

wigan RUGBY LEAGUE world

Official Newspaper of Wigan FC

Number 18
WIGAN v. OLDHAM
Saturday, April 22, 1972 (3p.m.)

Fingers crossed for Ashurst

FINGERS ARE CROSSED that Bill Ashurst might be able to play against Oldham on Saturday.

Our star international was cleared by the specialist last Monday, and has since been training intensely in a bid to get match fit.

He has also continued with heat treatment on the injured knee area but the big problem remains: out of action since his injury at Huddersfield on March 25, can he reach anything like match pitch in just over four days of hard training? That's the problem facing Wigan... and it won't be resolved until just before the kick off. That was the news as we went to press.

Were the Burglars Rugby League fans?

THE THIEVES who forced into Central Park in the early hours of last Monday morning were probably Rugby League fans... how else would they have known that it would be a waste of time to steal hundreds of pounds worth of Cup Final tickets?

In a brown paper parcel in the club office cupboard which they broke open were the tickets which the burglars looked at and then ignored.

They did take £400 in cash from the Social Club, damaged doors and cupboards... but also missed the takings from last Saturday's R.L. Challenge Cup semi-final at the ground, also missed the takings from last Saturday's R.L. Challenge Cup semi-final at the ground.

Club Secretary, Geof Sutcliffe, told the World:

IT IS ALL ABOVE BOARD

WIGAN WERE ONE OF A DOZEN TOP R.L. CLUBS WHO PRIVATELY MET LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE GAME.

This was the meeting which has been described in some circles as 'a move towards rebellion'. Once again we stress to our supporters that it is nothing of the sort.

The leading R.L. clubs are concerned with two problems:

1. The current three-fifths

majority vote rule, which means that the wishes of the successful clubs are more often than not ignored.

'Or, maybe, they just plain missed them'.

Whatever the reason the tickets, still at Central Park because the semi-final was drawn, were safely handed over to Wednesday's replay winners. The tickets were the Cup Finalists' allocation normally handed over to the semi-final winners as soon as they have won.

The intruders came in through the ground, via the Ambulance Room windows. Annoyingly, the Burglar Alarm which is so sensitive that it has had staff out on more than one occasion for false alarms, did not this time respond.

Well then . . . why not?

LIVEN UP the Rugby League image, say the critics. Get the public relations boys working. Take a leaf out of soccer . . . where First Division leaders Derby County have followed up their recent gimmick of ladies bra and pants sporting their Ram mascot . . . by producing a summer bikini set complete with the Ram, worn here by Miss Derby County otherwise known as Pat Wheeldon.



2. The Levy Fund into which clubs pay 15 per cent of their gate receipts for equal distribution among ALL clubs.

All the clubs attending the meetings were concerned about these problems, and were hopeful that a solution could be found at this year's annual meeting.

The clubs are interested only in making their feelings known through official channels. They hope to make progress legitimately, and talk about 'rebellion' and 'breakaway' are both premature and inaccurate. If this were not so, Wigan would not have been there.

As a leading club Wigan must be concerned with what other leading clubs are thinking and doing. That is why we have been represented.

All the leading Rugby League clubs are concerned about the state and condition of the game. They feel that necessary progress is being stifled by the smaller, less progressive clubs who are using the three-fifths voting majority to bar progress. So do we.

Wigan, like most of the other clubs who attended the meeting last week, and the meeting scheduled for Wednesday of this week, are hoping that a solution can be found. If not we hope for a compromise between the opposing factions.

As far as we are concerned, there is no complaint against the Rugby League administration, who can only make decisions within the framework of the present Constitution.

IT IS THAT FRAMEWORK WHICH THE LEADING CLUBS ARE ANGRY ABOUT. AND NOT THE ADMINISTRATION

REPLAY DATE

Should the match against Oldham at Central Park end in a draw the replay will be at Watersheddings, Oldham, next Wednesday (7.30).

Can we get in the act?

THERE WILL BE six further internationals in this country after the end of the World Cup series in France in October and November.

The arrangements are subject to there being satisfactory financial guarantees for the series from the French RL authorities.

Present plans are that Australia will play three matches—one against the RL Challenge Cup winners, the League

runners-up, and one other team, while New Zealand will also play three games—against the League Champions, the Challenge Cup runners-up, and one other team.

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for all
TYRES

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AND PROGRAMME

wigan world

WIGAN RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.

Ground: Central Park, Wigan.

Colours: Cherry and white hooped jerseys, white shorts.

Chairman: N. Bibby. Vice Chairman: W. Wood.

Directors: L. K. Broome, J. Hilton, S. Baxendale, A. E. Walls, H. T. Gostelow, W. Ackers, M. Ryan, E. Ayles.

Finance & Estates Committee: A. E. Walls (Chairman), M. Ryan, W. Ackers, E. Ayles.

Ground & Advertising: W. Wood, H. T. Gostelow, W. Ackers, S. Baxendale, E. Ayles.

