

WIGAN WORLD

Volume 2 Number 6
WIGAN v. OLDHAM
Friday, September 29th (7.30)

6p

RUGGED JACKIE SIGNS

RUGGED threequarter Jackie Melling has signed for Wigan just ten years after scout Billy Cunliffe took him as a 16-year-old brilliant junior to Wilderspool.

Jackie and Parry Gordon were the last two players to be signed by Billy for Warrington before he himself returned as scout to Central Park.

Billy said last night: 'I have always had the greatest respect for Jackie Melling as a back who will play as hard as any forward. He gives 100 per cent effort in every game he plays, and that won't go amiss at Wigan at this time.'

Jackie has appeared with the Great Britain Under-24 squad and at one time captained Warrington. He is a solid 11 st 10 lbs, stands 5 ft 9 ins, and has a 'very fair' turn of speed.

At school, Jackie was equally capable at soccer as rugby, and it was due only to Billy Cunliffe's persistence that he signed for Warrington rather than one of the top soccer clubs.

Off-field, Jackie is an electrician and lives with his wife and family at Pemberton.

CASH IN NOW

Fantastic prizes ranging from £100 in cash to luxurious electric blankets are yours for the taking if you're lucky in Wigan Rugby Club's giant Centenary Draw.

Tickets are on sale NOW. You can get them from any Director, at the Social Club, or at the Club offices.

The draw will take place at the special Centenary Dance at the Casino Club, Wigan, on Friday, November 17. A host of top stage stars will be there, as well as the Aussie tourists who are playing at Wigan that night.

Tickets for the dance are now on sale—priced at £1.

One for the record charts—the Hills at number six

IT IS certain that some sort of rugby world record will be set up at Central Park tonight when brothers Dave and Cliff Hill square up to each other as opposing captains — both playing at stand-off for their respective clubs Wigan and Oldham.

Said Wigan Club Secretary Geoff Sutcliffe last night "I have searched through the record books and

sounded out officials and fans' memory-banks. This research shows that such a situation as that between

Dave and Cliff has never come up before.

The road to the Central Park clash tonight between the Hill brothers started out more than ten years ago on the park playing fields at Ashton, near the Hill family home.

Cliff, a couple of years older than Dave, taught his younger brother how to kick, pass, and sell the dummy while both of them were still at junior school.

The elder brother was obviously a first class teacher, because Dave soon graduated to the Newton Rugby Union side as stand-off half, even though soccer was THE game at Ashton

Grammar School where the boys played their shoolday sports.

The Hill brothers were both Wigan supporters from being toddlers — but you can be sure that this won't affect Cliff's powerful leadership of the Oldham men tonight.

Cliff Hill joined Oldham from Wigan in the 1970-71 season. Due to injury he played only nine games then, but last season he had 21 matches and scored six tries.

Cliff's style of play, like that of Dave, is to set up scoring movements for other backs rather than crossing the line consistently himself. And this season Cliff Hill has played a big part in the ten tries notched by Norman Hodgkinson.

So, good luck to both the Hill boys tonight. The battle of the Number Six jerseys is the high spot in both their careers — and it is appropriate that it should happen at Central Park where their Dad brought them from being babes in arms, and where both of them have played so much fine rugby in the past few seasons.

GLAMOUR GIRL RUGBY FAN



Kathleen Winstanley, ex-Miss United Kingdom and Miss Great Britain, is Wigan's Number One Glamour Fan. She says, "I watch Wigan just as often as I can take time off from work." Kathleen is seen here taking delivery of her brand new Daytona Yellow Ford Capri from Mr. Jim Kay, sales manager of Gordon Ford, Wallgate, Wigan.

Says Kathleen, "I must have a fast reliable car both to go to Wigan's matches and to run my firm. I have put 5,000 miles on the clock already, but driving this Capri is a sheer delight."

Among many other business interests, Kathleen is boss of a London-based wholesale ladies' tights distribution company—and her new Capri already just about knows its own way up and down the M6.

Ken Beat World Champ

BRITISH light-heavyweight champ Chris Finnegan failed to beat world title holder Bob Foster this week, but Central Park fans can watch tonight a man who did just that — Oldham prop forward Ken Wilson.

Known in his amateur boxing days as the 'Iron Man', Ken beat Foster in a three-round top amateur bout in France. The world champ reversed the decision when the pair fought a return in this country.

