

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BOTTOM, S.
- 5 O'BRIEN, C.
- 6 BLAIR, J.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 WELDING, R.
- 11 KEAR B.
- 12 HALL, F.
- 13 PETERS A.
- 14 PATTERSON, J.
- 15 BROWN, R.

Referee:
R. Jackson (Halifax)

Dewsbury

- 1 LANGLEY, J.
- 2 TIMPSON, I.
- 3 ARTIS, P.
- 4 STEPHENSON, N.
- 5 MITCHELL, G.
- 6 LEE, S.
- 7 BATES, A.
- 8 BEVERLEY, H.
- 9 PRICE, R.
- 10 BELL, G.
- 11 VODDEN, G.
- 12 GRASHON, G.
- 13 HANKINS, S.
- 14 GRAY, B.
- 15 LOWE, T.

R. Dennett (Warrington) Red
D. Bowes (Swinton) 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
DEWSBURY

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

v HUDDERSFIELD
T. WAINWRIGHT

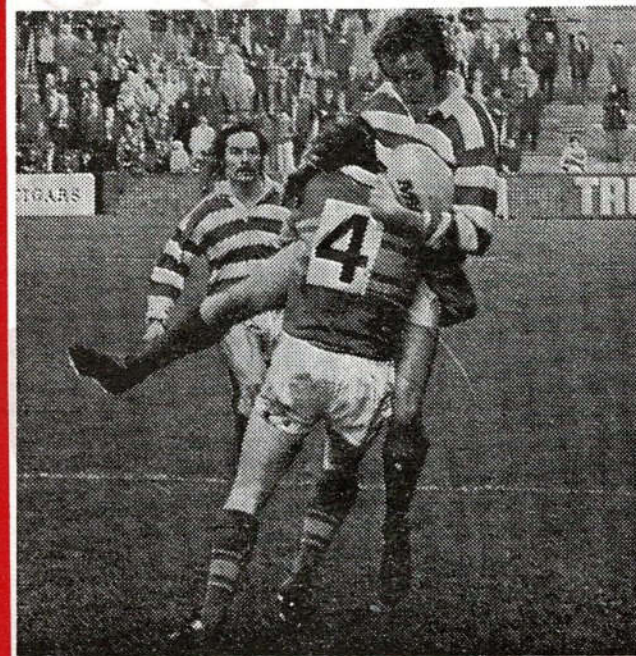
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OLDHAM

DEWSBURY

SUNDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Up, up ... and away goes Oldham centre Stuart Bottom, tackled by John Holmes, in the Watersheddings side's extremely unlucky 18-15 defeat at Leeds.

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

THE very future of international Rugby League at Watersheddings will be put on trial on Tuesday night when the Australians come here to help celebrate our centenary.

In the last few seasons we have done very well indeed with the appearance of the New Zealand touring team in season 1971-72, the Great Britain World Cup squad in 1972-73, the Aussies in 1973-74 and the England World Championship squad in 1974-75 as part of Ken Wilson's testimonial.

On October 27, 1971, the New Zealanders beat us 24-13. Phil Larder landed five goals and Bob Irving scored our only try. The attendance, sadly, was a pitiful 1,872.

Almost a year later an Oldham side led by Frank Foster beat Jim Challinor's Great Britain World Cup squad 18-15 thanks to a late try by Kevin Taylor after a superb break by Martin Murphy.

Larder (2) and Foster landed goals and the other try scorers were Terry Gorman (2) and Chris O'Brien.

The attendance that night was 3,829—more than a thousand greater than the 2,770 that saw the Aussies whip us 44-10 a year later.

That match was on October 19, 1973—a game remembered not only for the brilliant play of the cocky Kangaroos but for the wonderful solo try by John Blair who came on as substitute at stand-off half and almost immediately pushed off his opposite number to score from near half-way.

Our other points were provided by a try by Peter Astbury and two goals from Terry Clawson.

The saddening part was the small crowd—figures that are filed not only at RL headquarters in Leeds but at the HQ of the Australian RL in Sydney.

A touring team, when arranging to play matches other than internationals, has to think in terms of finance and, sadly, our attendance record against such teams in the last few years has not been too good.

Had it not been for the fact that we were this year celebrating our centenary it is extremely unlikely that we would have landed a game against the new-look Kangaroos on Tuesday night.

The fact that they are coming will clearly put our future as hosts of touring parties very much on the chopping block.

We are sure you will agree with us that it would be a tragedy if there were to be no more matches against Australia and New Zealand in the foreseeable future.

That's why we appeal to you all to come along on Tuesday night—and possibly bring a friend—not only to join with us in our 100th birthday party but to see the best that world Rugby League Football has to offer.

The Aussies really are worth seeing—and there will be the added tit-bit, we hope, of the appearance of Ian Schubert whom, as you will have read in the Press, we intend to sound out about his return here next year as a guest player during the Australian close season.

Ian spent some time at the home of our vice-chairman John Hall when he was here three years ago as a member of the Aussie schoolboy squad.