Outfitting: J. Hilton (Chairman), W. Wood, E. Ayles.

Development Fund: L. K. Broome (Chairman), H. T. Gostelow, M. Ryan, A. E. Walls.

Council Representative: S. Baxendale.

Lancashire County Representative: H. T. Gostelow.

Secretary: G. Sutcliffe. Assistant Secretary: R. Baker.

Head Groundsman: W. Mitchell; Groundsmen: T. Jackson, F. Green.

Physiotherapist: J. Lawrenson.

First team coach/manager: E. Ashton, M.B.E.

'A' team coach: E. Toohey.

First team skipman: T. Dunne; 'A' team skipman: M. Rourke; 'B' team coach: C. Mitchell; Colts team coach: J. Keane.

WORLD PEOPLE

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WORLD OPINION

ONCE AGAIN it is time to ask our supporters to vote for Wigan's Player of the Year in the poll organised by the Supporters' Association.

This year, especially, we trust every one of our enthusiastic supporters will cast a vote. Handicapped by an injury jinx which has never let them alone the players have battled magnificently to take us to a place in the top four.

The man of your choice, as player of the year, will not only take the honour for himself but for every one of our loyal staff who have done so much despite the scales that were tipped so heavily against them.

RIVERSIDE TALK

Meet Bill, Susan and their two mothers . . .



WIGAN STAR Bill Francis on a busman's holiday recently at Salford R.L.F.C. where he was pictured in the Social Club with his fiancée Susan Millington (left) and his mother Mrs. Gwen Francis on the right. Far right is Susan's mother, Mrs. Winifred Millington.

STRANGE WORKINGS OF RL - OFF THE PITCH

by Harry Brown

RUGBY LEAGUE is still strange to me, a Southerner who loves my adopted north, but who considers this 13-a-side professional rugby is as good an entertainment as you'll find anywhere.

Like all ball players, and ball-game lovers, I find myself at a loss to really understand the finer points, the subtle techniques, of a game I have never played. Which only makes my enthusiasm for R.L. the more surprising, I believe. Rugby Union, for example, leaves me cold.

But I am even more confused by the Rugby League game off the field. How ever anyone allowed the present administrative muddle to come to pass is beyond my imagination.

Background

I do not speak without some knowledge of the inside workings of professional sport. For nearly four years I was employed by the Football League as Public Relations Officer and editor of the magazine *Football League Review*, which I founded as *Soccer Review* and developed over the first 5½ years of its existence.

So I think I may claim to know something of the problems facing the Rugby League game... and I

remain mystified how it is that small clubs with scant support, and even less financial resource, can over-rule the wishes and even the well-being of the larger clubs.

Basically, the problem is in that rule which demands a three-fifths majority vote on any issue. The Football League has a similar restrictive majority but, at least, they do not adopt the principle of one-club-one-vote. If they had to suffer that, all hope for progressive legislation would be muffled by the small clubs as it is in the R.L.

The soccer people do not offer full League status to the 48 clubs in the Third and Fourth Divisions—only Associate membership with a mere four votes between the lot of them.

It means that the bigger 44 clubs in the First and Second Divisions have one vote each, the 48 clubs in the lower two divisions just four votes between them. Even so, the really big fish find some of their aims thwarted, but it is true to say that the Football League balance is about right, that the

legislation is never projected either against either the very big or the very small.

Necessary

Rugby League needs two divisions, with Second Division clubs allowed only Associate Membership, and a collective three or four votes... and then the three-fifths majority bogey would assume far less fierce proportions.

The private club meetings referred to on page one are seeking to implement the two divisions plan, resurrected by the now sacked Marketing Consultants, but their ultimate aim should be to work for a changed Constitution within which the smaller clubs could not block progress necessary for the future prosperity of The League as a whole rather than a section of its clubs.

Within that Constitution the vexed question of the 15 per cent Levy would then, surely, solve itself. The imposition on the bigger clubs with larger wage bills, and administrative costs and overheads, of such a deduction from gate receipts which are tending to diminish anyway, is short-sighted. There can be no argument about that.

A fairer method would be a five or ten per cent deduction, but if the Football League method was adopted then some of



the smaller clubs would go to the wall.

There, if the percentage of the visiting club's share of the gate does not reach £200 then the home club has to make the amount up to that figure.

In R.L. terms that would mean no visiting club would leave after the end of a game without a £50 cheque from their hosts. IMAGINE HOW THAT WOULD SORT OUT THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS...

BLAZER BADGE DESIGN

Wigan Rugby Supporters' Association committee plan to choose the design for their new blazer badge in good time to allow for delivery before the start of next season.

They are still open to receive any designs which supporters might care to submit.

Tired... with good reason

TWO VERY TIRED people this week-end are Wigan Secretary, Geoff Sutcliffe, and his assistant Ruth.

They have worked without a break for several days.

Last week they had advance semi-final ticket sales, and all arrangements to complete for the St. Helens-Warrington Cup match.