But it was widely reckoned at the time that Ken Wilson could have made a first rate career as a professional boxer.

Instead, he chose rugby league.

Ken did much of his boxing with the Royal Air Force during his national service, and it was as a serviceman that he fought and beat Foster — one of the very few men to achieve that distinction. Ken also fought Brian London.

Ken, a real giant of a man at 15st. 10 lbs. and six feet tall, has been a faithful one club man.

MAYBE
YOU
KNOW
KATH
BETTER
LIKE
THIS
— AS
MISS U.K.



NO-GO FOR DAVID

No-go in Wigan's bid to sign Rugby Union star David Knowles this week.

David, who plays for Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire elected to sign for Wakefield on the grounds that Belle Vue was much nearer his

Keighley home than Central Park.

Wigan officials believed David might well sign here because his firm is based in Lancashire at Great Harwood.

An offer for scrum half Warren Ayres from the Barrow Club is being considered by the Wigan Board.

WANTED A WORLD QUEEN

Your own club newspaper is launching a Miss Wigan World contest, with fabulous prizes of cash, free holidays, and lots of cosmetic and other goodies for the winner and finalists.

The contest final will be judged on personality and looks at the special Wigan Centenary Dance at the Casino in November. If you want to enter, send us your photograph and brief personal details now.

All single and married young ladies up to the age of 30 FROM THE WIGAN AREA are eligible.

Among the judges for the contest will be Wigan and Australian playing stars, and ex-Miss Great Britain and Miss United Kingdom Kathleen Winstanley.

Rush your photo NOW to Wigan World at the Central Park offices, Wigan. It could mean a fabulous free holiday for you.

30p TOO MUCH FOR MEANIES

HOW MEAN can they get? Every home match sees a bunch of penny-pinching free-loaders watching Wigan from the free vantage of the derelict properties behind the now-demolished Douglas stand.

These 'fans' who are too mean to pay the rock bottom admission price of 30p to Central Park risk their necks in every match by perching precariously in the stoned-out bedroom window frames. Others crowd over the railings by the riverside.

Don't these meanies realise that if everyone did just what they're doing there would be no professional rugby at all in Wigan? Perhaps they would feel a little differently if they had to give their own services at work for free.

Last Sunday there were nearly 300 of these miserable misers. Happily, they won't be able to do it much longer, because as reported elsewhere in this issue, work has re-started on re-building the Douglas stand. And that will put the block on the free peep show. The quicker the better!

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wigan world

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

'A' team coach: E. Toohy.

First team skipman: T. Dunne. 'A' team skipman: M. Rourke. Colts team coach: J. Keane.

COACH'S COLUMN

PROBABLY the most famous advertising slogan ever coined—and certainly one of the most successful—was the now ancient but well remembered 'Friday night is Amami night'.

I'm really digging deep into 30-year-old memory archives, so forgive me if it was Thursday when the girls used to stay in and get busy with the Amami shampoos. I'm pretty sure it was Friday, and on that slogan alone was built one of the biggest selling success stories in commercial history.

Without the help now available from TV, commercial radio, or simply leaflets through the letter box, the Amami advertising men were able to convince the girls of the nation that on one night a week, they had to be untouchable in the steamed-up safety of the bathroom as they poured out bottles of shampoo by the million.

It was what you might call one of the first wash day miracles. Those who rule rugby were hoping for a similar play-day miracle with the coming of mass Sunday Rugby League.

It hasn't—unfortunately—worked out that way. Last Sunday's

John Player Cup matches, backed by big money incentives and publicity ballyhoo laid on by the giant tobacco combine, attracted only 25,000 spectators to 11 games.

Yet, a couple of years ago we had 20,000 at Central Park for a Salford Cup-tie replay on a Sunday afternoon.

Wash that gloom right out of our hair

'Ah,' it was said, 'this is the answer to all our prayers. Let's play as many games as possible on a Sunday.'

It was pointed out there was no competition from Grandstand TV, no betting shops open, and no counter-clashes from local top soccer matches. Everything seemed really rosy—in theory, but now in practice the wonder drug of Sunday afternoon games hasn't even started to cure the poorly patient.

Why? Well, I'm not setting myself up to remedy what 30 learned members of the Rugby League Council

have themselves not been able to put right.

