

# Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 HAMMOND, J.
- 8 WELDING, R.
- 9 TAYLOR K.
- 10 FLANAGHAN, K.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 HERBERT S.
- 13 BROWN, R.
- 14 BLAIR, J.
- 15 HICKS, R.

Referee:  
R. Jackson (Halifax)

# Keighley

- 1 JEFFERSON, B.
- 2 STEPHENSON, J.
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- 5 JOHNSON, D.
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- 13 VALENTINE, R.
- 14 SUTCLIFFE, P.
- 15 GARBETT, D.

K. Ashall (Prescott) Red  
J. Clarke (Warrington) Orange

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# OLDHAM v KEIGHLEY



First try of the 1975-6 season went to Oldham forward Bob Welding. He is seen here, supported by Johnnie Hammond, crossing the Hornets' line for the first of his side's five tries in the Law Cup clash.

(Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.)

## 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  
**KEIGHLEY**

was .....

## 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**

**Sunday 24th AUGUST**  
**kick-off 3.30 pm** **8p**

# People like you are changing to N°6



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## OLDHAM OUTLOOK

GLAD to see you again for the start of this our centenary season. We hope you have spent a happy, hot and relaxed summer and have recharged your batteries for the rigours of a Watersheddings winter.

It has been an eventful close-season with the first part of the World championship down under. We feel sure you will join with us in tendering our congratulations to David Treasure, who had a successful trip as a member of the Welsh squad.

Summer 1975 will never be forgotten, either, by our physiotherapist Dennis Wright—but for very different reasons.

A back injury prevented his travelling to Australia and New Zealand as the English masseur—a bitter disappointment not only to Dennis and his family but to the England party—and to make matters even worse he spent most of the summer on his back and had to cancel a family holiday to the south of France.

Needless to say we are delighted to see him back at the club and confident that he will be recompensed for his disappointments in some small measure by landing the English job for the second part of the world series here in the autumn.

You will have read in the Press about Johnnie Farrell's illness. After collapsing on a training session, he was first in Oldham Royal Infirmary and later moved to the neuro-surgical unit at Crumpsall Hospital, Manchester, where he had an operation for a burst blood vessel in his head.

Typically, even in very anxious times, John did not forget his Watersheddings mates. In the dressing room at Rochdale before the Law Cup game they received a best-wishes telegram from Crumpsall.

You will all, we feel sure, want to be associated in sending John the very best of wishes for a speedy recovery and a quick return to his wife and family in Wigan.

Work at the club and on the ground has gone on steadily throughout the summer. The ground staff have done a very good job in restoring the pitch as you will no doubt appreciate when you take your place on the terraces or your seat in the stand.

Many volunteers have helped to give the woodwork a coat of paint so that the ground will look ready for the start of a brand new season.

To all who have helped in any way to prepare for the Watersheddings kick-off today we offer thanks, just as we do to the organisations, such as the pools team, the Supporters' Club and the Vice-Presidents' Association who have been busy as usual in the field of fund-raising.

Naturally, we are all looking forward eagerly to our efforts in the First Division again.

We are hopeful that gates will increase considerably because the season is going to be a crucial one, not only for Oldham but for Rugby League football generally.

Ground safety regulations, V.A.T., the new National Insurance contribution scheme, Government pressures to commerce to ease up on sponsorship, the high level of unemployment, and the general effects of hypo-inflation will hit our sport badly.

Make no mistake, from the financial point of view, it is going to be a long, hard winter. Within the game there are fears for the future of one or two clubs.

At Oldham we believe we can overcome heavy odds and win the battle—but we can do it only with your help and loyal assistance.

As part of the centenary year effort we are having a big drive on membership and season tickets. If you haven't already done so, consider having a go.

Every little helps, and Kevin Wilkinson, the Secretary, will be delighted to hear from you before or after the match.

# Hope on the Horizon

RUGBY League faces a desperate battle for survival over the next couple of years. Clubs are losing money at a sickening rate and there's no doubt that it's going to get worse.

Yet, incredibly, if clubs can survive the present financial crisis — a crisis that is affecting all professional sports — there is real hope on the horizon.

For the game at school, college and university level is at its strongest for years and interest is increasing almost daily.

As Rugby League Secretary, David Oxley, says: "The game has made tremendous strides at schoolboy level.

"For instance in the Rugby Union stronghold of Morley there wasn't one school playing Rugby League until this season. Now there are ten taking up the game and there's a chance that more will follow.

"In Goole six schools have decided to play Rugby League and elsewhere in the North there's certainly been a sudden upsurge in interest.

"More than a dozen Youth Clubs in the Humberside area have also decided to take up the game and they'll be catering for the 14-16 age group and, of course, there's the University and College Leagues.

"These are making fantastic progress not only in the North, but in the Midlands where Rugby League is really catching on.

"Now, for the first time, young lads can see a continuity in playing Rugby League. They can start playing at

school, carry on at youth clubs, colleges or universities and then play amateur Rugby League with the assistance of B.A.R.L.A., who have made tremendous strides over the last few years.

