

Oldham

23

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M. *try*
- 3 LARDER, P. *2 tries goal*
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T. *try*
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 BROWN, R. *2 tries*
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HUGHES, B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 McCracken, W.
- 13 FARRELL, J. *try*
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 REYNOLDS, J.

Referee:

T. M. Beaumont (Huddersfield)

New Hunslet

2

- 1 BIBB, H.
- 2 FISHER, G.
- 3 BARON, S.
- 4 A. N. Other
- 5 WORMSLEY, B.
- 6 GAITLEY, B. *goal*
- 7 HORROCKS, P.
- 8 CREWDSON, G.
- 9 MASKELL, A.
- 10 SYKES, K.
- 11 CHAWNER, T.
- 12 CRAMPTON, J.
- 13 GRIFFITHS, A.
- 14 NICHOLLS, G.
- 15 A N Other

J. Clarke (Warrington) Orange
E. Leach (St. Helens) Red

TODAY'S MATCH BALL

presented by

NEIL SIMMONDS
PRINTER

Clarks Lane Works
Rochdale 47258

OLDHAM

v

NEW HUNSLET



—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

Busting Bill McCracken, now back on first-team duty, captured in determined mood by an Evening Chronicle photographer.

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

NEW HUNSLET

was *Martin Murphy*

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 HULL K R
F. HALL

Sunday 5th JANUARY
74-75
kick-off 3.30 pm 8p

J. M. KERSHAW

(JOINERS & BUILDERS) LTD

Members of The Master Builders Federation

Offices: LITTLEBANK STREET . OLDHAM

Telephone 061-652 2499

Works: TAURUS STREET . OLDHAM

PARAMOUNT PACKING CASE MAKERS LTD

FOR ALL YOUR PALLET REQUIREMENTS

WHITFIELD MILL - MILLFOLD - WHITWORTH - ROCHDALE

Telephone Whitworth 3326

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TAKE a bow, Martin Murphy! Today, our full back will lead out Oldham for the New Hunslet match as our brand-new England international. He follows in the footsteps of a long line of players from Watersheddings to enjoy the honour and the esteem of pulling on their country's jersey.

Like those who have gone before, Martin will wear the England shirt with pride in his heart and the sort of fire in his play which, in the last eight years, has made him such a popular player at Oldham.

We can say with confidence that he will prove an ideal ambassador in France on January 19 not only of our English game but also of the Oldham club.

Martin has come a long way since those days of eight years ago when, as a tousle-haired teenager, he made his Oldham debut at Watersheddings — and had to go off early on after a clash with his opposing full back Colin Tyrer.

Even in those days his self-confidence was always evident and he quickly established himself as Oldham's no. 1 full back — a player who combined not only the deadliest of tackling with super-swift attacking play but added to it the qualities of determination and guts which so often make the difference between a GOOD player and a GREAT player.

One has lost count many times over of the tries Murphy has saved with his ability to read a situation, allied to his bullet-from-a-gun pace which enables him to steer a winger up the touchline — and then pick him off with a beautiful tackle.

But his attacking has also contributed much to Oldham's cause, and given supporters a tremendous amount of enjoyment, in the last few years.

Speed off the mark, change of pace, safe hands, and a sidestep that can baffle defenders are all part of the Murphy make-up.

He will fly out to Perpignan with the England team on January 18 for the match against France the following day — the first game in the three-nations tournament which also features Wales. It will mean that he will miss the match at Barrow on Friday night, January 17.

A sound performance would keep him in the side for the game against Wales — and almost automatic selection for the English team that plays in the new five-way international series in Australia next summer.

All at Watersheddings, from club officials to the youngest supporters, will wish Martin well — and we trust you will reserve for him a special reception when he leads out Oldham for today's game.

At this point it would be remiss of the club not to wish all our members and supporters a happy and prosperous New Year. Elsewhere in this programme Jim Challinor points out that it has been a happy festive period for the club and we readily endorse those sentiments.

What we have to do now is to ensure that our good run of success on the field continues to the end of the season so that we can make sure of a number one priority — promotion.

A good run in the Challenge Cup would be a terrific boost, as well. At the time of writing these notes it was not known who our first-round opponents will be. The draw was to be made yesterday during the Grandstand programme on BBC television. Let us hope that luck has favoured us as we swing into 1975.