He is also friendly with our coach, Jim Challinor, so who knows, we may just be able to tempt him back here to gain experience of English RL and English conditions.

We are also doing our best to make the match something of an occasion. There will be a special souvenir programme and several local businessmen have already very kindly offered to help us by putting up match sponsorship.

In addition to that we have posters advertising the game around the town and the Mayor and other civic heads will be invited to our after-the-match reception in the social club.

As you will have read in the papers the Aussies have already expressed doubts about the financial viability of the match and a hint that, after trouncing Salford and St. Helens, the opposition that Oldham could provide might not be strong enough.

It is up to the players to prove them wrong on the football side and up to the Oldham public to show them that we haven't been in existence for 100 years without good cause!

Please do your best to attend this "one off" function. We trust you will get full value for money... but you will also be playing your part to ensure that future generations of Oldham supporters will be privileged to see the world's best players here at Watersheddings.

We know we can rely on you.

Always on a Sunday

By Roger Halstead
Evening Chronicle, Oldham

LOOKING back across the years to the days before Chinese chippies, bingo halls, supermarkets and Rugby League at 50p-plus, there is one aspect of my early upbringing that will not easily be forgotten—the Sunday saga.

I use the phrase advisedly because Sunday in that era was nothing if not repetitive ... church in the morning, roast beef and Yorkshire pud for lunch, Sunday school in the afternoon, the best crockery—and salad—for tea, and all rounded off by Evensong where some of us sung the Lord's praises while others made eyes at the pretty little things in scarlet caps and gowns.

To the lads in the local gang the Sunday ritual was merely an interlude between the ending of one sports-packed week and the start of another.

We had our own Wembley in winter; our very own Old Trafford in the summer. The very same spot where my own kids now sit to do their lessons in a brand new school was where I scored my first match-winning try!

But not even those moments of glory could compare with the thrills and excitement of each and every Saturday from mid-August to the end of April.

It was the weekly pilgrimage to watch the professionals — the Rugby League team one week, the soccer side the next. And always it was the same ... shops shut, long queues for the buses into town and then a mad scramble to board the "Football Special" still in one piece.

Only the rich people had cars. And only the very well-to-do had television. I was fortunate to have a buddy whose parents had both and I felt like a King when, as a special treat, we would be taken to far-off places with romantic names like Kirkhall Lane, Central Park and Thrum Hall to watch the all-time greats who played at that time.

Somewhere, probably tucked away in the bowels of the Halifax Courier building, there is on file a photograph of two fresh-faced kids who went to Thrum

Hall to see Ken Gee, Cedric Mountford and Co. to do battle with Halifax. They ended up seeing nothing.

The crush was too great for us. We were recompensed only by the fact that an observant local paper photographer dropped his shutter on the two forlorn-looking kids, and our picture duly appeared under the caption: "The two who missed the match!"

How times change. I haven't seen a "Football Special" in Rochdale for nigh on a decade; they've even done away with Evensong at the local church!

And the only crushes on a Saturday are to get in and out of betting shops or to find a place in the supermarket car park.

That's why Sunday rugby is here to stay—not because it is ideal, but because vast changes in our way of life have made it the lesser of two evils.

Saturday, as Rugby League day, is past. We still love our sport, but now we get saturation coverage—in colour, no less—on TV. We don't have to stir from our armchair. And if we do, it's only to stock up the larder on the weekly shopping expedition. You can't watch your rugby if you're stuck behind a long queue at the supermarket.

Several clubs, bravely carrying the Saturday banner, have found to their cost that it's no good being a traditionalist if it's killing you off in the process. Counter-attractions on a Sunday are minimal, and most clubs have been forced, albeit reluctantly, to pin their flag to the Saturday masthead.

The tragedy of Rugby League Football is not that it IS played on a Sunday. But that it MUST be played on a Sunday. This brings in its wake social problems for players, and robs the code of Sunday newspaper coverage it can ill-afford to lose.

But that is the price we must pay if the game is to survive. Rugby League can continue to fight a good fight ... but always on a Sunday.

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Tony Wainwright, who had a splendid game at Leeds at stand-off half, falls heavily to a tackle by Headingley winger, Howard (No. 5).

Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

In charge of today's game is one of Rugby League's most experienced whistlemen, Ronnie Jackson of Halifax, who has been a Grade One referee for nine years. A departmental manager by

occupation, Mr. Jackson, a married man with two daughters, was promoted to grade five in 1957 and to grade two in 1964. Gardening and swimming are his out-of-the-game hobbies, while his other RL interest, apart from refereeing, is coaching.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

First Division leaders Dewsbury come to Watersheddings this afternoon in the knowledge that their last three visits to Oldham have ended in victory. In season 1970-71 they snatched a 17-16 win with a last minute try and two years later pulled off an impressive 13-4 win but their best victory was on their last visit in season 1973-74. On that occasion Dewsbury scored a comfortable 34-9 win over Oldham who ended that season relegated into the Second Division.

