



SPRINGBOKS SWITCH TO PRO RUGBY

News Exclusive

PROFESSIONAL Rugby League is to be started in South Africa next year.

Two top South African promoters, Mr. Buddy Fuller, of Johannesburg, and Mr. Maurice Smith, of Durban — who put speedway and stock cars on the map in South Africa — are preparing to offer leading Springbok Rugby Union players professional contracts if, as seems likely, next year's South African tour of New Zealand is cancelled.

And even if the tour does take place, the promoters intend to offer contracts to all the tourists on their return.

Tom Van Vollenhoven, the great Flying Dutchman winger, who played at St. Helens for 11 years, told us from South Africa this week, 'I think the time is really ripe for the introduction of the professional code here in South Africa.'

'With the ever increasing isolation of South African sports, there is very little incentive for young Rugby Union players in our country today.'

For years since I returned here to South Africa after my wonderful years in Rugby League, I have been preaching to everyone in authority what a fine, fast open game the professional code can be. I am convinced the public will support this new venture, and I will certainly give whatever help I can by way of coaching or advice.'

Buddy Fuller and his partner have thought long and hard before risking their ample funds into professional rugby. Mr. Fuller is building a multi-million-rand sporting stadium complex at Benoni, which he and his partner plan to establish as the South African HQ. of Rugby League.

Mr. Fuller said this week, 'Pro rugby was tried in South Africa ten years ago. It failed because of the inexperience in sporting promotion of those who backed it, and also because of the international opportunities then available to top Springbok amateurs.'

'And ten years ago,

Springboks had never heard of Peter Hain, or experienced a hostile demo.

'Now all that has changed. There is little likelihood of overseas tours under the present government's policy, and our enquiries show that many players will prefer to earn an extra R200 each month instead of merely enriching their local unions.'

'South Africa is one of the few countries in the rugby world where there is no professionalism, primarily because in the past players have set so much store on winning a Springbok international cap. These are now no longer to be won.'

Speaking to us from Durban, Mr. Maurice Smith said, 'Norman Elliott, chairman of Durban soccer club, beat us to the draw with professional soccer. I'm not going to let this happen with professional rugby.'

We envisage the new league being run on similar lines to South Africa's national professional football league. Everyone said that would collapse at birth, but it has been a terrific success crowned by this week's Cup Final.'

The sports complex where the promoters plan to stage top rugby matches incorporates an ice rink, hot rod track, and a 30,000 seater stadium for athletics and ball games.

Already, since the potential collapse of the New Zealand tour, several prominent Rugby Union players have announced they intend to travel overseas to play professionally. Among them is Springbok star Peter Swanson.

HOW'S THIS FOR ENTERPRISE?

Your club newspaper has appointed its own special correspondent in Johannesburg to keep readers in up-to-the-minute touch with developments in the South African Rugby League scene.

Our correspondent told us yesterday: 'There is terrific interest here in the proposed new Rugby League. I will let your club and its fans know everything that is happening, including the prospects of any stars making the trip to Great Britain to follow in the footsteps of the great Van.'

A sporting poll taken to test out the prospects for professional rugby showed that most South African rugby fans would like to see some opposition to the rich and exclusive rugby unions clubs, who are violently opposed to professionalism.

A top British Rugby League official said last night, 'This could be the start of a big interchange between British and South African professional clubs. I don't think there would be any question of boycotting South African Rugby League tourists.'

'ANYONE WHO TRIED THAT ON NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE GROUNDS WOULD BE IN FOR A VERY TOUGH TIME. WE'RE INTERESTED IN THE GAME ITSELF, NOT POLITICS.'

World Cup Yes Go

Congratulations to club physiotherapist Dennis Wright on being appointed yet again to look after the limbs of the Great Britain team during the World Cup tournament in France.

Dennis came to Watersheddings ten seasons ago. He has been physiotherapist to the Great Britain side 20 times, and has turned down invitations to tour Australia and New Zealand simply because he is too busy in his own private practice.

Volume 1 No 2

OLDHAM v ST. HELENS

Saturday, October 7th, 1972 (3.00 p.m.)

(6p)

Just like Old Trafford

CLUBS VISITING Watersheddings have had many glowing things to say about the condition of the playing pitch.

One captain declared: 'It's like playing on a cricket pitch or a bowling green. The greenery is wonderful.'

Green-fingered gentlemen in charge of the pitch, and responsible for its remarkably healthy state after such a long dry spell, are groundsman Frank Shaw and his assistant Albert Woolley. Both are part-timers.



Crowds everywhere who have watched Oldham this season have marvelled at their fantastic fitness — and here's one of the ways it's achieved. Norman Hodgkinson, Geoffrey Munro and Phil Larder build up their muscle power by Mr. Universe-type weight training.

SELL OUT

WOW! What a wonderful welcome YOU gave to the very first issue of Oldham Rugby League News. It was a SELL-OUT at the ground for the Salford Cup match, and newsagents throughout the Greater Oldham area report 'Sales were terrific—way above anything we have ever seen for a brand new publication.'

A thousand thanks for your warm welcome to the club's own newspaper. You can MAKE SURE you don't suffer the Sold Out disappointment by ordering Oldham Rugby News from your own newsagent NOW.

Iron Ken beat Bob Foster

British light heavy-weight champ Chris Finnegan failed to beat world title holder Bob Foster last week, but Oldham fans will today be watching a man who did just that — their prop forward Ken Wilson.

