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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday 7th October, 1979.

OLDHAM

- 1 MARTIN MURPHY
- 2 GEOFF MUNRO
- 3 PHIL LARDER
- 4 GLEN CREHAN
- 5 ERIC FITZSIMMONS
- 6 BILL FRANCIS
- 7 RAY ASHTON
- 8 ALAN FORSTER
- 9 RAY MARTLAND
- 10 IAN TAYLOR
- 11 STEVE HERBERT
- 12 GARRY WALCZAK
- 13 COLIN HAWKYARD
- 14
- 15

Featherstone

- 1 GRAEME ROBINSON
- 2 JOHN GILBERT
- 3 STEVE QUINN
- 4 PAUL COVENTRY
- 5 KEN KELLETT
- 6 STEVE EVANS
- 7 TERRY HUDSON
- 8 MICK GIBBINS
- 9 RAY HANDSCOMBE
- 10 MICK MORGAN
- 11 DAVE VICKERS
- 12 FRANCIS JARVIS/DAVID HOBBS
- 13 KEITH BELL
- 14 NEIL TUFFS
- 15

Referee: MR.G.F.LINDOP (Wakefield)

Red Flag: MR.D.BOWES (Swinton) Yellow Flag: MR.R.J.PERCIVAL (Warrington)

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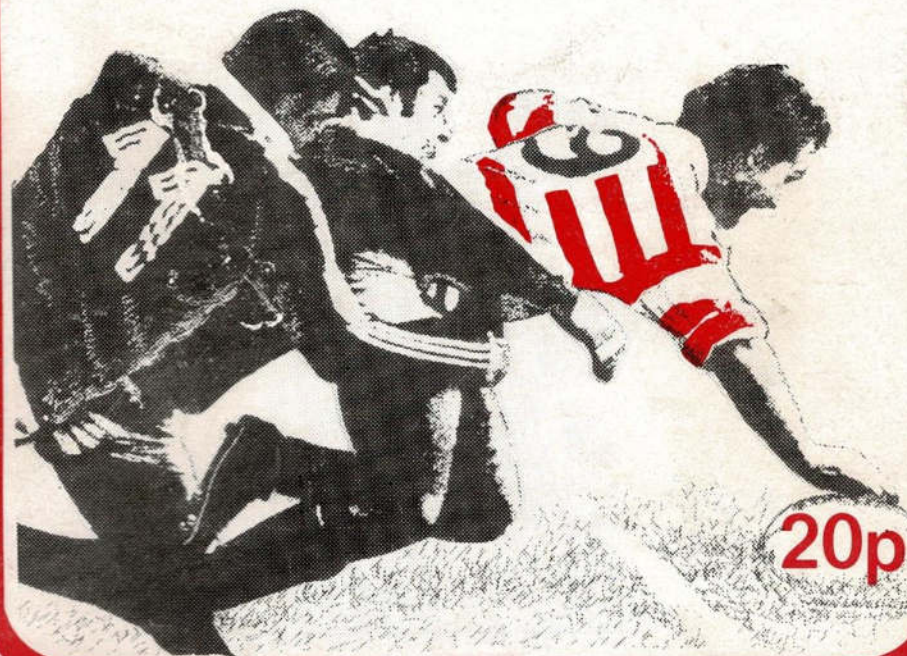
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Tel: 061-652 5244

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Vice-chairman - J. Bowden

Treasurer - K. Broadbent

Committee : E. Buckley, F. Diskin, J. Hall, D. Hulme, R. Ogden, K. Potter

Coaching Staff : Graham Starkey (manager) Terry Gorman (asst. manager)
Bill Francis (player/coach) Bob Welding (A team coach)
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

Professional Playing Staff:

Jimmy Arnold -Dennis Ashcroft-Ray Ashton-Harold Byram-Barry Conner-Leslie Cook-
Michael Coombes-Mike Cowley-IPasquale D'Adamo-Peter Deakin-Jim Fidler-Eric
Fitzsimons-Kevin Flanagan-Terry Flanagan-Alan Forster-Bill Francis-Dave Fricker-Andrew
Goodway-Fred Hall-Colin Hawkyard-Steve Herbert-Keith Jackson-Clive Jones-Paddy
Kerwan-Phil Larder-Steve Littler-Steve Lund-Geoff Munro-Martin Murphy-Tony Newall-
Chris O'Brien-Ian Ogden-Roger O'Mahoney-Kevin O'Rourke-Gareth Owen-Johnny
Paterson-Ian Radcliffe-Warren Ryans-Ian Taylor-Garry Walczak-John Walls-Mike Worrall
Doctor: Dr. D. Walton **Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon:** Mr. H. Thompson

