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SUNDAY, 24th MARCH, 1974

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CLUB CHATTER

Whatever lingering hopes we had of avoiding relegation soon disappeared last Sunday with a shocking performance against a mediocre Wakefield team. Recent spirited performances suggested that we still had a chance of avoiding the drop into the Second Division but this was a return to our listless mid-season performances which are the real reason for our present situation. Second Division football it is to be then and every effort will be made to ensure that our stay there is a short one, but this is a far from easy task as our neighbours from the Boulevard have found out.

As this is our last programme of the season we take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and hope that it will continue next season when we will need every bit of loyal support to help us through what could be a vital period in the history of the Club, a long stay in the second division could prove to be disastrous.

Today's collection which is once again being organised by the Supporters' Club is for former Oldham player David Goddard. David was badly injured in a game a number of years ago and at the age of 31 is confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. In addition to the collection booklets are being sold around the ground and we hope that you will give most generously to help him.

PLAYERS' NEWS

Hooker Peter Flanagan has informed the Club that because of the lack of 'A' team fixtures he has decided to retire this season. Lee Barraclough's shoulder is healing nicely but he will not be available for six weeks which rules him out for this season. Bob Smithies is in the wars again, this time with a broken big toe sustained in an accident at work. Bob, who now intends to stay for next season, reckons that this must be the end of his bad luck, having had a cartilage removed, a broken arm, and now this in less than a year.



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OUR VISITORS

	Pos.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Oldham	12th	24	10	1	13	268	383	21
Hull K.R.	14th	25	6	2	17	321	481	14

This afternoon we wind up our home programme of the current season with a visit from Oldham, a club who presented us with one of our few highlights of the now almost completed campaign, when we won 6-5 at Watersheddings, our only away league win of the season.

Oldham have been going through a transitional period after losing several leading personalities last summer. Coach Graham Starkey moved to Wigan, captain and centre Cliff Hill retired, pack leader Frank Foster the ex K.R. star joined Barrow as coach, and international forward Bob Irving followed Starkey to Wigan for a reputed £11,000 fee.

The club made a poor start to the current season, losing their first six games and languishing at the bottom of the table, but an estimated £30,000 has been spent in buying new players and Griff Jenkins, an Oldham star player of the '50's, was signed as coach in July.

By then the club had already bought Terry Clawson from Leeds, costing around £4,000 last June. The former Rovers' veteran forward has not lost his international form and is due to make his first tour of Australia this summer. He was followed by Bill McCracken, 15 stone Cumberland County second rower from Whitehaven for £3,000, and Brian Gregory, a £7,500 second row buy from Warrington.

From Leigh came Tony Peters, not originally looked upon as a "big" signing, but he suddenly blossomed into a strong running No. 13. Second row man Neil Goodwin came from Leeds and winger Eddie Barton was signed from R.U. Football.

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Another big fee went to Bradford for the signature of off half David Treasure, and Ian Holland the former Orrell and Lancashire R.U. player cost £4,500 from Salford, making his debut against Rovers. Most recent notable signing is that of Lancashire County forward Bob Welding from neighbours Rochdale, for a reported £3,000 after he had been listed at £5,000.

Outgoing in addition to Irving was off half Bob Gaitley, who has moved back to New Hunslet after being signed as a free-agent from the "old" Hunslet and subsequently being listed at £2,500; utility back Tommy Davies has been sold to Leigh, and winger Norman Hodgkinson and forward Ray Hicks who are listed at £2,000 and £500 and are on trial at Widnes and Blackpool respectively. In addition goalkicking centre Phil Larder is listed at £4,500.

Oldham's mid October revival coincided with the return after an employment-enforced absence of scrum half Mick McCone, one of last season's signings from Doncaster, when another important capture was centre Tony Wainwright from Leeds, currently their top try scorer with 14.

Full back Martin Murphy, for whom a £10,000 fee has been quoted, has taken over the captaincy from Terry Clawson, the latter forming a solid front row trio with hooker Taylor and prop Keith Ashcroft or Fred Hall. Kevin Taylor, a former Lancashire and England Under 24 International, has been 10 seasons at Watersheddings, a regular for 8 seasons, and has played over 300 first team games, and is at present sharing a benefit with Mike Elliot. Fred Hall, the former Blackpool player, has proved a popular performer at No. 10 or in the second row. A Testimonial is now being arranged for prop Ken Wilson signed from Gloucester R.U. in 1963, who has also played more than 300 games.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURE LIST 1973/74