Fearful throughout the amateur boxing rings of the world as 'The Iron Man', Ken decisively beat Foster in a three round international amateur bout in France. The world champ narrowly reversed the verdict in a return match fought in this country.

Peter Wilson of the Daily Mirror (no relation to Ken), as well as other top national boxing writers, reckoned at the time that Ken could have stepped right into a glittering career as a professional boxer. Instead, Ken chose Rugby League.

The Oldham prop forward did much of his amateur boxing while serving as a Corporal with the Royal

Air Force. As a National Serviceman, he also fought and beat future British heavyweight champion Brian London.

Ken reckons he does not have the explosive, vicious temperament needed to sustain a professional boxing career. He has chosen instead to give his giant 15st. 10lb., six feet tall physique to the equally tough but rarely so vicious world of Rugby League — and Oldham fans are thankful that in their world that he has been a faithful, one club man.

Oldham Rugby League Club

Ground: Watersheddings, Oldham.
Colours: Red and white hooped jerseys, blue shorts.
Chairman: A. Walker.
Vice-chairman: R. Hatton.
Treasurer: R. Hartley.
Committee: J. Bowden, B. Day, J. Higgins, D. Hulme, C. Farnworth, W. Jinks.
Rugby League Council: A. Walker.
Deputy: R. Hatton.
Lancashire County: J. Bowden.
Club Secretary: K. Wilkinson.
Club Doctor: Dr. D. S. Preston.
Physiotherapist: D. Wright.
Coach: G. Starkey.
Promotions Manager: A. Taylor.

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COACH'S COLUMN

WHEN WE WANT to get our bodies fit to do a certain job, particularly in the field of sport, we are wise if we set about the task by going into training. But different sports make very varied demands on the body, so the training must be suited to the particular sport in mind.

Even within individual sports, there are enormous variations. For instance, the long distance runner will concentrate on running many miles, while the sprinter will tune his physique for short explosive bursts. Still in athletics, the shot putter will try to build up enormous bodily strength.

There is one facet, however, which is common to all fitness training... and that is the principle known as 'overloading'.

This may not be a familiar concept, but it is really quite a simple idea. It means that if a rugby player is likely to have to do, say, 20 sprints during a match then by tackling 30 in training, he should be able to cope with the match's 20 without undue fatigue.

Another way of overloading is to set the player a task with a handicap. Again, to run up the terraces 20 times would strengthen a player's legs. But to do it ten times carrying another player would probably strengthen his legs even more.

This is where Weight Training comes in. It is a method of overloading

On the other hand, if you use a weight which is nearly as much as you can lift and repeat this 12 times by four then rest, four then rest, then a last four, you will build up the inherent strength of the muscle being used.

The rugby player, in fact, needs both types of training. And because they are only

end-all of training and achieving fitness. They are, I believe, one of our most productive aids to getting fit and staying that way. Certainly the best I know for building up strength.

The overload principle is the important factor, however it is put to use, and there is certainly nothing new in it. If you sprint as part of your training for any

OVERLOADING: THAT'S THE BASIC IN ALL TRAINING...

the muscles and making them work very hard to achieve a desired effect. There are mainly two ways in which weights can be used. By using a moderate weight, and repeating the exercise 30 times on the theme of ten, then rest, ten then rest, ten then rest, the endurance of the muscles being used is built up enormously.

What really happens is that the muscle builds up its capacity to carry out the task in hand without becoming fatigued.

part-timers, it isn't possible to achieve this to perfection and we have to compromise.

As with most aspects of training, all this seems quite complicated when I write it down. In practise, it is simple.

Weights are not, of course, the be-all-and-

sport, and start to sprint up a slight slope, you are using overloading. If you do press-ups, try them next time with your feet on a chair. Again — overloading.

Finally, with any training, and particularly with weights, you must make sure you are medically fit. And, remember, your weight training must be done under the supervision of a qualified instructor. Otherwise, it is possible to sustain serious injury long before you even get near the rugby field.

SAINTS STATISTICS

Ground: Knowsley Road.
Colours: All white, red 'V'.
Founder members of Rugby League in 1895.
Attendance record: 35,695 v Wigan, 1949-50.
Record victory: 71-15 v Barrow, 1958-59.
Record defeat: 3-78 v Warrington, 1908-09.
Try scoring record: 62 by Tom Van Vollenhoven, 1958-59.
Goal kicking record: 211 by Kel Coslett, 1971-72.
Lancs Championship: 1929-30, 1931-32, 1952-53, 1959-60, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1968-69.
Runners-up: 1953-54, 1955-56, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1960-61, 1967-68.
League Leaders Trophy winners: 1964-65, 1965-66.
Runners-up 1970-71.
BBC-2 Floodlit Cup Winners: 1971-72.
Runners-up 1965-66, 1968-69, 1970-71.
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1926-27, 1953-54, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1967-68, 1968-69.
Runners-up: 1932-33, 1952-53, 1956-57, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1970-71.
Challenge Cup Final Winners: 1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66, 1971-72.
Runners-up: 1896-97, 1914-15, 1929-30, 1952-53.
Championship Winners: 1931-32, 1952-53, 1958-59, 1965-66, 1969-70, 1970-71.
Runners-up: 1964-65, 1966-67.

APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

	Played (including substitute)				Tries Goals Points		
	TOTAL	League	Lancs. Cup	Players Comp.			
M. Murphy	8	7	1	1	3		9
M. Elliott	8	6	1	1	2		4
P. Larder	7	5	1	1	3	30	69
J. Collins	2	2			2		6
N. Hodgkinson	8	6	1	1	10		30
C. Hill	8	6	1	1			
M. McCone	7	5	1	1	1		3
K. Wilson	7	5	1	1	2		6
K. Taylor	8	6	1	1	1		3
F. Foster	8	6	1	1		7	14
R. Irving	8	6	1	1	3		9
G. Munro	8	6	1	1	3		9
B. Churm	5	4	1		1		3
T. Davies	7	5	1	1	4		12
J. Reynolds	5	3	1	1	2		16
C. O'Brien	4	3	1				
K. Ashcroft	3	3					
G. Owen	3	2		1			
A. Wainwright	2	1		1			
S. Bottom	1	1					
M. Sidall	1	1					
J. Blair	1	1					
K. Jackson	1	1					



Grünhülle
Lager

Brewed in the Bavarian Way

LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

BY
TOM WEBB

OLDHAM'S FIRST season was a fair one, and at the end of 1876-7 of 16 games played, seven had been won, six lost and three drawn. Oldham scored seven goals and 18 tries against seven goals and eight tries.

Teams played were Rochdale Hornets second, Birch (Rusholme) second, Manchester Free Wanderers second, Manchester Rovers, Stalybridge, Cheetham Hill, Whitworth Rangers, Bridgewater (at Patricroft), Cheetham, Stretford, Weaste 'A' XV and Cavenish. Oldham left the field at Patricroft, and the result was given as a draw by the 'Athletic News'.

The second team had won six and drawn one of its 12 fixtures, scoring 5 goals and 28 tries to 6 goals and 18 tries. The only opponents met that appear in my records are St. Chad's, Rochdale.

In 1877-8 Oldham's first game was against Wakefield

Trinity, when the result was 'a draw in favour of Oldham', having forced the Trinitarians to touch the ball dead twice without conceding any minor points to the Yorkshire side. Other Yorkshire clubs on the Oldham card were Dewsbury Athletic and Mirfield.

I believe the Dewsbury visit was the first made by a Yorkshire club to Lancashire. Swinton had the better of a draw at the first meeting, and beat Oldham on our own ground at Glodwick.

Junior clubs began to spring up and the concluding match of Oldham's second season was against 20 of the district. Oldham Rangers started in November 1877 and Oldham Hornets later in the same season. The Oldham officials for 1877-8 were R.

Stott, president, W. M. Rye vice-president, Fred Wild secretary, A. M. Fletcher secretary (probably fixture secretary). George Travis treasurer and J. W. Mayall umpire.

In those days each club had an umpire and naturally every decision was contested. The Oldham umpire always decided in favour of Oldham, and the opposing umpire in favour of his own side. Eventually a neutral was appointed to whom the teams could refer, hence the term 'referee.'

The third season started with a game with 20 of the district, and Oldham had 1 goal, 7 tries plus 11 minor points and a 'punt out.' The club was in the top bracket in Lancashire, meeting Manchester, Free Rangers, Broughton (not the Rangers), Swinton and Birch, with Wakefield and Dewsbury again providing fixtures. A match at Walton (Liverpool) was played under electric

light. The last match was the first fifteen against the next 20 Oldham players, who lost heavily. Actually it turned out to be the first fourteen versus the next seventeen after cry-offs had reduced the numbers.

J. B. Rye was selected for Lancashire so the club cancelled its game with Manchester Rangers, so that they could go to the county match. In the game with Birch the opposition walked off the field after a disallowed try. Fletcher had touched down first and Oldham refused to give up the ball so that Birch could have the kick at goal.

In 1879-80 A. Fletcher played for Lancashire, against Cheshire at Whalley Range. In the match against Free Wanderers it was reported that 'Rye for a change donned his county jersey'. The club organised a 'Grand Floral and Art Exhibition' at the Town Hall and Joseph Burgess the Oldham writer and poet composed a poem specially for the occasion.

The name of Joe Platt is perpetuated at the Rugby Ground at Bower Lane, Hollinwood. He joined Oldham on October 16, 1880, soon afterwards becoming club treasurer. Later he became the first secretary of the Northern Union, the formation being largely the work of Joe Platt and two or three other devoted colleagues. The ground was purchased by the British Playing Fields Society about 1911, and is available for the Oldham Junior League, but still owned by the society which is a subsidiary of the Rugby Football League.

When Oldham met Broughton Rangers the opposing team were better known as 'Mrs. Boardman's Boys' from the fact that they played on the ground attached to her public house.

A most amusing report was given of the Oldham v Swinton match. Oldham turned up a man short and J. Whitehead a follower made up the team, borrowing a blue jersey for



Here's Tom after the Wigan match at Central Park.

the occasion. Swinton complained that they kept mistaking him for one of their own players so a handkerchief was tied to his arm, and this proved just as ineffective. After another complaint he had to play 'in his undershirt.'

