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Coach:

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TERRY GORMAN

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DENNIS WRIGHT

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ALAN TAYLOR

ON THE INSIDE—

DAVE PARKER

I can reveal that prior to the hurried departure of Bill Ashurst to Penrith, Sydney, Warrington hearing that through health reasons Ashurst may be forced to abandon his plans or leave his family in England. They would have signed him probably with the cash they got from the sale of Brian Gregory to Oldham and Barry Briggs to Wigan.

There are strong rumours circulating Lancashire that Wigan have had former Oldham coach Graham Starkey into the boardroom and told him the results, this once proud club are used to, are not coming and it will not do.

The home defeat by Keighley in the 2nd round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy will not have helped matters.

If Joe Chamberlain opts for staying in the warmer climate of Southern France to play his Rugby League then Huyton are expected to turn to Warrington's faithful servant Tommy Conroy.

Loose-forward Derek Fletcher is back in training at Leigh after falling off a roof in Oldham last month. Fortunately for Derek he fell on some hay and that broke his fall. With a bad back and shock Derek and the Leigh club reckon he was dead lucky. His career and ability to walk could have been impaired for life.

Leigh have sent in a report to the Rugby Football League about what they call "the biased Yorkshire touch judges".

The reason former Swinton utility back Mick Phillbin did not leave Warrington for Whitehaven was that he feels for the time being far too much good money was to be earned.

Warrington's former Preston Grasshoppers winger John Heritage has joined Blackpool Borough for trials. Last season he was on trial at Barrow. Toby Du Toit, the big South African who was all the rage two seasons ago, is currently injured and with the cold weather and only "A" team football in prospect is looking forward to returning home at the end of the season when his contract expires and his work permit also expires.

The Oldham amateur clubs are likely to join up with those of Halifax and Huddersfield and coupled with Rochdale and Dewsbury teams and with the possible joining also of Bradford it is likely that the now named Joint League will become the Pennine League. January 14th is likely to be the deciding day when the Joint League management committee and clubs meet in Elland.

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BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

If the signs are that it will be a quiet Christmas for most Rugby League clubs the same cannot be said about next Spring.

With the power and fuel crisis taking its toll of the fixtures, the League programme has suddenly found breathing space after the mad rush of the last few months.

The change has perhaps proved too severe for some clubs but the players must welcome the chance to lick their wounds.

The list of injuries should start to diminish among many clubs and the fans will be taking a fresh approach now that they haven't to try and find the cash for as many as three games in a week.

The ban on floodlighting has not quite left the coaches in the same frame of mind for they are struggling to please their clubs and followers under a sizeable handicap.

With the sport purely part-time, they are finding it difficult enough keeping their players fit, forcing them to lap around the unlit areas of the pitch.

The situation takes on a grimmer aspect when you consider that many teams are now unable to train properly, rehearse moves and generally throw the ball about as usual.

Some clubs have taken steps to overcome this problem by taking their players off work for a daylight session.

Warrington have managed this move and Kevin Ashcroft, their Great Britain hooker, tells me: 'It is working well for us at Warrington. We are delighted the club has arranged for us to get together on a Thursday afternoon and seen that we don't lose out financially.'

'It must be tough on those clubs who cannot do this but I can see a lot of them trying when the Challenge Cup-ties come along'.

A lot of the headaches will clear when the lighter evenings come along as long as clubs can cope with their fixture backlogs.

It is to be hoped we don't get another big freeze this winter to turn the situation into one of chaos as we had in 1963.

Soccer clubs are already talking about an extension to their season of several weeks but it would be difficult to manage this in League.

With the tour of Australia starting in May, clubs will have 26 players being selected for Great Britain and they won't want to play decisive matches without their stars.

POOLS NEWS



FIRST £100-00 HOLIDAY WINNER

Mrs. Fitton of Shaw, the first winner of our new £100-00 holiday draw looking with Alan Stott, a director of Holts Travel Services at the holiday she has selected in Austria.

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The top 16 Play-off Competition is to be replaced at the end of the present season by the "1974 RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP". At the end of the season points will be awarded for the final position each club occupies in the League tables, 30 points for the top of the 1st Division, 29 for the second, 28 the third, etc. Three points will be awarded for each cup-tie a club wins. Four points awarded to a promoted club and four points deducted from a relegated club.

this space

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Rugby Quiz

1. Who did Hornets beat to win the Challenge Cup in 1921-22?
2. Who were Oldham's first ever opponents?
3. Which Oldham player was transferred to Rochdale where he won Great Britain test match honours?
4. Which is Rochdale's biggest ever away win?
5. When were Oldham First Division Champions?

ANSWERS — — — — —

1. Broughton Moor 54-2, Leeds 15-7, Oldham 5-2, Widnes 23-3, Hull 10-9.
2. October, 1876 v. Stalybridge.
3. Malcolm Price.
4. Keighley 8, Rochdale 44 in the Challenge Cup 1972-73.
5. 1904-05.