1973		Venue	Result	Score	Att.	Receipts
Aug. 17	WidnesH	W	16-13	3,157	£740
25	Featherstone	.....A	L	13-41	—	—
27	Featherstone	.....H	W	25-20	3,187	£750
Sept. 1	Batley (Yorks Cup I)	.....A	L	8-23	—	—
7	Warrington	.....H	D	6-6	2,896	£646
15	Workington (Player's No.6 I)	.....A	L	9-20	—	—
23	Rochdale	.....A	L	15-21	—	—
28	Salford	.....H	L	2-24	2,954	£659
Oct. 5	St. Helens	.....A	L	15-39	—	—
14	Leigh	.....H	W	28-16	3,047	£689
24	Dewsbury (Floodlit Cup I)	.....H	W	28-8	2,912	£942
27	Wigan	.....A	L	3-38	—	—
Nov. 4	Dewsbury	.....H	W	28-7	2,887	£657
7	Australians	.....H	L	9-25	5,150	£1752
10	Leeds	.....A	L	2-35	—	—
25	St. Helens	.....H	L	9-14	3,228	£765
27	Leeds (Floodlit Cup II)	.....H	W	12-10	1,343	£425
Dec. 9	Rochdale	.....H	L	9-13	2,777	£620
11	Widnes (Floodlit Cup Semi-Final)	.....H	L	8-13	1,650	£528
23	CastlefordH	L	15-22	2,228	£500
26	BramleyH	L	14-16	1,901	£413
30	CastlefordA	L	5-45	—	—

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SUNDAYS 7.00 - 10.00

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1974

Jan. 6	OldhamA	W	6-5	—	—
13	WiganH	D	8-8	3,202	£755
20	DewsburyA	L	7-17	—	—
27	WhitehavenH	W	41-0	2,329	£480
Feb. 3	Hull (R.L. Cup I)	.....A	W	13-2	—	—
10	Leeds	.....H	L	6-11	3,710	£935
17	Warrington	.....A	L	7-20	—	—
24	Featherstone (R.L. Cup II)	.....H	L	9-12	7,329	—
Mar. 3	Salford	.....A	L	22-23	—	—
10	Wakefield	.....A	L	9-10	—	—
17	Wakefield	.....H	L	10-17	2,807	£623
24	Oldham	.....H				
30	R.L. Cup (Semi final)	.....			
April 7	Widnes	.....A				
10	Leigh	.....A				
15	Bramley	.....A				
20	Play-off I	.....			
27	Play-off II	.....			
May 4	Play-off, Semi-final (two legs)				
11	R.L. Cup Final				
18	Play-off Final (two legs)				

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ROVERS

Blue and White

- 1—Phil COUPLAND
- 2—Mike STEPHENSON
- 3—Paul LONGSTAFF
- 4—David HALL
- 5—Ged DUNN
- 6—Roger MILLWARD
- 7—Terry HUDSON
/ Brian PINKNEY
- 8—John MILLINGTON
- 9—Ian MADLEY
- 10—Paul ROSE
- 11—Steve WILEY
- 12—Gordon YOUNG
- 13—Joe BROWN
- 14—Terry Hudson
- 15—Roy HOLDSTOCK

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Left Centre
Left Wing
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Hooker
Blind Prop
Second Row
Second Row
Loose Forward

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OLDHAM

Red and White

Coach—Griff JENKINS

- 1—Martin MURPHY
- 2—Eddie BARTON
- 3—Phil LARDER
- 4—Tony WAINWRIGHT
- 5—Ian HOLLAND
- 6—David TREASURE
- 7—Mick McGONE
- 8—Terry CLAWSON
- 9—Kevin TAYLOR
- 10—Fred HALL
- 11—Brian GREGORY
- 12—Bob WELDING
- 13—Tony PETERS
- 14—Mike ELLIOTT
- 15—Keith ASHCROFT

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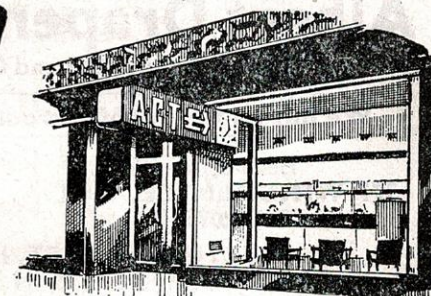
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POINTS TO NOTE

Below we give complete details of our players' first team records to date. To these figures need only be added the statistics from today's game and the remaining away matches to give a complete record for the season.

Our points scoring reflects our disappointing season. Last year Ged Dunn and Phil Lowe scored 53 club tries between them. This season only Roger Millward to date has reached double figures. Nor have there been any really outstanding individual scoring performances in a single match, there being only one hat trick of tries recorded, by Ged Dunn at home to Featherstone. Most goals in a match, six by Millward versus Castleford at Craven Park.

