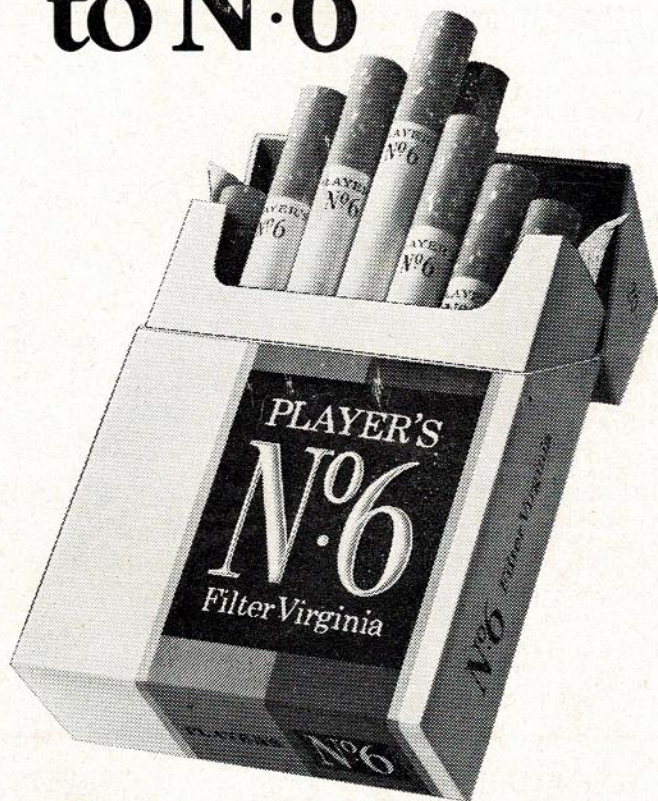


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*Centenary
Season*

OLDHAM
v
**Featherstone
Rovers**

SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

Kick Off 3-30 p.m.

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HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off winners: 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1956-57.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22 and 1954-55.

First Division Champions: 1904-05.

Second Division Champions: 1963-64.

Rugby League Challenge Cup winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27.

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24 and 1925-26.

Lancashire Cup winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67 and 1968-69.

Lancashire Championship winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57 and 1957-58.

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55.

Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Barry Kear had a tremendous game in our last home match against Workington. He is seen here running at the heart of the Cumbrian defence on a diagonal run towards the wing—and Mike Elliott.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

OLDHAM OUTLOOK

LAST week-end's snow and frost—to say nothing of the fog—meant disruptions to the Rugby League programme on a big scale for the first time this winter.

On the Saturday there were high hopes at Featherstone that our match at Post Office Road would beat the weather but a heavy overnight frost changed all that and an inspection early on Sunday morning showed the pitch far too hard for safety.

At the time these notes had to be written we had not been in contact with Rovers to sort out a new date but doubtless this will be done as soon as possible.

The Rovers, in fact, are here at Watersheddings today for the return match and there is almost certain to be something sorted out today.

What we must try and safeguard against is a similar sort of situation which arose last year when we were struggling to stave off the threat of relegation and ended up with about a dozen end-of-season games in five weeks.

It is always difficult to re-arrange matches to everyone's convenience but another reason for our disappointment at last Sunday's postponement was the fact that we needed a game to keep the side "on the boil" after the fine win against Workington.

We struggled a bit in the first half against the Cumbrians, largely because the pack had a new look about it and was reshaped from the previous week.

By the second half, however, things began to slot into shape and the pack looked stronger, more mobile and more penetrative than it had for several weeks.

It saw the emergence of Barry Kear and we were all looking forward to seeing how Kear and his other Yorkshire mates such as Terry Ramshaw, Brian Hughes, Steve Lund, Tony Wainwright, David Treasure, and Mick McCone shaped against the Rovers.

It would have been "home from home" at Post Office Road for many of our players.

Anyway, we have not had long to wait for the Rovers, with that walloping great pack of theirs, are here today for a match which should be a cracker if our forwards can refine the form they showed in the second half against Workington.

Since our last home game David Treasure has proved his fitness again after a long lay-off with knee trouble. He played in a recent "A" team game against Salford "A" and really showed his speed and class.