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Burnelle **Asst. Physiotherapist:** Mr. J. Watkins

Financial & Admin. Manager: David Oakes

Commercial Manager - **Social Club Manager:** Kevin Wilkinson 061-624 7240

Public relations officer - Barbara Wilde

Groundsman : F. Brookes

Asst. Groundsman : M. Bashforth

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory	67-6 against Liverpool City April 59
Record defeat	11-67 by Hull K.R. Sept. 78
Record attendance	28,000 v Huddersfield Feb 24th 1912
Record receipts	£4,897 v Leeds 3rd March 1968
Record transfer fee paid	£10,650 to Workington for Ike Southward March 1959
Record transfer fee received	£11,002 : 10s from workington for Ike Southward Jan 62
Record try scorer	Reg Farrar 49 tries 1921/22 season
Record goal scorer	Bernard Ganley 224 goals 1957/58 season
Record point scorer	Bernard Ganley 28 pts v Liverpool City April 59

CLUB 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

We Welcome our Visitors

FEATHERSTONE — by DON YATES

Oldham's ambition of securing promotion this season faces a severe test this afternoon with the visit of the powerful Featherstone Rovers outfit who, along with Barrow, are favourites to lift the second division title.

Rovers, however, did not make such an impressive start to their league campaign, losing at Halifax 22-16, but since then they have beaten Keighley at home 34-20 and Huyton away 29-17 so visit Watersheddings today seeking a third consecutive victory which would put them above Oldham and into one of the coveted top four positions.

They must be reasonably confident of achieving that victory for they have beaten Oldham on each of the last four occasions when these two clubs have met. In season 1975-76 they beat Oldham 27-5 at Post Office Road and then by 21-5 here at Watersheddings and the following season they won here 23-5 and at Featherstone 33-17. Oldham ended that 1976-77 season bottom of the table whilst Rovers went on to lift the First Division Championship for the first time in their history. One has to go back almost six years, to December 1973, for Oldham's last victory over Featherstone. Oldham won 19-10 at Post Office Road, on that occasion to complete a double success having beaten Rovers 14-12 at Watersheddings during the previous month.

Whether Oldham will be able to repeat that victory remains to be seen for they face a side rich in talent and which includes in their line-up Steve Evans, Britain's top try scorer during last summer's tour of Australasia. Twenty-one years old Evans has only been playing professionally since February 1976 when he joined Rovers from junior rugby. He quickly developed into an outstanding and versatile utility back who was an ideal tourist 'down under' where he scored 16 tries from 18 appearances. He won his first representative selection last September when he was substitute back in the British under-24 side which met the Kangaroo tourists and then in the late season he played for England against France when he clinched his tour selection. This season he has played in both Yorkshire's County Championship matches and he is, without doubt, a brilliant player whose drop into the Second Division sparked off a record transfer to one of several big First Division clubs.

Rovers, though, would here nothing of it and, in fact, it is they who have splashed out in the big money in recent years. Last September they paid out a club record £10,000 when they signed pack leader Mick Morgan from York and under his leadership Rovers must surely be strong candidates to regain First Division status. Morgan began his career at Wakefield Trinity where he won international recognition, visiting Australasia with the English World Championship squad in 1975 and making a total of six full international appearances. He has also played nine times for Yorkshire and when he moved to York in March 1977 the £10,000 transfer fee was a record for the Clarence Street club. A similar record fee changed hands 18 months later when he moved to Post Office Road.

Mick Morgan, Steve Evans and the rest of this talented Featherstone squad such as Welsh international Harold Box, British under-24 representatives John Gilbert, Mick Gibbins and Dale Fennell and Yorkshire county players Steve Quinn and Keith Bell are sure to provide formidable opposition for Oldham today but their visit promises to provide another exciting afternoon of action for the fans who have gathered here for this vital clash of promotion hopefuls.



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FANFARE FOR FITNESS!

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

MY interest was aroused when it was announced the other day that there would be an inquiry into the disasters of last summer's Australasian tour on BBC 2 television.

But, like many Rugby League followers, I was disappointed at the findings of the two men called in to air their views, Eric Ashton and Alex Murphy.

Ashton, who had the unenviable task of coaching the squad, was in something of an invidious position when asked in front of millions of viewers: what went wrong!

