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OUR VISITORS

Last Saturday, Oldham chalked up their 10th league victory of the season which was also their biggest win. It was a much needed boost to morale and it also included a try scoring debut for Mick McCone, Oldham's trialist from this afternoon's opposition, Doncaster. Twenty-seven years old McCone represented Yorkshire at under 19 level before joining Doncaster, for whom he scored 26 tries in 94 appearances. To score one try and have another disallowed cannot be a bad way with which to begin a career with another club and no doubt McCone will be anxious to impress against his former colleagues today.

It was not until 1951 that Doncaster joined the league and at that time played at the York Road Greyhound Stadium before they moved just over the road to Tatters Field, their present home. Their first game in the Northern Rugby League was a home fixture against Wakefield Trinity, which the Dons managed to win 10-3. Wakefield were also beaten in the return match, and at the season's end Doncaster were in a very satisfactory 11th place in the league. As well as being the highest league placing in the club's history, Doncaster also recorded their highest attendance figure when a crowd of 10,000 witnessed the visit of Bradford Northern. In addition, the club points and goal scoring record was established when former Newport R.U.F.C. and Hunslet full-back, Tyssul Griffiths kicked 89 goals and also scored 3 tries, a total of 189 points. But following this highly satisfactory beginning, Doncaster plunged to the bottom of the league. In 1955 the club suffered their heaviest defeat when Hull trounced them 61-7 and this signalled a five-season spell at the bottom of the table. In those disastrous five seasons Doncaster won only 17 of their 188 league matches. The only bright spot during this spell was that in season 1957/8 Brian Wrigglesworth scored a record number of tries when he registered 17. There has been a slight improvement since, with the club's record attendance at their new home, Tatters Field, being established in 1962 with the 4,793 crowd for the visit of Wakefield Trinity and then in 1965 Doncaster ran up a record score when defeating Batley 43-5.

Although the current Doncaster outfit does not contain any expensive signings, the team is made up of players who give 100% effort for the whole 80 minutes.

Full-back David Towle was signed in April 1965 from Doncaster R.U.F.C. and since then has scored almost 400 points for the Dons, which is more than any other Doncaster player. At present Towle is on the transfer list and, not surprisingly, Doncaster have valued

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him at £3,000. The three-quarter line is made up mainly of local junior signings such as Alan Day and George Pflaster from Rossington Hornets, although 22 years old Kevin Worsley joined Doncaster from Knottingley R.U.F.C. last August. In September Doncaster further strengthened their three-quarters when they signed John Croft and John Simpson, both from Bradford Northern. They made their debuts in the home match against Swinton when the Yorkshiremen were most unlucky to lose 27-10. Doncaster are particularly strong at half-back where Gary Brook and Graham Stocks have impressed in recent weeks. Stocks is another former Bradford player who enjoyed a distinguished career in the junior ranks before turning professional. Whilst playing for Bison Sports and Dewsbury Celtic he represented both Yorkshire and England Amateurs. Stocks moved from Bradford Northern to Doncaster last October and scored a try on his debut at Widnes despite being on the losing side. The Doncaster pack also has local connections with former Rossington Hornets players Gary Joyner, Jack Crabtree and Bernard Kennedy as well as Paul Carlin, a recruit from Doncaster R.U.F.C. In recent games loose-forward Ian Halliwell, the 23 years old former Dewsbury loose-forward has been playing well, so an eye will have to be kept upon him this afternoon.

In league warfare Doncaster are not having a very successful season, for they have only won 4 league matches so far. All four victories have been recorded at home, against Batley (16-3), Blackpool Borough (17-11), Hunslet (16-13) and Rochdale Hornets (12-8). Whilst the victory over Rochdale was particularly satisfying, Doncaster disappointed their followers in the heavy home defeat by Featherstone (30-0) and the away drubbings at Swinton (34-0) and Hunslet (39-0). In cup football, the Dons have given a reasonable account of themselves although, once again, they have met with little success. In the Players Competition a 16-4 first round home defeat by Bramley was followed by a 30-12 defeat by Dewsbury in the subsidiary competition. Wakefield Trinity visited Doncaster in the Rugby League Cup, when after a tough and exciting afternoon Trinity only just scraped through 5-3. No doubt Doncaster's moment of glory this season came in the Yorkshire Cup when a crowd of 1,384 saw mighty Bradford Northern beaten 12-4 thanks to tries from Dick James and Ian Halliwell and three David Towle goals. In round two, eventual winners Hull Kingston Rovers visited Doncaster and the attendance for this game rose to 2,007. Unfortunately it was a rather bad tempered affair which Doncaster lost and in the process both Tony Jeff and Trevor Hardwick were sent off.

Last season when Doncaster visited Watersheddings, Oldham, like today, were expected to record a comfortable victory, especially as the Dons had been beaten 14-10 earlier in the season at Tatters Field. It was Doncaster, however, who looked to be heading for victory as the game reached the closing stages but a late revival from Oldham managed to salvage a 9-9 draw.