Season's fixtures and Results SEASON 1972-73

First Team Fixtures

AUGUST

Sat 19—HUDDERSFIELD	25-7	A
Wed 23—WHITEHAVEN (7-30)	30-13	H
Sat 26—WORKINGTON	19-5	H
Mon 28—YORK	32-8	A

SEPTEMBER

Fri 1—SALFORD (Lancs Cup)	17-41	A
Sun 10—HULL	27-2	H
Sun 17—HUYTON	25-13	A
Sat 23—PLAYERS CUP, HULL	10-17	A
Fri 29—WIGAN	9-12	A

OCTOBER

Tue 3—SALFORD (Floodlight Cup)	12-8	H
Sat 7—ST. HELENS		H
Sat 14—WORKINGTON		A
Sun 22—WIDNES		H
Fri 27—SALFORD		A

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—HUDDERSFIELD		H
Sun 12—HUYTON		H
Fri 17—HULL		A
Sat 25—WIGAN		H

DECEMBER

Fri 1—ST. HELENS		A
Sun 10—SALFORD		H
Sun 17—DEWSBURY		A
Sun 24—LEIGH		A
Tues 26—ROCHDALE		A
Sun 31—WARRINGTON		A

JANUARY

Sat 6—WHITEHAVEN		A
Sun 14—YORK		H
Fri 19—BARROW		A
Sat 27—CHALLENGE CUP (1)		

FEBRUARY

Sun 4—LEIGH		A
Sun 11—BLACKPOOL		H
Sat 17—CHALLENGE CUP (2)		
Sun 25—WIDNES		A

MARCH

Sun 4—WARRINGTON		H
Sun 11—BARROW		H
Sun 18—BLACKPOOL		A

APRIL

Sun 1—DEWSBURY		H
Sun 8—SWINTON		H
Sat 21—SWINTON		A
Mon 23—ROCHDALE		H

All home games kick off at 3-0 p.m. unless otherwise stated

'A' Team Fixtures

OCTOBER

Fri 6—ST. HELENS		A
Sat 14—WORKINGTON		H
Fri 20—WIDNES		A
Sat 28—SALFORD		H

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—BARROW		A
Sat 11—HUYTON		A
Sat 18—ROCHDALE		H
Sat 25—WIGAN		A

DECEMBER

Sat 2—ST. HELENS		H
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Fri 8—SALFORD

Sat 16—SWINTON		A
Sat 23—LEIGH		A
Sat 30—WARRINGTON		H

JANUARY

Sat 6—BARROW		H
Sat 20—BARROW		H
Sat 27—SWINTON		H

FEBRUARY

Sat 3—LEIGH		H
Sat 17—ROCHDALE		A
Sat 24—WIDNES		H

MARCH

Sat 3—WARRINGTON		A
Sat 10—BARROW		A
Sat 17—WIGAN		A

APRIL

Sat 7—ROCHDALE		A
Sat 14—WIGAN		H
Sat 21—SWINTON		H



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Coffee time at the Larder home for Phil and his attractive blonde wife Anne.

WHEN VERY MANY Oldham fans are having a Sunday morning snooze in their warm beds, a lone figure can be seen shivering slightly in the morning mists as he tries time after time to kick the ball between the Watersheddings posts.

The Lone Sunday Morning Ranger is Phil Larder, Oldham's centre threequarter goal kicking ace, who believes that only by many hours of practice each week can he achieve and maintain anything like goal kick consistency.

Says Phil: 'I know it's a cliché to say practice makes perfect, but I find that so far as goal kicking is concerned, it is absolutely true.'

Phil is a fantastically fit member of what is generally recognised to be Oldham's fittest side for many seasons. Phil should be fit. He is a physical education instructor at Saddleworth Secondary School, and has a reputation among the lads there for a rare, disciplined enthusiasm for his job which results in the young males of Saddleworth being almost as fit as the slightly older members of Oldham Rugby League side.

Phil was weaned on rugby. His parents, Maurice and Edith Larder, took him to every Oldham home game even as a babe in arms. Says Phil, 'I was lucky. My first clear memories of rugby are of watching Oldham at their amazing match-winning peak in the 1950s. That hooked me for life on the game.'

But at school, Phil had to play soccer. At weekends he played the game he really loved, and at 16 was turning out regularly at rugby union for Broughton Park. At 17, he was reserve for the full Lancashire County side.



Here goes with another of Phil's shots at goal. This is where the results of all those lone practice sessions show up.

After leaving school with three 'A' levels at 18, Phil joined Loughborough teachers' training college. There, he gained his Union County cap, and established a high-scoring wing partnership with Wales and British Lions' star Gerald Davies. Phil also played with Davies for the British Universities.

Says Phil, 'Around this time, there was strong pressure from a certain professional club to sign both Gerald and myself. But this would have involved leaving college, so we decided to stay amateurs for the time being.'

After completing his course at Loughborough, Phil returned North and joined the famous Sale side. Oldham scouts saw him give a wonderful performance against the equally famous Coventry, and signed him after the match.

Now 25, Phil is a big, talented centre, whose 5 ft. 11½ ins. and 12 st 12 lb enable him to ride out some of the punishing storms that come his way in professional rugby. He would like to see Oldham regain the glories he worshipped as a youngster, and would particularly like to see them oust Leeds or St. Helens as the accepted top notchers in the game.

Says Phil, 'If Oldham could pull that off by consistent winning results achieved with fast, open, play, then I should be delighted. My other great ambition in the game is to play at Wembley.'

But in his profession, Phil sees only too well some of the root problems facing rugby. He says, 'Everyone acknowledges the loss of popularity of the game, but few can put their fingers on any one single major cause. In my opinion, the biggest factor is the poor promotion of the game in schools, and the general lack of provision for school leavers to carry on with the game.'

'Schools' rugby in Oldham, like any other town today has numerous problems. Many of these could be overcome by a consistent closer liaison with the senior club in the area, and by more direct guidance and actual help from Rugby League headquarters.'

Obviously, Phil thinks carefully about the game he plays so well. He says he often discusses its problems with his wife Anne. They have been married four years.

They both like to play golf, and water ski in the odd moments they are not fully occupied with the more serious matter of Rugby League, but Phil's current biggest worry is that an injured toe is interfering with his goal kicking practice.

