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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.

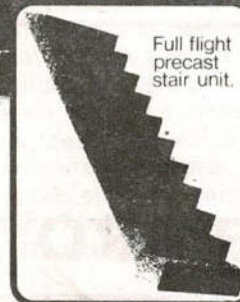
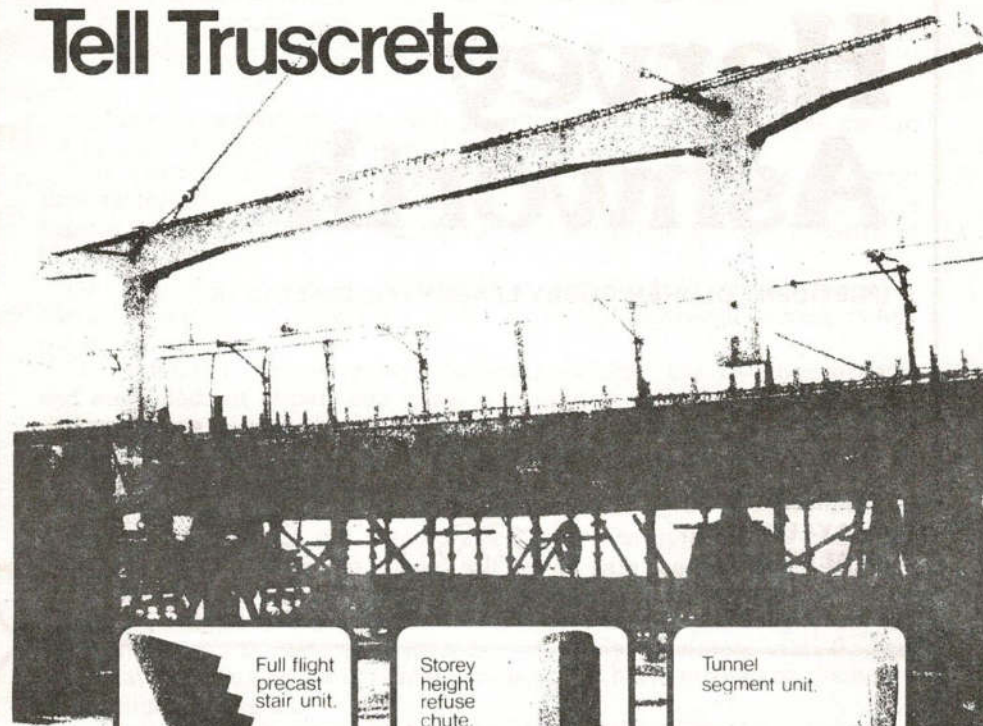
Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24 and 1954-55.

Lancashire Shield winners: 1975-76.



Clash of the props! Salford's Bill Sheffield sets up a Red's attack but Oldham front-row man Peter Frodsham is covering across to take him.
PICTURE BY COURTESY OF THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

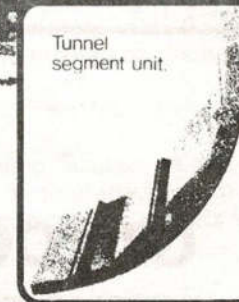
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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

We have come back to earth with something of a bump after three consecutive away defeats following our run of nine wins on the trot.

That was the best winning sequence for five years but we had a gigantic task to try and keep it going with a cup-tie at Salford on the Tuesday, a cup-tie at Huddersfield on the Sunday and a top-four promotion battle at Leigh last Sunday.

That was a programme to test the best and, as luck would have it, it coincided with a run of injuries at the very time we needed to have things going our way.

John Paterson suffered delayed concussion after the Whitehaven game and was ruled out of both cup ties.

Tony Peters missed the Leigh match and Alan Forster, our new signing from Huddersfield, missed all three because of a severe muscle injury in his upper arm.

There have also been other injuries to weaken us at the very time we needed to be strongest but it is no use crying over spilt milk or bad luck! We now have to pick up the pieces and get on with the job of getting back on the winning trail and re-establishing ourselves in the top four.

This afternoon we welcome Halifax to Watersheddings. They have had something of a traumatic season to date and it is absolutely vital that we win today and thus retain our unbeaten record at home to keep on the heels of the sides above us.

