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BRIAN BATTY OF DAILY MAIL — — — — —

It has not taken long for Bobby Fulton to prove why Australian officials, fans and players rate him the greatest player in the world.

Fulton has certainly lived up to the rich promise he revealed when he 'guested' with Warrington in 1969. English fans quickly realised he had something special to offer.

At 25, he's now established as a superstar in Sydney and he can look back with satisfaction on the fact that he emigrated as a child after being born in Warrington.

Not that there is anything wrong with the Lancashire town, or its team, but obviously there is far more money to be made Down Under.

Compare the position of Warrington's player-coach Alex Murphy, who may have fared reasonably well financially in this country but could have struck gold if he had moved to Sydney when he first hit the Great Britain scene.

The shrewd Fulton has already taken care of the future for, as a partner in a prospering real estate business, he could probably afford to retire in a few years if he wanted.

He is always eager to invest in business and, besides his playing wages, signing on fee and bonuses, he wins many a prize from sponsorship. Manly's Grand Final win over Tommy Bishop's Cronulla side was inspired by Fulton's two brilliant tries and he collected a 4,000 dollar award from television.

Now Fulton has found time to take up golf and if he applies himself to this sport as seriously as he did to rugby in his early days he will soon make his mark on the fairways.

He certainly possesses great strength and power for a centre and it is interesting to hear the views of Warrington secretary Phil Worthington, who was impressed with Fulton's approach during his 69 trip.

'I remember Fulton training every day and keeping himself in peak condition', recalls Phil. 'But what struck me was the way he would seek any knowledge he could about the game and English tactics.

'He would see as many matches as possible and pick the brains of every coach he came into contact with, always eager to ask questions about moves'.

Fulton has starred as a stand off for Australia in the World Cup but he tells me: 'I prefer playing centre and play all my club games in that position.

'We have a great side at Manly and I get plenty of chances but most of my passes come from Malcolm Reilly. I've got used to his running and kicking and know just when to come in. We've worked out a fine understanding'.

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16. Clar.

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1. Sutherland.
2. Mint.
3. Hill.
4. Half-back.
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6. Noon.
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8. Central.
9. Players.
11. Pea.
12. To.
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On the Inside with **DAVE PARKER**

Any club want a big second row forward who has had eight years experience as a professional with Wakefield Trinity and Batley and is currently on the Mount Pleasant club's transfer list at £1,000 after asking for a move. He is John Bell and will travel anywhere to have a run out with a new club. He is 27 and not too happy with things at the Mount at present.

If the Australian player-coach Graeme Langlands feels his side are not pulling their weight at training he orders them to run the two miles from the Fartown ground to their George Hotel headquarters in the town centre.

Leigh in the past few days have had a total of 5 players seeing four separate specialists. Coaches Les Pearce and Tony Barrow have had problems with keeping staff in training owing to a bad streak of injuries.

Whitehaven's craggy Cumbrian forward Dennis Martin has absented himself from the club for no apparent reason. Perhaps he is upset that the club have hit a bad run after such a fine start to the season.

Whitehaven, who are on the lookout for backs, have been given a flat "no" by North Western Counties and former Loughborough Colleges out half Dick Cowman, who lived in nearby Workington until he moved to Coventry in the close season. All the big names seem to be joining Coventry. The perks the club must provide in some form or other also took big Frank Cotton, in whom Salford, Widnes and Workington had a more than passing interest.

Rochdale full-back Jim Crellin told me two years ago when he was on the window cleaning round in Oldham with Ray Clark—"What's my name?"—that he wanted to play full-back and go to Wembley. Those were his two main ambitions left in the game. The 28-year-old Cumbrian thanks to Frank Myler has now achieved one of these and no doubt will be keeping his fingers crossed in the New Year for number 2 and some easy draws on the road south.

Rochdale secretary Fred Kershaw, a jovial rotund character, has just been in hospital for over a week for treatment to a badly burned foot.

Dewsbury second rower John Bates got his arm injury in the only 5 minutes he has played for Yorkshire and that was at Widnes way back in September. John, who was in scintillating form this season, had it fixed for him that he would turn out for the last few minutes as sub. to collect his county cap. Perhaps with this serious injury to his arm, he probably wishes he had not bothered. After all he has missed some games with Dewsbury since. Another player missing games with Dewsbury is loose forward Joe Whittington, a tough customer who comes from the Batley side of Dewsbury which seems to produce loose forwards and hookers. He is in dispute after not regaining his place back from centre John Clark after an injury. Clarke has taken the number 13 shirt in fine style.

Barrow will let scrum half Frankie Jones go on trial besides Alan Whittle, for whom they want £5,000. Whittle will only move to a club who signs him.