A draw meant a repeat performance for Wednesday while, on Thursday, pre-match sales for Friday's Wigan-Oldham match began as soon as the doors were opened at 9 a.m. The print order for the tickets was made on Monday.

In addition there was the week-end's burglary which caused some chaos in the office, where cupboards and desks were broken into and papers disarranged.

And Corporation workmen have been on the ground and forecourt during the past few days laying the new drain. Put in all down one side of the ground, just outside the playing area, the work has caused some damage to the terracing which was renovated in time for the semi-final.

In addition there was tons of gravel on the car park at one stage while the work brought a dust which was an irritant to the staff. And there's more to come.

As Secretary Sutcliffe told us: 'We wouldn't want a week like this too often. Hectic... doesn't describe it'.

TODAY'S REFEREE



TODAY'S REFEREE is Fred Lindop of Huddersfield, whom we are always delighted to welcome to Central Park. We'll never forget how at a certain away game at the start of the season he went out with the groundsman, and a fork, at half-time and dug a brick from just under the surface.

One of the best refs on the circuit, is Mr. Lindop.

WHO WILL BE WIGAN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

SO, WE HAVE COME to the end of another League season, and it's been an exhausting campaign for the Wigan team.

Perhaps they haven't fulfilled the promise they showed last season, but in our view they have done really well considering the number of injuries they have continually had to contend with.

Unless Wigan take the Championship Cup, the only piece of silverware on the sideboard will be the Lancashire Cup, which we won for the 15th time. And now, here is a question for you all: what is the record number of tries scored in a match by a Wigan forward?

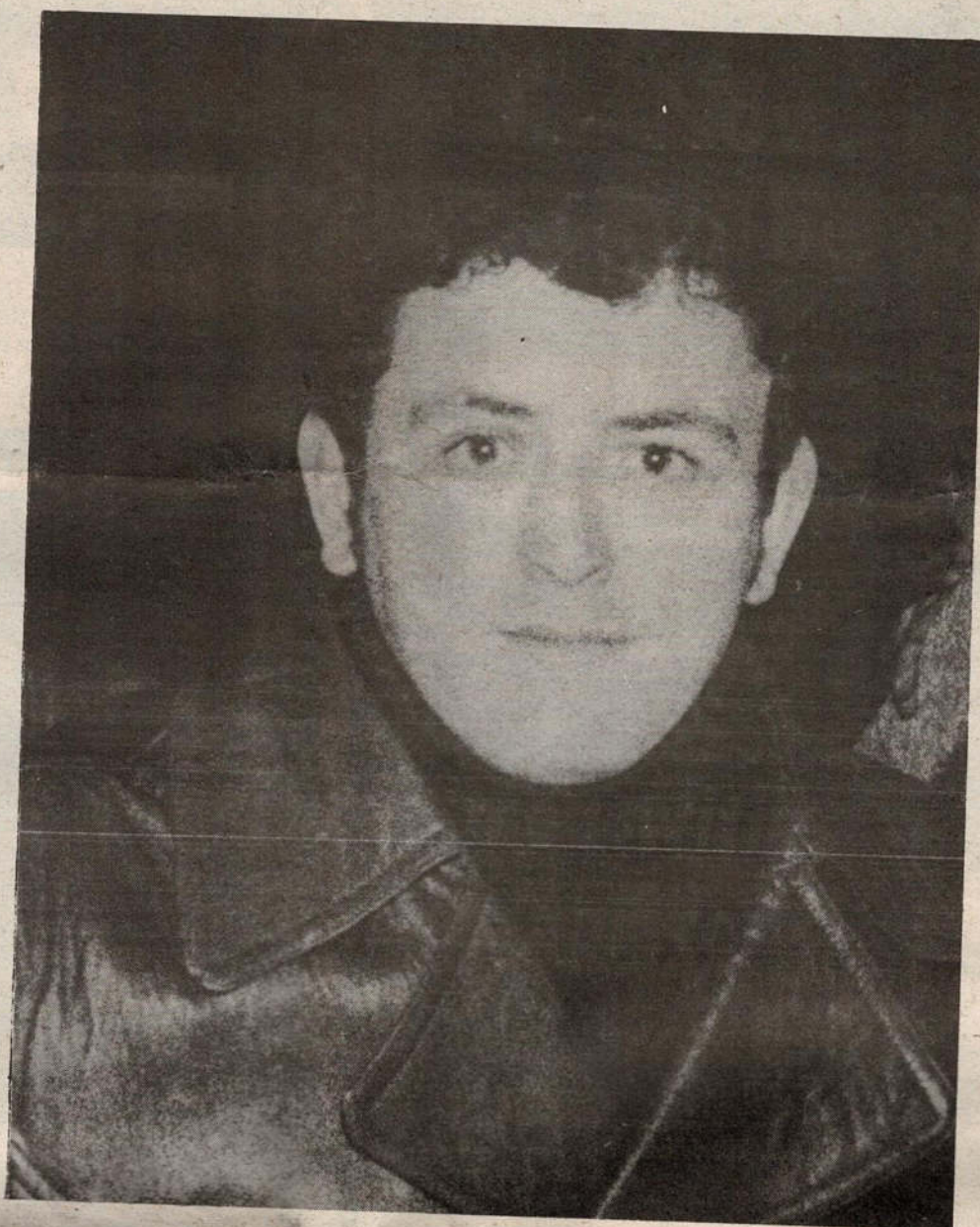
We think it is the four scored against Castleford last week by Eddie Cunningham, but we are not sure. Perhaps you can put us wise? If Eddie's feat is, indeed, a record then well done.