But I do believe that there would be much logic in trying to follow the Amami pattern and promote Friday night as Rugby League night. Friday has so much more going for it than might appear at a first casual examination of the problem.

First of all, very many wives have to go out to work these days to keep up a decent standard of living. They go out themselves shopping on a Saturday afternoon, and Sundays are the only full days they can spend with their husbands. So vast numbers of husbands simply are not allowed out on Sunday afternoons AS A REGULAR PRACTICE.

Occasionally, for the very special match, the husband might be let out or might persuade the wife to accompany him to Central Park, or Headingley. More often than not, though Sun-

by Eric Ashton

day's a stay at home, feet up, rest-up day ready for Monday morning back at work.

The atmosphere on a Friday night is completely different, with the whole week-end stretching out gloriously in front of the working man.

Friday night is traditionally Man's Night Out. He works all week for it, and generally is prepared to spend two or three pounds on beer for himself or his chums, or on whatever other sort of entertainment gives him his kicks.

Friday Rugby League could slot very comfortably into this well established pattern. With the kick off at 7.30 p.m., the fans are out of the ground and ready for their accustomed Big Night Out by 9 o'clock. The match costs them probably another 45p on top of their normal expenses, and they just start their few pints an hour or so later than usual—but with plenty to talk about on what has happened at the game.

To establish such a regular, remunerative routine for Rugby League could not be done by waving a magic wand. There would be no instant cure. Falling gates would, I believe, rise slowly but very surely if Friday nights were plugged over an initial

three season period.

Friday nights would help players as much as spectators. Here at Wigan we have not jumped on the Sunday afternoon trolley bus. We have fewer than half a dozen afternoon home fixtures, but many of our away matches are also on a Sunday—and that gives players who have to turn out for work on a Monday very little rest.

In the Wakefield game, for instance, Francis and Tyrer both took knocks which necessitated X-rays on Monday. And that meant a day each off work.

Very often, a player getting a clout on a Friday night has recovered sufficiently by the Monday to be able to go to work as usual.

Just as spectators' habits have changed over the years, so have those of players. If they have to go to work tired, or perhaps bruised as well, on Mondays after a hard, losing game on the Sunday, they begin to wonder 'Is it all worth while?'

It takes a lot of dedication to make the grade in Rugby League, and very often due to present day counter-attractions that dedication just is not there.

In the fifties when I was playing, there were few night clubs as we know them today where

● Cont. on page 8

SAVE IT FOR OPEN MEETING

SUPPORTERS are continually stopping members of the Committee to tell us how they feel about the present situation at Wigan. We would like to stress that the place to voice your opinions is at our meetings. We know the team has completely lost its form, but we must give them our support.

The lads are trying their hardest but things just aren't going their way. Such bad luck must change (and soon) and when it does, we will be back challenging the league leaders.

Our next open meeting will be on Monday, October 23, at 8 p.m. in the Cocktail Bar. You had better come early to make sure of a seat. Everyone is welcome.

We would like to apologise for the long delay in the delivery of our Centenary Year Books. We have been promised that they will be available tonight. They will also be available at Mr. Riding's newsagent's shop in the Market Hall.

First delivery of the Centenary Wall Plaques should also be in stock any time now. Orders for these fabulous hand painted Centenary Wall Plaques are still being taken as well, as for our new blazer badge.

Supporters' Sidelines

by John Hankin

A Centenary Tie has been donated to a raffle being run by the Batley Tanners Club, in aid of the Peter Harrison Testimonial Fund. If anyone wishes to donate anything to this worthwhile cause we would gladly forward it to the appropriate people.

Tickets for the club's Centenary Draw are available from the Supporters Hut or from any of the Committee Members. The prizes will include 1st Prize £100; 2nd Prize £50; 3rd Prize £25 and there are 20 other valuable prizes.

We would like to thank one or two supporters who have handed in their 'old' unwanted programmes at our Hut. All 'old' programmes are welcome—especially Cup Finals, semi-finals, County and international programmes.

Literature is still required by the Association so that we can extend the scope of past Wigan matches in our series 'Do You Remember?' Please

drop them off at our Hut or the Secretary's Office, or give them to any Committee man.

Wigan away: Featherstone — Sunday, October 8, 1972.

Leeds—Saturday, October 14, 1972.

Widnes—Sunday, October 29, 1972.

Tickets and details available from the Supporters' Hut and Secretary's Office.