Appearances & Scorers

	A	T	G				
				Neil Goodwin	7	—	—
				Bob Gaitley	6	1	—
Chris O'Brien	13	4	—	Terry Gorman	5	—	—
Kevin Taylor	13	—	—	Phil Larder	4	—	1
Mike Elliott	12	2	—	Tony Peters	4	1	—
Tony Wainwright	12	4	1	Steve Whitmore	3	—	—
Geoff Munro	11	4	—	Andy Kavanagh	3	—	—
Fred Hall	11	—	—	Ken Wilson	3	—	—
Keith Ashcroft	10	—	—	Stuart Bottom	2	—	—
Martin Murphy	10	2	—	Peter Astbury	2	—	—
Tommy Davies	10	1	—	Brian Hughes	2	—	—
Arthur Daly	9	1	—	Bob Irving	2	—	—
Johnny Blair	9	1	9	Ian Ratcliffe	1	—	—
Johnny Farrell	8	1	—	Syd Highton	1	—	—
Terry Clawson	8	1	15	Norman Hodgkinson ...	1	—	—
Jim Reynolds	7	—	—	Gareth Owen	1	—	—

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Rugby Quiz

1. Who was the coach of the Salford side which Castleford defeated at Wembley in 1969?
2. Who did Castleford beat to win the 1965-66 Floodlit Cup?
3. Which is Oldham's highest attendance this season?
4. What was the attendance at the Salford versus Castleford Championship Final at Maine Road, Manchester in 1939?
5. Who were Castleford's leading try scorers last season?

- ANSWERS — — — — —
1. Griff Jenkins.
 2. Oldham (away) 6-4, Leeds (home) 7-7, Widnes (away) 12-9 and, in the Final St. Helens (away) 4-0.
 3. 2,410 for the visit of Wigan in the Lancashire Cup.
 4. 69,504, which was a record at that time.
 5. Steve Norton and Keith Worsley each scored 19 tries.



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White Shorts

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- 2—MUNRO G.
- 3—ELLIOTT M.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *eng*
- 5—O'BRIEN C.
- 6—~~CAITLEY~~ R.
or BLAIR J.
- 7—ASTBURY P.
- 8—CLAWSON T. *4 goals*
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—HUGHES B.
- 11—~~HALL~~ F.
McCRACKEN W.
- 12—~~DALEY~~ A. *HALL try*
- 13—REYNOLDS J.
- 14—*PAITLEY*
- 15—*DALEY*

Referee:

H. MASON (Halifax)

CASTLEFORD

13

Yellow Jerseys, Black collars
& cuffs, White Shorts

- 1—CLAUGHTON J.
- 2—FOSTER D.
- 3—WORSLEY K.
- 4—HIGGINS P.
- 5—LYNES A.
- 6—BROOK G.
- 7—KNIGHT G.
- 8—CHAWNER T.
- 9—MILLER T.
- 10—ACKROYD A.
- 11—LLOYD G.
- 12—LOCKWOOD B.
- 13—NAUGHTON S.
- 14—
- 15—

Touch Judges

T. Clayton (Widnes) Orange
G.T. Schofield (Salford) Red

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Goal kicking and points scoring record: 120 goals, 240 points by Albert Lunn in 1958-59.

Record victory: 88—5 v. Millom (John Player Trophy) in 1973-74.

Honours:

Championship runners-up: 1938-39 and 1968-69.

Challenge Cup winners: 1934-35, 1968-69 and 1969-70.

Floodlit Cup winners: 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68.

Yorkshire Cup runners-up: 1948-49, 1950-51, 1968-69 and 1971-72.

Yorkshire Champions: 1932-33, 1938-39 and 1964-65.

Yorkshire Championship runners-up: 1936-37 and 1965-66.

Eastern Divisional Championship runners-up: 1963-64.

After the visit of the mighty Australians last Friday, its back to the bread and butter of First Division football this evening with the visit of the attractive Castleford team. Although Oldham still lie at the foot of the First Division table, results of recent matches indicate that considerable improvement has been made and with just a little bit of luck victories would have been recorded against both Rochdale Hornets and Dewsbury. Supporters will be expecting this improvement to continue which all points to a rousing encounter to entertain us all tonight.

