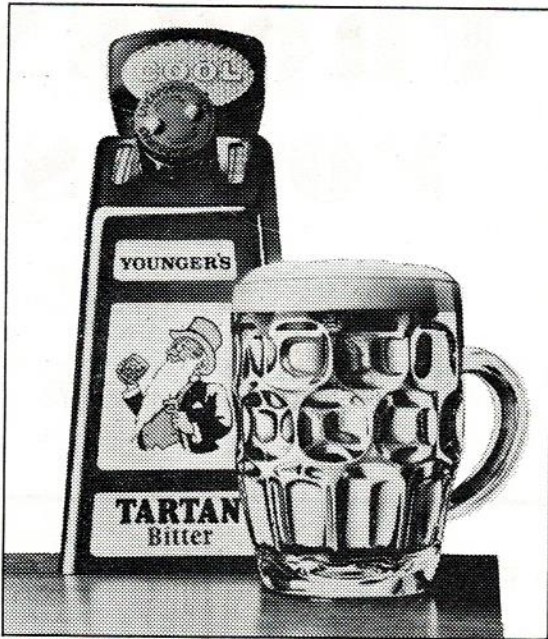


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Whitehaven 2

v.

OLDHAM 10

Friday, 18th October, 1974

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OLDHAM

The Recreation Ground this evening welcomes from Lancashire—Oldham, the first Lancashire team to visit us this season. The current situation is that Oldham have played 6, won 4 and lost 2 matches, just one more than Whitehaven, which makes this evening's game a vital match to both sides with a lot at stake regarding League leadership.

Last May Jim Challinor took over as coach from Griff Jenkins. Jim, ex-St. Helens coach and coach to the Great Britain touring side has already made his intentions quite clear on what he wants and expects from his team. In the first place he wants to finish the season top of the League; then silver on the sideboard and thirdly, but by no means least, important and attractive Rugby to bring the fans back to Watersheddings. Before taking on the job of coach, Jim weighed up very carefully the pros and cons before deciding to accept and the big thing which persuaded Jim was the fact that he was sure the lads at Oldham have got what it takes to make a great team.

Ken Wilson, the A team coach, who joined Oldham in 1963 from Gloucester Rugby Union Club, with over 300 appearances has been granted a benefit this season. Ken has shown in this, his first season as A team coach, that he can provide Jim with the players he needs for the first team. The average age of the A team is 22 and they have currently played 5 and won 5 matches.

On the playing side, Brian Gregory, signed last season from Warrington, has been appointed team captain. Brian missed the opening games because of a broken bone in his hand incurred playing Rochdale Hornets in a friendly match. Tony Wainwright and Phil Larder, centres, are the leading try scorers along with winger Mike Elliott. Oldham's goal kicker, Phil Larder, has 33 goals to his credit, one more than George Mather. Full-back, Gordon Pollard, signed this season from St. Joseph's, Huddersfield, a player who they chased for nearly 12 months, has filled the gap admirably while ex-captain Martin Murphy has been in Australia. Ian Holland, a sensational buy last season from Salford at a very modest price considering his potential, is, in the absence of Phil Larder, a good goal kicker as well as a prolific try scorer. With half-backs like John Blair, David Troasore, Mick McCone, the centres and wingers need have no fear of not getting plenty of ball. In the forwards it's nice to hear that Bill McCracken, after a hand and leg injury is ready to go back training. Let's hope it's not too long before we can see him bustling again. Keith Ashcroft, Fred Hall, and Brian Hughes are all well accustomed to the prop positions and although Terry Clawson, listed at £7,500, and is a big miss, these players have proved in the past to give of their best, and step in to fill the gap. Kevin Taylor and Dickie Brown with plenty of support from Bob Welding and Brian Gregory, ensure they get more than their fair share of possession from the scrums.

Beaten in the first round of the Lancashire Cup by Widnes, who have reached the final, you can see it was no mean threat of Jim Challinor to say he wanted silver on the sideboard. They beat Workington Town in the 1st Round of the Players No. 6 and meet Bradford Northern in the second round. Surprisingly, they lost on aggregate to Hull K.R. in the preliminary round of the Floodlit Trophy.

CLUB NEWS

First of all we are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors have signed from neighbours Workington Town, John McQuire. John, a more than useful centre, belongs to Millom, where he has been playing for the amateur team on permit. John McQuire grew up with Kenny Evans in Millom, so it comes as no surprise to learn they are mates. What's more, they team up together this time professionally.

