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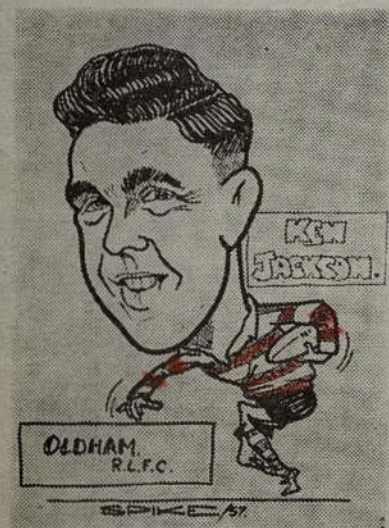
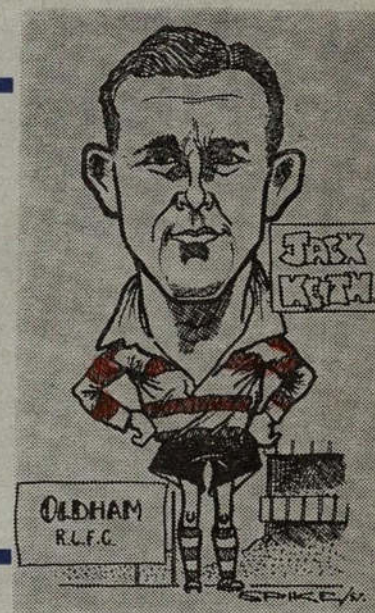
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congratulate



CHARLIE WINSLADE

KEN JACKSON

JACK KEITH

on ten years service with
the Club and thank them
for their loyalty.

May their testimonial be a
deserving success.

CLUB TRIBUTE

This season we are not honouring one, but three players with testimonials in recognition of loyal service to the club.

Therefore, I would appeal to all members and supporters to do their very best to reward these players, who were regulars in the team that, over the past few seasons, won the Lancashire Cup three times; the Lancashire League Championship once; the Rugby League Championship once; finished in the top four three times; and were runners-up for the Lancashire Cup.

During the past few seasons KEN JACKSON, JACK KEITH and CHARLIE WINSLADE have played their part in the team's success. Their popularity with the other players is very evident when one goes amongst them.

To hear the players cheer Jack as the best uncapped hooker in the game, and to query him on how he gets the opposing team mystified by the renowned turn-about from which he has scored so many tries, is real fun.

And to hear Charlie's melodious Welsh voice leading the players in song gives on a feeling of being a member of a large family.

Quiet Ken, "Jacko" to his team-mates, is no singer, nor one for funny antics, but now and again slips in with a sly quip which is well and truly on the target.

All three will leave the mark on the club's records book, and in the hearts and minds of team-mates, training staff and officials.

By all officials, members and supporters their loyalty has been appreciated, their playing abilities applauded; I trust we will take this opportunity of reciprocating by supporting wholeheartedly the many efforts that have been organised on their behalf.

W. HOWARD,

President, O.F.C.

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JACK KEITH

*on ten years service to the
the club. They wish them
well in this, their benefit
year.*

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THEIR CAREERS

I will never forget the very first time I ever saw CHARLIE WINSLADE play for Oldham's first team. He was shocking. And ever since I pronounced the words, "He will never make it," I have been chewing . . . and chewing.

Welshman Charlie made the grade—he more than made it. For me he has been one of the finest ball-playing forwards Oldham have had this side of the war. He has won his way—hands down—into the class of the Bryn Goldswains and Bryn Days.

KEN JACKSON kind of slipped up on the blind side. He rightly hadn't a chance while mighty Harry Ogden was around, but with some solid, slogging, relentless prop-forward play, he has undoubtedly been the best since Harry hung 'em up.

And there is JACK KEITH. I just can't think of another player who has caused so many bitter arguments among the Oldham fans. I don't know of another player in the game with such a consistent hooking record. I am at a loss why Jack didn't get a string of caps.

Oldham can be proud to have had such a happy, industrious ten years from these three lads. Jack Keith has already slipped away to Halifax, but Winslade and Jackson remain at Watersheddings—remain, I hope, to continue keeping the fans happy to watch Oldham.



C. WINSLADE

Charlie Winslade was born on November 21st, 1931, and he lived in Maesteg. He was a tender 17 years old when a couple of Oldham officials invited him to turn to Rugby League in January, 1950. After a lot of thought he bade farewell to certain international honours in the Rugby Union game, packed his bags and came North. The fee was £600. He made his debut for Oldham on October 14th, 1950, against Leigh, the first of 288 games in which he collected 25 tries and two goals.