One final point from Phil. He agrees with several other Oldham lads who think that time keeping should be left to the referee, and not the 'hooter shooter'. Says Phil, 'The game at Wigan convinced us all of this. A hooter is just out of place in a rugby match. It may be all right in the Icelandic fishing dispute, but not on a rugby field.'

All for the Good of the Game!

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PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS



Keep away! That's the message Phil Larder hands out as he shoves away a mud-bespattered defender.

YO-HO, THIS WAS DELICIOUS TORMENT

Oldham 12pts
Salford 8pts

IT'S ONE THING to win a few run-of-the-mill League games and find yourself surprised and pleasantly bewildered right at the top of the Rugby League. It's a different dish of fish altogether to come up against a team of cup-fighting giants who are determined to chop you down to what they and many others regard as a more realistically humble station in the sporting strata.

But Oldham showed 'em on Tuesday night that it was no accident they were riding high at the top of the League. There's no doubt that

Salford put up the fiercest challenge yet to Oldham's roller-coaster ride on the happy pleasure park of success, but that challenge was met, matched and mockingly thrown back into Salford's fallen faces.

At the end of the game, hundreds of schoolboys raced on to the field to mob their Oldham heroes. What an answer this was to those who say the game has no appeal for the youngsters of today.

If it is played as Oldham are playing it at the moment, presented and produced on the lines of a Saturday night TV spectacular—as the Oldham Board and officials try to do with every match—then there is no doubt that Rugby League will pull back its lost legions. Certainly, this first round thriller of the Floodlit Club gave the hundreds showing up at Watersheddings for the first time in years a sensational Night to Remember.

There was a mile margin between Oldham's ability to turn on talented, free-running and spectacular football and Salford's grey-shaded, grimly taut type of play. The score lines alone declare this all too clearly. All Salford could manage were goals. Oldham flashed in two fine tries—which is what the game is all about—as well as landing three goals.

Among the visiting

VIPs was Bradford Northern's Rugby League council member Mr. Harry Womersley. He exclaimed: 'What a fantastic side you have at Oldham now. I've seen a real battle of the giants here tonight, and on this performance I don't know who is going to beat Oldham. They have been truly brilliant.'

Harry's testimonial was unsolicited and certainly unbiased. It was no more or less than the truth. Even in the final crucial moments, when a converted try could have snatched Salford from tumbling out of the Cup. Oldham never once shut up shop and kept the ball tightly defensive. It was go, go, go for the Salford line right until the blaring Klaxon hooter put an end to the delicious torment.

Oldham's dominance was based on a complete forward mastery. Irving, Daley and Reynolds had much too much beefy speed for Salford, while Wilson, Taylor and Ashcroft showed the penetrating power of flying threequarters as well as the heavyweight skills of their up-front routine rampaging.

The all-important lead was taken by Oldham in six minutes—and they never lost it. In *Oldham Rugby News* last issue we gave a warm welcome to 'Trier Tony Wainwright'. It was an apt description. He laid on a magnificent try against Salford, and never stopped trying to add more in this wonderful debut before the

Watersheddings fans.

Tony made a swift break, slipped the ball to wingman Norman Hodgkinson, who sent McCone inside for a 20 yard dash to the line.

Phil Larder found his top goal kicking form for the big occasion and put two over in the first half, plus a really vital match clinching kick late in the second. Obviously, Phil's lone Sunday practising stints are paying off.

Oldham's second half try from Norman Hodgkinson was a scorcher. Murphy had



NORMAN HODGKINSON in contemplative mood at Central Park the other evening. Norman really ran into form with his fine try against Salford in the Floodlit Cup.

split Salford down the middle with a viciously spinning, but cleverly placed kick. It landed inches from the corner flag, and Norman blazed down the wing to meet it. A

wonderful effort that had the crowd standing and cheering in delight.

Martin Murphy was up with the attack throughout. He was the launching pad from which many of Oldham's attacking rockets blasted off, but also showed a cool, safe, pair of hands in defence.

McCone and Cliff Hill had by far the better of the half back duel with Banner and Gill, and set up constant, fast penetrations from the base of the scrum. Elliott did not manage to score, but had a work ration of something in the region 1,000 per cent.

NO LONGER CAN IT BE SAID OF OLDHAM: 'WELL, THEY'VE NOT BEATEN ANYBODY BIG YET.' MAKE NO MISTAKE, SALFORD WERE REAL BIG BOYS. BUT THEY TOOK A WHIPPING LIKE SO MANY ERRING SCHOOLBOYS. AND AS A SALFORD DIRECTOR ASKED AFTER THE MATCH, 'NOW THEN, WHO IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO BEAT OLDHAM ON THIS FORM?' WHO INDEED?

OLDHAM: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Wainwright, Hodgkinson; Hill, McCone; Wilson, Taylor, Ashcroft, Irving, Daley, Reynolds. Subs: Davies, Munro.

SALFORD: Charlton; Colloby, Watkins, Hesketh, Richards; Gill, Banner; Ramshaw, Walker, Ward, Kirkbride, Davies, Dixon. Subs: Prosser, Whitehead. Attendance: 4,507.

Graham made 'em sick...

CLUB COACH Graham Starkey gave a tough going over to the 'B' team lads recently, and at the end of the training night four of them had to dash out to be sick!

Said one of them 'We didn't know what hard training really was until Graham set about us...'

So far some 30 local youngsters have responded to the club's call for recruits. Many arrived so late after the season's start that it has not yet been possible to establish a regular 'B' team squad, but spade-work is well under way.

