh international Rob Roberts. Leeds-born Roberts has also had Super League experience, playing for Hull, Huddersfield and Halifax and has also played for Keighley and Leigh as well as having a stint in Australia. The player is also known as 'Two Bobs' captains the Oldham side.

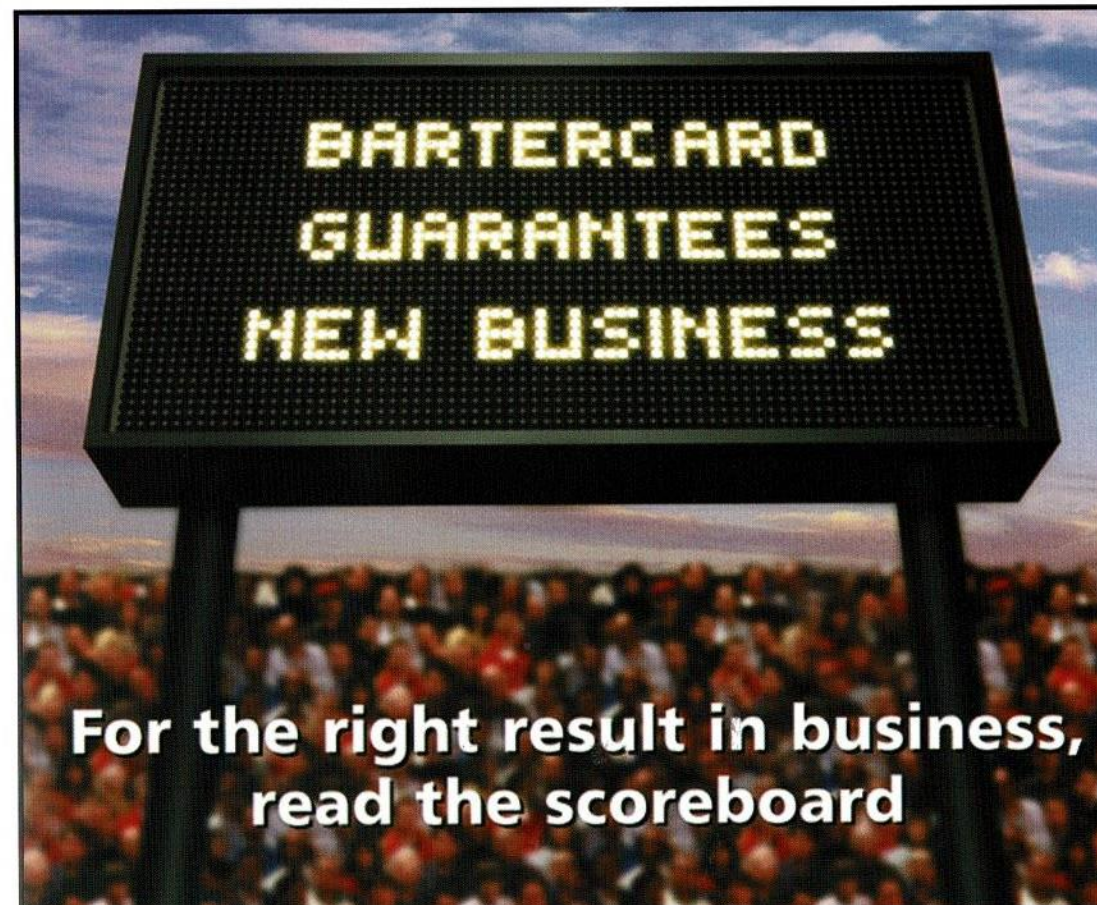
Following an incident in Oldham's game last week, Roberts was sent off following an incident with the Keighley player Jamanie Wray. Roberts will surely look to bounce back from his own personal disappointment last week by putting in big today. It does however, prove what a capable side Oldham are beating Keighley with only 12 men on the pitch. If the Knights are to win today they must close Roberts down and stop him in his tracks.

There are so many other players that have that deserve a mention and familiar to fans, Mick Nany, Daryl Cardiss, Phil Joseph and Said Tamghart and Matty Brooks all capable of producing the goods on the day.

Promises to be a great game!