His first big honour came the following year when he played for the Commonwealth against France. Since then he has played for Wales four times and Great Britain once.

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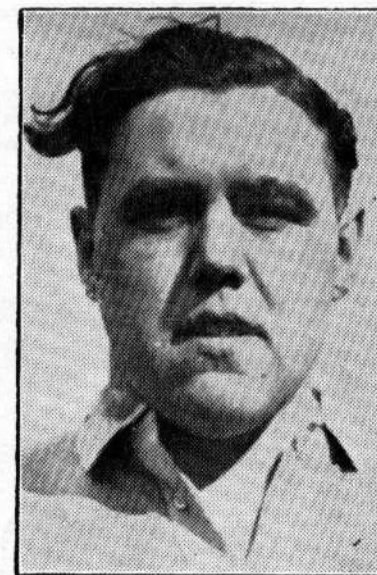
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Ken Jackson, Oldham born and bred, played for local club Waterhead and arrived at Oldham in 1950. He was 21 years old and the club paid him £50 to turn professional. Oldham were by no means desperate for prop-forwards and Ken had to wait his chance for a proper crack at big time football. He made his debut against Warrington in 1950, but he couldn't really call that open side spot his own until season 1953-54.

His playing record is 232 games with the first team and 25 tries. Honours came quickly for Ken and he played for Lancashire against New Zealand in November, 1951. But the next time he donned a representative jersey was in 1957 against France. He toured Australia, was an early casualty and returned home before the main party.



K. JACKSON

Jack Keith cost Oldham a modest £175 when they signed him from a Hunslet junior club in August, 1949. He almost went to Salford. First team fame came quickly to Jack and in October of the same year he made his debut against Wigan. Since then Jack has been one of the biggest talking points of ten years at Watersheddings. Both players and officials throughout the game have often said that Keith has been one of the best uncapped hookers in the game.

No doubt it is one of the big regrets of his career that he has no representative honours behind him. January saw him transferred to Halifax for £1,500 after playing 351 games with Oldham and scoring 64 tries.

BILL DORRAN.

(W.D., Oldham Evening Chronicle).



J. KEITH

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Oh, those palmy days. Team building finished and victory after victory registered—that was the Oldham team during that illustrious season of 1956-57. John Eddy looks in and joins in the happy smiles with Frank Stirrup, Bernard Ganley, Alan Davies and Charlie Winslade. The only cup that evaded Oldham was the Challenge Cup.

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FROM THE SPORTS DESK

A sports editor is, perhaps, one of the most knowledgeable of armchair critics. He can't help being; the simple reason is that all reports on sporting events pass through his hands. He is reading sport all his working life, so obviously his is very much more than a passing knowledge.

It is now easy for me to visualise a game of rugby as played by Oldham. By careful and constant reading, and by listening to tap-room gossip, a picture of any given player builds up rapidly in the mind's eye, so that whenever the chance comes of watching a game, I feel as though I've been watching them regularly.

Certainly that is what I feel about Keith, Jackson and Winslade—three players who belong to Oldham's heydays of the 1950s. I see them half a dozen times a season if I'm lucky, but even from the armchair, instead of the terraces—or the sports desk, as it happens to be—I can commiserate with them on their off-days, and can feel proud of their great games.

Some will say that Rugby League lacks the personalities of former years, but Keith, Jackson and Winslade each have an individual style to remember them by. For instance, I shall always remember with amusement the first try I ever saw Keith score; it was exactly as I had seen it so often described before—"gliding through the defence like a ghost".

And who will ever forget the way Charlie Winslade uses his shoulder—to flatten an opponent in his way—or those one-handed passes flung far and wide to break down the cover defence. Such individualities are familiar to any reader of reports on Oldham's matches, although I must say that you have to be there to see the impact of Winslade's shoulder and the effect of his one-handed pass.

What of Ken Jackson—unyielding and as solid a front-row forward as you could wish for. Keith always seemed to hook better with Ken propping him up, and in the loose Ken is a terror to bring down if he bursts through with the ball.

Possession from the scrums is something you always read about in every report, and in actual figures I would not mind betting that Keith's performances as a hooker will bear comparison with the best. For me at my sports desk, I could argue that Keith was one of the best hookers never to represent Britain.