Which brings us round to the fact that it is Player of the Year time again. We do implore all supporters to fill up the form below, and nominate the man whom you think should win the Player of the Year accolade at Wigan.

Week after week the lads have tried might and main to entertain you and, as we have stressed above, almost all of them has had to contend with injury after injury as the jinx kept hitting one and then another.

Despite all this, the team finally made fourth spot in the League table and are now jumping off into a Championship Challenge.

They deserve the votes of everyone who claims to be a Wigan supporter, so please make it a bumper vote this year. And just to remind you... Duggie Laughton has won the honour for the past two years. Whose turn is it this time?



Should signals be banned?

SHOULD THE referee's signal, made when the third tackle has been made, be abolished? That's what Wakefield Trinity will ask the League's annual meeting to approve.

They want the only signal to be that for the scrum after the final tackle.

Wakefield argue that the third tackle signal from referees pre-determined a pattern of play, and was a warning to players that the next passing movement was doomed to end in a scrum unless the ball was kicked.

If the third-tackle signal was abolished, claim Wakefield, players would be likely to forget about any restrictions on the number of tackles.

It would help everyone to get back to that long-forgotten idea that to be tackled was a crime and that the ball should be kept moving.

Fletcher's operation

Geoff Fletcher was admitted to the Christopher Home at Wigan on Monday for an operation to remove a loose, floating bone from the knee.

He was later said to be very comfortable. It is certain that Fletcher will not play again this season.

Can Duggie Laughton make it three times in a row as Wigan Player of the Year, despite his long injury lay-off this season?

WIGAN RUGBY SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION PLAYER OF THE YEAR — CUP AND PRIZE

Here is your chance to voice your opinion

My Wigan Player of the Year is:—

Name of voter _____

Address _____

Tear this form out, or copy it and hand or send to the Supporters' Hut on the forecourt.

**GIVE YOUR TEAM YOUR
SUPPORT HOME
AND AWAY**

BOOK FOR WIGAN'S AWAY MATCHES AT:—

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237 MANCHESTER RD, INCE. Tel. Wigan 43165
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AND AT:—

Green & Co., 187 Manchester Road, Ince
Coupes, 41 Manchester Road, Ince
Ecclestone, 70 Warrington Road, Lower Ince

Three letters: two viewpoints

WHAT A MOANING LOT . . .

WHAT A MOANING LOT are our fans if they do not recognise that *Wigan World* offers the best moneysworth in the League.

Programmes at 3p, 4p and 5p are to be found all over the Rugby League, offering just a few brief notes and a team, plus loads of adverts.

Frankly, I have my *World* on order from the newsagents and I miss it when the team is away. Keep up the good work next season.

Reg Naylor, Manchester Road, Ince.

CURLING ROUND EDGES

I DON'T LIKE the newspaper. I am a collector with over 1,600 programmes including almost every Wigan home and away over the past five years. Already the early issues of *Wigan World* are curling at the edges.

I. Molyneux, Ruskin Avenue, Worsley Mesnes.

SHORT ON MEMORY?

SOME OF your readers have short memories if they can't remember the tiny programmes full of not much we used to get. Keep your paper, but give more 'A' team news, better statistics and don't make silly errors please in your efforts to cram the paper full of great reading.

Season Ticket 20 years (name and address supplied).

Know your game better

Object:

The object of the game shall be to ground the ball in the opponents' in-goal to score tries (see section 5) and to kick the ball over the opponents' cross bar to score goals (see section 5).

Start of Play:

The captains of the two teams shall toss for choice of ends in the presence of the referee. The team of the captain losing the toss shall kick-off to start the game.

Obstruction:

A player who is not holding the ball shall not be tackled or obstructed.

**ORDER YOUR WIGAN WORLD
FROM YOUR NEWSAGENT**

LOOKING AROUND THE LEAGUE WITH DAVE PARKER

Oldham go into their Championship play-off match without their skipper Cliff Hill, a former Central Park favourite. He received a 'Bennetts' fracture of the thumb in a league match with Warrington just over a fortnight ago.

Oldham are prepared to find their Halifax-based centre Mick Siddall employment as an engineering draughtsman in Oldham after he told the club this week he was being made redundant. Also redundant at the same firm in Halifax are Salford's former Great Britain back-row forward Colin Dixon, Laurie Hinchcliffe, Bradford Northern open side prop forward, Stan Kielty, Bradford Northern 'A' team coach and Geoff Crowther, former Oldham, Rochdale Hornets and Salford three-quarter.