There have been attacks by vandals on the Supporters' Hut on the forecourt. So we would like to inform those concerned that if anyone is caught there, they will be PROSECUTED.

NOTICE: The New Cherry Red Ties have arrived, you can get them at the Hut or any committee member. PRICE 93p.

In answer to Dave Parker's query last week, Jimmy Young, D.J., once had trials with Wigan RLFC and has returned to watch us once or twice when in town.

WORLD PEOPLE

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TRINITY SEND UP WIGAN CUP HOPES IN PUFF OF SMOKE

IT'S NOT EASY to get up when you're lying on the floor and being jumped on by everyone who comes your way . . . and that's exactly the painful posture in which Wigan find themselves each match day.

Yet, although they didn't quite manage to find their feet before being floored yet again against Wakefield, Wigan were not the lifeless lethargics of the few previous weeks.

There were encouraging signs that the inevitable, long overdue revival is somewhere within shouting distance, although its arrival is being put back by ingrained, inexplicable failures in basic skills. Dropping the ball in possession, tackling round the neck, misfielding and miskicking—these are the now common calamities which must be rooted out from the Wigan repertoire.

They were certainly not apparent in the early stages of the first round John Player Cup-tie. In contrast to their recent slow starts, Wigan shot into instant attacking action.

Speed, skill and intelligent incision cutting Wakefield's defence wide open were all there—for just a few minutes.

Nulty and Tyrer sliced through the Yorkshiremen so swiftly and sweetly that it seemed a fair guess that Wigan's Big Day had at last

dawned. Wakefield were already reeling when Tyrer put Wigan ahead with a penalty shot in front of the posts.

Then, a couple of minutes later, this rosy illusion was intensified as Fuller set off the loudest cheers so far heard at Central Park in this shout-starved season.

Chris intercepted one of Wakefield's wilder passes, and had a straight run to the line over full three-quarters of the field. Possibly because he has missed out on such devastating dashes since the Blackpool game, Fuller showed just a trace of stiffness. But his sprint for the line was a real thrill, and produced the try which might well have set Wigan on the road to a much needed win if it had been converted.

But, in keeping with Wigan's wretched luck, Colin Tyrer had one of his rare off-days at placing the ball

between the posts. Not that the shots he missed were particularly easy, yet Colin has been showing such consistent goal kicking competence recently that they were all well within his reach.

Fox, on the other hand, was dead on target for Wakefield. A welter of penalty awards plus a tearaway try from Barends saw Wakefield suddenly surge in front just before half time.

And once Wigan fell behind, they lost heart. All the worries, woes and weaknesses of the past few weeks flooded up like an awful autumn tide, until towards the end Wakefield were able to run in tries almost at will.

An excellent exception to the general degeneration that set in among Wigan's men was loose forward Dave Robinson. If his whistle-to-whistle effort and enthusiasm had been



Beefy action from Dave Hill and Warren Ayres in the second half of Sunday's Cup-tie against Wakefield.

matched by his playing pals, Wakefield would not now be looking forward to a big fat cheque from the giant smokers' outfit.

Much of Wigan's forward work was necessarily defensive due to a monotonous failure to win possession. This crippled any smooth sequence of attack, and imposed a tiring, tormented, tackling burden on the whole Wigan side.

Just how tiring it all was became more and more apparent until the Yorkshire side finally ran Wigan to a stupefied standstill.

Trinity have always been renowned Cup battlers. The side they brought to Central Park played imaginative, entertaining, and point-productive rugby.

Wigan, in contrast, found it extremely hard going.

But it was not all Black Marks for Wigan this time. Could be that the worst is now over, and the best is yet to come. Wishful thinking? We'll see tonight.

Scorers—Wigan: Tries, Fuller, Robinson; goals, Tyrer (2).

Wakefield: Tries, Wraith (2), Toppliss, Barends, Bonnar, Morgan; goals, Fox (8).

Wigan: Tyrer; Kevin O'Loughlin, Keiran O'Loughlin, Francis, Fuller; Hill, Nulty; Watts, Hollingsworth, Clarke, Ashcroft, Cramant, Robinson. Substitutes: Ayres, Ramsdale.

Wakefield Trinity: Sheard; Crook, Layton, Wraith, Barends; Toppliss, Bonner, Oswald, Hanforth, Lyons, Fox, Spencer, Morgan. Substitutes: Davies, Hunte.