Jackson was luckier. Good prop-forwards have been at a premium, and he was quite rightly chosen to go on a tour to Australia under Alan Prescott's captaincy.

Which brings me to my final point. Remember, I don't see much Rugby League because I'm at the sports desk on Saturday afternoons, but how many of you will agree that these six forwards could not have been bettered in the middle 1950s—Jackson, Keith, Prescott Little, Winslade, Turner.

HARRY HIRST, Sports Editor,
Oldham Evening Chronicle.

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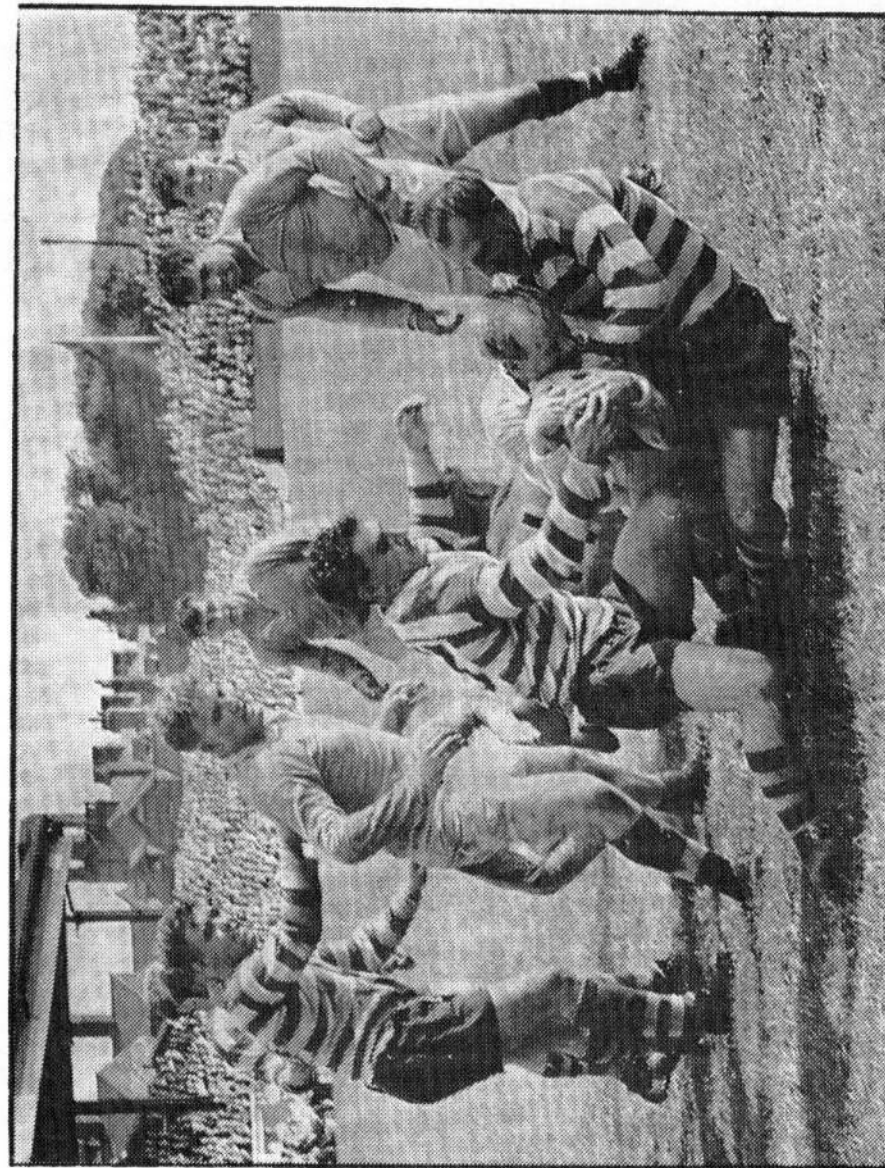
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What's the match? It was played this season and Oldham came home with a 12-12 draw. Yes, that's Billy Banks getting try-stopping treatment from Winslade and Robinson. Ken Jackson has Jack Keith behind him. The game was at Salford.

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TEN YEARS AGO . .

. . . Back to 1949-50. Those were the days when three fine forwards decided that if they were going to make a name in the Rugby League they would at least make a start with Oldham.

Their names—need I remind you . . . Ken Jackson, Jack Keith and Charlie Winslade. It's not my intention to list them in order of merit. I give them in alphabetical order.