More important, his display seemed to indicate that there was little seriously wrong with the knee which first began to give him trouble when Barry Seabourne fell across his leg in a tackle during our centenary match against Bradford at the end of October.

May we take this opportunity, as this is our last home game before Christmas, of wishing all supporters a happy Christmas. It will, of course, be all the happier if we beat our close neighbours and rivals, Rochdale Hornets, in our home game on Sunday, December 26 (3-30 p.m.).

The Hornets are having a lean time of things this season—they are at the foot of the First Division—but are hoping to come good now that they have Kel Coslett as player-coach to guide along their new signings and weld them into a team.

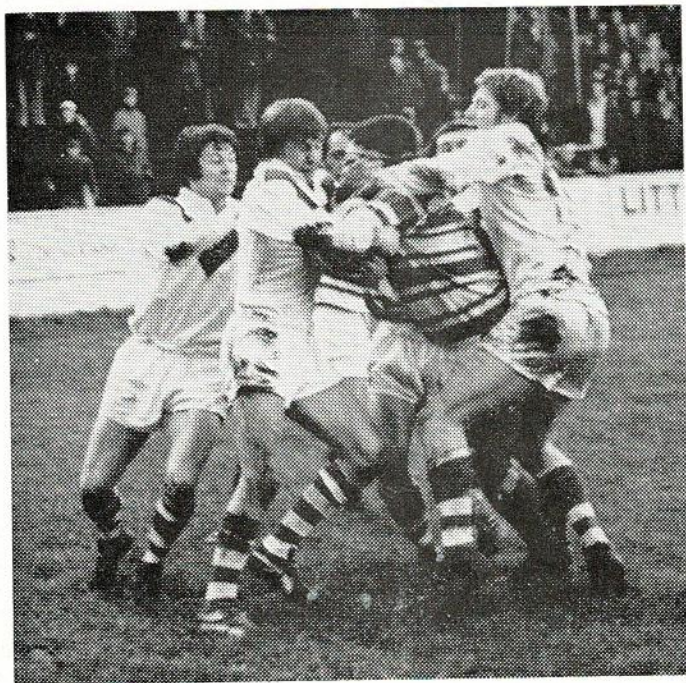
Happy Christmas—and see you at the Hornets match!

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Get me if you can! Barry Kear, the Oldham second-row forward, in determined mood as he attracts the attention of a posse of Workington defenders in our last home game.

Picture by courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

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Oldham FC Down the Years

No. 9

by TOM WEBB

SEASON 1904-05 was a most successful one, Oldham winning the championship of the Northern Rugby Football League. In all, including four cup-ties, the club played 38 matches, winning 27, losing 9 and drawing 2, scoring 52 goals and 74 tries.

Cash led the try-scorers with 13, followed by McLean, a new-signing, with 8, Spottiswoode 7, Civil 6, Dixon 6 and A. Lees 6 while 17 other players collectively added 28 tries.

Ferguson was again leading goal scorer with 43 with White coming second with 5, the remaining 5 goals being kicked by 4 players.

Phil Thomas transferred to Leeds for £250 during the season and this was the record transfer fee up to the time. McLean made his first appearance with the senior side at home on the 29th October.

Just before the commencement of the season, James Valentine the famous Swinton player was killed by Lightning.

Oldham Football Club finished fourth in the reconstituted Northern League in 1905-06 after the abolition of the two-division set up. Points obtained, two for a win and one for a draw, were calculated as points obtained as a percentage of points possible.

Oldham's 28 wins and 2 draws from 40 games gave a percentage of 72.50. The team finishing top of the League was deemed to be champions and the top four play-off was not introduced until the next season.

In the Lancashire Cup, Oldham received a bye in the first round while Chadderton, as Lancashire Junior Cup winners of the previous season contested the first round at Barrow, losing 11-0 after waiving ground rights.

It is a pity that the match did not take place at Watersheddings. Oldham won at Salford in round 2 by 10-0 and met Wigan at home in the semi-final.

The committee promised a bonus of £1 per player if the match was won plus a trip to Leeds to watch the New Zealand Rugby Union team. Unfortunately, Oldham went down before 16,000 spectators by 11-7. The players would also have received a medal for appearing in the final but this opportunity was lost.