One incentive given to the lads is that they qualify for the special 'B' team blazer badge after six match appearances. And in Oldham's coffee bars and dance halls, this badge is highly regarded as a 'bird-puller.'

But on a more sober note, the 'B' team youngsters have been having their injury problems. Fred Roykes broke a leg, Roy Lines a cheek bone, and captain Steven Whitmore who has played for the reserve side, cracked a bone in the hand. Bill Byron has a torn ligament, and Pete Connell a badly bruised shoulder.

QUICK QUIZ

QUESTIONS

1. Oldham's win over Wigan last weekend was the first at Central Park since 1966-67. What was the score on that occasion?
2. Who are the Minster Men?
3. What were the results of the Oldham-Saint Helens League meetings last season?
4. Which clubs ground is called Craven Park?
5. The 1915 Northern Union Cup Final was staged at Watersheddings—what was the score in this match?

ANSWERS

1. Wigan 8 Oldham 20
2. York
3. Oldham 0 Saint Helens 28
4. Both Barrow and Hull
5. Huddersfield 37 Saint Helens 3

THE 'B' BREAK THEIR DUCK...

Oldham 'B' 9
Rochdale 2

OLDHAM WERE looking for their first win in the newly formed Under-18s League, having lost against Salford, St. Helens and Wigan. These three were well established in this age group, but Rochdale like Oldham were newcomers.

Malloy and Smethurst

made fine breaks early on, and Rochdale were penned up in their own half for long periods. But on a rare Rochdale break-out, they went ahead with a penalty goal.

This was the catalyst needed to launch Oldham into productive action. Good approach work by Whitmore and Slattery gave Wood a chance on the left wing. Tackled short after strong running, Wood played the ball and Buckley charged for the

line only to be downed.

Oldham switched smartly to the other wing, and catching Rochdale bunched-up, Elson flew over for a fine try. Malloy failed to convert, but kicked a penalty soon after.

After going ahead, Oldham settled down to play smooth, effective rugby and Rochdale offered only an occasional threat. Whitmore scored a superb dropped goal from 30 yards. Malloy added a

penalty in the second half.

On Sunday morning, Oldham are holding special trials' morning at Watersheddings for potential Colts' team players. Kick-off is 11 a.m., so show up and show us what YOU can do.

There is no doubt that the Colts sides offer plenty of fun and camaraderie for youngsters... and an undoubted opportunity for them to break through into the professional world.

Schools draw

Draw for the annual schoolboys' George Dew Sevens, the preliminary round of which will be played today as a curtain-raiser to the St. Helens game, is as follows:

Preliminary round: Littlemore v Lyndhurst (kick off 2.30); St. Patrick's v St. Mary's.

First round: Sacred Heart v Watersheddings; Limehurst v Parish Church; St. James (Shaw) v Littlemore or Lyndhurst; Holy Rosary v St. Patrick's or St. Mary's.

Smile with Benyon



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JUMP INTO THE WINNING POOL

By Alan Taylor

WITH OUR TEAM turning in such fine performances on the field, the Pools Agents are getting strong public backing for their hard-working efforts. It's just human nature to want to be associated with a winning side, even if it's only buying a pools ticket. Things are much harder when the team is not doing so well, as our friends in some other clubs are finding just at this moment.

And while on that theme, I must say a big 'thank you' to all our agents for slogging away at their task in the past when things have not looked quite so rosy for Oldham as they do at present.

With the side riding high and drawing world-wide publicity, there is tremendous scope for YOU to earn yourself valuable extra cash by becoming an agent for our pools.

Recent Oldham results should certainly give existing agents extra talking points among their working chums, and the general public, to boost their own ticket sales.

The more cash we pull in, the better facilities we can provide for training, welfare and management of our team. So it is really a happy bandwagon we have rolling currently at Oldham. Let's keep it that way.

Climb on that wagon yourself, and get lots of extra goodies from the cash you earn by becoming one of our very special agents NOW. Fill in the form on this page and we will come and see you to tell you what it is all about.

Remember, you are a vitally important member of Oldham Rugby League Club as a special pools' agent. And many of our most successful agents are housewives who boost their own pin-money or buy little extras for their family from the lovely lolly they earn by selling our tickets among their friends.

Don't put it off a day longer. Climb aboard our money-boat TODAY by filling in our coupon. It's your first step to lots of extra cash — and don't we all need it!

She's one of the Cherries



Promotions Girl Stella promoting a few fast profits for the Social Club by helping out on drinks service after a home match.

OLDHAM'S lovely lolly-dollies have been a big boost by the club this week in being awarded their own Official Title. From now on they're The Cherries.

That was the winning title selected by Promotions Manager Alan Taylor from hundreds of entries received in a special competition to decide on a new name for the promotions girls. Said Alan: 'It was a terrifically difficult task to sort out the many fine entries. These ranged from the humorous, witty, clever, outrageous, right to the type which would cause Lord Longford nightmares if we printed them.'

The winning entry was sent by Mr. D. Wood, of 97 Longfellow Crescent, Sholver Oldham. He gets a transistor radio. Consolation prizes go to G. Mayers, B. Graham, Y. Ash, A. Barrett, J. Rochford and R. Shirt.

The gorgeous go-getters have just added sales of

Oldham *Rugby League News* to their fantastic range of cash raising routines for the Football Club. On Tuesday night they had a complete sell out of our club newspaper, so for today's match we've rushed them many extra copies.