Ten years ago . . . back to 1949-50. Come to think of it Oldham were in pretty much the same rut as they are today . . . they wanted forwards then. Flipping through the pages of my record book I find one member of the club committee saying then: "If Oldham's going to go places as a team then we have got to do something about strengthening the pack".

They did, too. First move was to get Bryn Goldswain. The Welsh international forward moved in from Hull K.R. at a £2,000 fee and with a press release rivalling a film star. But Oldham realised no one big star could do all they wanted done to bolster up the sagging pack.

So out went the drag-net . . . around Oldham district and Lancashire junior football . . . into Yorkshire junior leagues . . . and down among the Rugby Union clubs of South Wales.

Forwards . . . forwards . . . forwards was the drum beat. In came a "Jack Keith of Bush Electric, Leeds". Just another of those amateur club players with no big background, but a mighty big yen to make the grade as a professional. And Jack did not take long to get his first "mention". A short report of the Oldham first trial game that season said: "Keith showed up impressively".

Then came Ken Jackson . . . slipping into the club just as unnoticed as if by the back door from local junior football. But Charlie, being a Welshman, got a little more advance publicity. These Welshmen always do.

Ten years ago . . . back to 1949-50. That began Oldham's big climb back . . . a climb that has seen them League champions, Lancashire Cup winners three times on the trot . . . yes, everything bar playing at Wembley in a Challenge Cup final. No need for me to say what parts Ken, Jack and Charlie have played in helping to make Oldham the great team it has been of recent times.

Without such forwards no team of backs could have delighted. Look at Wigan now . . . with all their star backs . . . floundering because they have not got the forwards they need.

Ten years ago . . . back to 1949-50. Oldham needed forwards then. They found them. Let's hope this season of benefits to three fine Oldham players sees the club have the same good luck . . . to find three more long serving, stalwart scrummagers. Just as talented a trio as Ken Jackson, Jack Keith and Charlie Winslade. May they have the benefit they deserve.

JOE HUMPHREYS,
Daily Mirror.



Oldham were not too sure just what was waiting for them when this picture was taken way back in 1953-54 season. But it turned out that the future was going to be very good. Remember this team? Standing: Ganley, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain, Tomlinson. Seated: Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady, Keith, Daley, Pitchford.

BRYN DAY

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OLDHAM DURING THE BIG TROUBLE



Troubled times at Oldham. When this picture was taken in October almost all the Oldham committee had been expelled but the players kept smiling and after a short time the officials came back. On the field of play the fans were wondering: "Is this the end of an era at Watersheddings". Things have not been going so well with the team this season and the hunt for new faces goes on. Standing: C. Bradley, Keith, Jackson, Robinson, Winslade, Goddard, McKeown, H. Goodwin. Seated: F. Stirrup (manager), Southward, Davies, Ganley, Noon, Nestor, Pitchford, Kellett.

DAILY EXPRESS
SUNDAY EXPRESS



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FIVE-STAR PLAYERS

A Lancashire lad, a Yorkshire Tyke and a Welshman—Ken Jackson, Jack Keith and Charlie Winslade. And between them 30 seasons of top-class footballing service for Oldham. I only hope this grand trio are lucky enough to get the bumper joint testimonial they deserve.

Because in my opinion while Oldham and Watersheddings fans have been lucky to have such loyal and five-star footballers to serve them, the three lads themselves have not been blessed with a terrific amount of luck during their playing careers.

Take hard-working Ken Jackson, for instance. Non-stop Ken sweated for seasons before he gained international honours. His selection for the last Australasian tour was well merited.

But poor Ken had played only a few games in Australia before he was injured. He returned from the tour early to get fit for Oldham . . . but that injury jinx dogged him for most of the campaign.

Even this season he's had more bad luck just when it seemed he was running back into the form that made him a Great Britain man. Oldham fans owe him plenty for the entertainment he's given them.

Take "joker" Jack Keith. Every season for the past three years Jack has told me he intended to retire at the end of it. But swivel-hipped Keith has been there again at the start of the next campaign . . . and no-one can say his effectiveness has diminished.

I rate Jack unlucky because he has been operating at a time when good hookers were as plentiful as they are now scarce; unlucky to get only one real representative honour—for a Rugby League XIII.

Now he's gone to do Halifax a bit of good . . . but I know that for a long time to come the boys wearing Oldham's No. 9 jersey are going to be measured by the high Keith standard.