Joe Collins, Oldham's centre at the start of their great 1972 revival, has become disgruntled about not being a regular member of the side and has told the club he will not train or play again this season.

Another Oldham centre who was on loan to Huyton, John Mullarkey, who joined the Watersheddings club some three seasons ago from Widnes Junior football, has cabled the club from Australia asking for a clearance. Oldham are to ask £1,000 from any club requiring his services.

Ray French, former St. Helens and Widnes international forward, now a master at the Rugby League-Rugby Union hotbed school, Cowley Grammar School, St. Helens, is taking a party of schoolboys to Argentina in July for a month long

tour. The tour is costing the school £5,500. This figure has been met by collecting waste paper, organising raffles, bring and buy sales and collecting 22,000 coupons off crisp bags.

More trouble for Barrow, who are currently advertising through the national press for a successor to Tom Brophy, is that their Halifax junior centre signing Stuart Shea has returned to Halifax until the club find him a house for his family. Shea has told the club he cannot afford to keep two homes going when the close season comes.

Three Whitehaven players, forwards Dennis Martin and Keith Hunter and winger Alan Sewell, have promised to work throughout the summer on fund raising schemes for their club. Meanwhile the news from the Recreation Ground regarding whether or not the club will start an 'A' team again next season is not too bright according to a leading club official.

Ian Fortis, Doncaster's goalkicking second-row forward who was wanted by Barrow three seasons ago, has opened a supermarket in Cudworth, near Barnsley.

To keep his players in trim during the summer months York coach Gary Cooper plans a series of cricket matches, the proceeds going to local charities. Meanwhile newly appointed club captain Harry Whittaker is working hard on re-fitting out the secretary's office and also the directors boxes.

Dewsbury secretary Tom Clark was seriously injured last Friday evening after his club's splendid away win over Wakefield Trinity. He was backing the team bus on its way to the busy Doncaster Road when a car hit him and sent him spinning across the road. Mr. Clark is now recovering from his injuries, which included a broken pelvis, in the same ward at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, as former Trinity forward Pete Harrison.

Oldham fans may be thinking they have the

chance of watching an exciting Welsh R.U. centre next season by the name of Bleddyn

Williams. But let me let them into a little secret. Bleddyn's father played Rugby League after coming up from the valleys and his uncle is referee Alec Givvons. The Higginshaw junior is currently on trial with the second string.

Frequent visitors to Lawkholme Lane just recently to watch Keighley are Trevor Hockey, Sheffield United midfield star who is recovering from a broken leg and is a native of the town and Miss Joan Hall M.P. for Keighley.

The Rugby League world has its male fanatics who will go to the ends of the earth to watch their team, but if there is a yearly award to the keenest supporter this season then I am sure it would go to an attractive young lady from Hull—Susan Medley.

Twenty-two-years-old Susan set out from her parents farmhouse on the outskirts of Hull at 9 o'clock on Sunday March 26 for Barrow in Furness to watch her ex-boyfriend Jeff Kielty make his amateur international debut for England against France.

Her route took her through Beverley, York, Harrogate, Skipton, Settle, Kirby Lonsdale, Levens Bridge and so on to Craven Park, where she arrived some 45 minutes before the kick-off.

She contacted Barrow officials and vice-chairman Tom Dickinson arranged her an after the match lift to Clapham, near Settle, with former Barrow director Norman Graveson to see that she was well on her way back to Humberside.

Susan, who has had hitch-hiking experience all over Europe, watches Jeff's team, Ace of Clubs, who met Wigan in the first round of the Challenge Cup. She is a regular supporter and was very pleased for winger Jeff earlier in the season when he played two trials with the Salford second string.

Tribute to our back-room boys . . .



WITH THE SEASON now approaching its climax it is surely time we paid tribute to those two stalwart members of the back-room staff at Central Park—physiotherapist John Lawrenson, right in picture above with the great Jim Sullivan, and pictured left below on the team coach with our chief scout Billy Cunliffe whose deft touch looking for potential talent has been such a great asset to the club. Thanks, both.



When Oldham last came



It was last October when Oldham were at Central Park, and were beaten 28-13. Here's a shot as the visitors waited for Tyrer to kick at goal . . . a view we hope to see plenty of in Saturday's Championship play-off game.

SO THIS IS SOCCER'S WAY

LEAGUE FOOTBALL TODAY IS BIG BUSINESS... AND MOST SOCCER CLUBS HAVE GONE VERY SERIOUSLY INTO THE FIELD OF SOUVENIRS AND MEMENTOES.

Some, like present Football League Championship leaders, Derby County, have used the gimmick field highly successfully to attract the girls.

And to fascinate the lads at the same time.

