

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 O'BRIEN, C.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 O'MAHONEY R.
- 10 HUGHES, R.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 KEAR B.
- 13 PETERS A.

- 14
- 15

Referee:

A. W. ALLEN (York)

Leeds

- 1 MARSHALL, D.
- 2 SMITH, A.
- 3 HAGUE, M.
- 4 DYL, L.
- 5 ATKINSON, J.
- 6 HOLMES, J.
- 7 HEPWORTH, K.
- 8 HARRISON, M.
- 9 WARD, D.
- 10 PITCHFORD, S.
- 11 BATTEN, R.
- 12 COOKSON, P.
- 13 HAIGH, R.

- 14 HYNES, S.
- 15 DICKINSON, R.

A. Hulme (Warrington) Red
K. Ashall (Prescott) 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

LEEDS

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 Oldhams 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 SALFORD

A. PETERS J. PATTERSON

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM v LEEDS

SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER

Kick Off 3.30 p.m.



Our tackling against Salford wasn't all it might have been. But there was nothing wrong with this effort, in which Fred Hall and Bob Welding upend a Reds' attacker.

—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

DETAILS of our first really big effort to help celebrate the club's centenary are now to hand. It will take the form of a Sportsman's Evening at the Royton Assembly Hall on February 2.

There will be a top-class amateur boxing show, promoted by the Gallagher Boys' Club, evening dinner, and leading sports personalities, plus top-line entertainers, to help round off what has all the makings of being a fabulous evening.

Tickets will be out shortly and available from the club, the general committee, or any member of the centenary committee.

Watch the Press for details of cost of tickets and exactly when they will be on sale.

Incidentally, the centenary committee is now meeting regularly and so far has a complement of 13. The chief officers are Fred Howarth (chairman), well-known in local schools R.L. circles, Ronnie Hardaker (vice-chairman), former club chairman Ken Fisher (treasurer), and the Borough Solicitor, Lawrenson Hughes (secretary).

Other committee members are: club officials John Hall and Keith Broadbent, former official Cyril Farnworth, local R.L. historian Tom Webb, ex-referee Sam Shepherd, Supporters' Club chairman Harry Brereton, club skipper Martin Murphy, Brian Raynor of the schools' R.L. and a representative of the vice-presidents' association, Michael Kershaw.

WELL DONE "A" TEAM

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the "A" team, and coach Ken Wilson, for two memorable performances—the 4-2 win at Salford and the 14-0 defeat of St. Helens at Watersheddings last Saturday in the first leg of the county shield semi-final.

As you can see from the scores, neither Salford nor Saints crossed our line in a total of 160 minutes of football!

We now go to Knowsley Road for the return match with a convincing lead already tucked under our belts.

Not that it will be easy, but at least we can go there quietly confident of reaching the Shield final for the first time for many, many years.

If you have not already seen details in the Press about the return match watch out for it. The likelihood is that we will have to play there on a mid-week evening but with a 7-30 kick-off we are hoping that we will have a fair following of spectators to give the lads their vocal and moral support.

NEWS FROM THE POOLS OFFICE

TWO important dates for all pools agents are coming up shortly. On Thursday (December 4), in the vice-presidents' lounge at 8 p.m., there will be a get-together of all agents at which we will discuss the pool's future.

How can we make the pool more exciting? Is there an alternative pool? Where are we heading?

With refreshments available to make the evening a pleasant one, these are the sort of questions we will attempt to answer.

So successful is the bingo that prize money is to be increased to £1,000 with a better ratio of winners at £1.50 and 25p—undoubtedly the finest value for money in this type of scheme.

If you think you can sell tickets, and thus help the club, please contact Alan Taylor at the pools office (phone 652-5244).

The following week, Wednesday, December 10, we are holding the annual agents' night in the social club. It again promises to be a swinging night and, of course, admission is free for all agents.

CHRISTMAS DRAW

ONCE again Christmas is coming... and our Christmas Draw tickets are now on sale. In the past you have supported this venture wonderfully well and we believe we can rely upon you to do the same this year.

There are 120 prizes to be won and the draw—tickets priced 5p each—will take place in the social club on Monday, December 15.

Chat with Challinor

MUCH has been said and written this week about the demands currently being made on Rugby League players and I go along strongly with the view that we have too much football, too many matches and too many competitions.

Obviously, the strain is felt all the more by the players, such as Roger Millward, who are not only playing for their clubs but are also selected for their county and their country.

Millward, who has played six matches in 23 days, has asked for a short rest—and, frankly, I'm not surprised!