Clips of film showed that there was some weak tackling and poor backing up and Eric made the point that, in his view, future sides should be announced as late as possible and those chosen should not be expected to play club games before the party left.

Maybe, it was a valid point... but I felt it was only touching the fringe of the real problem.

Alex Murphy got a little nearer the crux of the matter when he talked about the Aussies being 110 per cent fit. He felt that the British youngsters did their reputations a power of good but that they were let down by some of the more established members of the party.

Alex called for strict medical examinations on every player in a determined and ruthless bid to ensure that players were not carrying injuries when the party left.

Again, a very valid point and especially so in view of the injury problems on tour and the calling in prior to their departure of Dr. Nick Whitehead, a fitness expert at Carnegie College.

But the real problems are not in spotting whether a tourist has an injury, that is relatively easy, but in stepping up considerably the overall fitness levels of players in Rugby League.

Our game, over the years, has been full of out-dated and old-fashioned attitudes towards fitness and the amount of emphasis that ought to be placed on it. How many times have you heard people remark: "They've left their legs on the track" or something like: "You don't need to do much training if you are playing regularly"?

At last we are beginning to move in the right direction... ever so slow, but we are starting to move.

The appointment of Dr. Whitehead was the first hint that things might be starting to improve and I hear there are proposals to involve the fitness of people at Carnegie to a much greater degree in the future preparation of our national teams.

In themselves they may not achieve a great deal. But they do indicate that at long last the so-called traditionalists in League may be finding some opposition from people who can look at the Aussies and see how far behind we have fallen.

The only real and permanent answer lies in stepping up fitness programmes and routines at club level.

It may take years to achieve... but the fanfare for fitness has to be blown!



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ALEX RULES O.K.

1) Spectators are often confused by the referees interpretation of obstruction. The Rules are quite clear and specific, but the referee is the sure judge of whether an obstruction has occurred. If the referee considers an opponent to be obstructed accidentally by a players momentum, then a scrum shall be formed.

It is not an offence for a player to miss out a colleague coming up on the burst, and pass behind him, unless of course that player carries on his momentum and prevents an opponent from tackling. Obviously in most cases when a pass goes out wide no obstruction would occur. The exception being if the pass is short and within the vicinity of the ruck of players.

The run around move is another example. If the opponents stand back, then no obstruction can be awarded. If the player is tackled, then despite how it seems, no obstruction has occurred.

Remember that the player in possession can never be guilty of obstruction.

2) (a) Can a tackled player drop a goal from the play the ball?

(b) A player kicks ahead, the ball strikes an opponent on the shoulder and is caught by a colleague standing in an offside position, who then scores a try. Is it a try?

(c) A player drop kicks for goal, the ball hits the cross-bar and rebounds to a colleague in an offside position, who then scores a try. Is it a try?

(d) Can a player ever be offside in his own goal area?

(e) If two players are running side by side near to an towards the ball, is it permissible for one to charge the other with his shoulder?



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Answers: 2a NO, 2b YES, 2c NO, 2d YES,

Go West Young Man!

The following is an extract from a report by R.L. officials, David Oxley and David Howes on their recent visit to the United States where serious attempts are being made to establish R.L.

Since his last visit to England and Council's decision to invest in the United States Rugby League, Michael Mayer and his staff have been most industrious in completing the detailed work necessary to beginning the sale of franchises, in publicising and promoting Rugby League in the U.S.A., and in establishing new headquarter offices in Madison. Details are contained in the first News Letter to shareholders, attached to this report. A comprehensive financial report and balance sheet will be sent by the U.S.R.L. to all shareholders shortly and the first meeting of shareholders is scheduled to be held in the U.S.A. later in September.

We feel it would be most valuable if a member, or members, of Council could attend this meeting.

Our assessment of the progress to date and future prospects of the U.S.R.L. is as follows:

(1) LEGAL WORK

Each of the 50 States has its own complex laws relating to the sale of business and sporting franchises. In order for the U.S.R.L. to feel confident about offering franchises for sale in any State where interest is shown, therefore a vast amount of detailed legal work has been undertaken by the U.S.R.L.'s lawyers, Sonnenschein, Carlin, Nath & Rosenthal. We visited the firms's main offices in Chicago and found them to be a highly impressive organisation. It was particularly encouraging to learn that the attorneys responsible for the U.S.R.L.'s brief, were extremely keen on and well informed about Rugby League, in addition to being experts in the complexities of American Company Law. The legal work relating to the sale of franchises has now been completed and, in addition, a full written constitution has been worked out and registered.