Enjoy!

Andy Atkinson



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Fixtures and Results

| DATE | OPPONENTS | CUP | H/A | K.O | RESULT | W/L | ATT |
|--------|----------------------------|----------|-----|------|---------|-----|-----------|
| 13 JAN | YORK SELECT | FRIENDLY | H | 3:00 | 22 - 22 | D | 869 |
| 20 JAN | WAKEFIELD TRINITY WILDCATS | FRIENDLY | H | 3:00 | 16 - 40 | L | 1,203 |
| 27 JAN | LEEDS RHINOS | FRIENDLY | H | 3:00 | 26 - 28 | L | 833 |
| 03 FEB | GATESHEAD THUNDER | LC1 | H | 3:00 | 16 - 24 | L | 767 |
| 10 FEB | FEATHERSTONE ROVERS | LC2 | A | 3:00 | 40 - 12 | L | 1,332 |
| 24 FEB | FEATHERSTONE ROVERS | LC4 | H | 3:00 | 24 - 24 | D | 1,053 |
| 02 MAR | GATESHEAD THUNDER | LC5 | A | 3:00 | 26 - 18 | L | 389 |
| 05 MAR | BATLEY BULLDOGS | LC3 | A | 7.30 | 40 - 22 | L | 413 |
| 09 MAR | HALIFAX | CCCR3 | H | 3:00 | 12 - 34 | L | 1,009 |
| 16 MAR | BATLEY BULLDOGS | LC6 | H | 3:00 | 18 - 18 | D | 810 |
| 21 MAR | GATESHEAD THUNDER | NL1 | H | 3:00 | 20 - 26 | L | 696 |
| 24 MAR | BARROW RAIDERS | NL2 | A | 3:00 | 26 - 8 | L | 1,271 |
| 30 MAR | OLDHAM | NL3 | A | 3:00 | 36 - 26 | L | 1,049 |
| 13 APR | WORKINGTON TOWN | NL4 | H | 3:00 | 20 - 24 | L | 1,028 |
| 26 APR | BLACKPOOL PANTHERS | NL5 | A | 3:00 | 10 - 50 | W | 250 (EST) |
| 05 MAY | DONCASTER DRAGONS | NL6 | H | 3:00 | 14 - 25 | L | 1,122 |
| 11 MAY | SWINTON LIONS | NL7 | A | 3:00 | 28 - 50 | W | 501 |
| 18 MAY | KEIGHLEY COUGARS | NL8 | H | 3:00 | 40 - 30 | W | 1,347 |
| 25 MAY | LONDON SKOLARS | NL9 | H | 3:00 | 20 - 20 | D | 653 |
| 1 JUN | ROCHDALE HORNETS | NL10 | A | 3:00 | 10 - 44 | L | 423 |
| 08 JUN | HUNSLET HAWKS | NL11 | H | 3:00 | 34 - 6 | W | 1,201 |
| 15 JUN | KEIGHLEY COUGARS | NL12 | A | 3:00 | 24 - 46 | W | 771 |
| 22 JUN | BARROW RAIDERS | NL13 | H | 3:00 | 20 - 29 | L | 1,121 |
| 28 JUN | LONDON SKOLARS | NL14 | A | 3:00 | 46 - 36 | L | 536 |
| 06 JUL | GATESHEAD THUNDER | NL15 | A | 3:00 | 40 - 18 | L | 602 |
| 13 JUL | BLACKPOOL PANTHERS | NL16 | H | 3:00 | 62 - 6 | W | 707 |
| 20 JUL | WORKINGTON TOWN | NL17 | A | 3:00 | 18 - 56 | W | 400 (EST) |
| 27 JUL | SWINTON LIONS | NL18 | H | 3:00 | 66 - 12 | W | 762 |
| 03 AUG | OLDHAM | NL19 | H | 3:00 | | | |
| 10 AUG | HUNSLET HAWKS | NL20 | A | 3:00 | | | |
| 15 AUG | DONCASTER DRAGONS | NL21 | A | 8:00 | | | |
| 24 AUG | ROCHDALE HORNETS | NL22 | H | 3:00 | | | |
| 31 AUG | | CCC F | | | | | |
| 07 SEP | | GF1 | | | | | |
| 14 SEP | | GF2 | | | | | |
| 21 SEP | | GF3 | | | | | |
| 28 SEP | | G.FINAL | | | | | |

