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OUR VISITORS

	Pos.	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Rovers	9th	27	15	—	12	396	415	30
Oldham	13th	27	9	1	17	327	446	19

Today we complete our home league programme with a visit from Oldham, a club who gained promotion to Division One along with ourselves eleven months ago, but who started the current season—and also their Centenary year—with a players' strike, have struggled for much of the season, and are now needing every point they can muster to avoid being candidates for Second Division football again next season. In their defence it may be added that they have suffered their worst injury jinx for years, and currently they have a full team out of action.

The season started with loose forward **John Farrell**, one of their leading players in last year's promotion drive who had a reputation for a tremendous workrate, collapsing during a training session and it is feared he will not play again. Winger **Ian Holland** was sold to Swinton for a reported £2,500, but two players signed on free transfers from Rochdale were scrum half **John Hammond** and ball-playing forward **Kevin Flanagan**.

Leading forward **Bob Welding**, signed from Rochdale just two years ago, has been out with a neck injury for much of the season, and later a gashed shin which looks like keeping him out for the rest of the season. Prop **Keith Ashcroft**, formerly with Wigan, St. Helens, Bradford and Warrington, broke his jaw in October and has been out of action ever since. Top centre **Tony Wainwright**, listed at £9,000 also suffered a fractured jaw during their defeat of Rovers last January and will not play again this season. Centre **Phil Larder**, who had been in dispute with the club and listed at £3,500, has been back in action this season and off the transfer list, and has kicked 72 goals, but scrum half **Mick McCone** has stood down for the few remaining games of the season, and off half **Dave Treasure** listed at £7,000 last November, has taken the number seven jersey.

Two forwards with Humberside connections were signed within a couple of days early this year. 32 year old much travelled prop **Terry Ramshaw**, was hailed the bargain of the season when after a year's absence from the game he moved from Craven Park to Watersheddings for a nominal fee. Oldham quickly made Ramshaw,

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whose 15 years experience has also seen the former Yorkshire and England under 24 forward play for Featherstone, Halifax, Bradford, Wakefield and Salford, their new pack leader, but currently he has had knee trouble and may need a cartilage operation. The second signing was that of second row forward **Barry Kear** from Hull, signed with assistance from the fans in the form of collections of an undisclosed total. The Castleford born forward previously played for Featherstone, Yorkshire County and Salford, but recently tore ankle ligaments and he too will miss the remaining games of the season.

Currently they have been negotiating with Workington for prop Harold McCourt, a player for whom we made a big offer a couple of years ago, but at that time Workington declined.

Skipper is full back **Martin Murphy**, who played for England in France last season, but has missed his club's recent games with a thigh injury. Coach is **Jim Challinor**, the former Great Britain coach, with Oldham's long serving prop **Ken Wilson** as his assistant.

A late new signing this week is **Gordon Baker**, Halifax's long serving scrumhalf, on a free transfer.

SPONSORSHIP—We express our appreciation of **E. G. Coulson (Builders) Ltd.**, of 132 Newbegin, Hornsea, who have provided today's match ball, and to **H. Bermitz Publicity Ltd.**, of 22 Whitefriargate, Hull, who have provided the Man of the Match Award.

Welcome guests—We welcome as our guests this afternoon Mrs. Hilda Ives, the Mayor of Hedon, accompanied by her husband and trust they will have an enjoyable afternoon.

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BELLFIELD SCOUT GROUP—The Bellfield Scout and Guide Band, who will be giving a display before today's game, have recently taken part in the Band Championships at York, coming away with the highest award in the Novice Section, and will have to enter the Professional Class on future dates. During the afternoon they will be taking a collection in aid of their funds.

OBJECTIVE ACHIEVED—This being our last programme of the season we take this opportunity of thanking you once again for your support.

Although we have had our disappointments the season on the whole has been a satisfactory one and we have achieved our main objective—to consolidate our position in the highly competitive First Division. The difficulty of this task can be judged from the fortunes of the three Clubs who were promoted along with us last season. Swinton and Huddersfield are already doomed to relegation and our opponents today are fighting for their First Division lives. It has also been an extremely difficult season from an injury point of view which has meant young players being 'blooded' much earlier than would normally have been the case, but on the bright side, most of them have come through with flying colours which augurs well for the future.

One man really looking forward to next season is coach **Harry Poole** who with a full squad of fit players and with **John Cunningham** and **Phil Lowe** available to him feels that we can have a tremendous team.

PERFORMANCES—Once again our team treated their home spectators to a magnificent performance to defeat Championship contenders Wigan by 20-11. It was marvellous game with our Lancashire opponents making their full contribution to keep the crowd on their toes for the full eighty minutes.

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There was not a lot of open football in the first half but it was nevertheless enthralling stuff as both sides tried everything they knew to create an opening and the only one to succeed was **Roger Millward** who made the most of a short pass into a gap from **Ian Madley**. The sides were locked 7-4 at half time and 12-11 at three-quarter time but late tries from **Len Casey** and **Steve Leighton** added to an earlier effort from **Steve Hartley** plus two further goals from Millward settled the game after a pulsating second half. Millward took the Man of the Match award.