CAKE BAKERIES LTD.
ASHTON ROAD - OLDHAM

QUALITY CAKES

SPECIALISTS IN SLAB CAKE, FAMILY CAKES & SWISS ROLLS

Tel. 061-633 1181 Telex. : 668738 Telegrams : Parkona

ARTHUR GOSS & SON

"THE MAN'S SHOP"

- ★ QUALITY MEN'S WEAR BY THE BEST MAKERS
- ★ READY TO WEAR SUITS BY 'DAKS', 'MAENSON', & 'SUMRIE'
- ★ RAINCOATS BY 'BURBERRY', 'DRIWAY', & 'NICHOLSON'
- ★ CLUB COLOURS A SPECIALITY

RHODES BANK, OLDHAM — Tel.: MAI 2086

WE WILL TACKLE

ALL YOUR PLUMBING PROBLEMS TRY

TO SOLVE YOUR HEATING PROBLEMS

AND MAKE YOUR NEW BATHROOM OUR GOAL

USE YOUR LOOSE ARM

TO GIVE US A RING AT

061-652 4005 K. TAYLOR

FOR BEER AT ITS BEST

EILEEN & BERT INVITE YOU TO CALL AT

THE PUB THE PLAYERS USE

PRINTERS ARMS

OLDHAM ROAD
DENSIAW
Tel: Saddleworth 4248

(Two miles from motorway on the way to the Ground)

Rugby League's richest prize! Player's N°6 Trophy

The outstanding feature of every season



With over £16,000 in prize money to play for it's no wonder that the Player's N°6 Trophy is a success with the players. And the effort and skill they put into capturing the Trophy has made sure that this 5 round, 32 club knockout series is a hit with the spectators too.

The Player's N°6 Trophy really is Rugby League's richest prize—in every sense.



PNS 633



Player's N°6-
backing British sports

EVERY PACKET
CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Central Heating Specialists

Heatways Ltd.

Approved Installers

★ NO DEPOSIT

★ FINANCE TERMS ARRANGED

★ COMPETITIVE PRICES

QUALITY SYSTEMS GAS, OIL OR SOLID FUEL

178-182 Bury New Road, Whitefield

Tel. RAY HATTON 766 6511 (day) 766 4385 (anytime)

North West Storage Equipment Co. NWS

SUPPLIERS OF
SLOTTED ANGLE
STEEL SHELVING,
PALLET RACKING,
HANDLING EQUIPMENT,
CLOTHES LOCKERS,

FILING CABINETS,
STEEL DESKS,
PLASTIC & METAL BINS,
TOOL STORAGE EQUIPMENT,
VAN STORAGE EQUIPMENT.

Specialists in all forms of Storage Equipment & Office Furniture

BAMFORD STREET WORKS

BAMFORD STREET ROCHDALE LANCs.

Tel. KEITH POTTER ROCHDALE 38974-5



MAY I take this opportunity of wishing you all a belated happy New Year. Certainly, the last few weeks have provided a happy period for the club. The month of December promised to be a very difficult time for us with matches against Workington, Hull K.R., Huyton and Huddersfield — and three of them away from home.

We can look back with a certain amount of pride and a sense of achievement in picking up six points from those matches — points that keep us bang on course in the promotion battle.

But enough of the past. We have to look to the future and that means today's match against New Hunslet and the amended scrummaging laws which will be seen for the first time.

The Oldham club would have preferred to see the new laws come into operation at the start of next season but the authorities decided otherwise so we have to make the best of it.

There are three changes to look out for this afternoon. 1.—no pushing until the ball is in the pack. 2.—under-arm binding by hookers instead of over the shoulders. 3.—the 'feed' to be made at a height between knee and ankle instead of the present lob.

I am all in favour of anything that is going to tidy up the scrums and increase the spectator value of our game. Of the three there is no doubt that the main amendment is the new-style binding of the hookers.

I have been asked many times how I feel it will work and, to be truthful, I just don't know. Only time will tell. I do not attach too much importance to the 'no pushing' legislation. As far as I'm concerned that represents very little change, if any.

That brings us to the new method of put-in. It has been tried before and I think it is the only sensible method there is. It is pointless, when hookers are striking with their feet, to put the ball into the pack with an upward motion and very often into the hookers' faces.

In fact, I would have liked the legis-

lators to go a stage further and insist that, even at a height between knee and ankle, the ball was put into the scrum WITH A DOWNWARD MOTION.

Anyway, the changes have been made and it is now the responsibility of us all within the game to try and make them work to the benefit of the game. I just hope the referees interpret the changes collectively and are uniform in their decisions.

Finally, may I offer to Martin Murphy sincere congratulations on his selection for England. He has, as club captain, been an inspiration to the team in the last few weeks and the winning of his first international cap is not only a well-deserved honour but one which could quite easily have come two or three years ago.

It is encouraging to note that the selectors did not confine themselves to First Division players because the standard of football in the Second Division is very high indeed.

At Oldham alone we have been involved in some excellent matches in the last week or two and the quality of play in the win against Hull K.R. was of an exceptional standard.

It is all proving the value of two divisions. A levelling off of standards produces better competition — and matches don't come more competitive than those against Huddersfield and Huyton.