(2) PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

Our visit to Daniel J. Edelman, Inc. (Chicago) was both instructive and encouraging. The firm is in the very front rank of public Relations Operations, being responsible for the accounts of many world wide concerns. It was all the more encouraging, therefore, to find that at the head of the firm, Daniel J. Edelman, himself, was genuinely interested in the prospects of establishing Rugby League in the U.S.A. and clearly holds Mike Mayer in the very highest personal esteem, though the U.S.R.L.'s account is miniscule by Edelman's normal standards. We established immediate rapport with the Senior Vice-President, Ross Sterner, and have set up links with the London office which could produce exciting prospects for the future.

We were able to see the rough cuts of the 18 minute colour film produced by Television and Film Limited of Manchester for the U.S.R.L. entitled "This is Rugby League" and shot mainly at this year's Wembley Final. The film briefly traces the history of Rugby League and using action from the Wembley Final, draws the comparisons and differences between our game and American Football which, of course, all Americans follow avidly. With a little "pruning and tightening", this excellent film is bound to play a most important part in aiding the U.S.R.L.'s drive to sell franchises.

I have arranged for the final version to be shown to Council at the October meeting.

It is absolutely essential that every effort is made to educate the American public to the attractions of Rugby League and in this, obtaining television time is of paramount importance. Edelmanns are admirably placed to bring this about. They are extremely influential and experienced in dealing with all branches of the media and in obtaining vital exposure. Certainly, the highest degree of marketing expertise is now required to "sell" Rugby League to Americans. Michael Mayer has always held that when the essential ground work was completed and the U.S.R.L. established, he would take up a background stance, concerning himself chiefly with the basic day to day administration. Soccer were most fortunate to find Phil Woosnam a man admirably suited to the arduous job of selling the game to the American public. Men of this calibre do not abound but we are confident that the U.S.R.L., with the assistance and advice of Edelmanns, will be able to produce the marketing team capable of doing the job. We also feel it is most important that Jim Taylor, literally a legend in his own lifetime, continues to act as Commissioner for the U.S.R.L. and is used actively to promote its interests.

(3) THE FUTURE

WE conclude that the above cannot be achieved on a shoestring budget. To have any chance of success, it must be done at the highest level and by the best people available, following the policy Michael Mayer has always adopted with regard to the fundamental work in the legal and promotional fields. The money already invested in the U.S.R.L. is being wisely spent. Michael Mayer is currently visiting Australia where he hopes to sell a further six per cent holding to complement the six per cent the French League have undertaken to purchase. In this way, the U.S.R.L. will have both the moral and financial backing of all major Rugby League playing countries. We feel that in the not too distant future, it is essential for say four first rate teams to play a series of matches in the U.S.A. The American public must be given a chance to see Rugby at its best and at first hand. We envisage a sponsored competition, hopefully with a least local, if not national, television coverage making it worthwhile for the teams concerned to play Rugby League at its best as we know it, not traditional exhibition stuff.

In addition to the Challenge Cup, we must also try to sell other televised games for showing in the United States. The 1978 and 1979 Challenge Cup Finals were most enthusiastically received but, of course, are likely to be forgotten if further matches do not appear on American screens from time to time. Because it is essential that the American public witness the best in Rugby League at an early stage, it follows that top player from this country will be required by American teams. This must be done in a controlled way with a quota system and very precise agreements regarding the dates when British players will be available, when they must return to their clubs, compensation and fees payable, etc.

At the various grid iron training camps we see many fine athletes whose skills would fit them well for a place in Rugby League, who were simply not going to make the ruthless cut off for the 45-man squads allowed by the N.F.L. In addition, players with experience of Rugby Union in the United States expressed great interest in playing Rugby League.

The provision of pitches should not prove difficult. Though the grid-iron pitch is too narrow (maximum 55 yards), many of the stadiums where American Football is played also are capable of housing Baseball and Soccer. In addition, it seems that all American cities possess a plentiful supply of smaller but well appointed stadiums which are generally under-used and the Municipality will welcome hirings from a new organisation such as the U.S.R.L.

(4) CONCLUSION

It would be as foolish to minimise the size of the task ahead as it would be to underestimate the validity, thoroughness, and integrity of the essential work already completed. Without doubt, Rugby League's skills, toughness, and continuity commend the game absolutely to the American sporting public. Without doubt, there is a place for a relatively modest priced newcomer on the American sporting scene. Without doubt, the amount of money available for sport in the U.S.A. is limitless and the American public's appetite for sports is second to none. As Michael Mayer has always contended, the opportunity for Rugby League in the United States of America has never been brighter - but with Soccer gaining ground rapidly with every new season, that opportunity will not extend indefinitely.