It is all the more important because, after Halifax, we have two away matches, neither of which will be easy.

Next Sunday we travel to Swinton and the following Sunday we are at Barrow, two matches which will test us thoroughly, particularly the trip to Craven Park where Barrow will be determined to avenge the two defeats we have inflicted on them already this season.

CONGRATULATIONS!

May we offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future to Jimmy Reynolds, who recently got married in his home town of Leigh.

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

After Oldham's encouraging nine match run of success, the club have faltered in the last three vital matches which have resulted in dismissal from both the Floodlit Cup and Players Trophy followed by the 24-3 defeat at Leigh last weekend which was a most disappointing result to a match which could have a vital bearing on the eventual outcome of the Second Division Championship. However, one swallow does not make a summer and Oldham will be determined to return to winning ways this afternoon with a visit from Halifax, a club who themselves have had their share of problems this season.

Surprisingly, this afternoon's clash is the first match between these two clubs since February 1971 when Oldham defeated Halifax 29-7 in an evening match here at Watersheddings. It was an hard earned victory for Oldham who lost Keith Ashcroft with a badly broken leg but the player who substituted for Ashcroft, Arthur Daley managed to score one of the five Oldham tries that evening. The other four tries came from Ray Clark, Cliff Hill, Johnny Blair and Jim Reynolds while Terry Garrett landed six goals and Johnny Blair one. Halifax's points came from a try by Derek Reeves and goals from Ronnie James and young substitute Bruce Burton. The previous month Halifax had defeated Oldham over at Thrum Hall by 16-12 after an exciting struggle which was decided by a superb try from David Willicombe who, however, was unable to repeat that performance here at Watersheddings. Since then both Willicombe and Burton have left Halifax for huge fees and the club is now going through one of its leanest spells but the Halifax management are working hard on the recruitment of players who will rebuild the club to its former glories.

Probably the best known member of the Halifax team is 28 years old prop Dave Weavill who moved to Thrum Hall last September from Warrington. He is a product of Huddersfield junior rugby who, in August 1970, turned professional with the senior Huddersfield club and quickly established himself as a strong running and rugged forward. Weavill's consistent performances did not go unnoticed by scouts from other leading clubs and in October 1976 he was transferred to Warrington for £3,500. He was a regular member of the Warrington pack throughout last season and played in the Premiership Final which, despite Weavill grabbing a try was won by St. Helens. This season Alec Murphy's search for a hooker and Weavill's wish to return to a club nearer his West Riding home led to his transfer to Halifax in an exchange deal involving John Dalgreen. Once he has settled in at Thrum Hall, the fortunes of Halifax are bound to improve for his talent is sure to rub off on his less experienced pack colleagues.

So far, though, the 1977-78 season has been an utter disaster for the Halifax club who have lost all twelve competitive matches in which they have been involved. Their most dismal performance, of course, was that terrible home defeat to amateur club Cawoods in the Players Trophy but they have also lost twice to Keighley, twice to Leigh, twice to Rochdale Hornets and twice to Whitehaven as well as losing at Barrow, York and Doncaster.

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- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BARTON, E.
- 5 STONDIN, U.
- 6 McCONE, M.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 HUGHES, B.
- 9 O'MAHONEY, R.
- 10 FRODSHAM, P.
- 11 HERBERT, S.
- 12 JEWITT, P.
- 13 PETERS A.

14
15

Referee:
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Halifax

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- 2 DOWNEY, F.
- 3 DAVIES, P.
- 4 GREENWOOD, L.
- 5 PITCHFORTH, G.
- 6 BROOK, G.
- 7 FINNERTY, D.
- 8 FRAIN, M.
- 9 FOSTER, N.
- 10 WEAVILL, D.
- 11 CALLON, D.
- 12 MARTIN, J.
- 13 SCOTT, M.

14
15

K. Ashall (Prescott) Orange
W. Greenhalgh (Wigan) Red

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Brian Batty

Glynn Shaw sports the craggy, lived in features of a typical Welsh forward who looks as if he has been hewn out of the local hillside.

Perhaps it is the wear and tear of pulling on the red shirt of Wales five times or playing in a tough Neath pack but Shaw certainly looks the part.