In stark contrast was the game at Swinton where for 60 minutes we struggled against a team who have had only three successes all season. Fortunately in the final quarter the team realised that there was very little to beat and with skipper Millward finding huge gaps with his passes and players running with some conviction we scored three tries in quick succession from **Ian Robinson**, **Alan Ackroyd** and **Steve Hartley** and three goals from Millward to turn a 7-4 deficit into a 19-7 victory.

RESERVES REPORT—The 'A' team had no fixture at the weekend but they were engaged at Leeds last Wednesday.

COLTS' COLUMN—After their disappointment at Wigan last week the Colts quickly recovered their best form to register their biggest win of the season against Warrington on Craven Park by 63-2.

The game was notable for the debut of schoolboy international second-row forward **Gary Spence** who made a most impressive start with a try and six goals from six attempts in a fine all-round display.

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Blue and White

- 1—Richard WALLACE
- 2—Ged DUNN
- 3—Mike SMITH
- 4—Bernard WATSON
- 5—Clive SULLIVAN
- 6—Steve HARTLEY
- 7—Roger MILLWARD
- 8—Alan ACKROYD
- 9—David HESLOP
- 10—Steve LYONS *EDMONDS*
- 11—Roy HOLDSTOCK
- 12—Ian MADLEY
- 13—Len CASEY
- 14—Ian ROBINSON
- 15—Mike HUGHES

Referee—M. J. NAUGHTON

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Red and White

Coach—Jim CHALLINOR

- 1—Martin MURPHY
- 2—Mike ELLIOTT
- 3—Phil LARDER
- 4—Keith JACKSON *BARTON JACKSON*
- 5—Eddie BARTON
- 6—David TREASURE
- 7—John PATTERSON
- 8—Terry RAMSHAW
- 9—Kevin TAYLOR
- 10—Gareth OWEN
- 11—Kevin FLANAGAN
- 12—Steve HERBERT *BROWN*
- 13—Tony PETERS
- 14—*MURPHY*
- 15—*HICKS*

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PLAYERS NEWS—International prop forward **John Millington** who had been our only "ever present" this season has been ruled out for the remaining games with a trapped nerve in his neck. **John Cunningham** has had a further visit to a specialist and is now on a course of remedial exercises to strengthen his injured knee. **Mike Smith** was attending hospital this week to check on his injured finger. **Alan Burwell** has informed **Harry Poole** that he would like to be phased out of the First team squad unless an emergency arises and if indeed he has played his last game for Rovers we thank him for the tremendous pleasure he has given; the memories of his ghost-like running will always be very pleasant. Today's game will be **Roger Millward's** last before flying out to Australia on Easter Monday to "guest" with Sydney Club Cronulla. We wish him, and his wife Carol and daughter Kay a very pleasant summer.

COLLECTIONS—On behalf of the Sailors' Children's Society and the St. John Ambulance Association, we express appreciation to those who donated to collections at recent matches, realising £51.28 and £43 respectively.

SCORING RECORDS (Including 7th April, 1976)

1975/76					Aggregate					
A	S	G (DG)	T	Pts.	A	S	G (DG)	T	Pts.	
9	1	—	1	3	KIRKPATRICK G.	106	8	—	36	108
2	1	—	—	—	COUPLAND P.	206	8	26	69	259
25	2	— (2)	2	8	WALLACE R.	25	2	— (2)	2	8
5	1	—	1	3	LEIGHTON S.	41	5	—	7	21

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28	—	—	11	33	DUNN G.	162	4	—	95	285
10	2	2	3	13	SMITH M.	15	3	2	3	13
26	3	—	7	21	BURWELL A.	222	4	2	106	322
5	5	1	2	8	HALL D.	82	18	75	23	219
16	1	—	11	33	HARTLEY S.	70	15	—	31	93
34	—	— (3)	6	21	WATSON B.	63	2	2 (3)	19	64
36	—	—	14	42	SULLIVAN C.	66	—	—	42	126
1	—	—	—	—	ROOMS, M.	57	5	—	17	51
12	5	—	4	12	ROBINSON I.	12	5	—	4	12
18	5	—	6	18	TURNER G.	32	6	3	22	72
30	—	56 (2)	14	156	MILLWARD R.	301	3	480 (2)	173	1481
1	—	—	—	—	LYNN T.	1	—	—	—	—
36	—	—	3	9	MILLINGTON J.	177	14	—	13	39
16	—	—	—	—	DICKINSON C.	34	—	—	2	6
19	—	—	1	3	HESLOP D.	60	1	—	1	3
22	2	—	4	12	LYONS S.	43	3	—	6	18
23	6	—	1	3	HOLDSTOCK R.	51	15	—	6	18
2	—	—	—	—	DAWSON N.	52	5	29	—	58
5	1	—	—	—	CUNNINGHAM J.	5	1	—	—	—
15	—	65 (1)	2	137	FOX N.	59	—	210 (2)	16	470
19	—	—	3	9	ROSE P.	126	22	—	21	63
13	5	—	—	—	HUGHES M.	22	6	—	1	3
5	1	—	1	3	MOORE J.	382	27	—	105	315
24	—	— (1)	4	13	CASEY L.	24	—	— (1)	4	13
5	6	—	—	—	JONES G.	5	6	—	—	—
8	2	—	2	6	MADLEY I.	25	13	—	4	12
2	1	—	2	6	EDMONDS P.	2	1	—	2	6
9	—	2	1	7	ACKROYD A.	9	—	2	1	7

Figures in brackets represent drop goal (value one point).



