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1st DIVISION

October 6th

Kick-off 3-00 pm



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Programme 6p

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BRIAN BATTY OF THE DAILY MAIL —

The sporting life of Doug Laughton has been clouded by a succession of injuries since he exploded onto the international scene in 1970.

Laughton was the aggressive running second row forward who helped lift Britain off the floor to win the high scoring Second and Third Test in Sydney and clinch the Ashes.

He captained Britain when they swamped New Zealand at Swinton in the World Cup but was switched from the loose forward for the final, which Britain lost to Australia.

Since those action-packed times Laughton has battled to overcome one of the worst injury records suffered by an English player and has changed clubs into the bargain.

At the start of the 1972 season Laughton was out for four weeks with a broken thumb and then for five months with cartilage trouble, ruling him out of the Kiwi Test's after being named as skipper.

He was set to return to the international scene against France when it was discovered he had broken his jaw.

So Laughton set his sights on the World Cup in France until his hopes and ambitions collapsed when his knee went yet again and he talked of quitting the game.

'I was sick to the teeth with injuries and hospitals,' recalls Doug. 'I thought I might as well pack it in and concentrate on my business interests.'

'It seemed there was a jinx sitting on my shoulder and I couldn't get cracking at either club or international level.'

Wigan finally sold their star to Widnes, where he is now making a determined effort to regain his Great Britain spot under the guidance of the great loose forward Vince Karalius.

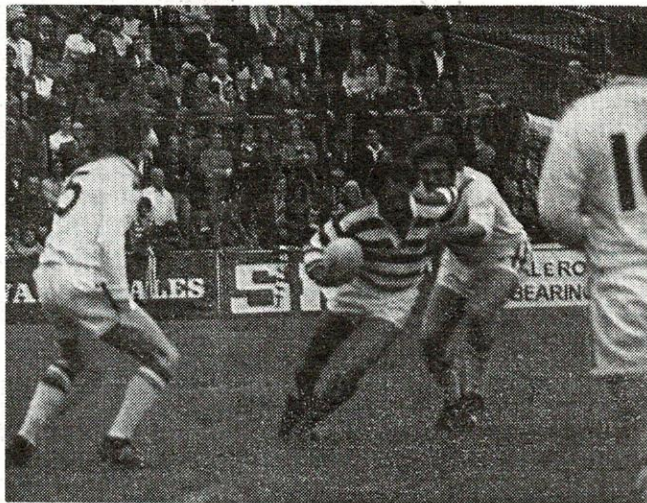
Vinty was the man who really put fear into the hearts of the Australians and he reckons that Doug can do a similar job for Britain this season.

'Doug is looking really fast and dangerous and he must have a wonderful chance of making the side,' says Vince.

With a summer spent on weight lifting training and riding a bike to strengthen his knee muscles Laughton is down to 13 stone 6 lbs. — almost a stone lighter than when he toured Down Under.

'I'd love to have another crack at the Aussies for I reckon we can field a side to beat them,' he says. 'They'll bring a big pack and will be fit but we've got the skill and pace to overcome that.'

Laughton's business interests have grown that much that he admits: 'I don't play for the money now. But I'm still as keen as ever to win some honours.'



Action Replay



On the Inside with DAVE PARKER

There were so many injuries in a dull, dour game at Mount Pleasant two weeks ago between Batley and Barrow that referee Pete Massey (Salford) had to keep constantly halting play. In the end, 6 minutes injury time was played in the first half and in the second 13 minutes. Coaches will now have to start training players to last 100 minutes instead of 80.

Doncaster and New Hunslet have both failed in their attempts to bring Castleford boy wonder scrum half Glyn Jones out of retirement at 21. Jones apparently wants First Division football, and maybe he is hoping Leeds decide to move for him.

Blackpool Borough are giving trials to Mayfield (Rochdale) junior centre Trevor Haigh.

The Welsh Brewers "Player of the Year" Tommy David only moved from Pontypridd to Llanelli last season to put himself in line for more honours and the club's trip to Canada in August. Welsh Rugby Union players are very honours conscious and until they are snubbed in some way do they finally turn to Rugby League. If David does not come to Salford this season, watch for Mr. Brian Snape moving in for Steve Smith, the England R.U. scrum half, his former scrum half Bob Prosser coached in the art of passing.

Former England R.U. hooker Bert Godwin is forecasting a brilliant future for Coventry striker John Gallaher, who has taken over from Wigan's close season capture John Grey. If anything he reckons Gallaher is much more livelier in the loose, and that can't be bad, having seen the first-class qualities of Grey.