In a very real sense, it is now or never for Rugby League in the U.S.A.

For this reason alone, Councils investment in the U.S.R.L. should never be regarded as an unnecessary risk. Charged by its own constitution to foster, develop, and extend Rugby League Football, Council made the decision to back what seems certain to be the last serious attempt to establish our game in the U.S.A. That decision was undoubtedly wholly valid and whether or not the venture is crowned with ultimate success, posterity will surely concur in this judgement.

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KEEP FIT CLUB OPENS

Our new keep-fit and jogging club is now open. We have just completed an open week in which admission was free while we tested public reaction to the scheme and looked for answers to questions such as which would be the most popular time for local keep-fit enthusiasts etc.

Defeats by First Division club Leeds and St. Helens in the Player's Trophy and the BBC 2 Floodlit Cup means that emphasis is now placed firmly and squarely on the bid for promotion. We dropped a point at Batley in a 17-17 draw after we had been leading 17-6 midway through the second half and we now come to a tough period in our fixtures with Featherstone Rovers here today, a trip to Whitehaven next Sunday, and then home games against Bramley and Halifax.

Phil Ward is out of the side today because of a two-match suspension imposed after his 38th minute dismissal at Batley.

And we suffered another blow in the recent 'A' team game against Widnes 'A' when prop Gareth Owen, in splendid form, suffered a knee ligament injury which might keep him out for two or three weeks.

Incidentally, the 'A' team's 18-10 win their fourth success in five games and at the time of writing the colts had played five and won five. Despite our defeats by First Division opponents in cup-ties, the first team have also won two and drawn one of their three Second division games.

Not bad considering that this time last year we could not even field an 'A' team!

We have appointed Mr. Geoff Horrocks, a man with five years experience of supervising local keep-fit clubs, to look after the facilities at Watersheddings and he will be only too pleased to help you and offer advice.

A chat with Mr Horrocks would be particularly beneficial to you if you are a beginner at jogging and keep-fit routines or if you are slimming or weight watching.

We can provide two activities for keep-fit enthusiasts— one indoor and the other outdoor, choice depending on the individual and on the weather of course!

Inside we have a very expensive multi-gym on which several people can work out simultaneously. Our players have already used it and will certainly give this elaborate and sophisticated piece of equipment a good reference!

Outside we have the trim trail and exercise stations. The trim trail is around the perimeter of the training pitch and there are various exercise stations sited around the trail. It is our intention to have the facilities open during the week from Monday to Fridays and on such mid-week evenings when we will not be using them ourselves for the rugby teams that is, in the main, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Much of the capital for providing the facilities was provided by Sports Council grant and we would once more like to take this opportunity of placing on record our appreciation to the Sports Council for the confidence they have shown in our club and all it stands for.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

COACHES

Our next away game is on Sunday October 14th at Whitehaven, the coach will leave the social club at 10.30 a.m. Supporters Club Members £3 Non-Members £3.25

RUGBY QUEEN CONTEST

Girls, are you 16 or over? Why not become Miss OLDHAM RUGBY 1980. The contest this year will be held on October 31st during a Halloween & Disco Night. Entry forms from the Social Club or any canteen today.

RUGBY SHIRTS

Buy a red & White rugby shirt (Bukta) prices from £5.99 to £8.50 depending on size. Enquire at any of the three canteens any match day or social club any day.

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Dads, Mums, Grans, Grandpa's

We are holding a games night on October 10th at 7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Soft drinks and refreshments on Sale. This event will take the form of Pool Games, Darts, Records, and later on we are hoping to purchase a table tennis table. We hope you will bring your children aged 6 years upwards enabling us to create enough interest to form a Junior Supporters Club.

Membership Fees are now due for the coming season Adults £1.00 Married Couples £1.50 Juniors 50p - WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER NOW - HELP US TO BECOME A WINNING TEAM

We have three canteens open at today's match selling Hot Pies, Soup, Coffee, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Cigarettes, etc. Plus the Bar behind the score board. Book your seats for Whitehaven NOW.



Alan Forster makes a break for Oldham against Leeds. He is watched by Eric Fitzsimmons (on the ground) as he tries to break a tackle by Alan Smith.