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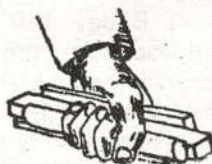
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OLDHAM

(Red/White Jerseys, Blue Shorts)

- 1—MARTIN MURPHY *1 try*
- 2—MIKE ELLIOTT *1 try*
- 3—PHIL LARDER *1 try 7 goals*
- 4—MICK SIDDALL
- 5—NORMAN HODGKINSON *3 tries*
- 6—CLIFF HILL
- 7—MICK MCNE *1 try*
- 8—KEN WILSON
- 9—KEVIN TAYLOR
- 10—FRANK FOSTER
- 11—BOB IRVING *1 try*
- 12—BILL CHURM *1 try*
- 13—JIM REYNOLDS *1 try*

Substitutes

- 14—TOMMY DAVIES *1 try*
- 15—ARTHUR DALEY *1 try*

Referee:
R. APPELYARD
(Leeds)

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Local Sport

DONCASTER

(Royal Blue Jerseys/Gold Band, White Shorts)

- 1—DAVID TOWLE *1 goal*
- 2—MICHAEL DAY
- 3—GEORGE PFLASTER
- 4—DEREK SIMPSON
- 5—TREVOR DENTON
- 6—GARY BROOK *1 try*
- 7—IAN STOCKS *1 try*
- 8—JACK CRABTREE
- 9—MICK BURNS
- 10—MALCOLM YATES
- 11—BRIAN KENNEDY
- 12—BRIAN WILSON
- 13—IAN HALLIWELL

Substitutes:

- 14—KEN RUSHTON
- 15—JOHN PARSONS

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W. Unsworth, Ashton-in-Makerfield

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There must not be a similar slip-up this afternoon if Oldham are to maintain their surge into the top sixteen. A handsome victory is anticipated so that Oldham can approach, with confidence, not only the return match at Doncaster on March 18th, but the very interesting home clash next week against York. Without doubt this match next Saturday brings together the two most improved teams of recent months. Both sides were languishing at the bottom of the table just before Christmas but now it seems as if at least one of them will qualify for the Championship Play-Off.

RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ

1. Only one player has played in all Great Britain's games this season. Who is he ?
2. Clarence Street is which Club's home ground ?
3. When Halifax won the Northern Rugby League Championship in 1964/5, what was their final league placing ?
4. Who are the Wirepullers ?
5. Who was Oldham's leading try scorer last season ?

Oldham Corporation Parks Department BRASS BAND CONTEST

Sunday, 12th March, 1972, commencing 1-30 p.m.
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SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We are holding our Annual Rugby Queen Dance on a Wednesday early in April. This event will take place in the Social Club. The Player of the Year Trophy will also be presented during the evening. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

A Jumble Sale is being held in the Social Club on Tuesday, 11th April at 6-30 p.m. in aid of Supporters Club Funds. If you have any jumble please let us know and we will gladly collect it.

We now have our new-design Blazer Badges available. Orders can be made at the Canteens or in the Social Club Lounge.

ANSWERS TO R.L. QUIZ

1. Clive Sullivan (Hull) is the only ever-present in the Great Britain team.
2. Next week's visitors York play at Clarence Street.
3. In 1964/5, Champions Halifax were placed 7th in the league.
4. Warrington are nicknamed the Wirepullers.
5. Phil Larder was Oldham's leading try scorer last season with 17.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 8	Swinton (Lancs Cup)	A	7—10	
21	Barrow	H	13—13	
25	Swinton	A	2—20	
28	Hunslet	A	13—14	
Sept. 1	Leeds	H	12—16	
8	Wigan	H	7—23	
11	Leeds	A	12—49	
15	Rochdale	A	2—28	
19	Huyton	H	29—9	
24	Widnes	A	19—7	
Oct. 2	Featherstone	H	17—21	
8	Wigan	A	13—28	
16	St. Helens	A	2—50	
23	Blackpool	H	19—24	
30	Widnes	H	13—7	
Nov. 6	Hunslet	H	31—0	
13	Whitehaven (P.C.)	A	0—5	
30	York	A	8—9	
27	Leigh (P.Comp.)	H	5—11	
Dec. 4	St. Helens	H	0—26	
11	Bradford	H	9—13	
18	Bradford	A	14—7	
27	Rochdale	H	9—13	
Jan. 1	Barrow	A	19—9	
8	Swinton	H	7—12	
15	Whitehaven	A	12—9	
22	Featherstone	A	17—14	
29	St. Helens	H	6—8	
Feb. 5	Bramley	H	15—12	
11	Warrington	A	12—15	
26	Blackpool	A	33—0	
Mar. 4	Doncaster	H	44—5	
11	York	H		
18	Doncaster	A		
22	Rochdale	A		
25	Whitehaven	H		
Apr. 1	Huyton	A		
5	Warrington	H		
8	Bramley	A		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 21	Barrow	A	13—9	
28	Swinton	H	7—22	
Sept. 11	Workington	H	17—2	
18	Huyton	A	25—5	
25	Widnes	H	14—5	
Oct. 2	Wigan	A	44—11	
9	Wigan	H		
29	Salford	A	12—20	
Nov. 6	Workington	A		
27	St. Helens	A		
Dec. 18	Salford	H		
27	Rochdale	A		
Jan. 1	Barrow	H		
8	Swinton	A		
22	St. Helens	H		
Feb. 12	Warrington	H		
19	Widnes	A		
Mar. 18	Leigh	H		
Apr. 1	Huyton	H		
3	Warrington	A		
8	Rochdale	H		
15	Leigh	A		

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