Take Charlie Winslade, the lad who's almost as good a singer as he is a second-rower. Time after time I've seen Charlie give world-beating displays, tipped him for top honours—and he's had a chance or two. But somehow wonderful Winslade has never seemed to live up to that tag when he's had an international run.

Perhaps his mates weren't up to the Oldham class . . . but I reckon it's just one of those things. Some lads play better on the big occasion. I'm sure Charlie has never failed through lack of 80-minute effort.

Until Jack Keith's recent departure he, Jackson and Winslade, were the sole survivors of that mighty Oldham pack—Jackson, Keith, Vines, Winslade, Little and Turner—on which the successes of two and three seasons ago were founded. I only hope Oldhamites don't forget that!

JACK BENTLEY,
Daily Express.

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It was a long drink and no wonder—Oldham hadn't seen the Lancashire Cup in 23 years. Frank Stirrup wastes no time quenching that old thirst. Over on the left are the big three Keith, Winslade and Jackson. Of their performance that day a newspaper report said: "Their performance will go into the rugby history books".

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FORTHRIGHT TYKE

A journalist must be impartial. But take it from me, I am not blushing when I admit that I have always secretly admired Keith, Winslade and Jackson—Oldham's three beneficiaries. It goes without saying that all 10-year men have been loyal servants, and Jack Keith—forthright Tyke, Charlie Winslade—classical Welshman, Ken Jackson—rugged Lancastrian, are no exceptions.

Jack Keith intrigues me. What a character. He fairly oozes confidence and self assurance. I'd say he has had "a couple of bob on himself" more times than any other player. Oh, how I love his type!

The hooker has never existed that Jack couldn't lick. That's his story, and he's sticking to it. What's more—I believe him! In fact, I would like to have been "half in" if any other number nine had ever answered his open challenge to a sprint, because his lightning dart is surprisingly electrifying.

It was a great day for Oldham when he hopefully called in at Watersheddings with former Leeds Test forward "Ginger" Thomas, after unsuccessfully "banging his load" at Salford.

Charlie Winslade—a good big 'un—is probably better known in Northern circles than he is in his native Maesteg. But there is no bigger certainty than that the hefty six-footer would have become a resounding hero of Cardiff Arms Park, and Twickenham, if he hadn't moved North as a raw teenager in 1950. What a line-out star he would have been for Wales.

But surely his greatest regret was playing in the 1958 Headingley tour trial when he was only half fit. I'm sure it cost Charlie the most coveted of all trips, because he has been one of the finest handling second-rowers of the post-war era.

Last, but certainly not least, ever-faithful Ken Jackson. I can still see him playing against Riverina at fruit-growing Leeton in N.S.W. After the very first scrum, gallant Ken was pitifully dragging his numbed leg behind him. His sixth sense must have told him he'd had it.

An early and sorrowful return home for a cartilage operation was haunting him, but his big heart kept him going to the bitter but triumphant end of the only up-country game we ever looked like losing—after Workington's Bill Wookey had been carted off to hospital with a gaping, bleeding forehead.

Oldham can be proud of their local lad. Ken, Jack and Charlie have done a grand job for the club. It is a pity that they have to share a three-man benefit, but I'm sure Oldham fans will make an extra-special effort this time. After all, these are extra-special lads!

PHIL KING,
The People.

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Look for one of Oldham's ten-year men on the field of play and you will almost always find the other two. That's how things were when Oldham were really at the top. This shot was taken against Workington. Charlie Winslade tackles, Ken Jackson covers and Jack Keith prepares to take a hold on the ball. This was going to be Oldham's Challenge Cup year as well. They beat Workington 14-5 in the first round but lost to Leigh. The year—1957.

3 x 10 years =

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THE BIG THREE . .

Just look at this benefit trio: Jack Keith, the jaunty, dry-humoured Yorkshireman; Charlie Winslade, the stand-no-nonsense Welshman; and Ken Jackson, the cheerful, considerate Lancashire lad. Look again, and think of the wonderful service they have given Oldham—even if Keith has “gone over the hill” to Halifax.

It is still hard to think of Keith, who never let his modesty overtake his ability, in any colours but Oldham's. He could always say—“I'm the fastest hooker in the league, including Tommy Harris”—and get few to challenge him. Keith was darned fast.

And it was surprising that more opponents did not take more heed of one Keith characteristic—the nervous trouser-hitching that often preceded one of his renowned breaks from a tap penalty.