FIRST TEAM PLAYERS' RECORDS (including 17th March, 1974)

1973/74					Aggregate					
A	S	G	T	Pts.	A	S	G	T	Pts.	
21	—	50	10	130	MILLWARD R.	226	3	396	127	1173
18	—	14	2	34	BIRRELL R.	18	—	14	2	34
31	1	—	9	27	DUNN G.	84	3	—	40	120
8	1	13	—	26	DAWSON N.	44	3	27	—	54
28	2	6	4	24	HUDSON T.	93	3	13	19	83
22	1	—	7	21	STEPHENSON M.	209	13	1	98	295
30	—	—	5	15	ROSE P.	84	18	—	13	39
20	—	—	5	15	LONGSTAFF P.	119	7	—	39	117
15	1	—	5	15	LOWE P.	215	9	—	87	261
12	2	5	1	13	HALL D.	37	8	69	2	144
23	—	—	4	12	FLANAGAN P.	404	3	14	53	187
5	6	—	4	12	PINKNEY B.	5	6	—	4	12
22	—	—	3	9	WILEY S.	82	6	—	8	24
20	—	—	3	9	FITZGIBBON A.	20	—	—	3	9
16	1	—	3	9	HICK D.	31	4	—	8	24
4	—	3	1	9	BROWN J.	29	1	11	3	31
4	9	2	1	7	WINDMILL D.	42	13	6	3	21

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18	—	—	2	6	LEIGHTON S.	36	4	—	6	18
12	—	—	2	6	COUPLAND P.	191	3	26	67	253
11	1	—	1	3	MOORE J.	366	18	—	103	309
10	3	—	1	3	HARTLEY S.	38	8	—	12	36
7	2	—	1	3	MADLEY I.	7	2	—	1	3
4	1	—	1	3	NUTTALL S.	4	1	—	1	3
7	5	—	—	—	HOLDSTOCK R.	12	8	—	2	6
7	4	—	—	—	BARNARD E.	25	7	—	3	9
7	2	—	—	—	KIRKPATRICK G.	79	3	—	25	75
6	—	—	—	—	SMITHIES R.	16	—	—	9	27
5	—	—	—	—	HESLOP D.	22	1	—	—	—
4	1	—	—	—	RAMSHAW T.	4	1	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	ROOMS M.	54	5	—	16	48
1	2	—	—	—	BARRACLOUGH L.	1	2	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	YOUNG G.	78	11	—	4	12
1	—	—	—	—	BUNTING A.	231	6	1	68	206
1	—	—	—	—	HOLBROOK E.	1	—	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	SPIVEY M.	—	2	—	—	—
—	1	—	—	—	TRIALIST	—	1	—	—	—

GREAT BRITAIN

LOWE P. 3 app. 2 tries—6 points

MILLWARD R. 1 app. 1 goal, 1 try—5 points

Coaching News

For the first time for many years we are not sending any players to the Rugby League Coaching School at Bisham Abbey. Not that there is to be any neglect of our younger players because there is to be a summer coaching school organised at Craven Park. With so many good young players about it was felt that it would be unfair to single out two or three to attend Bisham, so we intend to run our own Bisham Abbey in Hull. In addition to Colin Hutton, who has been a member of the staff of the coaching schools for a

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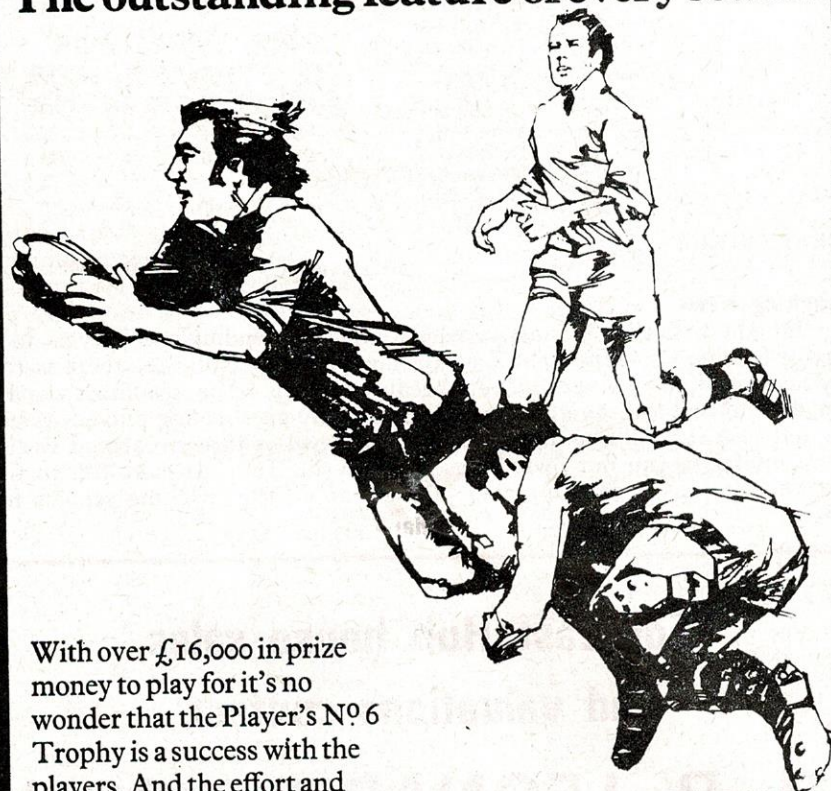
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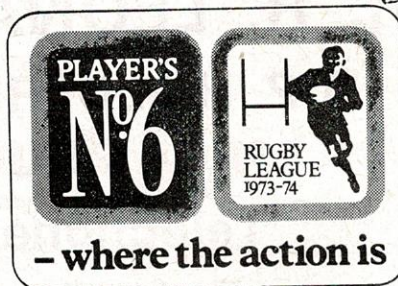
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long time, Arthur Bunting, Ray Speckman and John Moore are also qualified coaches so we are adequately equipped for staff.