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- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A. *3 goals Elliott*
- 5—O'BRIEN *try*
- 6—TREASURE D. *goal*
- 7—McCONE M.
- 8—ASHCROFT K.
- or ~~CLAWSON~~
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—HALL F.
- 11—GREGORY B.
- 12—McCRACKEN W.
- 13—PETERS A.

- 14—*Blair*
- 15—*Bottom*

Referee:

S. WALL (Leigh)

ROCHDALE 15

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White Shorts

- 1—CRELLIN, J
- 2—BRELSFORD, N *try*
- 3—BROPHY, T *try*
- 4—TAYLOR, D
- 5—ASPINALL B
- 6—BUTLER, J
- 7—GARTLAND, P *try*
- 8—HOLLIDAY, B *3 goals*
- 9—HARRIS, R
- 10—WHITEHEAD, S *try*
- 11—HODKINSON, A
- 12—FOGERTY T
- 13—HALMSHAW, T

- 14—HAMMOND, J
- 15—SHEFFIELD, B

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OUR VISITORS

ROCHDALE

Currently holding down the full-back spot at Rochdale is former Oldham favourite Jim Crellin who began his professional career in 1965 when Workington Town signed him from Moresby RUFC. Whilst with Workington, Crellin gained the first of his many Cumberland County caps and this, amongst other reasons, tempted Oldham to sign him. One of Crellin's happiest matches for Oldham was in season 1969-70 when he scored a try and landed 9 goals against Keighley. In 1970 Crellin was transferred to Rochdale in exchange for Gordon Worswick and £850 and in the three and a half seasons since his transfer he has scored 37 tries and kicked 43 goals for Hornets. Another former Oldham player, Norman Brelsford, will be appearing on the wing this afternoon. He joined Oldham in February, 1965 and, not being able to command a regular first team spot, he was given a free transfer to Rochdale. Brelsford has certainly settled down at the Athletic Grounds where last season he scored 20 tries including five in the 24-19 Lancashire Cup victory up at Whitehaven. This season he has won his first representative honours when he played in both Lancashire's Championship winning matches. Rochdale's other winger, Rod Tickle, has also gained Lancashire representative honours. He joined Leigh from Warrington Colts and moved to Rochdale Hornets last July. He made his debut for Hornets against Oldham in the pre-season friendly. Also in running for a spot on the wing is the Fijian Jonathon Kucuve who joined Hornets in January, 1971, from Fijian rugby union circles. The centre positions will probably be filled by two former stand-offs, Willie Aspinall and Tom Brophy. At the beginning of last month Aspinall celebrated his 31st birthday but he still poses enough problems for opposing defences. He joined Warrington from the St. Helens based United Glassblowers in 1962 and quickly rose to the top with appearances for Lancashire and a place on the 1966 Tour to Australasia. In 1971 he scored 2 tries and 3 goals in Warrington's 25-17 defeat of Oldham so Oldham already know of his rugby prowess. He moved to Rochdale in July, 1971, for £2,000 and has been a steady influence to the Hornets backs ever since. Brophy is the same age as Aspinall but whilst Aspinall was making a name for himself in his early years at Warrington Brophy was making his name in rugby union circles when he was playing for Lancashire and England. In 1966 Barrow signed Brophy for £6,000 from Liverpool RUFC and at the end of his first season he appeared at Wembley. Whilst with Barrow, Brophy won Lancashire County honours and it took a lot of persuading by the Rochdale management before they let Brophy move to the Hornets in August, 1972, in exchange for Joe Chamberlain and £2,000. Last season he scored 18 tries and 38 goals including 2 tries and 5 goals in the 34-7 defeat of Blackpool Borough. Providing the cover in the backs for Hornets is 24 years old Colin Simkin who was signed from Broughton Park for £1,500 last September after impressing against Swinton in the Floodlit Cup. One of Frank Myler's best