Good news on the player front too. Paul Eilbeck out with a broken arm, has fully recovered, and proved last Friday against Hull K.R. that he is back to peak fitness. Incidentally, wasn't that a fantastic result! Dennis Martin in the forwards and Mike Gracey in the back division, ran riot at the "Robins" ground. Harry Maddison has been training very hard and a lot depends on the eye injury Barry Smith sustained at Hull K.R. as to whether Jeff Bawden (who will decide prior to the match) who will occupy the scrum-half position. Matt Glaister comes onto the subs bench for the first time this season.

Philip Charlton has started training and so too has Donald Hetherington, signed last season from the amateur ranks. Donald, unlike Alan McCurrie, still has to be "blooded" in the professional game. Alan is so keen, that this season he has travelled with the team when not selected, to gain atmosphere and travelling experience at away games, and of course to watch number one choice "Tally" Thompson, who gave ex-Great Britain hooker, Peter Flanagan, of Hull K.R., a 20 to 7 scrum drubbing last Friday.

At long last we are starting to get strength in depth back into the team. John Shimmings, leg trouble; Alex Cassie, thigh injury and Alan Tait niggling injuries all season, after a couple of weeks quiet lay-off, are all back in training. From Jeff Bawden's point of view, it must be a pleasing sight to have, as he had last Tuesday night, 27 players plus four colts players, turn up for training. However, what a nightmare it must be to pick a team when you can only select 15 players for each match. It is absolutely essential to the club's well-being and future, that the players who are not currently selected, don't lose heart, especially as they are all knocking on the door for selection and inclusion in the team.

In the last programme, Jeff Bawden, via the Club Notes, made an appeal for anyone who was interested in the game to come along to a training session. John Davidson has taken up the challenge. A forward, aged 23, John hasn't played for some time and when he did he played for Wath Brow and Hensingham. Being out of the game for so long, John is obviously out of form, but who knows in a month's time when he has the feel of the game again, he could be just the type of player we are looking for. Well done John, and thanks for turning up! The offer is still open. Can you follow John Davidson's footsteps and accept the challenge; it takes guts which is a vital factor in the game of Rugby League.

MATCH BALL

We are extremely grateful to A. Simpson, The Sports Depot, 1, South William Street, Workington, for providing the ball for this evening's game.

JOHN PLAYER 2nd ROUND

Please Note—This match has been fixed for Sunday, 10th November, Kick-off 3-00 p.m. at the Recreation Ground.

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WHITEHAVEN 2

	Tries	Goals	Points
1—GEORGE MATHER		1	
2—PAUL EILBECK			
3—MIKE GRACEY			
4—JOHN McQUIRE			
5—BRIAN ROSE			
6—KEN EVANS			
7—BARRY SMITH			
7—HARRY MADDISON			
8—DENNIS MARTIN			
9—EDDIE THOMPSON			
10—JOHN PRINGLE			
11—JOHN McFARLANE			
12—GORDON COTTIER			
13—TOM GAINFORD			
14—HARRY MADDISON			
14—BARRY SMITH			
15—MATT GLAISTER			

OLDHAM 10

	Tries	Goals	Points
JOHN BLAIR—1			
MIKE ELLIOTT—2	1		
PHIL LARDER—3		2	
EDDIE BARTON—4			
IAN HOLLAND—5			
TONY WAINWRIGHT—6			
MICK McCONE—7			
KEITH ASHCROFT—8			
KEVIN TAYLOR—9			
FRED HALL—10			
BRIAN GREGORY—11	1		
BOB WELDING—12			
JOHNNY FARRELL—13			
Dickie Brown—14			
Brian Hughes—15			

Coach: JIM CHALLINOR

Referee — Mr. J. E. Jackson (Pudsey)

Touch Judges — Mr. D. Scott. Mr. J. G. Bell

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WHITEHAVEN RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

FIXTURES 1974/75

	For Ag.		For Ag.
August		December	
24—Huddersfield	A 14 10	8—New Hunslet	A
		13—Huyton	H
September		26—Workington Town	H
1—Huyton 1st Round		January	
Lancs. Cup	A 15 22	1—Workington Town	A
6—Hull	H 7 2	3—Barrow	A
15—Swinton	A 12 21	10—Hull K.R.	H
22—Batley	A 19 10	19—Blackpool	A
28—Player's No. 6 Trophy		24—Barrow	H
First Round	32 6		
October		February	
4—Leigh	H 14 2	8—Challenge Cup,	
11—Hull K.R.	A 10 5	First Round	
18—Oldham	H	14—New Hunslet	H
25—Blackpool	H	22—Challenge Cup,	
		Second Round	
November		March	
3—Doncaster	A	1—Oldham	A
9—Player's No. 6 Trophy		14—Swinton	H
Second Round		22—Leigh	A
15—Huddersfield	H	29—Batley	H
24—Hull	A	April	
29—Doncaster	H	6—Huyton	A

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