Which is as well when you are expected to follow in the successful studmarks of such former Welsh stars as John Mantle, Kel Coslett, Tony Fisher and Colin Dixon to name but a few.

Rugby League signing raids on the Welsh Rugby Union scene have generally proved profitable and Widnes look to have found a great ally for Jim Mills.

Widnes coach Frank Myler judges his players by the highest of standards. It was his assistant coach Doug Laughton who returned from watching Shaw eclipse British Lions forward Fran Cotton in the Sale-Neath game who was convinced the club should move in.

Shaw's debut against New Hunslet could hardly have been more impressive even allowing for the opposition struggling to strike First Division form.

Shaw's tackling bears early comparison with the best of Australia's present beef brigade who believe in the old fashioned habit of decking the opposition at the first attempt.

Shaw may not quite be in the Terry Randall class but he can't be far behind and he has other assets which should enable him to succeed in his new career.

There can be few faster forwards win the world than Shaw, who strides out with determination of a John Mantle in his prime.

But what impressed me more than his first powerfully taken try in the First Division was his ability and desire to slip the ball in the tackle.

There will be harder times ahead for Shaw but Frank Myler, as England's new coach, could shortly be placed in the position of planning how to subdue him.

For I cannot see Shaw taking long to win a place for Wales in the forthcoming Triangular tournament, a testing ground this season for the men who hope to face Australia next year.

Shaw has no regrets at turning his back on Welsh Rugby Union. 'I could get no further in Union for there is no British Lions Tour for three years,' he told me.

'In any case I seemed to have lost favour with some of the Welsh selectors who did not like my style of breaking away and running with the ball instead of stating to hunt with the pack.

'This is what I like about League. There seems to be plenty of scope for individual play. It is a new challenge and I think I am going to enjoy the more open style of rugby.

'I can't see it being harder than playing for either Neath or Wales and I reckon I can look after myself in any company.

Shaw has only to maintain his promise to pin down a place in the Welsh side to face France at Widnes in January when the selectors are sure to be keen to swell the crowd as well as claim an early success in the Triangular tournament.

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With the Amateurs ALAN BURKE

Congratulations to Saddleworth's under 18s side on winning through to the Final of the BARLA Lancashire-Cumbria Youth Cup, which will be played at Watersheddings on Sunday, December 4th. Their opponents will be Widnes Tigers, who were runners-up in last season's competition, and then went on to win the National Youth Cup, defeating Saddleworth, 9-8 at Widnes, in the semi-finals. However, after their tremendous semi-final win over Pilkington's, Saddleworth are extremely confident of gaining revenge for that defeat, especially with players such as Martin Foy, Terry Flanagan, and Nicky Kiss in their ranks.

Praise should also go to coach Brian Gartland whose efforts should make him favourite to retain his appointment as coach of the Lancashire Youth side, who he guided to last season's County Championship.

Another coach who has reason to celebrate at the moment is Brian Churm, the Oldham Amateur League's town-team coach, who has seen his side win two very tough matches, against Widnes and Warrington, to gain a place in the quarter-finals of the BARLA Inter-League competition, where they will be away to the winners of yesterday's York-Leigh clash. Oldham's 2nd Round victory over Warrington was especially pleasing, as the Warrington side contained many of the Latchford Albion side who defeated both St. Anne's and Waterhead on their way to the Final of the BARLA Lancashire-Cumbria Cup.

Waterhead must also be congratulated on their excellent run in the County Cup, which ended with that narrow defeat by Latchford in the semi-finals, after having beaten several top teams in the earlier rounds including Leigh Miners Welfare, and last season's Champions of the North-West Counties League, Crossfields. Player-coach Mick Crocker is highly delighted with his team's performances this season, which have brought dividends for many of the players in the fact that 6 of them were members of that successful Oldham town-team.

Now that their County Cup campaign has come to an end, Waterhead can start to concentrate on their equally hard task of trying to win the Oldham Standard Cup for the first time in their history. Their delayed 1st Round game against Mayfield will be played next Saturday and the winners of that tie have to face cup-holders St. Anne's in the quarter-finals, in an all First Division clash. Two other clubs from the top division also meet in the next round, with Ferranti taking on Saddleworth at Bower Lane. Saddleworth too deserve praise for still being at the top of the 1st Division with maximum points, but will not find life easy against a Ferranti side who were last season's 2nd Division Champions, and who have surprised many other top clubs in the League this season.