Mid-air tussle for Oldham's Eric Fitzsimmons (No.5) and Phil Cookson as they battle to grab a loose ball during the Leeds match at Watersheddings.



Action from the Leeds game...prop Gareth Owen turns and looks for support as the Yorkshire side's defence closes in.

OLDHAM ACTION

All pictures courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

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Featherstone Rovers.

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Admitted to Northern League 1921

Record win 65-5 v Whitihaven 1971

League Runners up 1928 Division 1 Runners up 1975-76

Challenge Cup Winners 1967, 1973, Runners up 1952, 1974

Yorkshire League Runners up 1928, 1962

Yorkshire Cup Winners 1940, 1959

Runners up 1928, 1963, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1977, 1978

Players associated with Oldham

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COLT'S CORNER

Pasquale D'Adamo is the latest local lad to turn professional for Oldham. He signed pro forms last week and became the 11th teenager to be signed by the club professionally since last Spring.

Though Pasquale has Italian parents he was born and brought up locally. He has played as a prop-forward right from his early days at St. Mary's junior school and then at St. Anselm's school and he represented the town teams at junior, senior and intermediate levels. From there he went to Saddleworth Rangers and, like Paddy Kirwan and Terry Flanagan, was a member of the highly successful Rangers under 18 side of last season.

All connected with Watersheddings wish him a long and happy stay with the club and every success as a Rugby League professional.

Pasquale is one of nine Oldham colts who are included in the Lancashire colts trials to be held on the Salford training ground at Urmston on three Sunday mornings this month.

Around 50 top youngsters from all around the county will take part in the trials, after which the selectors and county coach Geoff Lyon will pick a 22-man squad to represent Lancashire against Yorkshire at Bramley in November.

This match, of course, will be a stepping stone to places in the Great Britain colts side to play France home and away next Spring.

Of the 11 colts Oldham have signed on as professionals only two will not be featuring in the Lancashire trials hooker Les Cook, who is recovering after a knee cartilage operation, and Yorkshireman Andrew Goodway.

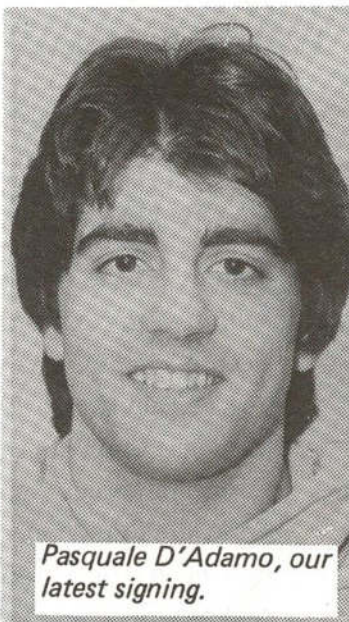
Andrew has a great chance of making the Yorkshire team and he did his chances a power of good when playing a starring role in Oldham's 28-11 win a Castleford three weeks ago.

Oldham had no game the following week and these notes had to be compiled before the local youngsters met bang-in-form Leeds at Watersheddings last week-end.

But at the time of writing Oldham were still top of the table with five wins from five matches and a two point lead over Bradford, Hunslet, Salford and Bramley with a game in hand on all except Bradford.

Latest results to hand: Bradford 28 Salford 13 — Castleford 11 OLDHAM 28 Leigh 19 Dewsbury 10 — St. Helens 6 Leeds 48 — Wakefield 5 Bramley 28 — Widnes 10 Hunslet 12 — Bramley 52 Castleford 10 — Dewsbury 7 Bradford 17 — Hull K.R. 25 Leigh 14 — Hunslet 42 St. Helens 9 — Leeds 37 Widnes 10 — Rochdale 22 Wakefield 19 — Salford 18 Hull 11

Following their game against high-scoring Leeds last week-end Oldham had another tough task yesterday when they travelled to Widnes.



Pasquale D'Adamo, our latest signing.

COLTS FIXTURES

1979

Aug. 18	Leigh	A
25	Bradford	H
Sept. 1	Leeds	A
8	Bramley	H
15	Castleford	A
29	Leeds	H
Oct. 6	Widnes	A
13	Hull	A
20	St. Helens	H
27	Wakefield	A
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H
10	Bradford	A
17	Salford	H
24	Hunslet	A
Dec. 1	Widnes	H
8	St. Helens	A
29	Leigh	H

F. A. 1980

Jan. 5	Salford	A
12	Bramley	A
19	Hull	H
26	Dewsbury	A
Feb. 2	Rochdale	A
9	Cup-First Round	
16	Hull KR	H
23	Cup-2nd Round	
March 1	Castleford	H
8	Hull KR	A
22	Dewsbury	H
29	Wakefield	H
April 5	Rochdale	H

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

ARGUMENTS RAGE By Brian Batty

Lancashire have taken the county championship for the second successive season in a competition which many people within the game feel is a luxury we cannot afford.