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Player Statistics 2008

| NAME | PLAYED | SUB | TRIES | GOALS | DROP GOALS | POINTS |
|------------------------|--------|-----|-------|-------|------------|--------|
| APLEGARTH MARK | 10 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| BAILEY ANDY | 4 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| BLANEY SAM | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BUCKLEY DAVID | 24 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 24 |
| CLAYTON DAVID | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| DANVILLE MATT | 8 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| DIVORTY ROSS | 19 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| ENDERSBY ADAM | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EKIS DANNY | 12 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| ESDERS RYAN | 10 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 0 | 60 |
| FERRIS DALE | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GREENWOOD GARETH | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| GRICE DANNY | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GRIMSHAW DANNY | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| GRUNDY STEPHEN | 6 | 9 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| HABERECHE TOM | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| HODGSON TOM | 1 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 38 |
| HUGHES PAUL | 21 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| KELLY ROB | 16 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| LEEKE DAVID | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| LEWIS STEVE | 21 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| MAPALS LEE | 18 | 0 | 18 | 6 | 0 | 84 |
| MARCH DAVID | 19 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| MARCH PAUL | 17 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| MITCHELL ADAM | 3 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 0 | 60 |
| OAKES JOHN | 25 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| RATCLIFFE DANNY | 24 | 0 | 12 | 38 | 0 | 124 |
| RHODES SCOTT | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SPICER ROB | 11 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| STEARMAN JACK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SULLIVAN ADAM | 12 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| WALDRON JOHNNY | 6 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| WATLING LUKE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WILCOX-HARRISON OLIVER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WILCOX-HARRISON TOM | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| WILSON MARK | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| WOODCOCK SCOTT | 8 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 |

THE Press

On the Knights shift

by The Press'

Knights reporter **Peter Martini**



WHILE the Super League licence announcement gained all the national headlines, I was more than a little interested to see what the implications meant for this year's National League Two play-offs.

And, having scanned the particulars, I can't say I'm that impressed.

In their wisdom, the Rugby Football League have decided that two teams will be promoted from NL2 this season, with a third going up in the end-of-year play-off bonanza.

All fine so far.

Until you learn that the play-offs will be a six team competition – this time comprising those sides finishing third to eighth in the league.

How can it be right that a team which finishes in eighth place can have the opportunity to pitch their way to an end of season play-off final – given their exertions in the league? Okay, so it's not hugely likely that the likes of Oldham would fall to Workington, the team currently holding the magic eighth place spot in National League Two at the moment.

But, as Barrow found out to their cost seven days ago – when getting blitzed 38-6 by Rochdale, anything can happen in a one-off 80 minute game of rugby league.

While the RFL's desire to streamline the National Leagues, created two tiers of 10 teams, is admirable, the way the organisation is going about it seems to be a little flawed.

Workington, if they end up the eighth place yardstick, have won a measly five of their 18 games so far this year. In football, that's the type of form that gets you drawn into a relegation dogfight – not pitched into a possible promotion party.

It's not like there are 24 teams in NL2.

In my ideal world, the teams from third to sixth would have gone at it in a straight knock-out format before the Grand Final, which will be held on September 28 at the Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington.

That way you keep the excitement of the format while rewarding those teams who have proven over the course of a season that they deserve to be in with a shot of making National League One.

I would be amazed if anyone, outside the fans of the clubs concerned, would agree that an eighth place finish deserves that chance.

If there is a plus side, it's that the Knights will most likely gain a home tie in the first round of games should they continue on their current vein of good form.

