

Oldham

8

Hull K.R. 7

- 1 BLAIR, J.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P. *2 goals*
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T. *drop goal*
- 5 HOLLAND, I.
- 6 TREASURE, D. *try*
- 7 PATTERSON, J.
- 8 CLAWSON, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HALL, F.
- 11 WELDING, B.
- 12 GREGORY, B.
- 13 FARRELL
- 14 BARTON
- 15 ASHCROFT, K.

- 1 SMITHIES
- 2 SULLIVAN
- 3 WATSON
- 4 FOX *2 goals*
- 5 DUNN
- 6 MILLWARD *try*
- 7 HUDSON
- 8 RAMSHAW
- 9 MADLEY
- 10 WALLIS
- 11 ROSE
- 12 MOORE
- 13 BROWN
- 14 HALL
- 15 HOLDSTOCK

Referee:
R. Jackson (Halifax)

R. J. Percival (Culcheth) Red
E. Glazebrook (Wigan) Orange

OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

The Man of the Match
v. HULL K.R.

was *David Treasure*

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldham's Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote — YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted — plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH
v. WIDNES WAS—
PHIL LARDER

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OLDHAM 8

v

Hull K.R. 7



—Photo by courtesy of The Evening Chronicle.

PHIL LARDER'S first try of the season in the Widnes match.

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kick-off 7.30 pm **8p**

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

YOU may have noticed, on your previous visits to Watersheddings this season, the appearance of three delightful young ladies with a charming smile—and a fistful of tickets.

If you haven't let us know immediately, and questions will be asked in the house.

For the very purpose of our latest bunch of Cherries, as we call them, is to stand out in the crowd and add a touch of glamour to the occasion.

There is, of course, a catch—a cash catch.

The girls have joined us to help swell the selling capacity of our ever-growing development association.

They will be mingling among you again tonight selling half-time draw tickets, but also introducing a brand new two-in-one ticket which we are convinced will go down well with you, our supporter.

It is another brainchild of our promotions boss Alan Taylor, whose reputation is spreading far and wide these days as OLDHAM RLFC rapidly nears the day when it can proudly claim to be the equal, in terms of development organisation and promotion, of many a leading soccer club.

The ticket, priced at 10p, gives you all the relevant data. Suffice to say here that it is based on lucky numbers, mini three-card pontoon, and—the feature we believe you will like best of all—GOLDEN POINTS.

This is a slight amendment of the ever-popular Golden Goal competition run at many soccer grounds, and gives total prize money of £50—£30 for the correct time of the first try at any particular match and £20 for the correct time of the first goal.

Says Alan: "On behalf of everyone connected with the club we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support. As you are aware, the club could not exist without this source of income.

"After careful consideration we have decided to introduce a small pool for match days. To make it sufficiently attractive with regard to prize money we shall, because of the size of our gates, have to sell it outside the club.

"We have taken care to ensure that it does not interfere with the existing pool and because it is small no problems are envisaged."

Many of our agents, to whom we are indebted for their ever-increasing support, are already clamouring for the new tickets.

Unfortunately, because of the anticipated demand, we are limiting the supply to ten tickets per agent to ensure that there will be tickets available on match days.

So look out for our troupe of lovely lassies tonight and try a flutter. It could pay you dividends!

Incidentally, our attempts to brighten up the programme and give you some interesting half-time reading seems to have succeeded already, in some small measure at least.

The programmes for the Widnes match were a sell-out, and we had a good response to our new man-of-the-match competition, in which you do the voting as part of our Oldham Player of the Year scheme.

Tonight sees us meeting Hull K.R. for the first of three clashes in the next 11 days. Last season they recorded the double over us, beating us at Craven Park thanks only to a brilliant performance by Roger Millward.

His one-man show will take a lot of forgetting . . . and it will be to the fore in the minds of our players who are attempting tonight to build up a substantial lead with which to go to Humberside next Tuesday in the second leg of the Floodlit Trophy, preliminary round.

Beauties beware! Members of the Supporters Club will be out to catch you for entry in their Rugby League Queen dance to be held next month. Details will be announced later.

Before then, on Tuesday, September 24th, the supporters will stage a jumble sale in the social club. If you can help in any way contact members of the supporters club at the refreshment bar behind the main stand.

Sincere congratulations to our club skipper Brian Gregory on his selection as a reserve for tomorrow night's Lancashire team to meet Other Nationalities at Salford.



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I DON'T know who it was who conjured that hackneyed phrase . . . "Don't count your chickens" . . . but he's certainly sold me on it since I became Oldham's coach and listened to all those pundits who are claiming that we are certs for promotion come next Spring.

There rarely was a sporting cert. We all know that on a Saturday night when we check our pools coupons and find that we've still got to work for a living . . . at least for another week.

But talk to many, many people in Rugby League and they're already saying that Oldham WILL—not CAN, I hasten to add—be back in the first division next year.

The Rugby Leaguer has already tipped us for second division honours, and one national newspaper man gazed into his crystal ball a week or two ago and saw Hull K.R., our opponents tonight, and Oldham in the top two places.