The 'A' team and Colts had no games last weekend but seven members of the Colts team played for Yorkshire Under 17's against Lancashire at Keighley. Although they lost by 23-18, all of our players came out of the game with distinction and in fact three of them scored all of Yorkshire's points, Ian Robinson (3) and Billy Townson scoring tries, and Paul Marrow kicking three goals. All have been retained for this week's game against Cumbria at Whitehaven and in addition second row man Bob Bayes has been added to the squad. Captain Mick Smith and prop forward Phil Edmonds are not available for this game as they will be in France this week with the English Schools R.L. team, all of which adds up to a very depleted Colts team for our fixture at York. Nevertheless we are fulfilling our fixture which shows the great depth of interested young players we have.

BUSY EVENING—Wednesday, 27th March, 1974

On Wednesday, 27th March the Colts entertain a French team on Craven Park, kick off 5-45 p.m. The kick off time has been arranged so that the game will not interfere with the Extraordinary Meeting of Shareholders which is to be held in the Stadium Club on the same evening at 7 p.m.

It is anticipated that this meeting will end sufficiently early for members to be able to attend an important function on the same evening.

Wednesday, 27th March sees the last function of John Moore's Benefit Season. A Rugby League and Soccer Film Show will be held at Bailey's night club, arranged by Eddie Waring. Miss Rugby League (this season from Dewsbury) will be there, along with leading sporting personalities. There is also a first class supporting cabaret. Tickets priced 60p are on sale at the ground today.

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Today we welcome our friends from Oldham and invite them to visit us in the Clubhouse before the match.

Before today's match this season's "Player of the Year" will be announced, and a presentation will be made to the winner, and later the trophy and a gift will be presented to the winner at a concert which will be held in the Clubhouse.

All supporters will know that today's match is the last home match of this season, and a lot of people ask me if the club is still open in a summer. Well I hope so! It still opens every night (weekdays and Saturday night 7-30 p.m. Sunday night 7 p.m.) and it also opens for two hours on a Sunday lunch time, so why not pay a visit.

A lot has been written and said about this season, and unless a miracle happens it will be Second Division Rugby at Craven Park next season, and I think the people who suffer most are the supporters who will not see Salford, St. Helens, Leeds etc., next season, which I think could have been avoided if more positive action had been taken. However it is no good crying over spilt milk, and let us hope next season is our last in the Second Division and I would like to wish everybody concerned with Hull Kingston Rovers a very sunny and happy summer and we hope next season to see you all refreshed and ready for action.

Artists, for Sunday—"The Flyaways."

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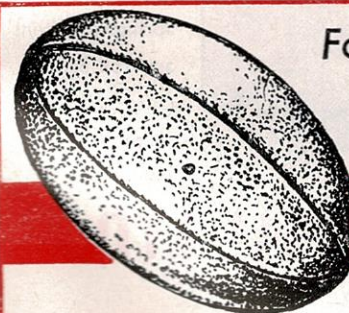
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SUNDAY, MARCH 24th 1974. K.O.3.00p.m.

ROVERS

- v -

OLDHAM

1:	COUPLAND	MURPHY
2:	STEPHENSON	BARTON
3:	LONGSTAFF	LARDER
4:	HAKL	WAINWRIGHT
5:	DUNN	HOLLAND
6:	MILLWARD	TREASURE
7:	HUDSON/PINKNEY	M ^C CONE
8:	MILLINGTON	CLAWSON
9:	MADLEY	TAYLOR
10:	ROSE	HALL
11:	WILEY	GREGORY
12:	YOUNG	WELDING
13:	BROWN	PETERS
14:		ELLIOT
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