A. E. ("Talt") Tetlow, a committee-man for 18 consecutive years, was elected president. In those days the committee was elected annually and the 10 committee-men consisted of 7 who had been elected two years before, plus Talt Tetlow with 3 newcomers. Both Talt and Joe Platt, treasurer, were elected unopposed.

New players included Tom Fletcher from Seaton, Cumberland and Bert Avery from Devon, while Sam Lees transferred to Leigh and D. L. Lewis to Halifax.

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

DECEMBER 26th K.O. 3.30

Oldham v Rochdale Hornets



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- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 PATERSON, J.
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 RAMSHAW, T.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 HUGHES, W.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 KEAR, B.
- 13 POLLARD, G.
- 14 TREASURE, D.
- 15 WELDING, R.

Referee:
R. MOORE
(Wakefield)

T G Dg P

Featherstone

- 1 BOX, H.
- 2 COVENTRY, P.
- 3 QUINN, S.
- 4 EVANS, S.
- 5 KELLETT, K.
- 6 NEWLOVE, J.
- 7 FENNELL, D.
- 8 THOMPSON, J.
- 9 BRIDGES, K.
- 10 FARROW, V.
- 11 SMITH, P.
- 12 STONE, R.
- 13 BELL, K.
- 14 TUFFS, N.
- 15 BUSFIELD, D.

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OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

THE last senior match at Watersheddings before the Christmas festivities features Yorkshire Cup finalists Featherstone Rovers, an exceptionally talented outfit who are well placed for a Championship challenge having lost only three League matches all season (writes DON YATES). Amongst their victims are Bradford Northern, themselves Championship hopefuls, and Hull Kingston Rovers and Leigh who have both conceded double defeats to Featherstone. Last season the Rovers looked certain to land at least one trophy but they faltered late in the season and ended up empty handed, a predicament which they intend to remedy during this campaign.

Championship runners-up Featherstone recorded a League double over Oldham last season by winning at Post Office Road 27-5 and by 21-5 here at Watersheddings but despite these recent results Oldham have quite a good record against Rovers in recent seasons and they themselves registered two League wins over Rovers in 1973-74 with victories of 14-12 at home and 19-10 away. One particularly entertaining game involving these two clubs took place at Oldham in October 1971 when Rovers, at that time placed 11th in the League table, met an Oldham side seeking their fourth successive victory after failing to win any of their opening eight matches. Because of that depressing start to the season, Watersheddings was not exactly bursting at the seams for this game but the crowd of 1,745 were treated to an entertaining and exciting match between two teams who lined up as follows:

OLDHAM—Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Trevor Buckley, Norman Hodgkinson; Alan Kellett, Cliff Sayer; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Dick Bonser, Bob Irving, John Alchin and Ray Clark. Substitutes: Tony Scahill (for Sayer) and Billy Churm (for Hodgkinson).

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS—Cyril Kellett; Dave Hartley, Mick Smith, John Newlove, Paul Coventry; Mel Mason, Terry Hudson; Les Tonks, Keith Bridges, Vince Farrar, Arnie Morgan, Charlie Stone and Colin Smith. Substitutes: Steve Nash (for Hudson) and Alan Rhodes (for Bridges).

The match was full of good open football by both sides and although Rovers always seemed to be in command Oldham kept in touch and continued to look dangerous whenever on attack, which was quite frequently. The match was won by a second-half tactical switch in which hooker Keith Bridges, after scoring a try, was substituted by Alan Rhodes, the hooking position being taken over by Vince Farrar. Rhodes added a great deal of pep to a flagging Rovers side and he went over for two tries to give Featherstone victory by 21 points to 17. Rovers' two other tries were scored by Mick Smith and John Newlove whilst Cyril Kellett landed three goals. Oldham's points came from tries through Bob Irving, Norman Hodgkinson and Phil Larder who also kicked four goals but the match winner on that occasion was the star Rovers' forward Alan Rhodes.