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DAVE ROBINSON is the Jekyll and Hyde of Rugby League. Onfield he is the tough, talented, tearaway, always ready to risk body, bones and blood. Off-field he is the careful, cautious, family and businessman who—to quote his wife—'thinks for a month before he makes a move'.

Sitting in the luxurious lounge of his £10,000 detached home, Dave explained, 'Rugby League is damned hard work, as much as I enjoy it. So the money I've earned at the game hasn't come easily. And it's not going easily either. I think it's up to every player to invest his cash as wisely as he can, because our playing days make up only a short part of a lifetime.'

Words of wisdom from one who has reached the ripe old age of 27. But Dave Robinson is not just a citizens' advice bureau for rugby players. He has put his own canny philosophy into constant practice for more than ten years now, and has the material results to show for it.

Dave's fine new house looks impressive enough on the outside. Inside, he has ripped it apart and rebuilt it until it matches up to his own on and off-field motto, 'Nothing but the best is good enough.'

It was in Sunday morning rugby runabouts with his brothers Brian and Alan on a field near their home in Swinton that little Dave Robinson felt his first oval ball and made his first, hesitant tackles.

They were not hesitant for long. Before he was 12, Dave had won a Manchester Schools District League championship medal with the Moorside Secondary School, Swinton, where he played as a threequarter.

By the time he was in his teens, Dave had filled out to a robust 13 stones, and was playing loose forward for the famous Swinton junior team at Folly Lane, which is now officially sponsored by the Swinton club.

After a couple of years with the junior side, Dave was snapped up by Swinton and immediately took over the first team loose forward spot.

Says Dave, 'My early years at Swinton were great. I had always supported the club almost from being able to walk, and I was the happiest lad in the world when I put on my first full league jersey at Station Road.'

In 1966, Dave was selected for the Great Britain side to tour Australia and New Zealand. He played more than 20 games out there. And it was in the third Test at the Sydney cricket ground that he was knocked out cold for the first time in his playing career.

His wife Kathleen saw it happen—on TV.

She said, 'I saw the British trainer run out on the field to Dave, and knew it must be something serious because he just won't lie down anytime



All aboard baby Joanne Robinson's rocking horse for a happy family trip. Hitching a lift is sister Lynne with mum and Dad Dave holding the bridle.

unless he is really hurt. He was quite unconscious. I had a letter from Dave a day or two later—and he never even mentioned the incident.'

But Dave still remembers clearly exactly what happened. He says, 'One of the Aussies came up behind me and caught me when I wasn't looking. Bang—and I was clobbered senseless. I

made sure I knew who was behind as well as in front of me after that little lesson.'

Dave went out from Wigan club in the 1970 tour, but was injured early on and did not play so many matches. A torn ligament and a broken instep bone caused damage which still gives trouble two years later.

Dave has to wear a specially high instep in both his walking and playing boots since the injury. On the 1970 tour, he had just recovered sufficiently to play in the matches in New Zealand when he broke his hand there and was shunted into the sidings once more.

After he returned from the tour, Dave found himself out of work. He says, 'Most firms just don't want to know rugby players because they realise the men will inevitably have to take time off work for the game.'

'So many players, including myself, have had to play for much of their time with the nagging fear at the back of their minds that their working world is far from a secure one.'

Dave was lucky in being taken on in his trade as a plumber by Eric Ayles, the Wigan director whose firm went into liquidation after he was killed at Central Park.

It was after this that the ultra-careful Dave Robinson decided to go it alone and set up his own business.

Says Kathleen, 'Dave had always said he would like to be his own boss, but he had intended to wait until he retired from playing. But things were different after Mr. Ayles' tragic death. Dave was advised by business friends in Swinton that his "name" coupled with a thorough, life-long knowledge of his trade, would make an excellent launching pad. And they were right.'

'But Dave pondered the whole situation for at least a month before he decided to start up his firm. That caution off-field is quite typical of him.'

Kathleen is her husband's keenest rugby fan. She watches every game she can get to, usually taking along their elder daughter Lynne, who was three this week. Joanne, at 14 months, stays at home with her gran.

Kathleen Robinson has been watching rugby since she was at school. She and Dave were 'just friends' when they attended the same Swinton school, and did not become sweethearts until Kathleen was working in a local bank where Dave went to see about opening an account.