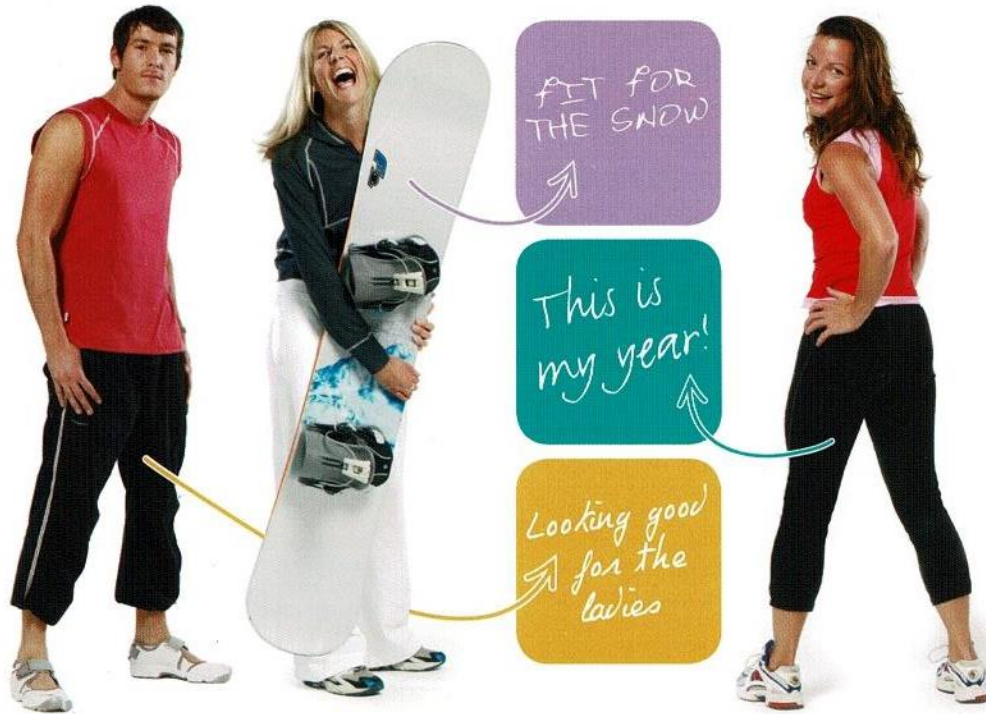
That could bring a few more fans through the turnstiles.

The Knights have served up some thrilling fare in their last two Huntington Stadium encounters – putting 60 points on both Blackpool and Swinton.

The only disappointment was that only a shade more than 700 people turned up to watch on both occasions.

To my mind, it seems clear that player-coach Paul March is beginning to show signs of building something for the future.

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Interview

by SHARON SHORTLE



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TOM HODGSON

In the last few weeks, there's been a new 'fans favourite' in the making at York City Knights. Hooker Tom Hodgson has broken in to the first team and really made an impression, scoring a few tries along the way.

The 20 year old is a product of York amateur club, New Earswick All Blacks where he began playing when he was around 7 years old, alongside the likes of current Knights team mate Ross Divorty.

"I was coached by Jamie and Andy Daniel then which was good, then Gary Divorty took over so I had a good coaching few years off him.

"I stayed at New Earswick for most of my career. I went to Heworth at Under 18's and I think that's where I started to develop a bit more because I was always quite small in comparison to all the other lads."

After the Under 18's at Heworth folded, Tom moved back to New Earswick and went in to the first team where he continued to learn the game – and probably picked up that trick of diving over the try line from acting half!

"I was coached by Alan Pallister and Chris Judge, the former York Wasps players which was good," he says.

"I learned quite a lot off Alan with him being a hooker as well. Then we had North Yorkshire Service area for the Under 18's and I played in that for 3 years and in the last year got selected to play for Yorkshire and Great Britain which was probably the highlight of my career so far.

"After that there were no more real opportunities to develop at amateur level so I moved to York."

Tom says he's enjoying things this season whether that's training or playing matches.

He says, "It's going really well I think, just at training and everything. All the lads are clicking together now.

"I think there's a lot of older heads and influential people around you in the first team and it makes a big difference. I've learnt a lot off David March and Paul Hughes as well because they've had a lot of experience in professional rugby and with them being hookers

you're just learning off them all the time which is nice. You've got people who are coming down to training nice and early helping with a bit of practice. It's just other people around you that are making you and pushing you on which is good."

Tom says his ideal would be to turn full time in rugby league, but for now he's studying at York St.John University and that is his priority.