The star forward in Featherstone's present fine team is Jimmy Thompson, a devastating tackler and a tremendously experienced player who is still only 28 years old. He is a product of the Featherstone junior nursery who was signed in June 1966 after gaining county under-17 honours with Yorkshire. At the end of his first season in professional rugby, Thompson appeared at Wembley with Rovers' cup winning side and played like a veteran in that match to firmly establish himself in the powerful Featherstone pack. International honours quickly followed via the England under-24 and Yorkshire county side before in 1970 he was selected to visit Australasia with the all conquering 1970 British tourists. Thompson enjoyed that successful tour and returned four years later with the 1974 squad to take his total of full international appearances with Great Britain to 16 and he has also played three times for England.

Thompson and the other members of the Featherstone pack are sure to pose plenty of problems for Oldham's forwards this afternoon but with another Featherstone product, Terry Ramshaw, leading the Watersheddings team it looks like a tremendous forward battle is in prospect as Oldham continue their desperate fight to climb up amongst the League leaders.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

RONALD MOORE. Married with one son and one daughter. Passed Referees' Examination in 1963, promoted to Grade 2 in 1972 and upgraded to Grade 1 in 1975. Honours include two Inter-County Amateur Finals, two 'A' team semi-finals and one final and a Floodlit Semi-Final. Has played Amateur Rugby League. He is a R.L. Coach, Grade 2.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

DECEMBER 26th K.O. 3.30

Oldham v Rochdale Hornets

FIXTURES 1976-77

FIRST TEAM							
Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.	Date	Opponents	Ground	F. A.
1976				Mar. 12	(Sat.) Leeds (3-00)	A	
Aug. 22	(Sun.) 1st Round County Cup—Blackpool (3-00)	A	10-17	20	(Sun.) Castleford (3-30)	H	
Sept. 5	(Sun.) Widnes (3-00)	A	20-22	27	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	A	
12	(Sun.) Leeds (3-30)	H	10-18	Apr. 3	(Sun.) Salford (3-30)	H	
19	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	A	13-19	8	(G.F.) Rochdale H. (3-00)	A	
26	(Sun.) Wigan (3-30)	H	23-20	11	(E.M.) Hull K.R. (3-30)	H	
Oct. 3	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	A	13-11	17	(Sun.) Warrington (3-00)	A	
10	(Sun.) Barrow (3-30)	H	33-0	24	(Sun.) Widnes (3-30)	H	
15	(Fri.) Castleford 7-30	A	5-11				
23/24	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 1st Round Batley	H	17-9	"A" TEAM			
31	(Sun.) Bradford N. (3-30)	H	10-20	Aug. 21	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	A	36-4
Nov. 6/7	(Sat./Sun.) Player's No. 6 2nd Round—Leigh	H	13-28	28	(Sat.) Huyton L.S. (3-00)	H	25-9
14	(Sun.) Barrow (2-30)	A	23-16	18	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	H	22-17
21	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-30)	H	9-20	25	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	A	15-35
28	(Sun.) Workington T. (3-30)	H		2	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	H	26-8
Dec. 5	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (2-30)	A		9	(Sat.) Barrow (2-30)	A	22-17
12	(Sun.) Featherstone R. (3-30)	H		20	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	A	3-21
19	(Sun.) Wigan (3-00)	A		27	(Sat.) Workington (2-30)	A	
26	(Sun.) Rochdale H. (3-30)	H		Dec. 18	(Sat.) Wigan (3-00)	H	
1977				Jan. 8	(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00)	H	
Jan. 2	(Sun.) Salford (3-00)	A		15	(Sat.) Leigh (3-00)	A	
9	(Sun.) St. Helens (3-00)	A		22	(Sat.) Workington (3-00)	H	
16	(Sun.) Leigh (3-30)	H		Feb. 5	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	H	
23	(Sun.) Workington T. (2-30)	A		18	(Fri.) Warrington (7-30)	A	
30	(Sun.) Wakefield T. (3-30)	H		25	(Fri.) Rochdale (7-30)	A	
Feb. 6	(Sun.) Hull K.R. (2-45)	A		Mar. 12	(Sat.) Warrington (3-00)	H	
12/13	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 1st Round			19	(Sat.) Swinton (3-00)	A	
20	(Sun.) Warrington (3-30)	H		26	(Sat.) Huyton (3-00)	A	
26/27	(Sat./Sun.) Challenge Cup 2nd Round			Apr. 9	(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00)	H	

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