"And it's this sort of continuity that's going to help raise the standard of Rugby League in Britain. Already we have the best players in the world — and it could get better.

"Professional clubs will have much more home grown talent to choose from which could prove vital, especially as it's going to get increasingly difficult to persuade top class Rugby Union players to turn professional."

Secretary Oxley watched more than 100 games all over the world during his first 12 months in office and the one thing he found most surprising was the consistently high standard of games.

"Unlike any other sport, fans can go to a Rugby League match and be 75 per cent. certain of seeing a good game.

"I think we probably under value our players in this country. We certainly produce some of the best footballers in the world — one glance at the Australian League proves that.

"All the real footballers in Australia are English imports — Mick Stephenson, Bill Ashurst and Phil Lowe.

"We must keep up and improve on our present high standard and I'm sure we will. At last it's now realistic to be optimistic about Rugby League."

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Break time for Oldham players in their 29-2 Law Cup victory at Rochdale two weeks ago—their biggest score at the Athletic Grounds since 1964. The picture shows committeeman Keith Potter on the bench, the Oldham players having their half-time breather, and coach Jim Challinor giving one or two hints.

—Picture by Oldham Evening Chronicle.

Name the 11 players left to right and win two free seat tickets for our match v. St. Helens on 31st August. First correct entry received at the Secretary's office will be judged the winner.

| LEFT TO RIGHT: |          |
|----------------|----------|
| 1 .....        | 6 .....  |
| 2 .....        | 7 .....  |
| 3 .....        | 8 .....  |
| 4 .....        | 9 .....  |
| 5 .....        | 10 ..... |
|                | 11 ..... |

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## OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

THE four up and four down promotion and relegation system makes it extremely difficult for newly promoted clubs to maintain their First Division status and the Oldham club are in no doubt that the months ahead are to be full of hard work if they are to kick off next season in the Premier Division.

Oldham's first home match of this 1975-76 season is against Keighley who won promotion in 1974 and who managed to stay up with the big clubs. The three clubs promoted with Keighley were Bradford Northern, York and Halifax and already after just one season, two of those clubs, York and Halifax, have slipped back down into Division Two. York paid out plenty of good money on players in the hope of avoiding the drop but all to no avail and this indicates the tremendous task facing Oldham this season.

Keighley visit Watersheddings this afternoon for the first time since November 1970 when an exciting match went to the Yorkshire club by 16 points to 13. The attendance for that match was 1,515 who saw all 29 points being scored by just two players. Terry Garrett was Oldham's points scorer with a try and 5 goals whilst Keighley, who led 6-4 at half-time, had to thank full-back Brian Jefferson for their victory with his 2 tries and 5 goals. The match was a hard fought and exciting affair that was only marred by the dismissal of Ivan Pascoe, the Keighley winger. The two teams lined up as follows: Oldham—Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Graham Starkey, Terry Garrett, Phil Larder; Tommy Davies, Ged Smith; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Alan Ogden, Bob Irving, Bill Churm and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Cliff Sayer and Jim Reynolds.

Keighley — Brian Jefferson; George Simpson, Dave Wilmot, Terry O'Brien, Ivan Pascoe; Bob Smith, Colin Evans; Mick Clark, Alan Dickenson, Keith Pollard, Alan Hepworth, Dave Garbett, and John Butler. Substitutes: John Philbin and Tom Searle.

Keighley followed this up by winning 20-8 in the return match at Lawkholme Lane to complete the double, a feat they will be determined to repeat again this season.

They certainly have assembled a squad capable of upsetting all but the top clubs thanks to a productive youth policy and a couple of sensible signings from the transfer market. One such signing was the purchase of Stuart Gallagher from Bradford Northern. Gallagher began his rugby career with Llanelli R.U.F.C. and played Union for Wales Under-19 and Wales 'B' before gaining a full Welsh cap together with a trip to South Africa with the 1969 Barbarian team. In June 1970 he turned professional with Northern for a reported £6,500 and although he took time to adapt to the League game he became a popular member of the Bradford pack. Last season he gained his first professional representative honours when he played three times for Other Nationalities. It was in January last that Keighley snapped him up for a bargain £2,000 fee and by the end of the season he had played twice in the Welsh team. It must have been a big disappointment for Gallagher when he was overlooked for the trip to Australasia but further honours are sure to come his way as he assists small town Keighley to challenge the big names in Rugby League's Premier Division.

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## Chat with Challinor

RUGBY LEAGUE has a proud record for leading the way in sport.

Our Union cousins have adopted several rules from the professional code to improve their own game and both the R.F.U. and the soccer authorities took a leaf out of Rugby League's book when they introduced substitutes.

There were many doubters when, some years ago, Rugby League decided to end once and for all the possibilities of matches being absolutely ruined because of serious injuries.

But slowly and surely the idea of substitutes caught on and they are now part and parcel of both soccer and Rugby Union.

Rugby League, to its credit, has never been afraid to take bold steps in a bid to keep the game on its toes and try and ensure value for money for the paying customer.

I know that some will say it has been too bold: that too many changes, both in the rules and the constitution of the League, have been made and that the code has suffered because of it.