He and Kathleen opened their joint matrimonial account in 1967, and now live with their two daughters in their comfort-plus home in Chelford Drive, Swinton.



Kathleen Robinson and her little daughters have quite a collection of Kaola bears, a kangaroo, and an emu, thanks to Dave's two Big Game trips to Australia and New Zealand.



Going after the big ones. Dave Robinson loads up the boot of his brand new car with his hamper all packed for a day's fishing.

In the garage that Dave has built is a full set of weight training equipment. Says Kathleen, 'Whenever he feels he needs toning up, Dave disappears for hours with the weights, or takes lone runs across the Swinton mosslands. Club training sessions never were enough for Dave. He's a fitness fanatic.'

Happily, Kathleen is able to take over many of the office headaches inevitable in launching any business. She says, 'Our biggest worry so far is getting money in for jobs done, but I don't suppose we're unique in that.'

In the future, Dave sees himself following twin careers in both rugby and large-scale plumbing.

He says, 'Rugby has given me so much, that even when I've finished playing I'd like to put something back in by way of coaching, advising, or anything that can help the game. It's been good to me, and I owe it a lot.'

And there's no doubt that Rugby League owes a lot to Dave Robinson. The £10,000 record fee paid for him by Wigan has been repaid many times over, but if Dave Robinson feels he still has a debt to rugby, then it's an absolute certainty that he will repay it. He's just that sort of man.'

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LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

YORK, led by their skipper Harry Whitaker, spent most of the close season painting and re-fitting out certain parts of the administration quarters under the main stand. The local press announced when they had completed the job, but the following morning the secretary arrived to find the paintwork had been daubed and sprayed with soccer slogans.

However, there is a bright ending to the story, for this week

game, and several rugby personalities regularly call in his hotel en route for either East or West.

Workington have settled their differences with former Hensingham and Wakefield Trinity hooker Myron Bainbridge following an enquiry from Whitehaven. Bainbridge, who considered emigrating to New Zealand last season, is wanted to fill the bill while Howard Allen continues to serve his mammoth suspension.

A BARGAIN at the price! That is what York

their former second row forward Billy Aspinall, injured in the match with Wigan last season, to their scouting staff. Their football chairman, Mr. Ken Riley is hoping to still get a Wigan-Keighley friendly arranged for Aspinall's benefit fund.

BRADFORD Northern's last offer to Barrow was £10,000 cash plus a couple of players currently not in first team favour.

They were given a definite "no" by Huddersfield when they made an approach for centre Billy Pickup. The Fartown board did say, however, they would probably take £9,000 if there were no strings attached.

Oldham talked about this player before they signed Tony Wainwright. In fact he was first mentioned when Ray Clarke

The James Boys head for Rugby League out of their Welsh hills

two 15-year-old boys appeared in court, and were fined just over £300.

YORK are prepared to listen to offers for prop John Edson, who is finding it difficult to come through for training. John is the only Hull-based player on the Minster club's books now. It looks very much as though either Hull or Hull K.R. will have to sign him if he wants to stay a professional.

YORK are hoping that former Great Britain winger Chris Young will be able to make a comeback early next month following a knee operation.

TOMMY HARRIS, former York coach and manager, who is now mine host of the Dick Turpin Inn, York, is finding himself too busy at weekends what with wedding receptions etc, to go and watch a match. But he still keeps in touch with the

are saying about their goalkicking Dewsbury-based centre John Maloney now that they have reduced his fee from £2,500 to £1,500. Maloney, formerly with Hull, is a company director in Dewsbury, and finds travelling for training at York takes too much of his time. He would like a club in the West Riding.

PAUL KELLY, the 20-year-old halfback who joined Leigh last week in exchange for David Eckersley, almost became a Leigh player three seasons ago when he was playing for Warrington junior side Latchford Albion. However, Saints beat them to his signature, and now Paul gets his chance to show his paces at Hilton Park with the first team. His outings at Knowsley Road have been limited.

KEIGHLEY will take £1,500 for St. Helens-based loose forward John Butler, currently on offer at £2,500. Rochdale Hornets, who tried to swap Tony Rogers plus cash for him last month, should now be interested.

THE Lawkholme Lane club have appointed

moved to Huddersfield in July.