Off the field, Keith was no Liberace, but he could play rousing bar-room piano. Perhaps his finest musical moment (how could the Halle have overlooked his talents?) came after a disastrous defeat a few seasons ago.

The team were lined up in the pavilion waiting for the dressing down they clearly deserved. A more crestfallen bunch would have been hard to find.

With almost measured tread, the official inquisition approached. But Keith was faster. Sitting at the piano, he thumped out the opening chords of the “Funeral March”.

End of tension . . . and a much more easy-going discussion of the team's faults.

Long may Keith tackle unsuspecting pianos!

Winslade and Jackson don't seem to be the sort of characters to provide anecdotes. Winslade has a surprisingly sweet Welsh tenor voice . . . if sweet isn't too incongruous an adjective to attach to “Big Charlie”.

Only loss of form at a vital time robbed him of a place in the British Down-Under tour in 1958.

Ken Jackson was luckier; he was chosen. But it was one of the tragedies of the tour that Jackson should be injured early in the series and unable to play again in Australia.

He was an ideal tourist, steady and co-operative. I had the pleasure of covering the tour for the Evening News, and know just how disappointed Jackson was at not being able to play.

But he was never a passenger. Men of Ken Jackson's kind, cheery nature could never be passengers on tour.

JACK McNAMARA,

Manchester Evening News,

Frank Ridgway

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congratulating Jack, Ken and Charlie on ten
years service with the club



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An international incident. This season the Australians came to Watersheddings and it was a very tempestuous meeting. Our picture shows only the legs of Roger Duffy getting keen attention from Aussies Brian Hambly, Ian Walsh, Brian Carlson and Dud Beattie. In there as well is Johnnie Noon and over on the left Ken Jackson is having his only little "party". Australia won but the sporting world wondered.

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ALAN DAVIES comment: "Allan Cave is a real Rugby League expert. His opinion is worth reading."

and FRANK PITCHFORD sums up: "I like Allan Cave's reports because they always bring out some new, unexpected point about the game which sets us talking."

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DAILY HERALD

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League reports

THREE MUSKETEERS

Call them the Three Musketeers of Oldham's best post-war pack. Jack Keith has gone, but he can never be forgotten. He's almost with a neighbouring club, because Halifax, though in Yorkshire, is one of Oldham's shortest match-day trips. Jack is the droll type of guy who keeps the dressing-room alive. He cracks a joke. Nobody listens. So he laughs. He's joked at. He grins. Everybody laughs. Everybody gets on with this Yorkshireman, whose greatest disappointment is that Yorkshire have never picked him. But now that he's playing for a Yorkshire club he might be noticed as a hooker well above the average.

Jack Keith is also considerably above the average as hookers go in loose play. He's got that happy knack of being there when there's a try-scoring effort to finish off. And he's a try-maker, too. Many's the time I've watched him so cheekily sell a tailor-made dummy.

Charlie Winslade is a forward of whom every club would much prefer to be playing on their side than against them. He's so thorough. And what a worker! Charlie has never been rated world-class. He's just missed the big-time. That's because he's been a contemporary with some of the game's really-greats. In that respect, he's been most unfortunate.

Charlie is more than just a tremendous grafter. He makes the openings for others. Sometimes, he goes on, and through. He's also an expert in the backing-up arts. Essentially a team-man in every way, Charlie Winslade is a key man in so many planned Oldham moves.

Ken Jackson, for me, is the strong, silent man of the Oldham team—and of Test sides. He leaves his energies for the field. He is your unobtrusive type who says nowt and gets on with the job. Shufflin' Ken is the very essence of politeness. To see him with a budgie you appreciate his tenderness. He's the genuine guy. Likes so much to get on with the job. And he's done his pushin' and shovin' like a hero for ten seasons, never complaining.

Ken's the very opposite of the rugby "piano-player". He puts all his beef into his game—a treasure to any hooker. Ask Jack Keith. Those two became to Oldham what the Egan-Gee partnership was to Wigan. "Jacko's" work in the loose is out of that ordinary foraging class. He doesn't just bump and bore, or pound and pounce; he goes on until he sees the support; then and only then will he part. And his pass is always that of the cultured forward.

Jackson belongs to the school of props who reckon their work is far from done when they get up from the scrum. And he moves well. He's satisfied the international selectors for long enough. Lucky Oldham to have such a loyal lad.

ALLAN CAVE,
Daily Herald.

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