"I work as a fitness instructor at Next Generation but I'm a student as well so university is really going to come first over everything.

"I've just finished my second year, going in to my third year and I'm doing a sports studies course. That's with Brett Wilkie, the conditioning coach. He's my head of year for that so that's how I really went on to the course because I knew him through York. I thought I'd just stay in York because there are no real opportunities anywhere else to start off with and York's a decent club with a good set up and a good bunch of lads. I thought I'd stay here then I don't have to pay board as well! And I get a lot of food off my mum and dad which is nice!"

It's not just food that Tom is grateful for from his parents. He says they've been a massive help to him playing rugby as he's grown up.

"They've supported me all my life and I wouldn't have been able to do anything without them really," he says. "With lifts here and there, back in the day when they're taking me everywhere when you're going to Leeds and Bradford at under 8's and you're only playing for 20 minutes, it's a big commitment, isn't it?"

In the future, Tom says he would love to go in to Super League, but he stresses again that he's looking at his prospects in the longer term.

"It's been a childhood dream to go full time and play for a Super League club. At the moment if the opportunity comes I'd definitely take it but I think University has got to come first. You've got to think about your career because something like that could be ended with an injury or something. You've got to think down the line and see how it goes. I think a lot of clubs will support you in that so that's ok."



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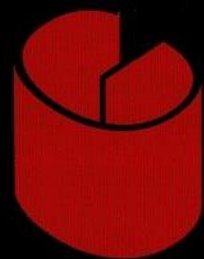
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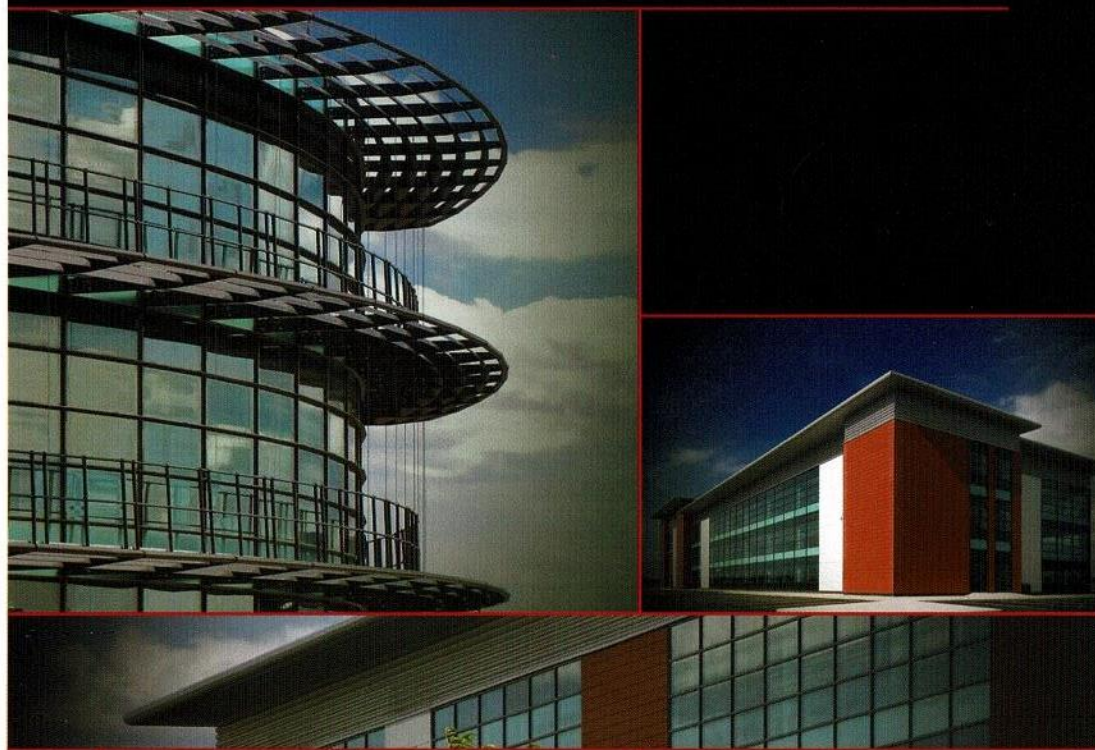
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Junior Knights Kids Corner



Hello All You Junior Knights Fans!