The full-back position in the current Castleford team is disputed by Trevor Briggs and Gary Brook. Former Leeds junior Briggs joined Castleford in 1964 and he has recently switched to full-back from the wing. Gary Brook is a former Wakefield Trinity junior who made his name as a stand-off with Doncaster who signed him in 1966. It was in June, 1972, that Brook transferred to Castleford for £2,500. On the wing Castleford have a dangerous attacker in former York junior Derek Foster. He was the scorer of Castleford's try in their Yorkshire Cup Final defeat two seasons ago whilst last season in the 43—10 defeat of Hunslet he crossed for 5 tries. John Joyner scored 5 tries this season in the 88—5 defeat of Millom which takes his total for the season to 10. Another winger in the Castleford first team squad is Alan Lowndes who was signed from Wakefield RUFC. He has gained representative honours with both Yorkshire and the England under-24 side and his try total for the season is 8. Castleford have two young and skilful centres in 22-years-old Paul Higgins and 20-years-old Keith Worsley. Higgins was signed three years ago from local junior football whilst Worsley is a former Leeds junior who was signed from Leeds. Last season he played twice for Yorkshire and was a try scorer against Lancashire. The half-back star of the Castleford side is Gary Stephens who was signed just before Christmas, 1968. He has settled down well into the side this season and he is the scorer of 8 tries so far this season. Stephens will be at scrum-half with his stand-off partner Glen Knight or 20-years-old Phil Johnson who, like Stephens, is a product of the Castleford junior side. The Castleford pack will be chosen from a very strong panel of experienced players. Prop-forward Alan Ackroyd sprung into prominence with his 2 goals in the 1971 Yorkshire Cup Final when he was substitute forward. Trevor Chawner is a product of the Bison Sports team in Leeds and he turned professional in September, 1971, with Huddersfield. He joined Castleford last April as part of the exchange deal which took Ian van Bellan back to Huddersfield. Twenty-one-years-old Sammy Lloyd is having a fine season and he is the leading Castleford scorer with 7 tries and 57 goals. In that record breaking 88—5 victory over Millom he created a club record with 3 tries and 17 goals so Oldham will have to be careful and not give away any penalties within striking distance this evening. Brian

Lockwood is a very experienced player who has played four times for Yorkshire and he was a member of last seasons World Cup winning side when he played in all Great Britain's four matches. Last Wednesday he was selected to play at Wembley on November 3rd in the First Test match against Australia. Hooker Tony Miller is another experienced player and he teams up in the front row with an even more experienced player in Jim Naylor. Naylor's first club was Dewsbury and it was in summer, 1971, that he was transferred to Keighley and in January, 1972, he was on the move again, this time to Batley. Last season Naylor made his Yorkshire debut against Lancashire and his display in that match before the Castleford crowd no doubt prompted Castleford to move in and sign him last month. Loose-forward Steve 'Knocker' Norton is another product of Castleford's junior nursery. He is a powerful player who last season made his Yorkshire debut and is a real prospect being aged only 21 years. One of the major reasons for Oldham's quarter-final Challenge Cup exit last April at Castleford was the goal-kicking of Mick Redfearn who landed 7 goals in that match. He is a fine touch finder from broken play and his tactical kicking in the 1970 Challenge Cup Final earned him the Lance Todd Trophy. Redfearn has represented England at under-24 level. Cliff Wallis, the 29-years-old back-row forward, played against Castleford for Hull Kingston Rovers in the 1971 Yorkshire Cup Final but then, the following December, he was transferred to the Wheldon Road club for £3,000. He is a strong runner.

Despite the strength of the Castleford club they have not been at their best in league football where they have won only 2 of their seven matches. They have beaten Leigh 24—9 and Rochdale Hornets 21—19 at home but they have yet to win away from home and they have returned empty handed from Salford, Warrington and Widnes and in addition they lost at home to Wakefield Trinity by 21—14 and drawn 15—15 with Widnes. Castleford have fared much better in cup football and they are through to the second round of both the Floodlit and the John Player competitions. In addition they reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire Cup. In the Floodlit Cup they had an easy passage against Huddersfield whom they defeated 32—10 at home and 18—0 away. The John Player Trophy first round tie at Castleford brought a number of records, for Castleford scored their biggest ever win 88—5 against Barrow junior club Millom and in so doing Sammy Lloyd scored a club record 43 points which included a record 17 goals and John Joyner's 5 tries also equalled the club record. Castleford were unfortunate not to be contesting last Saturday's Yorkshire Cup Final for after easy home victories against York 32—8 and Huddersfield 29—8 they met Wakefield Trinity away in the semi-final. This semi-final tie turned out to be a real thriller which Trinity just won 19—18. Castleford scored 4 tries to their opponents 3 and, in addition, had Trevor Chawner sent-off so they had good reason to be a little disappointed with the final result. Two non-competitive matches have been played by Castleford this season and each has resulted in defeat. In the pre-season friendly at Bradford the home side won 28—21 whilst a fortnight ago the Australian tourists won at Wheldon Road 18—10, but not after a tough match in which Castleford led 6—0 at one stage. The outstanding Castleford player in this match was Gary Stephens.