The arguments - for and against the championship - continue to rage despite a title decider between Yorkshire and Lancashire that provided an entertaining clash.

There was some highly skilled play in spells in a game that was in the balance to the finish, watched by a full turn out of the international selectors.

They had rightly decided that in the anxious search for new playing talent they had to start as early as possible.

Great Britain's Under 24 side tackle France in this country in November and then comes the European championship in the second half of the season.

But unfortunately for the selectors and the county sides the usual spate of withdrawals through injuries led to wholesale changes in teams throughout the county competition.

This is something that tends to devalue the championship and although we cannot complain about the standard of much of the play in the final the loss of many first choice players defeats the object of the selectors attending these games.

And, of course, there is the aspect of players already being forced into crowded programme at such an early stage of a long, hard season.

Take the case of those Great Britain players who have just returned from touring Australia and New Zealand. Before they have chance to regain their breath they are pitched into county cup competitions, county championship, the League games and the John Player trophy.

And on top of that we have the BBC 2 Floodlit programme opening with midweek preliminary matches to be played.

Tack on two nights training a week and there are not many hours left in a week which brings us back to the Aussies and the less crowded fixtures lists that their stars have to contend with.

It is enough to leave a player physically and mentally jaded by Christmas when he still has the demanding second half of the season's programme to tackle.

With the State Express Challenge Cup, the internationals in the European championship, the First Division championship and the Premiership play-off it is a tall order with the successful clubs obviously the ones who suffer most.

Let us hope we are spared the weather which forced so many postponements last season otherwise it's going to be another chaotic climax which hits the players and the fans' pockets and the game suffers in general.



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First team fixtures 1979/80 Oldham Rugby League Football Club

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F. A.
Aug. 19	County Cup Swinton	Away		22-15
Aug. 26	Warrington 2nd round	Home		6-34
Sept. 2	Doncaster	Away		25-0
Sept. 9	Huyton	Home	3.00 p.m.	15-3
Sept. 16	John Player Leeds			7-31
Sept. 19	B.B.C. St. Helens	Home		9-20
Sept. 23	Batley	Away		17-17
Sept. 30	John Player 2nd Round			
Oct. 7	Featherstone	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away		
Oct. 21	Bramley	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away		
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away		
Nov. 25	Dewsbury	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Dec. 2	Huyton	Away		
Dec. 9	Batley	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Dec. 16	Dewsbury	Away		
Dec. 26	Rochdale	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Dec. 30	Featherstone	Away		
Jan. 6	Swinton	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Jan. 13	Keighley	Away		
Jan. 20				
Jan. 27	Huddersfield	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Feb. 3	Challenge Cup 1st Round			
Feb. 17				
Feb. 24	Challenge Cup 2nd round			
Mar. 2	Barrow	Away		
Mar. 9	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 16	Keighley	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 23	Halifax	Away		
Mar. 30	Doncaster	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Apr. 6				
Apr. 13				
Apr. 20	Bramley	Away		
Apr. 27				

'A' Team Fixtures 1979/80 Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

Date	Opponent	Venue	K.O.	F. A.
Sept. 1	Workington	Home	3.00 p.m.	15-12
Sept. 7	Leigh	Away	7.30 p.m.	5-13
Sept. 13	Blackpool	Home	7.30 p.m.	25-23
Sept. 21	Warrington	Away	7.30 p.m.	18-10
Oct. 6	Workington	Away	2.30 p.m.	
Oct. 18	Wigan	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Oct. 26	Wigan	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2.30 p.m.	
Nov. 15	Swinton	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Nov. 24	Rochdale	Away	3.00 p.m.	
Nov. 29	St. Helens	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Dec. 7	Widnes	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Dec. 15	Whitehaven	Away	3.00 p.m.	
Dec. 20	Rochdale	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Jan. 4	St. Helens	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Jan. 10	Swinton	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Jan. 17	Widnes	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Jan. 19	Whitehaven	Home	3.00 p.m.	
Jan. 26				
Feb. 2				
Feb. 9				
Feb. 14	Warrington	Home	7.30 p.m.	
Feb. 23				
Mar. 1	Barrow	Home	2.30 p.m.	
Mar. 12	Salford	Away	7.30 p.m.	
Mar. 15	Blackpool	Away	3.00 p.m.	
Mar. 20	Salford	Home	7.30 p.m.	