Third Division side Fitton Hill face a hard match against Manchester side Langworthy Juniors, who will however not find it easy at Alexandra School, against a Fitton Hill side, who although rocked by several injuries have still managed to produce some enterprising performances this season. The fourth quarter-final is an all 3rd Division clash between the revived Salem Hornets, and Saddleworth "A", who created the shock of the opening round by defeating 2nd Division Higginshaw. The match will take place at

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Breeze Hill School, and like the other quarter-finals will be on Saturday, December 3rd.

Finally, our best wishes go to the Oldham Amateur League's Youth town-team, who next weekend play their opening game in the BARLA Inter-League Youth Cup at Leeds. With so many local teams and personalities receiving congratulations at the moment, let us hope that they too can produce a praiseworthy performance.

Oldham Schools PHIL LARDER

November 5th. Oldham 9 St. Helens 6.

A friendly game organised as a warm up to next weeks cup-tie against Whitehaven. St. Helens are a strong 1st Division team containing 6 county players and having previously defeated both Leeds and Castleford by 30 points.

This was Oldham's best result of the season. The pack played superbly, tackling very hard and Peter Kilgannen, Chris Deakin and Martin Gratton were outstanding. The half back dominated the opposition and Des Foy (only 14 yrs old) completely dictated play at stand off and provided fine ball for his centres. Both Paul Stott and Mark Derbyshire ran hard and straight in the centre and caused the St. Helens defence many problems. Both wingers played well and Steven Dobb took both his tries with skill and determination. The hard tackling Joe Warburton scored the other try following fine work by Mark Derbyshire.

Peter Kilgannon, who had to retire to have six stitches inserted in an eye wound was voted man of the match.

The next fixture is the 1st Round of the English Schools Cup against Whitehaven.

November 5th. Intermediate Town Team (Under 13).

Oldham 24 St. Helens 9

Scorers: T. Maden 3 (St. Anslens), A. Crawford (Saddleworth), W. Turnbull (Fitton Hill), P. Rowbottom (Fitton Hill) A. Yates 3 goals (Counthill).

November 5th. Oldham Juniors 8 St. Helens 0

Playing on a very heavy pitch Oldham completely dominated in attack besides defending superbly against a much bigger side.

Oldham began well and their enterprise was rewarded when centre Chris Churm spotted a small gap and accelerated away past several defenders to score a superb try under the posts which Richard Russell improved.

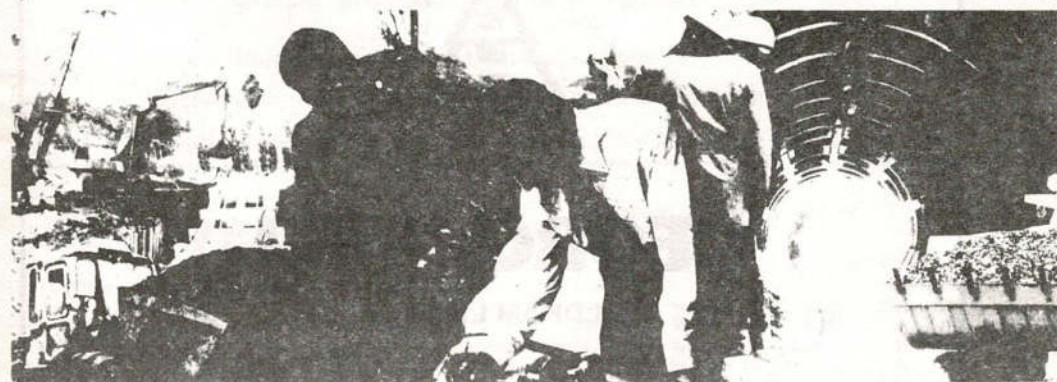
Half backs Russell and Gary Hudson continued to move the ball around confidently and the strong running Paul Garnett created many openings one of which led to the second try. Hudson went blind from the play-the-ball and beat several defenders on his way to scoring a splendid try.

This was undoubtedly Oldham's best performance of the season.