buys has been John Butler the former St. Helens and England U-19 star who moved into professional circles with Keighley as a loose-forward. Since moving to Rochdale last February for £1,000 he has been moved to stand-off with considerable success for at present he leads the Rochdale try scoring chart with 10. Hornets other half back Peter Gartland was another bargain purchase who cost a mere £500 when he moved from St. Helens during the summer of 1971. Although not a spectacular player he is a hard working awkward opponent. A capable half back reserve and also a more than useful full back is Johnny Hammond, a former England amateur who joined Rochdale in 1970 from the Oldham St. Annes junior club. Both hookers in the Rochdale first team squad learned their trade with the Latchford Albion club. Peter Clarke was signed in 1969 whilst Ray 'Nipper' Harris was signed in April, 1972, and made his debut here at Watersheddings in the Law Cup match the following August. There is plenty of forward talent to support the hookers including local product Eddie Brown, a former Lancashire U-17 player. Brown signed for Hornets in September, 1966, from Mayfield juniors. He has played four times for Lancashire and in 1969 he represented England U-24 against France. Twenty nine years old Terry Fogarty has been playing professionally since 1960 when he signed for Halifax from Saddleworth Rangers. He became the first winner of the Harry Sunderland Trophy for his display in the 1965 Championship Final and he also represented Other Nationalities and toured Australasia in 1966 before being transferred to Wigan. At Wigan Fogarty played for Lancashire and Great Britain and then in 1970 he returned to Halifax. Last September he was bought by Rochdale for £7,000 which is quite a reasonable fee for such a fine, ball playing forward. Another Rochdale signing from Halifax is Tony Halmshaw who was signed from Shaw Cross Boys' Club in 1965. He also played four times for Yorkshire and once for Great Britain before his transfer to Hornets last March for £5,000. The fiery Alan Hodgkinson was signed from Salford for £750 and he is a capable stand-by for any of the forward positions. Bill Holliday is with his fifth professional club having originally signed for Whitehaven from Wath Brow Hornets in 1959. After playing for Cumberland and Great Britain, Holliday made his first move to Bradford Northern and then on to Hull Kingston Rovers for £8,000 in January, 1965. In September, 1968, Swinton forked out a further £6,000 for his services and then in November, 1972, a comparatively modest £1,000 changed hands as Holliday switched to the Athletic Grounds. So far this season the steady boot of Holliday has landed 55 goals including 7 goals plus a try against Huyton in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. Back-row forward Bill Sheffield was always on the fringe of selection whilst with St. Helens without ever becoming a first team regular but that all changed when he moved to Rochdale in February, 1971. He is a fast, strong running forward who will have to be watched this afternoon. Another dangerous attacker is Bob Welding the former Leigh and Bradford Northern player who moved to Rochdale in April, 1971, as part of the deal which took Eddie Tees to Odsal. Welding represented England at U-24 level in his Leigh days and he has also represented Lancashire on several occasions including both matches this season. The remaining member of Rochdale's pack is 30 years old Stuart Whitehead, an Oldham lad who joined Oldham from Shawside juniors in November, 1961. In September, 1966, Whitehead moved from Oldham to Salford where he spent six quite successful seasons in which he appeared in both a Lancashire Cup Final and at Wembley. In November, 1972, Rochdale signed him for £1,500 and he has moved up to prop forward quite successfully.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug. 18—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

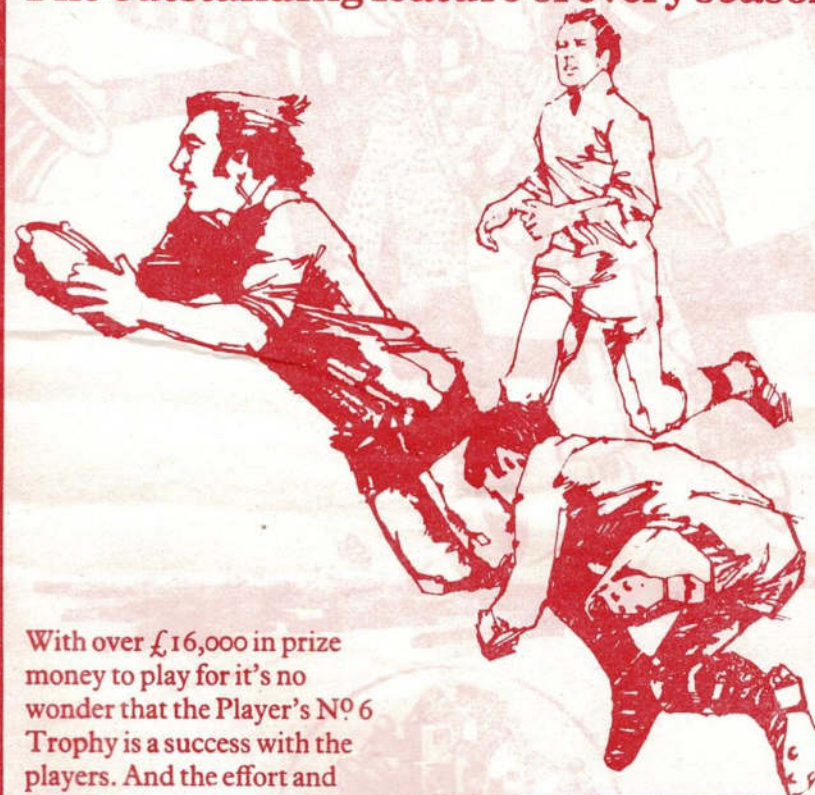
1973		
Aug. 11—Rochdale	H	
18—Barrow	H	
25—Workington	A	
29—Rochdale		
(1st leg Shield)	H	
Sept. 8—Rochdale		
(2nd leg Shield)	A	
22—Barrow	A	
29—Wigan	H	
Oct. 13—Swinton	H	
20—Swinton	A	
27—Workington	A	
Nov. 3—St. Helens	H	
9—Widnes	A	
17—Huyton	A	
24—Wigan	A	
Dec. 1—Barrow	H	
7—St. Helens	A	
16—Warrington	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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