On the right we reproduce the front page of Derby's official newspaper programme *The Ram* of last February 26, when they launched their new bra and pants set complete with their Ram mascot motif.

Scores of sets were sold to women fans and the idea was an instant success. Letters of congratulation poured in and ITV featured the undies as did many magazines.

Now Derby County have timed their onslaught on the summer season when thoughts are usually far away from football. Out comes their Ram-motif bikini set which should remind the menfolk round the beaches of Europe that Derby County will be playing on the Continent next season.

Maybe the image isn't right for Rugby League? We don't know what you think... but we think that Rugby League should try.

IT'S THIS SORT OF PROJECTION WHICH PUTS A CLUB INTO THE HEADLINES. AND KEEPS IT THERE.



Miss Derby County in her Ram bikini.

WHAT'S OUR MASCOT BEEN GETTING UP TO?



Making sheeps eyes, of course . . .

OUR FIERY Ram mascot gets around... you've seen him on our team shirts, on bags, baskets, souvenirs and scarves. He's even on the roof of the main stand.

Now, he's getting bolder... and gone on to ladies' underwear, so that our girl and women supporters can really feel close to the club, if you see what we mean.

Full details of this intriguing Ramtique development: Page 10.

From the front page of Derby County's newspaper.

It set 'em all talking

THE WOMENFOLK AT DERBY LIKED THE UNDIES IDEA AS MUCH AS THE MEN.

Typical of shoals of letters at the Baseball Ground was one from London-based Derby supporter Mrs. D. Hindle of Cavendish Flats, Gilbert Street, London, W1.

She wrote: 'I would be obliged if you'd send me one bra (36 inch, B fitting) and one pair of cutaway briefs in Derby County colours and insignia. As a life-long supporter of the Rams I trust these articles will reciprocate and give me their support.'

And Roger Smith, advertisement manager of

the Derbyshire Advertiser, sketched the cartoon we reproduce on the right. IT SET 'EM ALL TALKING, YOU SEE.



Cartoon follow-up in the same paper

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WIGAN WON FOURTH PLACE BY A MARGINAL POINTS AVERAGE

Now, it was Salford's turn to be pipped

A TOTAL of 65 points against only three in our last two games won Wigan fourth place in the final League table... but only on points average over Salford, and a very narrow average at that.

Look just HOW narrow:

Wigan 702 for, 314 against, Points 50

Average 2.235

Salford 720 for, 335 against, Points 50

Average 2.116

When Wigan ran up 37 points against Castleford and then 28 at Hull K.R. it looked all over bar the shouting, but on Sunday Salford had scored 21 points against Keighley by half time.

They went on to total 35, but Keighley scored 12 in the process, and those points against were enough to swing the average away from Salford and for Wigan. BUT IT WAS CLOSE, SO CLOSE.

Now, if Wigan beat Oldham in the first round play-off, and Salford vanquish Dewsbury, the two clubs will be meeting here at Central Park next week-end.

RUTHLESS WIGAN IN TOP FORM

Wigan 37
Castleford 0

PLAYING AS WELL as at any time this season Wigan completely outclassed a strong Castleford side in the search for League points.

It is a long time since the Cherry-and-Whites showed a zest for the ball, so much fine running and astute backing up, nor such utter ruthlessness whenever opportunity beckoned.

Star of a five-star performance was Eddie Cunningham, whose outstanding return to form was capped by four magnificent tries while Francis kicked five fine goals.

Other tries came from Parr (2), Cramant, Hill and Kevin O'Loughlin.

Wigan: Francis; Whittle, Hill, Kevin O'Loughlin, Kieron O'Loughlin; Davies, Parr; Ashcroft, Clarke, Cramant, Cunningham, Robinson, Laughton. Subs: Ayres, Fletcher.

ONLY THE FINISH MISSING

Hull K.R. 3
Wigan 28

YET ANOTHER on-song performance from Wigan in this last League match of the season—a high class display marred only by the fact that some gilt-edged chances were missed.

Nevertheless, a razor-sharp Wigan side continued in the vein established against Castleford, and produced some scintillating and heart-warming football.

But on this occasion a certain ruthlessness was missing near the line, but could not in any way dim the quality of the rest of the display.

Colin Tyrer was back, and celebrated with five goals and one try, to underline his importance to the team. Tries also came from Kevin O'Loughlin, Cramant and Hill while the latter also scored two drop goals. Parr dropped a goal.

Wigan: Tyrer; Kevin

Back in training

THE NEWS ABOUT CAR ACCIDENT VICTIM CHRIS FULLER IS THAT HE HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION BY HIS DOCTORS TO START LIGHT TRAINING, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO CHANCE THAT HE WILL PLAY AGAIN THIS SEASON.

Chris, who has been to the ground, is now fully recovered physically and

O'Loughlin, Hill, Francis, Kieron O'Loughlin; Davies, Parr; Ashcroft, Clarke, Cramant, Cunningham, Robinson, Laughton. Subs: Ayres, Fletcher.

we hope to see him back to his best form next term.