Outstanding in the forwards were hooker Eamonn Farrell, who had a fine game in the loose, Paul Garnett and Carl Whitehead while Hudson and Churm shone in the backs.

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Fixtures 1977-8

'A' TEAM FIXTURES 1977/78

Date	Opponents	Ground	Date	Opponents	Ground
1977			1977		
Aug. 7—(Sun.) Rochdale (3-00) A 5-14			Aug. 20—(Sat.) Widnes (L.S. 3-00) H 15-7		
21—(Sun.) Wigan (L.C. 3-00) A 5-49			26—(Fri.) Widnes (L.S. 7-30) A 8-22		
28—(Sun.) L.C. 2			Sept. 3—(Sat.) Warrington (3-00) H		
Sept. 4—(Sun.) Keighley (3-15) A 5-15			10—(Sat.) Barrow (2-30) A		
11—(Sun.) Barrow (3-30) H 23-7			17—(Sat.) Widnes (3-00) H		
18—(Sun.) Blackpool (3-00) A 28-2			30—(Fri.) Salford (7-30) A		
25—(Sun.) Huyton (3-30) H 19-13			Oct. 8—(Sat.) Swinton (3-00) A		
Oct. 2—(Sun.) Doncaster (3-00) A 18-7			16—(Sun.) Workington H		
9—(Sun.) Swinton (3-30) H 19-10			28—(Fri.) St. Helens (7-30) A		
16—(Sun.) Huyton (2-30) A 20-7			Nov. 12—(Sat.) Leigh (3-00) H		
23—(Sun.) Player's No. 6 (1) Barrow H 16-8			19—(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00) A		
30—(Sun.) Whitehaven (3-30) H 17-13			26—(Sat.) Swinton (3-00) H		
Nov. 6—(Sun.) Player's No. 6 (2) Salford A 10-29			Dec. 3—(Sat.) Barrow (3-00) H		
13—(Sun.) Leigh (3-30) A 3-24			9—(Fri.) Warrington (7-30) A		
20—(Sun.) Halifax (3-30) H			17—(Sat.) Wigan (3-00) A		
27—(Sun.) Swinton (3-00) A			1978		
Dec. 4—(Sun.) Barrow (2-30) A			Jan. 7—(Sat.) St. Helens (3-00) H		
11—(Sun.) Batley (3-30) H			14—(Sat.) Workington (2-30) A		
18—(Sun.)			20—(Fri.) Widnes (7-30) A		
26—(Mon.) Rochdale (3-00) H			28—(Sat.) Leigh (3-00) A		
1978			Feb. 4—(Sat.) Wigan (3-00) H		
Jan. 2—(Sun.) Huddersfield (3-00) A			Mar. 11—(Sat.) Salford (3-00) H		
8—(Sun.) York (2-30) A			Apr. 15—(Sat.) Rochdale (3-00) H		
15—(Sun.) Keighley (3-30) H					
22—(Sun.)					
29—(Sun.) Leigh (3-30) H					
Feb. 5—(Sun.) Batley (3-00) A					
12—(Sun.) Challenge Cup 1					
19—(Sun.) York (3-30) H					
26—(Sun.) Challenge Cup 2					
Mar. 5—(Sun.)					
12—(Sun.)					
19—(Sun.) Blackpool (3-30) H					
24—(Fri.) Rochdale (3-00) A					
27—(Mon.) Huddersfield (3-00) H					
Apr. 2—(Sun.) Doncaster (3-30) H					
9—(Sun.) Whitehaven (3-00) A					
16—(Sun.) Halifax (3-30) A					

CUP ROUNDS

Forshaw's Lancs Cup Final:
Saturday, 29th October

Player's No. 6—Round 3: 19/20th November
1st Semi-Final: 26th November
2nd Semi-Final: 3rd December

BBC 2 Floodlight Final: 13/20th December

Player's No. 6 Final: 28th January, 1978

RLCC 3rd Round: 11/12th March

1st Semi-Final: 1st April; 2nd Semi-Final: 8th April

Premiership—Round 1: 23rd April

Semi-Final 1st Leg: 29/30th April

Semi-Final 2nd Leg: 7th May. Final 20th May

RLCC FINAL: 13th May.