TWO JAMES BOYS, Jessie and Frank, could be finding their way into Rugby League in the coming weeks. Halifax are likely to sign this weekend Keith James, out-half from the Newport area, and nephew of Ronnie James, the former Halifax fullback, and Wakefield are likely to replace David Jeanes with the signature of Swansea's prop Mel James.



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opp. Market Square. Car Park

THE possibility of the Great Britain players having to tangle with a professional Maori wrestler in the World Cup has emerged in the last month.

For 31-year-old Mita Mohi is a surprise contender for a place in the New Zealand squad for the trip to France.

With the loss of several stars, who helped beat Great Britain last season, the Kiwis are having to search for fresh international material.

And even though it is 12 years since the 16 stone ring star Mohi made his rugby debut with Canterbury he is now in the reckoning for his first international call up.

Unbeaten in 21 professional wrestling bouts, the powerful Mohi burst into prominence recently when he outplayed experienced Test prop Bob Orchard.

He gave an outstanding performance in helping Canterbury draw 16-16 with Auckland and led his pack in furious fashion.

The determination of the Maori prop is illustrated by the sacrifices he is prepared to make to play rugby.

His transfer in his job as an engine driver took him to Blenheim and now he travels 400 miles each weekend to turn out for his

club in Christchurch.

Even without earning a tour he is now reported to be the most travelled player in his country!

He was on the verge of international selection in 1962 when he represented a New Zealand side and the Maori side against the British tourists.

And three years later he gave a great display only to be overlooked when the selectors preferred Maori props Maunga Emery and Sam Edwards.

I met the likeable Maunga Emery again on the last tour of New Zealand when the British party spent a wonderful evening at the Glenora junior club near Auckland.

IT'S MY VIEW

by Brian Batty
Daily Mail



TWO FALLS, A SUBMISSION OR ONE K.O.

Now Mohi, whose clan are renowned for their toughness and fitness—he runs about five miles a day—is building up his challenge for the tour.

He is in the national Maori side to face Auckland and is also chosen for the

final trial. He can also play hooker as well as prop and he is regarded as a fine utility forward.

If he is chosen for the World Cup then the British players cannot say I have not warned them to swot up on a few wrestling holds and Maori phrases.

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ERIC ASHTON

● Cont. from page 2

a player could live it up into the early hours. I, and many of my playing pals, had to get to the ground by bus, and if we missed the last bus home after training, it meant sometimes a 10 mile walk.

Today, the lads at 17 have more money than we had in our late twenties. So why should

they slave away at training on cold winter nights?

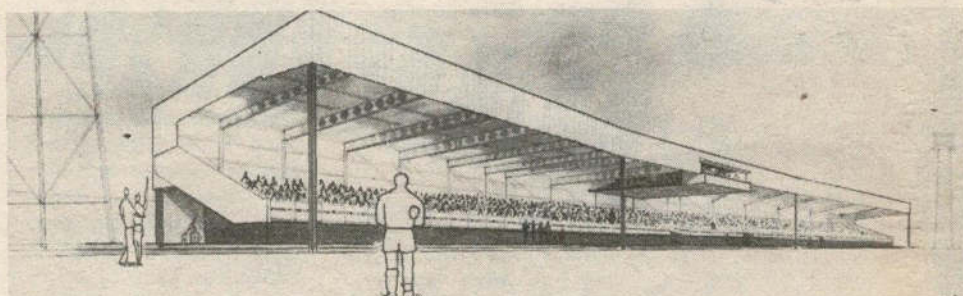
I am sure there are thousands of lads in the North of England alone who would make first class rugby players, if the old incentives were there. They are not, and this is apparent from the stuff put on by seasoned players, never mind the youngsters.

But to get back to my original theme. Last Sunday's matches brought in such mediocre support for a competition richer and

more attractive than ever before, that I am now convinced we should try to stamp this slogan on the minds of our hundreds of thousands of lost fans: FRIDAY NIGHT IS RUGBY NIGHT.

I know some clubs don't have floodlights. In the 1970s, this is the least of our problems. Let's give the Friday nights a fair, three year trial, and not spatter fixtures into a sacrosanct afternoon. It's just not working, so let's drop it.

Pre-view of new £100,000 stand



Work re-started this week for our new Douglas Stand after the long strike lay-off. Completion is due in December.