Meanwhile, they're getting on with sales of tickets in the club's giant Christmas draw. And here's where YOU can help the girls. You can swell urgently needed club funds by selling a few tickets among your friends and workmates. Get some books of tickets NOW from club secretary Kevin Wilkinson or Promotions Manager Alan Taylor.

And traders are asked to boost the draw's already magnificent total of prizes by sending along gifts. All donated prizes will bring their givers a free publicity plug by way of a mention in *Oldham Rugby News*.

Not so Easy

FANCY yourself as a referee? It's all very well to stand on the popular side and shout at the poor old ref. He may be right after all, so try putting yourself in his shoes. If you do fancy a wager with the fellow next to you, don't stake too much—You might lose.

1. The winger grounds the ball for a try. The defending full back notices that the ball has burst and claims "no try". Is he right?
2. During a scrum the opposing pack push the defending pack over the line and the ball is grounded. Is it a try?
3. A goal kick is taken. After the ball has crossed the bar, a strong wind blows it back. Is it a goal?
4. A player is dismissed and leaves the field. He sits near the touch line and watches the game. The referee orders him to the dressing room. Is he correct?

ANSWERS

1. No, it is a try.
2. No. A try cannot be scored by grounding the ball when it is in a scrum.
3. Yes.
4. Yes. A dismissed player is not permitted to take up a position near the playing area where his presence is likely to provoke further incident.

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I am interested in becoming a Pools Agent for Oldham R.L.F.C. and would like to find out more about it (I am over 18 years of age).

Name:

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LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

WAKEFIELD

TRINITY lashed out half the fee they got for international prop, David Jeanes to capture David Knowles, a 24-year-old uncapped Yorkshire Rugby Union player from a village called Silsden, just outside Keighley. Within minutes of his £4,500 signature they also signed a local boy who had come into a fortune, or so he thought, when he was handed a cheque for £150.

The winger, a neighbour of Trinity committeeman Jim Bowden, has played for the club's junior side. His name: Doug Miles. Just 24 hours later the club had recruited another winger, when they took Dewsbury flyer, Max Fletcher in exchange for Brian Cooper, a second row forward who three weeks ago thought he was a Crown Flatt player. A mix up over the signing-on forms has had Cooper on proverbial hot bricks. Trinity will listen to offers for several players and one useful utility man, Mick Major, is among them I hear.

WIGAN, who are on the look out for added playing strength, have been recommended a prop forward currently playing with the Neath club.

HUDDERSFIELD centre, Graham Evans, cannot win a regular place, so he was invited to have a run on the wing, but told the club it was centre or nothing. I feel this talented player from Normanton would not be averse to a move.

THREE FARTOWN regulars are having benefits this season, and I have promised to do a film show and Sportsman's evening for them early into the New Year. The three are winger Ken Senior, prop Dave Heppleston and second rower Bob Tomlinson.

STAYING AWAY from training at the moment is Rochdale's £1,500 transfer-listed second rower Kevin Flannaghan, who has been linked with Huddersfield.

RUMOURS SWEEPED round last weekend that Wigan's trialist forward against Oldham was Frank Cotton, the Loughborough College and England forward, who is the younger brother of Dave, the huge Keighley and former Warrington prop. The forward was, it turned out, Alan Cumberbatch, the Ulverston 6' 4", 16 stone son of the former Barrow winger Val.

BLACKPOOL Borough have given permission to take Halifax's £1,000 transfer listed Royton-based prop forward, Dave Johnson, on trial.

THE FASTEST MAN in the Rugby League this season could be Graham Lawson, Leigh's new wing signing from the Eastern Suburbs club, Sydney. Lawson is the Sydney beach sprint champion.

LEIGH SECRETARY John Stringer, who was holder of a similar position with Oldham for four years, mixed with the elite last weekend at Haydock Park Races. Comedian George 'Wellies' Roper, George Best, BBC producer Ray Lakeland, and Leigh chairman Jack Harding, had a champagne and brandy party

The youngster who thought he had come into a fortune

Oldham were given permission, but it appears they lost interest. This 23-year-old prop forward is cheap at that price, and should make a go of it.

after Mr. Roper's tidy win on 16-1 shot Hill Top.

NOT TOO OLD at 35 to make a big comeback... that's the opinion expressed by Cumbrian prop Dennis Martin, who lifted his boots off the hook in the cellar, and started training with Whitehaven again.

KEIGHLEY are interested in taking former Leeds and Bradford Northern international centre, Geoff Wrigglesworth, from York. Following his dispute with the Minster board, he was put in the 'A' team last weekend. They have also interviewed York's scrum half Tony Sullivan, who has impressed coach Ken Traill. Keighley also watched Featherstone Rovers' powerhouse forward Barry Hollis... but I cannot see them landing him. He surely commands a fee in the £5,000 bracket.

THE LAWKHOLME LANE board have taken Halifax's reserve loose forward, Roy Borthwick, on trial. Halifax immediately gave permission to get the Ossett-based ball player back into the game.



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WEDDING BELLS FOR JOHNNY BLAIR



CONGRATULATIONS to Johnny Blair and his brand new wife Lynda, who were married at Waterhead Parish Church.

Johnny and Lynda met at a dance in the club's own Social Club two years ago, although they went to the same school without really getting to know each other.

Johnny signed for Oldham in 1968 from the junior side. He and Lynda are living at Ronald Street, Clarksfield.

XMAS CHIMES?

Club architect John Hall's plans for the re-shaping of the Social Club lounge go before the Corporation's building regulation and town planning authorities for approval. This is followed on November 14 by full consideration of the project by Oldham Magistrates.