Oldham and Castleford have not met each other very often in recent years although the two sides did clash last season in both the Challenge Cup and the Floodlit Cup. Both matches were at the quarter-final stage of their respective competitions and on both occasions the host club won through to the semi-finals only to be beaten by the eventual winners. In the Challenge Cup Castleford won an entertaining match 25—11

principally because of early Oldham errors which allowed Castleford to race into a 16—4 half-time lead. Although Oldham rallied in the second-half they were unable to stop the home sides deserved victory. Earlier in the season a crowd of 2,212 braved the cold, damp weather to watch the Oldham-Castleford clash in the Floodlit Cup. It was a tough match which the Castleford pack dominated in the opening half to take a 7—2 lead. Oldham recovered in the second half and were able to snatch a rather fortunate 9—7 victory in which all the team worked hard. Oldham's try scorer was Mike Elliott and there were goals from Frank Foster, Phil Larder and Terry Gorman whilst Phil Johnson scored the Castleford try and Sammy Lloyd landed two goals. The two teams were:

OLDHAM: Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Norman Hodgkinson; Cliff Hill, Terry Gorman; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Frank Foster, Bob Irving, Keith Ashcroft and Jim Reynolds. Substitutes: Tommy Davies and Geoff Munro.

CASTLEFORD: Trevor Briggs; Derek Foster, Keith Worsley, Ray Newton, Alan Lowndes; Phil Johnson, Danny Hargrave; Denis Hartley, Clive Dickenson, Alan Dickenson, Cliff Wallis, Sammy Lloyd and Steve Norton. Substitutes: Glen Knight and Tony Miller.

Oldham's supporters will need little reminding that their club lies at the foot of the First Division table and if they are to avoid losing contact with the other clubs then a victory this evening is essential. Whitehaven and Widnes are also finding life rather difficult this season so a couple of victories would give Oldham breathing space for the tough programme ahead. Although Castleford's plight is not as serious as Oldham's they too will be on the lookout for a victory this evening. It will be a very close game in which ground advantage could just tip the scales Oldham's way. However, no matter which way this evening's game goes, it is expected to be an exciting and entertaining encounter which should suit the Watersheddings public.

OLDHAM v. CASTLEFORD PREV. RESULTS — — — — —

1965-66 Floodlit Cup—Oldham 4, Castleford 6.
1972-73 Floodlit Cup—Castleford 7, Oldham 9.
Challenge Cup—Castleford 25, Oldham 11.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	13—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
	29—Wigan	A
Oct.	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

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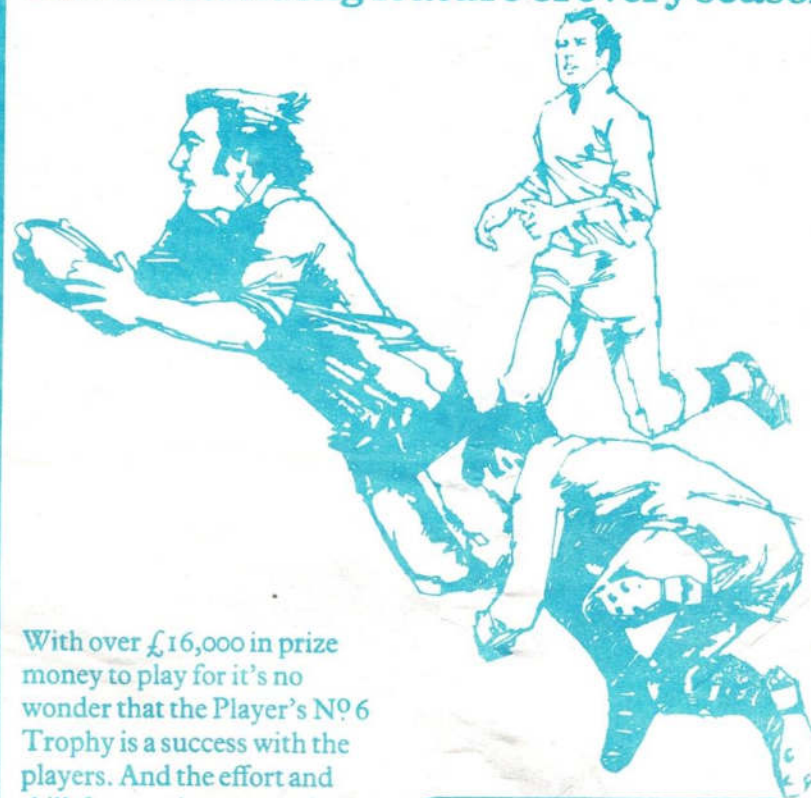
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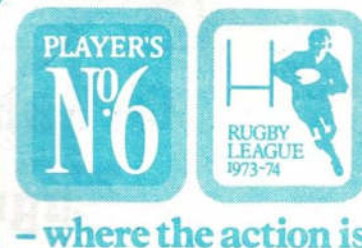
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