It's not only the matches that are involved in such a hectic programme. There is also the training—and the travelling.

Millward travels from the West Riding to Hull for training and, here at Oldham, most of our players are from out of town, many of them from the Castleford-Featherstone area and many from west Lancashire.

We haven't felt the stress and strain as much as some clubs, and some players—but as you will remember we recently had a spell of four matches in ten days.

And two of those were cup ties! We played Salford in the second round of the Player's No. 6 competition on the Sunday and Dewsbury at home on the Tuesday in the second round of the Floodlit Trophy.

At best, that's a lot to ask. At worst it means the players are not able to perform on top note and, in the long run, it is the paying spectator who suffers.

So what can we do about it? What can the game's administrators come up with to try and ease the pressures and thus aim to provide less quantity but more quality?

One thing that springs readily to mind is to consider scrapping the county championship. In the old days, when there was no Player's No. 6 and no Floodlit Trophy there were far fewer competitions than there are today and it was deemed not only an honour to represent your county but also a possible stepping stone to full international honours.

That doesn't seem to be the case now. Many players, already over-committed at club level, are not keen

on playing for their county and, what's more, the clubs are not exactly over the moon about it, either.

This week Leeds asked the Yorkshire county selectors not to choose any Headingley players because the county match has been arranged for the very day that Leeds play Swinton.

And what about the spectators? Do they want county games? The fact that fewer than 2,000 paid to watch Yorkshire play Cumbria at Dewsbury last week suggests not.

If the players, clubs, and spectators don't want the county championship series what is to be lost by scrapping it? Certainly, there would be little to lose, but a lot to gain.

In the last couple of years or so efforts have been made to inject new life and interest into the series with the rebirth of the Other Nationalities side. But they appear to have fallen by the wayside. We even had, in the Nationalities side that played Lancashire at St. Helens on Tuesday, a young Australian from Bramley who had played only one "A" team game at McLaren Field!

The other big talking point at present involves Jim Mills and the massive suspension he has been given until the end of the season.

I believe that, one or two sine-die suspensions apart, this will be the longest ban in the history of the game. The old Warrington player, Jack Arkwright, got a four-month ban but he was lucky—it coincided with the deep freeze of 1963 and most of the Wires' matches during his suspension period were frozen off anyway.

I didn't see the Mills incident, which led to Kiwi forward John Greengrass having 17 stitches inserted into a head wound, so I cannot comment on it. I can, however, talk of the man. As British coach down under in 1974 I had Mills under my wing and as a tourist his behaviour was exemplary. He was easy to handle and gave no trouble whatsoever.

Because he is a hard forward, and R.L. is a hard, bodily contact game, I have no doubt that Mills would swing a fist in the heat of the moment.

But to stamp on an opponent's face, as he is alleged to have done, is completely out of character with the Jim Mills I came to know well in 1974.

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Our Oldham line-up for the recent match against Salford. Back row (left to right): Warren Ryans, Bob Welding, Barry Kear, Chris O'Brien, Tony Peters, Mike Elliott, Brian Hughes, Fred Hall, Eddie Barton. Front: Tony Wainwright, John Paterson, Kevin Taylor, David Treasure, Martin Murphy, Phil Larder.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

This afternoon Oldham entertain Yorkshire Cup holders and Club Championship winners Leeds who bring their star-tudded line-up to Watersheddings for a match which, if it is anything like the thriller at Headingley last October, should provide ample entertainment for the paying customers.

When Leeds last visited Watersheddings for a First Division match in season 1973-74 the game ended in an 8-all draw although in the return match Oldham were swamped to the tune of 46 points to two. It was a similar story when the sides met in League football at the beginning of season 1971-72. The midweek match under Oldham's floodlights almost brought an Oldham victory but in the end the Loiners ran out 16-12 winners. Ten days later Oldham set out to Leeds in determined mood and the Headingley crowd of 6,630 were treated to a fine exhibition of football from both sides. At half-time Oldham were still in with a chance despite trailing by 18-9 but after the interval the powerful Leeds machine took a firm grip on proceedings to race away for a 49-12 victory. One pleasing feature of the game for Oldham was the form shown by an unnamed trialist on the Oldham left wing and a couple of games later Oldham revealed his identity when they announced the signing of Norman Hodgkinson. There have been several changes in the Oldham playing staff since that match just over four years ago and only Mike Elliott, Martin Murphy and possibly Johnny Blair will be on display this afternoon. It is interesting to note the Oldham team that was on duty that afternoon: Johnny Blair; Mike Elliott, Joe Collins, Trevor

Buckley, Norman Hodgkinson; Martin Murphy, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Colin Bowden, Dick Bonser, Bob Irving, Bill Churm and Ray Clark. Substitute: Ged Smith and Frank Walker (for Bonser).