Rugby League scouts are bound to be swarming all over the Orrell R.U. ground this season, especially when their midweek floodlit programme starts in October. The Lancashire club after only five years in existence have now got the best fixture list in the North. One of their best players, winger Ian Holland, has not had the chances yet to make it with Salford.

Don't be surprised to see North Ribblesdale-based R.U. fullback Martin Shuttleworth teaming up with his former Upper Wharfedale team-mate David Knowles at Wakefield during the season. The talented 23-year-old No. 15 who has had offers from Hull and eagle eyes on him from Wigan, is shortly to marry the daughter of Wakefield committeeman and former chairman John Davies. Trinity have one of the best fullbacks in the game in Geoff Wraith, but both players can also play in the centre.

Frank Myler was fancied by a few council members for the job of Great Britain team coach for the forthcoming Tests with the Australians.

Joe Brown wants to return to Hull after being an absentee from Craven Park for 12 months. He doesn't want to play for Hull K.R. again. The Robins are asking £3,000 for the loose forward, who also played with Yorkshire and York.

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Pools News

After careful thought and consideration, Prize Money for the weekly pool will increase on Week 40. This will be in the form of £100 holiday voucher which will be drawn every four weeks.

We have been fortunate in securing the co-operation of Holts Travel Services, of Union Street, Oldham in this venture. They will be bringing their wealth of experience and know-how to help the lucky winners plan a fabulous holiday.

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TEST MATCHES

Seating Tickets for all three Tests against Australia can be bought in advance from Rugby League. Wembley (first Test), Leeds (second Test), Warrington (third Test).

Saturday, November 3rd. First Test, apply Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex. (£2.00 and £1.50).

Saturday, November 24th. Second Test, apply Leeds C.F. & A.C., The Pavilion, Headingley, Leeds. (£1.50 and £1.00).

Saturday, December 1st. Third Test, apply Warrington R.L.F.C., Wilderspool, Warrington. (£1.50 and £1.00).

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Rugby Quiz

1. Which club recorded their biggest-ever home attendance last weekend?
2. How many League double victories did Whitehaven record last season?
3. In what position did Whitehaven end last season?
4. How many players have Oldham used in first team games this season?
5. Which members of the current Australian Tourists have played for English clubs.

1. New Hunslet who had a crowd of 4,283 to watch their game against Bradford Northern.
 2. Four, against Workington Town, Wigan, Huyton and Blackpool Borough.
 3. 15th with 18 wins, 1 draw and 15 defeats.
 4. 27 with Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft and Chris O'Brien playing in all 10 games.
 5. Tim Pickup (Blackpool Borough), Lionel Williamson (Bradford Northern), Denis Ward (Widnes) and Arthur Beeton (Hull Kingston Rovers).

FORTHCOMING MATCHES

OLDHAM v. HORNETS: Wednesday, 10th October, kick-off 7.30 p.m. B.B.C. Floodlit, 1st Round. Admission: 40p, O.A.P. and Boys: 18p.

OLDHAM v. AUSTRALIA: Friday, 19th October, kick-off 7.30 p.m. ALL FAY—Admission—Ground: 40p. O.A.P. & Boys: 20p. Transfer to Seats—Enclosure: 10p, E Stand: 5p.



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- 4—WAINWRIGHT A.
- 5—O'BRIEN C.
- 6—MURPHY M bag
- 7—GORMAN T.
- 8—CLAWSON T. 2 goals bag
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—OWEN G.
- 11—HALL F.
- 12—DALEY A. PETERS T.
- 13—REYNOLDS J.

- 14—DAVIES T.
- 15—FARRELL J. DALEYA.

WHITEHAVEN

9

- 1—MATHER G.
- 2—MORRIS R.
- 3—CHARLTON P.
- 4—ROSE B.
- 5—SEWELL A.
- 6—CASSIE A.
- 7—NEWELL J.
- 8—PRINGLE J.
- 9—THOMPSON E.
- 10—CRAYSTON G.
- 11—McFARLANE J.
- 12—COTTIER G.
- 13—GAINFORD T.

- 14—WATSON A.
- 15—HUNTER K.

Referee:

A. W. ALLEN (York)

Touch Judges

F. J. Tomlinson (Widnes) Orange
 R. J. Percival (Warr.) Red

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Try scoring record: 29 by Bill Smith in 1956-57.

Record defeat: 0-61 v. St Helens in 1948-49.

Record victory: 61-0 v. Hunslet in 1961-62.

The Whitehaven side which opposes Oldham this afternoon will be a fine blend of youth and experience. At fullback is George Mather, who is 24 years old and a product of Cumbrian junior football. As an amateur Mather represented Cumberland whilst a member of the Hensingham club. Since turning professional he has proved to be an exciting attacking player and a more than useful goal kicker. Last season he was the Cumberland substitute against Yorkshire in the County Championship decider and this year he has continued to impress and so far he has crossed for 2 tries as well as landing 26 goals.