Dewsbury's 22-14 home win over Bradford Northern last Sunday left them at the top of the table with 6 wins and a draw from their 8 matches. Their only League defeat of the season came in their opening match at Salford where they lost 39-2. Dewsbury's other two away results have been a 12-7 win at Keighley and a draw, 11-11, at Warrington. At home, Dewsbury have beaten Castleford, Huddersfield, Swinton and Wakefield Trinity as well as that win over Bradford Northern.

In cup football, they have not been as successful for they were knocked out of the Yorkshire Cup in the first round by Second Division York and they are also out of the John Player Trophy having lost 27-12 at Widnes. As well as being a vital First Division match, today's clash is also a rehearsal for the forthcoming Floodlit Cup quarter-final when Dewsbury visit Oldham having already disposed of Wakefield Trinity and Keighley in this tournament.

Dewsbury's visit to Watersheddings in April, 1973, came just six days before their Challenge Cup semi-final clash with Bradford Northern but they showed no signs of having that cup match on their minds as they gave us

a first class display of teamwork to beat Oldham 13-4. The crowd of 3,480 saw an even first half which ended with Dewsbury 5-4 in front but after the interval the Crown Flatt side forged ahead to end up deserved winners having scored three tries to Oldham's none. Jeff Yoward (2) and Alan Bates scored their tries and Nigel Stephenson landed two goals whilst Oldham's four points came from the boot of Phil Larder. The teams for that match were:

Oldham — Tommy Davies; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Tony Wainwright, Chris O'Brien; Cliff Hill, Mick McCone; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Keith Ashcroft, Bob Irving, Fred Hall and Johnny Farrell. Substitutes: Mick Siddall and Arthur Daley.

Dewsbury — Adrian Rushton; Terry Day, John Clark, Nigel Stephenson, Jeff Yoward; Alan Agar, Alan Bates; Graham Bell, Mike Stephenson, Trevor Lowe, Geoff Grayshon, John Bates and Joe Whittington. Substitutes: Steve Lee and Brian Robinson.

Dewsbury ended that season by lifting the Rugby League Championship whilst Oldham slid down to Division Two. Another away win this afternoon would maintain both Dewsbury's top of the table position and their ambition to win the Championship once again.

Oldham's two fine performances at Leeds and Wakefield made up for the disappointment felt when Huddersfield won here last month so today's game should be a rousing encounter which could go either way. The improved showing of the Oldham pack, however, could tip the scales towards a home win which would end Dewsbury's fine run of victories over Oldham here at Watersheddings.

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Brian Batty

The World Championship has produced several disappointments but nothing to match the crisis facing the French after their flop in Bordeaux.

It was disturbing to witness the plight of the French officials who must be wondering just how they can revive interest in League at international level.

And yet at the same time it is, I fear, these same men who appear to have brought on these problems through their own mistakes and misjudgement.

The decision to experiment at Bordeaux was surely ill conceived when you consider the crowd was only 1,581 despite receipts of £4,400.

It was then that we had talk of taking the finale—The Champions v. The Rest—to Algiers.

There was also the claim that because there are six teams playing League in Belgium—goodness knows what standards—then this country must be represented at the next International board meeting.

It seems to me that the French are grasping at straws these days — the wrong ones at that.

They should surely be doing everything possible to establish the game in recognised areas such as Toulouse, Per-

pignan and Carcassonne where they have had good crowds in the past.

They obviously need to improve their coaching systems at club and international level and have a change in policy towards selection.

The game can do more with sounder thinking and planning than the urge to introduce gimmicks if the French are to be taken seriously at international level in the future.

It would be a tragedy if they had to abandon international football—I don't think it will reach such a state — it would mean the end of world championship competitions.

Only a few years ago the French were a tough proposition on their own soil — even allowing for the debatable refereeing decisions by their own officials.

I expect that the mistakes they have made in the past few months will provide a lesson to them that will be heeded at French headquarters.

There is also the comforting thought that the English Rugby League will be anxious to help in any way for they don't want to see the French go to the wall for it would only weaken the game in Europe.

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Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

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	A
21—Wigan	H
28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A	A
Oct. 5—Keighley	H
12—Huddersfield	H
18—Leeds	A
26—Wakefield	A
Nov. 2—Dewsbury	H
9—Player's No. 6—round 2	A
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	12-7
—Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)	H	29-10
13-12 20—Wigan	A	—
17-19 Oct. 4—Swinton	H	—
5-27 18—Warrington	H	—
— 25—Leigh	H	38-17
10-24 Nov. 14—Salford	A	—
17-8 29—Rochdale	A	—
17-8 Dec. 6—Salford	H	—
17-28 13—St. Helens	A	—
15-18 20—Huyton	H	—
23-18 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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Referee:

R. Jackson (Halifax)

Sunday 2nd November

Dewsbury

- 1 LANGLEY, J.
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- 11 VODDEN, G.
- 12 GRASHON, G
- 13 HANKINS, S.
- 14 GRAY, B.
- 15 LOWE, T.

R. Dennett (Warrington) Red
D. Bowes (Swinton) Orange

Admission by Programme only