That will not be the case, I am sure, with regard to the new "instant treatment" system which Watersheddings followers will witness for the first time today.

I am equally confident that before the season is through the administrators of other sports will have begun to sit up and take note of yet another Rugby League first.

The idea of play proceeding while injured players receive treatment, instead of being stopped, first came to my attention during the tour of Australia in 1974.

I had never seen it in practice before but I was immediately impressed.

First and foremost it enables the trainer or physiotherapist to get out to the injured player immediately instead of waiting until he is signalled on by the referee.

There are obvious benefits there—but in addition the new system prevents all those irritating little stoppages in play caused by knocks which are not serious but nevertheless do require attention.

And if we reduce the number of stoppages in our game then it can only improve even more as a spectator sport.

I did, in fact, mention in this column midway through last season that it

would be well worth the while of the English Rugby League giving consideration to the Australian system.

As it happened there was a sequel to the first phase of the world championships in Australia and New Zealand in June when the international board, consisting of representatives from Australia, New Zealand, France and England, strongly urged Chapelton Road to adopt "instant treatment" here.

The League passed on the recommendation to members of the Senior Referees' Association — this greater liaison is a very wise and welcome sign—and our men in the middle in turn recommended acceptance.

Hence came to pass the introduction into the English game of the rapid intervention of trainers whenever a player goes down injured.

Obviously, there will be early problems to overcome. In the Law Cup at Rochdale we got away with a little bit of indiscretion when one of our players, being treated by Brian Churm, suddenly saw an opposing forward coming towards him and dragged himself away from Brian to make the tackle.

In my book that should have constituted a scrum-down for it is commonsense that when a player is being treated he is just as much "out of play" as the player who, finding himself yards offside but not interfering, will throw his arms high into the air to indicate that he has no intention of obstructing the opposition.

In the event, play was allowed to continue but although Rochdale were allowed to retain possession thanks to the play-the-ball it seemed to me that we were lucky to get away with that one.

Referees, trainers, and players will take some time to get accustomed to the new rule and I wouldn't be surprised, as the season gets properly under way, if there is need for the circulation of instructions to referees covering any given set of circumstances.

In the long-term, however, I am convinced that "instant treatment" will be a tremendous success. Watch it carefully today—and see what you think.

Finally, may I welcome you all to Watersheddings again for the start of a brand new season.

For weeks now I have been eagerly awaiting the start. I know the players have—and I suppose you have, too.

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## **FIXTURES 1975-76**

1975

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup) ..... | A |
| 17—Warrington .....              | A |
| 24—Keighley .....                | H |
| 31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) ..... | H |
| Sept. 7—Featherstone .....       | A |
| 14—Lancashire Cup—round 2 .....  | H |
| 21—Wigan .....                   | H |
| 28—Players' No. 6 .....          | A |
| Oct. 5—Keighley .....            | A |
| 12—Huddersfield .....            | H |
| 18—Leeds .....                   | A |
| 26—Wakefield .....               | A |
| Nov. 2—Dewsbury .....            | H |
| 9—Players' No. 6—round 2 .....   | H |
| 16—Salford .....                 | H |
| 22—Huddersfield .....            | A |
| 30—Leeds .....                   | H |
| Dec. 14—St. Helens .....         | H |
| 21—Bradford .....                | A |
| 26—Swinton .....                 | H |
| Jan. 1—Salford .....             | A |
| 4—Castleford .....               | H |
| 11—Hull K.R. .....               | H |
| 18—Dewsbury .....                | A |
| 25—Widnes .....                  | H |
| Feb. 8—St. Helens .....          | A |
| 15—Challenge Cup (1) .....       | A |
| 21—Wigan .....                   | A |
| 29—Challenge Cup (2) .....       | A |
| Mar. 7—Wakefield .....           | H |
| 12—Castleford .....              | A |
| 21—Widnes .....                  | A |
| 28—Featherstone .....            | H |
| Apr. 7—Warrington .....          | H |
| 11—Bradford .....                | H |
| 16—Hull K.R. .....               | A |
| 19—Swinton .....                 | A |

F. A. 1975

|                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---|
| 29-2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)... | A |
| Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...      | H |
| 20—Wigan .....                          | A |
| Oct. 4—Swinton .....                    | H |
| 18—Warrington .....                     | H |
| 25—Leigh .....                          | H |
| Nov. 14—Salford .....                   | A |
| 29—Rochdale .....                       | A |
| Dec. 6—Salford .....                    | H |
| 13—St. Helens .....                     | A |
| 20—Huyton .....                         | H |
| 27—Barrow .....                         | H |
| 1976                                    |   |
| Jan. 10—Swinton .....                   | A |
| 23—Widnes .....                         | A |
| 31—Rochdale .....                       | H |
| Feb. 7—St. Helens .....                 | H |
| 21—Wigan .....                          | H |
| Mar. 5—Warrington .....                 | A |
| 13—Leigh .....                          | H |
| 20—Widnes .....                         | H |
| 27—Barrow .....                         | A |
| Apr. 3—Huyton .....                     | A |

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J. Clarke (Warrington) Orange

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