Whitehaven have two very dangerous wingers in Rodney Morris and Alan Sewell. Morris was born in Millom and it was with the Millom junior club that he made his name before signing for Barrow in 1966. In January, 1970 he was transferred to Whitehaven where last season he was his club's leading try scorer with 15. Morris played in the two Cumbrian matches this season against Lancashire and Yorkshire and, in fact, he has represented his county in their last 9 matches. On the other wing is Alan Sewell who was signed from Workington Town in January, 1972. He, too, has represented Cumberland.

The centre positions will probably be filled by Mike Gracey and Brian Rose although Alec Cassie is pressing for inclusion into the side. Rose was signed in September, 1970 whilst Mike Gracey joined Whitehaven from neighbours Workington Town in October, 1968 after first playing for the Kells junior team. Last season Gracey was substitute for Cumberland in both their matches against Lancashire and Yorkshire. Until the arrival of George Mather, Alec Cassie was the regular Whitehaven goal kicker and in his last season in that role, 1971-72, he landed 60 goals as well as finding time to score 11 tries. He is now at the veteran stage in his career for he signed for Whitehaven in July, 1962 from Melrose R.U.F.C. He is now 31 years old.

In April, 1970 Ken Todd kicked both goals for the English amateur team which drew 4-4 against France at Salford. He was then a member of the Wath Brow Hornets club but now this talented 24 years old is an important member of the Whitehaven attack. His half back partner is Harry Maddison, another of Whitehaven's county stars who this season represented Cumbria against Lancashire at Barrow.

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Although the Whitehaven backs are not without their share of talent the real strength of the side is in the forwards. Prop Dennis Martin has been around for several years now but even though he is aged 34 he is still a stubborn and difficult opponent to handle. Martin began his professional career with Workington Town in April, 1959 and he joined Whitehaven in 1970. Needless to say, he has numerous Cumberland county appearances to his name with the last occasion being in 1971-72 when he played in the Cumberland team which lost 17-12 against Yorkshire at Wakefield.

The other propping position has been filled by 26 years old George Crayston who has returned to Whitehaven after a spell at Barrow. This season Crayston made his county debut when he represented Cumbria against Lancashire.

Whitehaven are fortunate to have on their books both the hookers who have represented Cumbria this season. Bill McCracken, who was signed from Kells juniors, is an extremely versatile forward who can play anywhere in the pack. When representing Cumbria against Yorkshire at Bramley he scored a try from the hooking position but this afternoon he will probably be turning out at prop.

The regular Whitehaven hooker is 30 years old Eddie Thompson who last season made two appearances for Cumberland whilst with Barrow. In May he was transferred to Whitehaven for a bargain £2,000 fee and, as previously stated, he has represented his county again this season.

There is a wealth of talent scrambling for places in the back row of the pack. Twenty-three years old Gordon Cottier is developing into a top class loose forward since he turned professional from the Hensingham junior club. He has represented Cumberland at Under-17 level. Another player who gained representative honours in junior football is Jack Davidson. He represented England juniors before joining Whitehaven. Tom Gainford is another product of the Kells junior club and although he didn't gain any junior honours he did represent the full Cumberland team four seasons ago. Matt Glaister is having another good season, whilst also pressing for a place is Keith Hunter. He has played for England at Under-19 level and last season he represented Cumberland. Although lightly built for a forward, Ray Martin makes up with his speed and courage. He joined Whitehaven from Kells juniors in 1967 and since then has played in the Cumberland county team on three occasions.

The leader of the Whitehaven forwards, however, is 30 years old Spanky McFarlane. He turned professional for Workington Town from the Kells junior outfit in April, 1961, after representing England Under-19 and he made his debut the following season against Castleford. After playing several times for Cumberland, McFarlane moved to Barrow in December, 1969 for £6,000. After a short spell on loan to Whitehaven McFarlane became a permanent Whitehaven player in January, 1972. Since then he has played four times for Cumberland and although now at the veteran stage he is still an experienced and enthusiastic leader of the Whitehaven forwards.