Now that's all well and good. But the critics won't put Oldham back in the first division. Only we, the club, the players, and the coaching staff can do that—and, believe me, there is a lot of work to do.

What we mustn't forget is that not only Oldham folk believe their team is destined for a short stay in the second division. There are five other clubs, at least, who can justifiably claim that they will be in there fighting when the battle becomes toughest next March or April.

We will see from Hull K.R. in the next 11 days, when we play them three times, just how strong their challenge will be. It is likely to be a formidable one. They have a fine, young pack backed by the experience of players like Roger Millward and Neil Fox.

Others to watch? What about Swinton, Leigh, Workington, and Whitehaven—and that's not counting the other Humberside team, Hull, who could spring a few surprises.

Counting Oldham that's seven teams fighting for four places already.

If we needed a sharp reminder it came in the first round of the county cup ties. Swinton, after a poor season last time out, knocked holders Wigan out of the competition, while Workington beat my old team, St. Helens—at Knowsley Road, too—and Leigh leap-frogged straight into the semi-final by knocking up 30 points at Barrow.

So there is plenty of evidence, there, to show that we cannot afford to sit back and fall into the trap of believing that promotion is ours by right, or that we will have an easy time of things.

There are, too, several arduous trips to make for away matches. Hull K.R. away is on a Friday night, so is Barrow, so is Whitehaven. Then we have to go to Workington—and many a fancied team has come unstuck at Derwent Park.

Don't run away with the idea that I'm under estimating our promotion prospects. Of course, we CAN reach our goal, and I think we will. But we mustn't allow ourselves to fall into the trap of being complacent about any match

I was very pleased, incidentally, at the way our team shaped in the first half against Widnes. In the long term our display before the interval augured well for the future.

It was not, alas, the same team that performed in the second half.

As I said earlier, there is a lot of work to do, a lot of matches to be won before we start thinking about promotion.

At least two handy sides are going to be very disappointed. We don't want Oldham to be one of them merely because we were talking about the first division while the others were getting on with the job of getting there.

OUR VISITORS

TONIGHT marks the opening of the tenth BBC TV Floodlit Cup Competition, a well established competition which has this season received entries from 22 clubs writes DON YATES.

Hull K.R. have taken part in seven of the nine previous competitions and have twice reached the semi-final.

In 1967 they opened their account with a surprise win at Wakefield but at the next hurdle they fell 13-12 at home to Warrington. The following season Rovers were beaten first time out at Leigh 27-19 and it was Leigh again who dealt the knock-out blow to the Robins in 1969 when they won 12-6 at Craven Park on their way to winning the trophy.

In 1970 Hull K.R. progressed to the semi-finals. Terry Clawson was on the Robins' books then and his 8 goals in their opening tie against Warrington was a major contribution to the 25-13 victory. The quarter-final match was a tough all-Humberside affair in which home advantage told in favour of Rovers who won 18-8. A trip to Leeds is always a difficult match but in a cup semi-final it is a well nigh impossible task and so it proved to be for the Robins who were beaten in every department by the eventual winners, the final score being 24-2 in Leeds' favour.

For the opening tie of 1971 Hull K.R. had again to travel to Headingley and although they held the cup holders to an 8-5 interval deficit, in the second half they crumpled to a 33-13 defeat. Two seasons ago the Rovers met Rochdale Hornets in a two legged preliminary tie which they won easier than they expected. The first leg was staged on Humberside and the Robins won 15-6 despite trailing 0-6 at half-time. Hornets

were confident of reducing the arrears when the sides met for the second leg at the Athletic Grounds but this was not to be for poor handling by the home side plus an impressive performance by the Yorkshiremen gave them a 23-9 win and an aggregate victory by 38 points to 15.

In the following round the struggling Leigh side visited Humberside and a match which was expected to be won comfortably by the Robins was lost 12-10, despite the home side scoring two tries to their opponents none. Last season the Rovers again reached the semi-final beginning with a good 28-8 home win over Dewsbury with Roger Millward giving an outstanding performance. Roger the Dodger was again in top form for the visit of Leeds to Craven Park for the quarter final but he was unable to stop the Headingley boys from making a flying start with two tries from Alan Smith in the first 10 minutes.

By half-time the Robins had levelled the scores at 10-10 and in a thrilling second half Millward kicked the deciding goal to give Rovers a 12-10 victory. A home tie against Widnes left Rovers confident of reaching the final for the first time but it was not to be. The Chemics recovered after trailing 5-4 at half-time to pull off a 13-8 win.

This was a disappointing finish for Rovers but it will make them more determined this season to fight their way to the final. Their strong first team squad could realise the clubs dream but they know that it will be difficult to progress against the equally determined Oldham in tonight's preliminary round match.



Picture by courtesy of The Evening Chronicle.

ACTION — Tearaway Bob Welding meets two Widnes defenders head on in the Lancashire Cup tie.