The 'bite' was put into each game because promotion was involved. Had there been no promotion, and nothing at stake, they could have been lukewarm games by comparison.

Every game we play now is a vital one. Our spectators, who have given us tremendous support recently, are realising this — hence the fact that both Huddersfield and Huyton had their best gates of the season when we played there.

Traditionally, gates are at a low ebb during the Christmas period . . . and maybe the increased competition has had something to do with this reversal of trends.

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

Following the excellent win at Huyton, Oldham will be feeling confident of lifting the Second Division Championship but they face a tough test this afternoon with the visit of the much improved New Hunslet side.

New Hunslet's leading point scorer last season was full-back Geoff Nichols who scored four tries and 54 goals. He is in his second spell with Hunslet for after impressing with them in 1970 he was transferred to Barrow for £3,300 in December of that year. He made his debut for Barrow here at Watersheddings in a league match which was won by Oldham 13-2. In August 1972 he moved back to Yorkshire with Leeds and 12 months later was transferred back across the city to New Hunslet. He scored a try and 7 goals in New Hunslet's first match whilst this season his highest scoring effort was the 8 goals haul he notched in the 31-14 defeat of Doncaster. Twenty-three years old winger Barry Womersley is a product of the Bradford junior nursery who joined the senior Bradford Northern club in May 1971. Two seasons ago he scored 4 tries in one match against Hull and performances such as that enticed New Hunslet to sign him in September 1973.

Centre three-quarter George Clark is a very good player who has given sterling service to Hunslet during the past four or five seasons. He invariably ends the season as leading try scorer and at present heads his clubs try scoring charts with 9 touchdowns.

One visiting player who will certainly be out to impress home fans this afternoon is stand-off Bob Gaitley, who had a brief spell on Oldham's books. Twenty-years old Gaitley signed for the old Hunslet club in November 1971 after starring for Townsville in Leeds junior football. He came to Watersheddings in July 1973 following the resignation of

Hunslet from the league and he scored a try for Oldham on his debut the following month in the Charity Cup clash against Hornets. Things did not work out well for Gaitley and in December 1973 arrangements were made for him to play on loan with Wakefield Trinity but last January he was back with the New Hunslet club. Twenty-one years old scrum-half Phil Horrock represented Yorkshire at under-17 level when he played in Hunslet junior football. He was snapped up by Hunslet in June 1971 and he has developed into a permanent fixture in the senior side. In September 1973 New Hunslet paid out £1,000 for the Castleford half-back Danny Hargrave. He played for Cas in the 1971 Yorkshire Cup Final and is a fine player.

Thirty-six years old prop-forward Geoff Crewdson learned his rugby with Leeds Intermediates before joining Keighley in December 1955. He developed into an outstanding forward and toured Australasia in 1966. He was transferred to Hunslet in 1969 and now provides the experience to the tough tackling Elland Road pack.

Trevor Chawner is a product of the Bison Sports junior outfit who signed professionally for Huddersfield in September 1971. He moved to Castleford in April 1973 as part of a player exchange deal and he now finds himself back in Leeds with the New Hunslet club. At loose-forward is 26 years old Alan Griffiths whose form recently has been a feature of the New Hunslet side.

Today's match is important for Oldham who will not only be looking for success but will be keeping a watchful eye on both Huddersfield and Hull Kingston Rovers who provide the biggest challenge in the big race for Championship honours.



Show a leg! The Oldham players in jovial mood at their Christmas party. Examining the scratches on John Farrell's leg is Fred Hall. Others in the foreground (left to right) are: Eddie Barton, Roger O'Mahoney, Jim Challinor, Jim Reynolds, Phil Larder, Martin Murphy and Geoff Munro.

Picture by The Evening Chronicle.

BRIAN BATTY OF THE MAIL

The signs are growing that Rugby League will, in the distant future, have Soccer for company on a Sunday afternoon.

The conclusions being drawn in the Soccer world about the habits and feelings of their followers will not surprise the majority of Rugby League officials.

It has been shown in a National Opinion Poll that 70 per cent. of Soccer's lapsed fans now either work, watch other sports on television or go shopping.

I remember the majority of Rugby League clubs deciding that Saturday was finished a few years ago although Leeds and Wigan still prefer that day and Salford and St. Helens, along with Castleford, plump for Friday nights.

We will, of course, always have at least one game on a Saturday as long as television require such a game under the present contract.

Oldham, Leigh and Bramley are among the clubs who have been delighted to abandon Saturday games this season and move to Sunday.

Leigh hit rock bottom with gates of less than 500, Oldham were little better with two of the worst gates in their history.

Yet when Hull K.R. played Salford in the Players No. 6 quarter finals before the cameras the crowd was just short of 4,000.

That seems good in these dark days, especially when you remember that Rovers are in the Second Division.