If approvals are given, work should then be started the following day so that it can be finished for Christmas celebrations at the club.

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Yes, Saints are formidable... without doubt

MIGHTY ST. HELENS, Oldham's visitors this afternoon, have the largest squad of first team players in the league with every position adequately covered in case of injury or suspension.

Full-back **GEOFF PIMBLETT** is an excellent example of this for he could hold down any centre position at most clubs.

Saints are so well stocked for wingers too that **LES JONES**, the 24 years old local lad they signed from Parr Juniors, is having difficulty catching the team, yet he is an experienced player who has represented Lancashire and Great Britain and was a try scorer in the Wembley triumph over Leeds last May.

The player who has replaced him is **ROY MATHIAS**, the Welsh international Rugby Union star, who was signed at the beginning of the season from Llanelly RUFC. He scored on his debut against Warrington and so far has crossed for 7 tries this season. On the other wing **FRANK WILSON** is doing even better, for his try tally so far this season stands at 13. Oldham supporters, still remember the two tries he scored for Saints when they defeated us in the 1968 Lancashire Cup Final.

All the leading wingers are quick to point out the part played by their centres, and Saints are fortunate in having the current Lancashire centre duo of **JOHN WALSH** and **BILL BENYON**. Walsh is captain of Lancashire, but examinations have interfered with his career. Although he has only made one appearance for Great Britain, he is a hot tip for future international honours. His co-centre, **BILL BENYON**, is a seasoned international and has been at Knowsley Road for over ten years. Last season he made five appearances for Great Britain.

Last weekend Saints paraded their new signing **DAVID ECKERSLEY**, and he scored two tries in the 33-12 drubbing of Swinton. A product of Leigh Colts, Eckersley sprung to fame with Leigh under the leadership of Alec Murphy, and he scored Leigh's winning try in the 7-4 defeat of Saints' in the 1970 Lancashire Cup Final.

Eckersley openly states he would like to take over the stand-off position but he will have a terrific job on his hands trying to displace brilliant 19 years old **KEN KELLY**. Last season his displays earned him 7th place in the Players No. 6 Awards and he was chosen for both Britain's matches against the French. Another former Lancashire schoolboy star is scrum-half **GEOFF HEATON** who returned to Knowsley Road, three years ago and has played in six Cup Finals during the past two seasons.

Saints are equally blessed with forwards, and have the current Lancashire county hooker

TONY KARALIUS in their side. He made his British debut last season, playing in all three tests against the Kiwis as well as against France, and he looks set for a lengthy run in representative football.

At prop it would appear a case of perm any two from four with **KEVIN EARLE** and **MICK MURPHY** challenging for the places previously filled by **JOHN STEPHENS** and **GRAHAM REES**. Earle signed from Rochdale Hornets in February 1971

in an exchange deal involving Bill Sheffield, Murphy is the former Leigh star who signed from Barrow last month for £2,500. Rees is one of the veteran members of the side. He was substitute for Britain during the 1967 Australian Test series and has made four appearances for Wales. His first minute try in last season's Cup Final paved the way for Saints' triumph.

Another experienced forward is **JOHN STEPHENS**, signed from Wigan for £4,000 in December 1970, who has represented England on four occasions.

In January 1965 Saint Helens caused something of a sensation in South Wales when they signed the Welsh international rugby union international **John Mantle** and he has represented Britain in 11 Test matches since.

His second-row partner, **ERIC CHISNALL**, is steadily building up a reputation similar to Mantle, and will almost certainly gain international honours before long. At loose forward there is the current Lance Todd Trophy holder **KEL COSLETT**, another Welsh rugby union convert who came from Aberavon RUFC in 1962.

Although he has never represented Great Britain, Coslett has given outstanding service to the club; and last season he booted 211 goals to create a new club record as well as winning £100 from his 3rd place in the Players No. 6 Awards. Already this season he has landed 37 goals.

LINE-UP

OLDHAM 12

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT
3. LARDER 5 goals
4. WAINWRIGHT goal
5. HODGKINSON
6. HILL
7. McCONE
8. WILSON
9. TAYLOR
10. ASHCROFT
11. IRVING
12. DALEY
13. REYNOLDS
14. DAVIES
15. MUNRO

ST. HELENS 12

1. ~~PIMBLETT~~ Eckersley
2. WILSON try
3. BENYON
4. WALSH
5. MATHIAS
6. ~~ECKERSLEY~~ Kelly
7. HEATON try
8. MURPHY
9. KARALIUS
10. STEPHENS
11. MANTLE
12. CHISNALL
13. COSLETT 3 goals
14. ~~WILSON~~ P. Pimblett
15. REES

Referee: Mr. R. Jackson (Halifax)

Touch judges: Mr. J. Meadows (Billinge) and Mr. J. Hurst (Wigan)

Your Scorecard

OLDHAM 12

Tries

Goals

Larder 5
Wainwright

ST HELENS 12

Tries

Goals

Wilson
Heaton

Coslett 3

DO YOU REMEMBER



Test your memory with this teaser picture above... when, where, who? The answer to our first picture puzzle in last Tuesday's issue: Ayres scores with Little close behind him in Rugby League final of 1957 at Odsal.

Back again for another great season!

The Player's N°6 Trophy

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The Player's N°6 Trophy that ended last year in an exciting win for Halifax, is back again.

The rules of the series are the same as last season—a 5-round, 32 club knock-out tournament played between September and March. But this season the prize money has been increased from £9,500 to over £16,000 so matches will have that much more excitement.

Make a date with Player's

N°6