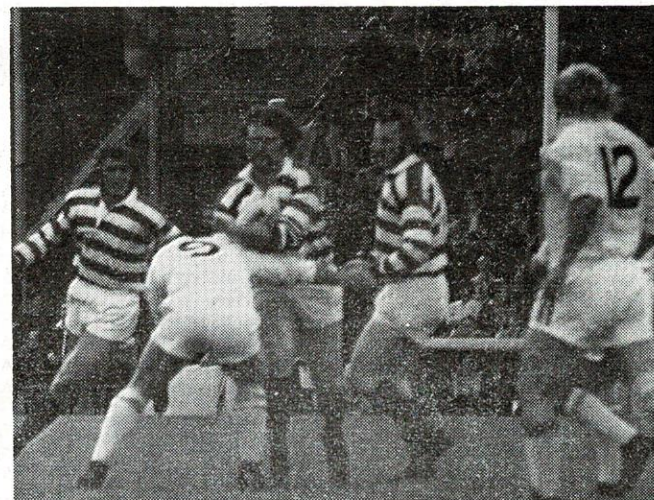
As far as League matches are concerned, Whitehaven have found the First Division rather difficult but they have had a fine run in the Lancashire Cup and are through to the second round of the lucrative John Flayer Trophy.

Whitehaven lie in fourteenth position in Division One with just one victory from their five outings. This sole victory was against Wigan when Whitehaven won 17-12. Three of their League defeats were expected for not many sides win at Dewsbury where the home side won 22-10 and two other defeats were against St. Helens 7-26 at home and 19-26 away. Last weekend, however, Bramley scored an unexpected 19-12 win up at the Recreation Grounds and this defeat has kept Whitehaven down in the doldrums.

Despite this rather lean League form, Whitehaven made a determined bid to win the Lancashire Cup with a fine run into the semi-finals. In round one, Whitehaven visited Blackpool Borough where they won an ill-tempered game 15-2. George Crayston was sent off early in the second half, but with George Mather leading the scoring with a try and 3 goals, Whitehaven went on to win 15-2.

In contrast to the 850 crowd which attended at Blackpool, the biggest crowd for three seasons, 3,309, saw the then undefeated League leaders, Warrington, fall to a 19-8 defeat up at Whitehaven. The home pack, with veterans Denis Martin and Spanky McFarlane outstanding, completely knocked Warrington out of their stride whilst George Mather again impressed with a try and 4 goals.

There was an even bigger crowd of 5,000 when Salford visited the Recreation Ground in the semi-final but the Whitehaven fans went home disappointed as a faster and more skilful Salford ran out 23-9 winners.



Action Replay



FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	18—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup ...	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
	29—Wigan	A
Oct.	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield) ...	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield) ...	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

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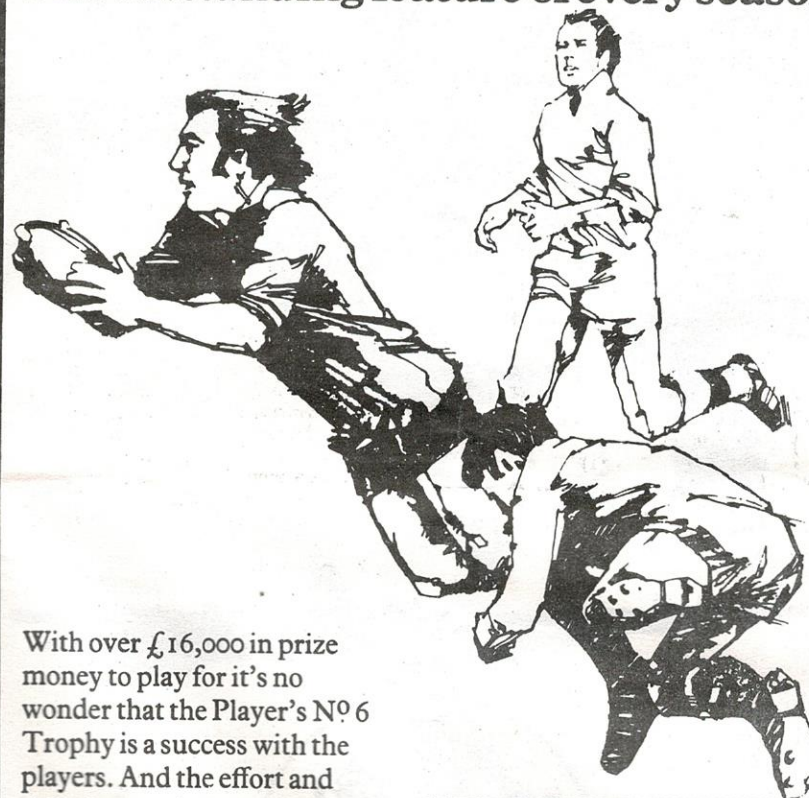
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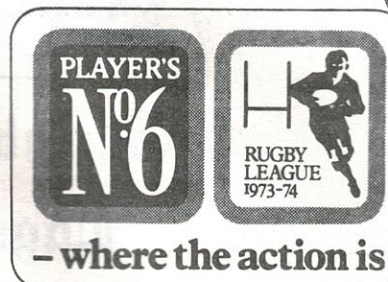
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