But their officials protested afterwards that they would have had double the crowd had the game been played on the Sunday.

There is no doubt, in my humble view, which has not changed for four years, that Sunday is preferable to Saturday for all the obvious reasons.

I will make only one exception, and that is for the Challenge Cup semi-finals.

Some people will still point to poor Sunday attendances but my answer would be: just how much worse would those gates have been on a Saturday!

Mine Host - DAVID TAYLOR
FREEMASONS HOTEL
MILNROW
LUNCHES & BAR SNACKS



Grünhülle
Lager
Brewed in the Bavarian Way

THE SPORT FINAL

FOR ALL LOCAL SPORT

JACK BOWDEN

EXCAVATING — PLANT HIRE
DEMOLITION, DISMANTLING ENGR

LEES RD, OLDHAM

Tel: 061-624 0365

AID CONSULTANTS

■ ■ ■ ■

Can you calculate 8% VAT in your head?

We can supply the answer in seconds, with

TOSHIBA, TOTALIA, MELCOR, REMINGTON, ADLER
OLYPMIA, SUMMIT, ANITA AND LAGO CALCULATORS

■ ■ ■ ■

Bamford Street Works, Rochdale

Telephones: Rochdale 38974 or 061-624 1628

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB
(The Pavilion, Watershedding, Oldham)

President: P. V. ASHWORTH
Chairman: A. WALKER
Treasurer: R. HARTLEY
Secretary: K. WILKINSON
Coach: J. CHALLINOR
Steel Stockholders, Shearers
AND DECOILERS

H. STOCKWELL & CO. LTD.

ROYTON, Near OLDHAM

Telephone : 061-624 0404 (20 lines)

SEND FLOWERS ANYWHERE ! ANYTIME !
THROUGH

HILTON'S

YOUR TELEFLOWER FLORIST

113 UNION ST. WEST & 188 HUDDERSFIELD RD.

Tel: 061-624 6110

OLDHAM

FRESH FLOWERS, FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY

BUY THE BEST ! — WE DO !

GEORGE HILL (Oldham) LTD

TIMBER MERCHANTS AND WALLBOARD DISTRIBUTORS

Imported Softwoods — Hardwoods — Plywoods — Formica

Mouldings; Doors; Dowels. Stockists of 'Weyroc' & Interwoven Fencing

SAWING, PLANING and MOULDING MILLS

TIMBER ROT PROOFED BY OUR CUPRINOL DELUGING PLANT

SCOTTFIELD SAWMILLS ASHTON ROAD OLDHAM

Tel: 061-652 7421

OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB (The Pavilion, Watershedding, Oldham)

President: P. V. ASHWORTH

Treasurer: R. HARTLEY

Chairman: A. WALKER

Vice-Chairman: J. HALL

Committee:

T. ADLER, R. HATTON, D. HULME, J. BOWDEN, C. FARNWORTH, K. POTTER.

Secretary: K. WILKINSON

Coach: J. CHALLINOR

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.) Home		19—St. Helens Away	
Lancs. Cup, Rnd. 1 Home		26—Huyton Away	
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) Away		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.) Home		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.) Home		21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.) Away	
15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.) Away		29—	
22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.) Home		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—			

POOLS

OLDHAM RUGBY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

BECOME AN AGENT NOW — GENEROUS COMMISSION
FREE SEASON TICKET FREE WEEKLY AGENTS DRAW
AND MANY OTHER PRIVILEGES

Please contact ALAN TAYLOR at the Pools Office 'Phone: 652-5244.

SOCIAL CLUB

WHY NOT CALL IN THE CLUB AFTER THE MATCH FOR A CHAT
AND A DRINK !

Friday and Saturday — LATE CABARET NIGHTS

Restaurant and Light Snacks available

'Phone: 624-7240.

ONLY THE **RUGBY LEAGUER**

IS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO
RUGBY LEAGUE

AND HAS BEEN FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY
Ask your newsagent to order your copy today or complete the order form for
delivery to your home.
TO THE PUBLISHER, RUGBY LEAGUER, 164 COLLEGE STREET, ST. HELENS,
LANCS, NA10 1TT.

You save money by taking the full season's subscription.

PLEASE POST RUGBY LEAGUER TO ME
EACH WEEK FOR 13 WEEKS (90p) 26
WEEKS (£1.80) FULL SEASON (£2.60)
As the Leaguer is not published during the
close season the subscription will continue
into the following season until the expiry
date.

I ENCLOSE REMITTANCE VALUE

NAME

ADDRESS

(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)
(Delete words not applicable)

EVERY WEDNESDAY
THROUGHOUT
THE SEASON

4p

OVERSEAS RATES AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
13 weeks (£1.80) 26 weeks (£3.60) season (£5.60)