Let me start by saying I hope you enjoyed last week's match. It was another big score line to the Knights, winning 66-12 against Swinton Lions.

Player Coach Paul March was named man of the match, but it was a close decision as Ross Divorby and Mark Applegarth dug deep to produce impressive performances. You may be aware that Adam Sullivan and Danny Ekis have decided to stay at the club next year, signing an extension to their current contracts. These players join David Leeke, Adam Mitchell, Tom Hodgson and Scott Woodcock. This is great news for the club as signing players of this quality is a sign of things to come. Paul March has already said he would like to keep a lot of the players that have played this season for next year. Paul said,

"We have a pretty young side, with a number of players making their debut season in the professional rankings. As the season has gone on, these players have gained from their experience and learned from their mistakes. They are

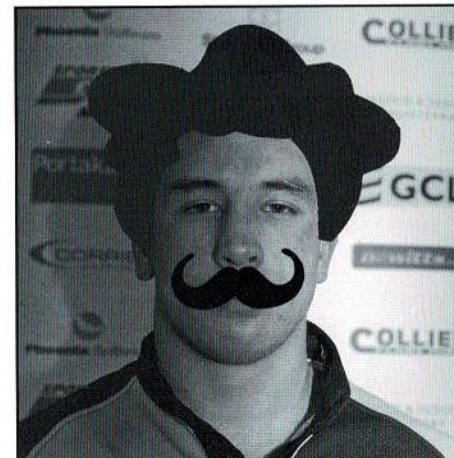
enjoying their Rugby and the potential we saw in them, to make them sign in the first place is there for everyone to see. Players such as John Oakes and Danny Ratcliffe are virtually ever-present in the Knights team this year and give 100% week in, week out."

One player who is unlikely to be signing for next year will be Captain Dave Buckley. Dave is planning on returning home to Australia to spend more time with his family. Dave has been a tremendous asset to the club in the past few seasons, both on and off the pitch. As Captain and a senior player within the team, his superb attitude has led from the front and acted as a role model to other players. Dave will certainly want to end this year on a high and is looking forward to the play-offs. He does stress though, that he is taking one game at a time though and to build on current form. He agrees that today's match against Oldham will be very interesting!!

Have a fantastic day and Enjoy the Game!!

Make plenty of noise to cheer the Knights on!

NORRIS THE KNIGHT



Guess Who?

Clue: Nandy Skie (anagram)

Last week's answer: John Oakes

TODAY'S MASCOT:

Name: Feargus Brown

Age: 3 last Thursday -
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Favourite Player:

Adam Sullivan



Community Development

by ADAM PRENTIS AND IAN WILSON



Good afternoon, and welcome once again to the Huntington Stadium. After last weeks emphatic win everybody at the club is looking forward to today's game. Oldham possess what will be, with all due respect to the clubs played in previous weeks, a real test of current form. Oldham's position in the League table speaks for itself in the fact they have won 14 games out of a possible 17 and are currently lying in third position in the league having beaten Keighley by 2 points last week and could still gain automatic promotion should they finish within the top two of the league.

Last week the Knights won 66-12 against Swinton, and looked impressive in attack when forwards such as Ross Divorty give a platform for the half backs to do their job. Let's hope the Knights can get on the front foot today and trouble the Oldham defence. Best of luck to both teams and hope the weather is as good as last weeks!

Plans have now started for the new intake of Learn to Train training squad. Learn to Train falls within the North Yorkshire Service Area domain, and is repeated elsewhere within regions across the country. The squad will be made up of players of the Under 12 age group (Year 7). Players who have stood out during the Tag rugby programme within the schools community project that the Knights operate maybe asked to attend. However, the majority of the squad is selected by asking Local amateur clubs to nominate suitable candidates who have demonstrated a willingness to learn and develop their skills to a higher level. The Learn to Train programme is not a pre-requisite to gain selection into the Service Area squad and therefore it is not essential that the criteria for selection be based purely on current playing performance.