Steve Burke, seriously injured in the same crash, is still very ill in hospital at Preston but it was heartening to learn this week that he is now making progress.

Every Wigan supporter will wish Steve a full recovery to health and God Speed in his battle to achieve it.

All the goalscoring details too

FIRST TEAM GOAL SCORERS

	Ward	Players	Lancs				
	BBC2	RLCC	Cup	No. 6	Cup	League	Total
Ashcroft	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Ashurst	1	1	4	6	8	36	56
Francis	1	—	—	—	—	20	21
Hill	—	1	—	—	—	4	5
Parr	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Tyrer	12	4	—	10	3	81	112*
	14	6	4	16	11	47	200*

*Tyrer scored two goals in the New Zealand game which have been included in total.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	34	28	2	4	750	325	58
Bradford Northern	34	26	2	6	724	357	54
St. Helens	34	26	1	7	661	297	53
Wigan	34	25	0	9	702	314	50
Salford	34	25	0	9	720	355	50
Swinton	34	23	2	9	554	368	48
Featherstone Rovers	34	23	1	10	632	372	47
Rochdale Hornets	34	21	1	12	429	306	43
Wakefield Trinity	34	21	0	13	587	414	42
Castleford	34	20	1	13	488	368	41
Widnes	34	19	3	12	476	388	41
Dewsbury	34	18	2	14	431	352	38
Oldham	34	18	1	15	573	480	37
Hull K.R.	34	18	0	16	432	498	36
Warrington	34	16	3	15	537	397	35
Leigh	34	17	0	17	421	407	34
Huddersfield	34	17	0	17	394	435	34
Barrow	34	16	2	16	375	508	34
Hull	34	16	0	18	488	495	32
York	34	15	2	17	465	498	32
Halifax	34	14	0	20	398	564	28
Bramley	34	13	0	21	333	542	26
Whitehaven	34	12	0	22	394	523	24
Workington Town	34	11	2	21	303	533	24
Blackpool Borough	34	11	0	23	351	560	22
Keighley	34	8	0	26	330	740	16
Huyton	34	7	1	26	277	610	15
Batley	34	5	2	27	246	628	12
Doncaster	34	5	0	29	234	729	10
Hunslet	34	2	0	32	300	662	4



Three men with 17 tries apiece

Wigan have scored 174 tries in all games this season and top individual scorers, with 17 tries each, are Hill (pictured above), Cunningham and Ayres.

First Team appearances and try scorers

(Up to and including Hull K.R. match on Friday 14th April, 72).

	APP.	BBC2	RLCC	WARD CUP	PLAYERS NO. 6	LANCS. CUP	LEAGUE	TOTAL
ASHCROFT	45						1	1
ASHURST	32		1		5	1	7	15*
AYRES	30				2	3	12	17
BURKE	2						1	1
BURDELL	5							0
CLARKE	41						5	5
CRAMANT	14						2	2
CUNNINGHAM	34			1	1		15	17
DAVIES	14						6	6
EASTHAM	11				1	1	3	5
FLETCHER	36	1	1	1			4	7
FRANCIS	44	2	1			1	7	11
FULLER	32			1	1		9	11
GANDY	12	1					1	2
HILL	47	1			1		15	17
HOGAN	19							0
HOLLINGSWORTH	7						2	2
JONES	2			1				1
LAUGHTON	18	1		1			4	6
MOLYNEUX	3						1	1
O'LOUGHLIN KEIRON	28				1		9	10
O'LOUGHLIN KEVIN	48						7	7
PARR	18						7	7
PARK	1							0
ROBINSON	28						2	2
ROWE	11						1	1
TYRER	31	1					6	7
WHITTLE	6						2	2
WRIGHT	16	1		1		1	6	10*
AND	2						1	1
	637	8	3	6	12	7	136	174*

*ASHURST AND WRIGHT WERE TRY SCORERS AGAINST NEW ZEALAND AND THESE HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL SCORERS.

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Wigan 'A' appearances and try scorers

	APPEARANCES	WARD CUP	LANCS. SHIELD	WIGAN A.R.L.	LEAGUE	TOTAL
Ayres W.	3				1	1
Barrow J.	16		1		2	3
Burke S.	12				7	7
Cain D.	1					-
Coyle B.	1					-
Burdell R. B.	8					-
Eastham P.	11				9	9
Frost A.	5					-
Fuller C.	1					-
Gandy D.	4					-
Herbert T.	9					-
Hogan B.	3				1	1
Hollingsworth T.	19					-
Kollios G.	4					-
Molyneux J.	20		3		3	6
O'Loughlin Keiron	4				1	1
Park A.	23		1	1	4	6
Parr F.	10	1			3	4
Ramsdale B.	14				2	2
Robinson D.	1				2	2
Roden A.	15					-
Rowe P.	1					-
Tyrer C.	1					-
Webb R.	3		1			1
Webster W.	19				1	1
Webster J.	1					-
Whittle J.	16				8	8
A. N. O.	113	1	1	4	17	23
	338	2	2	5	61	75