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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES LIST 1975/76

		Venue	Result	Score	Att.	Receipts
1975						
Aug.	16—Huddersfield	A	W	26-16	—	—
	23—Leeds	H	W	23-12	4,291	£1514
	31—Wakefield (Yorks Cup I)	H	W	26-9	6,407	£2849
Sept.	6—Wigan	A	L	13-34	—	—
	14—Hunslet (Yorks Cup II)	A	W	15-7	—	—
	21—Salford	H	Postponed			
	23—Featherstone (Yorks. Cup S-Final)	H	W	19-16	6,481	£2849
	28—Rochdale H. (Players No. 6 I)	H	W	33-10	5,274	£2350
Oct.	3—Castleford	A	W	24-13	—	—
	7—Huddersfield (Floodlit Cup I)	H	L	11-12	4,155	£1790
	12—Swinton	H	W	25-10	4,879	£1650
	19—Bradford	H	W	11-10	6,271	£2210
	26—Widnes	A	L	11-33	—	—
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A	Postponed			
	7—Leigh (Players No. 6 II)	H	W	23-8	3,764	£1630
	15—Leeds (Yorks. Cup Final)	Leeds	L	11-15	—	—
	16—Wigan	H	Postponed			
	23—Widnes (Players No. 6 Rnd. III)	H	L	14-18	6,594	£2904
	30—Keighley	H	W	18-8	3,126	£958
Dec.	7—Wakefield	H	Postponed			
	14—Warrington	A	L	11-23	—	—
	21—Dewsbury	A	Postponed			
	28—St. Helens	H	L	4-18	6,209	£2263
Jan.	1—Leeds	A	L	5-30	—	—
	4—Widnes	H	W	14-6	3,258	£1134

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		Venue	Result	Score	Att.	Receipts
1976						
Jan.	11—Oldham	A	L	3-10	—	—
	18—Castleford	H	W	18-14	4,822	£1769
Feb.	8—Wakefield	A	W	21-19	—	—
	15—R.L. Challenge Cup I Whitehaven	H	W	21-12	3,985	£1835
	18—Featherstone	H	L	4-11	3,755	£1300
	22—Warrington	H	L	13-17	4,691	£1575
	29—R.L. Challenge Cup II Featherstone	A	L	10-25	—	—
Mar.	3—Wakefield	H	W	18-3	3,278	£1093
	7—Bradford	A	L	5-34	—	—
	10—Salford	H	W	15-10	3,387	£1155
	16—Dewsbury	A	L	3-7	—	—
	21—Huddersfield	H	W	28-14	3,240	£1080
	24—Keighley	A	L	5-14	—	—
	28—Dewsbury	H	W	36-12	2,750	£897
April	2—Salford	A	L	3-19	—	—
	7—Wigan (7-30)	H	W	20-11	3,283	£1125
	11—Swinton	A	W	19-7	—	—
	16—Oldham	H				
	21—Featherstone	A				
	25—St. Helens	A				

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

This afternoon we welcome Oldham supporters to Craven Park and invite them to make use of the Clubhouse before the match.

Today the presentation of the **Frank Parkinson Memorial Trophy** to **Roger Millward** as the Supporters' Club nomination of fairest and most loyal player takes place.

His nomination has gone forward for the similar award made annually by the Yorkshire Federation of Rugby League Supporters' Clubs.

The Player of the Year Trophy will also be presented today but at this time the winner is not known.

The answers to last week's teaser are as follows :—

The White Rose Trophy is the trophy donated by Mr. Tommy Smith, a Director of York, and is awarded by the Yorkshire Federation of Rugby League Supporters' Clubs to the player who in the opinion of the sports writers at the Yorkshire Cup Final is the man of the match. It was first awarded in 1966-67 to Cyril Kellett and the present holder is Neil Fox.

As this is the last programme this season, no teaser has been included this week but we hope this will be a regular feature next season.

There will be an Easter Prize Bingo in the Clubhouse on Good Friday evening, April 16th at 8 p.m. for members and bona fide guests only. All receipts will be returned in prizes. Why not come along?

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Printed by Thos. Cavill & Son Ltd., Terry Street, Hull.
Advertising Contractors: Bermitz Publicity Ltd., 22 Whitefriargate, Hull. Tel. 20983