There are several distinct differences between Learn to Train and the Scholarship that is run at the Knights. One

of the major differences being, the Learn to Train programme starts with a 70% emphasis on fundamental movement principles and a 30% rugby element. From here the emphasis changes towards a stronger rugby element as the children get older. This coincides with the frame that not only the RFL has adapted but several other major governing bodies who have had success with the model. (Please note as yet, no invitation to any players have gone out as yet).

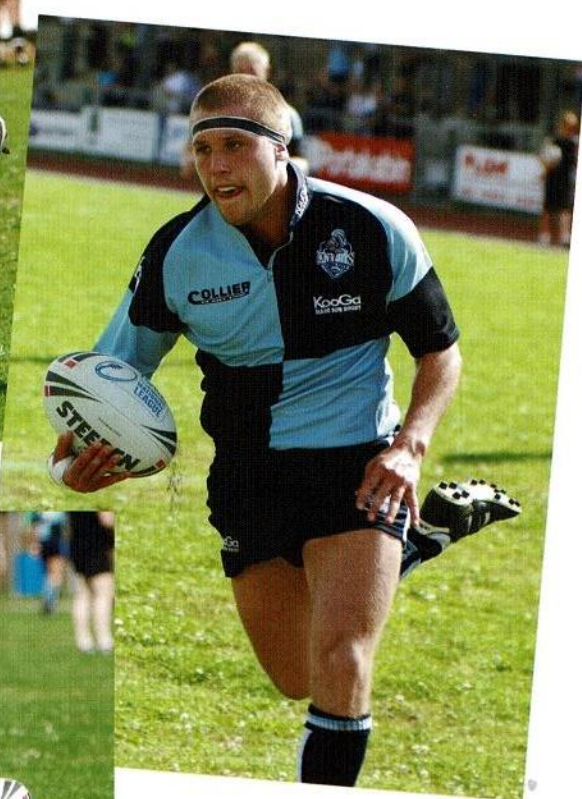
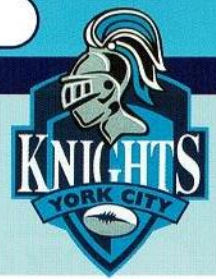
The Knights Community team attended a Child Welfare Officers convention last week regarding issues concerning safeguarding children and adults concerning best practice. Further issues regarding anti-bullying policies, criminal records checks and The RFL's RESPECT campaign were also discussed. The Knights thoroughly support work by the RFL in protecting everyone involved with our Sport. If you would like any further information surrounding these issues or have concerns about someone you know please contact the RFL's safeguarding team on 0844 477 7133. The RFL aim to have a Child Welfare Officer (CWO) at every club, who would be a first port for such issues.

Finally, a reminder that the final week of Regional Camp will commence on Tuesday as the Under 13's get their first experience of regional camp. We would like to wish Jack Anderson, Ben Oworm and Jordan Potter (all of whom represented North Yorkshire Service Area earlier in the year and impressed the selectors) all the best and hope they enjoy the experience.. If you would like to go and support these 3 or see the best young players in Yorkshire, the squad will play a trial game on Friday 8th August at St Peters School, Bootham (11am Kick off).

Enjoy this afternoon's game!



Sportsmatch is a government funded scheme designed to help sports organisations in England attract funds from business sponsors. We can match sponsorships, on a pound for pound basis, and this partnership funding allows the development of sustainable programmes to attract new participants into sport and/or improve basic skills. Applications to Sportsmatch can come from sporting bodies, large and small, capable of running eligible schemes, supported by potential sponsors, and will be considered by out independent panel



RESERVE GRADE FIXTURE LIST 2008 SEASON

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|---------|-------------------|---|---------|
| LEAGUE | THURS | 7 AUG | HUNSLET HAWKS | H | 8:00PM |
| LEAGUE | SUN | 17 AUG | SALFORD CITY REDS | A | 12:30PM |
| PLAYOFFS | | 23 AUG | | | |
| PLAYOFFS | | 6 SEPT | | | |
| PLAYOFFS | | 13 SEPT | | | |
| GRAND FINAL | | 20 SEPT | | | |