Leeds had Tony Wainwright in their line-up and 12 months later he joined Oldham for £3,000. The Leeds team was: David Hick; Alan Smith, Syd Hynes, John Holmes, John Langley; Alan Hardisty, Barry Seabourne; Ted Barnard, David Ward, Phil Cookson, Bill Ramsey, Bob Haigh and Ray Batten. Substitutes: Tony Wainwright (for Hardisty) and Graham Eccles (for Batten).

The Oldham scorers in that match were Johnny Blair (3 goals) and Mike Elliott (2 tries) whilst the 11 Leeds tries were shared by Graham Eccles, Bill Ramsey (2), David Ward (2), Alan Hardisty (2), John Langley, John Holmes (2) and David Hick. John Holmes took his total number of points for that match to 22 by also landing 8 goals.

It is hoped that Oldham will not suffer such a hefty set-back this afternoon although Leeds are a fine side who are well in the running for Championship honours. They have lost only two League matches, at Hull Kingston Rovers by 23-12 and at Saint Helens by 24-2 but if Oldham play the way they did in their controversial defeat at Headingley then we may see defeat number three for the Loiners. Oldham will be looking for a victory in order to climb away from the relegation zone so today's game is vital for both clubs and that should add even more spice to what is always an interesting and highly entertaining fixture.

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Wales and the Future

by JACK BENTLEY
of The Daily Express

Following the recent World Championship matches in Swansea it seems there will always be a welcome in the hillsides for the Wales Rugby League team.

Swansea has now been recognised as the team's "home"; two young Swansea girls, clad in authentic Welsh costume, are the team's official mascots.

And apparently the rugby-loving Welsh are likely to provide bigger attendances for Rugby League internationals in the valleys than similar games draw here in the North.

But there is one all-important query on which the whole growing concept of Rugby League in South Wales could crumble ...

Just how long are the Rugby League going to be able to maintain a Welsh team?

The question cannot simply be dismissed as pessimism. It has become clear that the present World Championship has been instituted five years too late for the current Rugby League Welshmen to do themselves justice in it.

There can be no query against either the courage or the skill of any of the present Red Dragons. And in their club sides, with younger men around them to respond to their promptings, the Welsh veterans still have vital roles to play.

But you cannot put 25-year-old legs and lungs onto and into 30-year-old bodies, and it has become equally clear that too many of the Welshmen lack the priceless asset of youth. In a world-class competition a country just cannot afford to field as many "veterans" as Wales are compelled to select.

The solution? You tell me. You cannot force Welsh Rugby Union stars to turn professional!

It seems to me the only way Rugby League can capitalise on the obvious interest in the code down in South Wales is to try and create a separate Rugby League down there. It is an aim which the many former League players who have returned to their native valleys might well assist in achieving.

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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
 21—Wigan H
 28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A
 Oct. 5—Keighley A
 12—Huddersfield H
 18—Leeds A
 26—Wakefield A
 Nov. 2—Dewsbury H
 9—Players' No. 6—round 2
 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) H
 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
 13-12 20—Wigan A
 17-19 Oct. 4—Swinton H
 5-27 18—Warrington H
 — 25—Leigh H
 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
 15-6 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

12-7
 29-10
 —
 38-17

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MURDER OF LESLEY MOLSEED

At 9 a.m. Wednesday 8 October 1975 the body of Lesley Molseed aged 11 years of Rochdale was found on moorland adjoining the A.672 Ripponden to Oldham Road. She had been missing since 1pm Sunday 5 October 1975.

The location of the finding of the body is 8 miles from the girl's home and near to junction No.22 of the M.62 motorway.

It is known that a blue/green Morris 1000 van was parked on the lay-by near to where the body was found between 2pm and 4pm on Sunday 5 October with a blanket or travelling rug draped around the windscreen and side windows.

The dead girl disappeared from the Turf Hill Estate, Rochdale and it has come to notice that spectators at the Keighley v Oldham R.L. match on 5 October may have travelled through the Turf Hill Estate to join the M.62 or may have left the M.62 at junction 22 and travelled past the lay-by towards Ripponden.

DID YOU USE EITHER OF THESE ROUTES ON 5 OCTOBER 1975?

IF SO PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO ONE OF THE POLICE

OFFICERS ON THE GROUND. - YOU WILL NOT BE DELAYED.

Any assistance will be appreciated.

S. L. J.