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BARLA REVIEW

by Alan Burke

(public Relations Officer, Oldham Amateur Rugby League)

The Oldham Amateur League's Under 19 town team showed that they could this season be among the main challengers for the British Amateur Rugby League Association's Inter-League Youth Shield, when they defeated Leigh at Chamber Colliery last Sunday by 25 points to 7. The victory was largely due to a fine display of strong running and sure tackling by the Oldham pack, who also completely dominated the scrums, this allowing the backs to have plenty of opportunity with the ball.



Two of the Oldham side, winger Graham Robinson of Shaw, and prop-forward Tony Ogden of Higginshaw, are regularly playing open-age rugby, and should be among several members of the Oldham side who must surely be strongly considered when the county selectors meet to choose the Lancashire youth team to play Cumbria on October 28th. Centre Danny Cheetham of Saddleworth Rangers must also be another candidate for the County side, as well as being in the running for a place in the Great Britain team to meet the touring Australian Youth side in January, especially after being chosen by BARLA as one of the boys to attend the "Guinness School of Rugby" coaching session.

Following their victory over Leigh, Oldham have now been rewarded with another home tie against York, with the match scheduled for next Sunday. The open-age town team are preparing for their 1st Round Inter-League clash at Manchester on October 27th, with a squad of 20 players already in training under the eye of new coach, Wally Walker. Wally, the former St. Anne's secretary, left the local-league scene a couple of seasons ago due to business commitments, but has now accepted the post of coach to the senior town-team side, after the League committee had decided that the job should this season go to someone who has no current club connections.

The Oldham open-age town team, like the youth side, also includes players who should stand a very good chance of County honours this season, while for one member of the squad, Fred Howarth of St. Anne's, a game in the Great Britain jersey has become a distinct possibility. Fred has recently been chosen as one of the reserves for the Test Match against Papua New Guinea at Hull on November 4th, and will therefore be hoping to impress for the rest of the season and claim a place in the actual International team when they meet France in the New Year. Fred has long been noted in the Oldham League as one of the area's outstanding players, and last season won the Pennine League's 'Player of the Year' award, as well as becoming the first ever player to win the Man-of-the-Match award twice in the Oldham Standard Cup Final.

While congratulations from the Oldham League are extended to the St. Anne's second-row forward, let us also not forget some other notable achievements by our clubs in the opening month of the season. Waterhead have won through to the quarter finals of the John Player Amateur Sevens; Saddleworth are the only club in the Premier Division of the Pennine League to still have a 100% record — after just two matches for each club: and Fitton Hill have surprised everyone by beating last seasons top two clubs in division two, both away from home, to lead the division. Finally, the draw for the quarter finals of this seasons BARLA Lancashire—Cumbria Cup is to be made live on tonight's Rugby League Special programme on Radio Manchester (6.15 p.m.)

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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday 7th October, 1979.

OLDHAM

- 1 MARTIN MURPHY
- 2 GEOFF MUNRO
- 3 PHIL LARDER
- 4 GLEN CREHAN
- 5 ERIC FITZSIMMONS
- 6 BILL FRANCIS
- 7 RAY ASHTON
- 8 ALAN FORSTER
- 9 RAY MARTLAND
- 10 IAN TAYLOR
- 11 STEVE HERBERT
- 12 GARRY WALCZAK
- 13 COLIN HAWKYARD
- 14 STEVE LUND
- 15 TERRY FLANAGAN

Featherstone

- 1 GRAEME ROBINSON
- 2 JOHN GILBERT
- 3 STEVE QUINN
- 4 PAUL COVENTRY
- 5 KEN KELLET
- 6 STEVE EVANS
- 7 TERRY HUDSON
- 8 MICK GIBBINS
- 9 RAY HANDSCOMBE
- 10 MICK MORGAN
- 11 FRANCIS JARVIS
- 12 DAVE VICKERS
- 13 KEITH BELL
- 14 NEIL TUFFS
- 15 DAVID HOBBS

Referee: MR.G.F.LINDOP (Wakefield)

Red Flag: MR.D.BOWES (Swinton) Yellow Flag: MR.R.J.PERCIVAL (Warrington)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday October 21st. at 3.00 p.m. BRAMLEY

Featherstone