BRIAN BATTAY OF THE MAIL

THE main lesson to emerge from the latest tour of Australia and New Zealand is that no squad is complete without a skilled physiotherapist.

Although the 1970 tour squad managed without one, Wakefield Trinity's Paddy Armour made the trip in 1966.

The lack of a physiotherapist threw a lot of extra work on the willing shoulders of coach Johnny Whiteley in '70 and provided Jim Challinor with far greater problems this summer.

Challinor's plight was the fact that no other tour has suffered such an appalling number of injuries, many of them serious.

The position became so critical at one stage that he could call on only 13 fit players—half the party—for one game in Sydney and little more for the Second Test.

This led to several players taking pain-killing injections—five for the Third Test—to get out onto the pitch.

Three players were sent home and David Watkins was unable to resume playing after suffering a crippling knee injury in the first month at Brisbane.

There is nothing a physiotherapist could have done for any of those four players and certain injuries such as pulled hamstrings.

But the cost of continually sending players for treatment, the travel and the fact that they were in different hands so many times was a burden on the tour.

How much simpler and wiser it would have been to have sent Oldham's Dennis Wright, a man with tremendous experience at football and hospital level.

After his efforts throughout the World Cup trip to France in 1972, Dennis became highly respected and appreciated by the players.

It was a big disappointment to both Dennis and the players when it was realised that the League had decided against sending a physiotherapist to Australia.

'There is no doubt that Dennis did a wonderful job during the World Cup and on other trips to France,' says tour skipper Chris Hesketh.

'He could have made a big difference on this last tour although could not have helped in the case of certain injuries. But when it was decided against sending him we should have had an alternative arrangement.

'It would have been better to have fixed up a physiotherapist to try and travel around with us if possible.'

It is perhaps significant that the Australians have always had, as long as I can remember, Alf Richards to look after this feature.

He is welcomed by the players for his work in this field and the Australians would no more think of touring without him than they would without a hooker.

If our officials try to use the expense as an excuse for such an omission in the future they should consider the Australian set up.

They had two managers, admittedly a player-coach, but also brought Richards on the last tour.

Whether or not Britain's Test chances would have been improved with Dennis Wright's presence in Australia we shall never know. But he or someone else, must make the trip next June for the international championship.

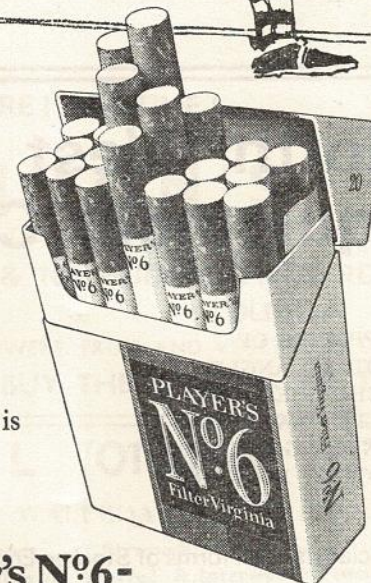
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FIXTURES 1974-75

Aug. 17—Rochdale (Law Cup) Home 27-15	Aug. 24—Blackpool Away 28-2
" 24—Blackpool Home 17-13	" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.) Away 13-10
Sept. 1—Widnes (3-15 p.m.) Home 9-14	Sept. 7—Blackpool Home
" 8—Blackpool Away	" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 14—Huddersfield Home	Oct. 5—Rochdale Home
" 20—Hull K.R. (7-30 p.m.) Away	" 12—Wigan Away
" 28—Player's No. 6 (1st Rnd.)	" 19—St. Helens Away
Lancs. Cup, Rnd. 1 Home	" 26—Huyton Away
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) Home	Nov. 2—Swinton Home
" 12—Hull Home	" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 18—Whitehaven (7-00 p.m.) Away	" 23—Widnes Home
" 26—Huyton Home	" 30—
Nov. 3—Swinton Away	" 14—
" 9—Player's No. 6 (2nd Rnd.)	" 21—
" 16—Workington Home	" 26—
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 28—Huyton Home
" 30—Batley Home	Jan. 4—
Dec. 8—Workington (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 11—
" 14—Hull K.R. Home	" 18—Barrow Home
" 21—	" 25—Swinton Away
" 26—Huddersfield Away	Feb. 1—
" 29—Huyton (2-30 p.m.) Away	" 8—St. Helens Home
Jan. 4—New Hunslet Home	" 15—Leigh Home
" 11—Doncaster Home	" 22—Salford Home
" 17—Barrow (7-00 p.m.) Away	Mar. 1—
" 25—Swinton Home	" 8—
Feb. 1—	" 15—Leigh Away
" 8—Challenge Cup (1st Rnd.)	" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.) Away	" 29—
" 22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.)	Apr. 5—Barrow Away
Mar. 1—Whitehaven Home	" 12—Warrington Home
" 8—	" 19—Wigan Home
" 15—Leigh Home	
" 23—Batley Away	
" 30—Hull Away	
Apr. 5—Barrow Home	
" 12—	
" 19—	

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