HIGH SCORING OLDHAM UNBEATEN IN LEAGUE

League front runners Oldham roar into Central Park tonight boasting an unbeaten League record and a magnificent total of 158 points in the season's scoring bag so far.

Oldham's only defeats have been against Salford in the Lancashire County Cup and at Hull in the Players' Number 6 trophy — and both these were hard fought, close matches.

Winger Norman Hodgkinson, 24, is probably the most dangerous man in the whole free-running, free-scoring Oldham side. His handling, speed off the mark, and sheer penetrative ability have come to powerful maturity this season. This is reflected in his try tally of ten.

Norman joined Oldham from Streatham Rugby Union club only last season. He comes from the Macclesfield area, and showed up at Watersheddings for an 'A' team trial only to be thrown in at the deep end by having to play immediately in the first team against Leeds.

Scrum half McCone is

having an exceptionally fine season too, and has shown remarkable speed from the base of the scrum. He works effectively with his partner Cliff Hill, who is of course well known at Central Park.

Bob Irving is another familiar figure for Wigan fans. Bob is now probably at the peak of his career. He has toured Australasia with the Great Britain team, and has played many times for Yorkshire.

Loose forward Jim Reynolds has recovered well from an early season injury to earn a reputation as a man whose work-rate in sheer solid effort throughout

the game equals that of any other player of all time. Jim made 34 first team appearances last season, and is still only 19.

Oldham officials believe that the long term front row partnership between the two Kens, Wilson and Taylor, is something of a Rugby League record. They have certainly developed an almost clairvoyant understanding over the years.

Oldham will be anxious to keep their unbeaten league record to-night, and they are a team who will set about that task by playing the fast, entertaining open rugby at which they excel.

FRIDAY LINE-UP

WIGAN 9

1. ~~TYLER~~ Francis 3 goals
2. ~~O'LOUGHLIN~~ (Keiron) Whittle try
3. MELLING
4. FRANCIS Keiron O'Loughlin
5. FULLER
6. HILL
7. NULTY/AYRES
8. WATTS
9. CLARKE
10. ASHCROFT A.N. Other
11. A.N. OTHER Ashcroft
12. CRAMANT
13. ROBINSON Kevin O'Loughlin
14. Ayres
15. Molgneur

OLDHAM 12

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT try
3. LARDER 3 goals
4. WAINWRIGHT
5. HODGKINSON
6. HILL
7. McCONE
8. WILSON
9. TAYLOR O'Mahoney
10. FOSTER Ashcroft
11. IRVING try
12. MUNRO Owen
13. REYNOLDS
14. DAVIES
15. OWEN Daley

Referee: Mr. W. H. Thompson (Huddersfield)

Touch judges: Mr. F. Beswick and Mr. J. Middlehurst

Your Scorecard

WIGAN

Tries

Whittle

Goals

Francis 3

OLDHAM

Tries

Elliot
Irving

Goals

Larder 3

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DO YOU REMEMBER

A special supporters' series

IN THIS series the Supporters' Association will recall illustrious games of the past, giving teams, scorers, attendances. We trust this will stir up the fans' memories, and we should be glad to hear from supporters on any incidents which have escaped our own memories in these matches.

Also, we particularly want rugby literature of former years, including scrap books, souvenirs,

programmes, all of which we would care for carefully before returning.

This week's match is a game against today's visitors on Saturday, December 5, 1959. K.O. 3 p.m. Wigan 27—Oldham 7. Team line-up as follows:

Wigan: Griffiths, Boston, Ashton, Holden, Sullivan, Bolton, Entwistle, Barton, Wright, Collier, Cherrington, McTigue, Gregory.
Blue and white.

Oldham: Ganley, Southward, Davies, Noon, Nestor, Kellet, Pitchford, Jackson, McIntyre, Goddard, Winslade, Dufty,

Robinson.
Red and white. Blue shorts.

Referee: Mr. T. W. Watkinson (Manchester).
Touch Judges: Mr. G. C. Lunn (Blackpool), tangerine flag; Mr. A. R. Jones (Warrington), pink flag.

Half time score: Wigan 13, Oldham 0.

Score chart: Wigan: tries, Griffiths, Ashton, Holden, Barton, Wright; goals, Griffiths (6).

Oldham: tries, Nestor; goals, Ganley (2).

Attendance: 19,678.
Receipts: £1,894. Scrums: 12—18. Penalties: 9—18.