WIGAN 'A' GOALSCORERS

(For the 1970/72 season)

	WARD CUP	LANCS. SHIELD	WIGAN A.R.L.	LEAGUE	TOTAL
BURKE S.				1	1
EASTHAM P.			1	1	2
GANDY D.			1	1	2
HERBERT T.	3	5		10	18
HOLLINGSWORTH T.				1	1
KOLLIOS G.				2	2
PARR F.	1	1	2	7	11
TYRER C.				4	4
A.N.O.				26	26
	4	6	4	53	67

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'WE'RE THE FITTEST TEAM IN LEAGUE'

AN IN-FORM OLDHAM, WHO FINISHED THEIR LEAGUE PROGRAMME WITH NINE CONSECUTIVE WINS, TO MAKE IT 12 WINS OUT OF 13 MATCHES SINCE THEY WERE IN THE BOTTOM SIX AT YEAR END, WILL PROVE TOUGH TOP 16 OPPONENTS FOR A WIGAN SIDE WHO CAME GOOD AT THE RIGHT TIME TO FINISH IN FOURTH PLACE.

Even though they realise that Wigan have overcome a tremendous injury problem to hit fourth place, Oldham are confident they can upset all calculations and get into the last eight.

From the Watersheddings we were told: 'Oldham are the fittest team in the League'.

Certainly, coach Graham Starkey, the former Rochdale star who is a physical education instructor at a school in that town, has got the Oldham team buzzing.

Their tremendous fitness, allied to a team spirit bar none, has produced fantastic results since the New Year as their record underlines.

And when you add the fact that in four recent games they scored 32 tries to set up a new club post-war record, it is apparent that Wigan will have to reproduce their new-found zest and form to resist the Oldham challenge.

In addition to their enthusiastic approach to fitness and team spirit, Oldham can point to the signing of Frank Foster from Barrow as a watershed in their fortunes.

Their revival coincided with the signing of this Number Ten prop forward at a bargain price of £1,000. His leadership as team captain has been a revelation.

Playing a big part, too, was former Wigan star

Cliff Hill, brother of Dennis, who went to Oldham last year. But he has been out with a broken thumb since the Warrington match, and the Oldham juggernaut hasn't eased up because of it.

Says coach Starkey: 'We flog ourselves in training, and we flog the opposition in a match. We are ready to take on anybody, and even one missing player is no real handicap as whoever is in fits into the team challenge'.

With a team effort like Oldham's it seems invidious to isolate anyone for special comment, but Wigan fans will be looking with great interest at Norman Hodgkinson, the former England Schools' Rugby Union signing from Croydon and Streatham.

He is one of the tallest wingers in the game at 6ft 4ins, and his speed and elusive running has done so much for the team. We tell an intriguing story about Hodgkinson on page two...

Centre Siddall, in his first season as a professional, is also a key man, while Mick McGone—another £1,000

bargain buy, this time from Doncaster—has been a revelation in recent weeks we are told.

So, too, have been forwards Taylor and Wilson, who have played here in the Oldham pack many times.

Ex Great Britain second row, Bob Irving whose current form is said to be on a par with that he showed when he was on the international scene is also in great form.

Oldham come to Central Park in a realistic frame of mind, tinged with optimism. 'We know we have a tough job on', they say, 'but our form over the past three months is proof that Wigan have a tough job on too. Whichever way it goes we are confident that there won't be more than three or four points in it, and the hard facts suggest that those handful of points will be in our favour'.

Wigan coach Eric Ashton stresses that Oldham are bound to be a handful. 'Nobody is playing better than Oldham are at the moment', he points out, 'but Wigan look to be clicking at just the right time.'

'IF WE CAN SHOW THE FORM OF OUR LAST TWO GAMES WE SHOULD JUST HAVE THE EDGE. BUT IT'S GOING TO BE HARD, VERY HARD'.

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22-4-72

SATURDAY LINE-UP

WIGAN 18	WIGAN	OLDHAM 8
1. TYRER	Tries 3 Goals 2	1. MURPHY
2. O'LOUGHLIN		2. ELLIOTT
Kevin		3. LARDER
3. HILL		4. SIDDALL
4. FRANCIS		5. HODGKINSON
5. O'LOUGHLIN	3 tries	6. DAVIES
Kieron		7. McCONE
6. DAVIES	try	8. WILSON
7. PARR	Tries 1 Goals 1	9. TAYLOR
8. ASHCROFT		10. FOSTER
9. CLARKE		11. IRVING
10. CRAMANT		12. CHURM
11. CUNNINGHAM		13. REYNOLDS
12. ROBINSON		14. JACKSON
13. LAUGHTON		15. DALEY
14. AYRES		
15. HOLLINGSWORTH		
ASHURST		
Referee: J. F. Lindop (Huddersfield)		Touch Judges: J. Casey S. Wall

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