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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday 21st. October, 1979.

OLDHAM

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

BRAMLEY

Amber/Black.

1. TREVOR BIBB
2. JOHN SIMPSON
3. S. NICHOLSON
4. IAN SAMPSON
5. BILLY ROWETT
6. WARREN AYRES
7. R. WINTERBOTTOM
8. TOMMY HIGGINBOTTOM
9. JEFF TENNANT
10. DAVID KNOWLES
11. KEVIN JAMES
12. CHRIS BOWMAN
13. G. WILKINSON
14. R. FRANCIS
15. S. BOND

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Red Flag: Mr. H. Worth (Widnes)

Yellow Flag: MR. J. Clarke (Blackpool)

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Bill Francis (player/coach) Bob Welding (A team coach)
Brian Gartland (Colts Coach)

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Leslie Cook - Michael Coombes - Mike Cowley - Pasquale 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
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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

By Roger Halstead.

BRAMLEY, today's visitors to Watersheddings, are pinning their faith in youth - and a smattering of experience - to help them win back their First Division status they lost at the end of the 1977-78 season.

Like Oldham, they splashed out on a colts team at the beginning of this season in a bid to ensure a steady flow of top-class youngsters to McLaren Field.

Like Oldham, they have enjoyed amazing success in their first season of youth rugby and the Bramley teenagers are second only to our own whiz-kids at Watersheddings in the Colts League.

At first-team level, too, Bramley are putting the accent on youth and they have two excellent 21 year-old second-row men in Kevin James and Chris Bowman, two forwards who have made more than one club sit up and take note.

"We reckon they're as good as any pair in the League", says Bramley secretary Jack Ryan proudly. "When other people start talking about them it proves they are as good as we think".

"We are pinning our faith in youth now - and we are going all out for local talent, too. We can't afford today's massive transfer fees and in any event we want local lads to help cultivate more interest within the club and the fans".

There are exceptions to every rule, of course, and one such exception at Bramley was the recent purchase from Rochdale Hornets of experienced half-back Warren Ayres.

Ayres was bought to provide the guiding hand and the experience in the middle of the field - a job done up front by long-serving prop David Knowles, who has settled his differences with the Club and is now off the transfer list.

Rudi Francis was snapped up from Keighley three weeks ago to add pace on the wing, but former Huddersfield prop Frank Davies has gone the other way to Lawkholme Lane and the majority of the Bramley players are in their very early 20s.

Now coached by former Bradford star and Batley boss Dave Stockwell - with ex-Castleford and Great Britain centre Peter Small as his assistant - Bramley have beaten Whitehaven away and Batley and Rochdale at home.

They lost surprisingly at home to Huyton on the opening day of the season but produced one of their best displays last Sunday when picking up a point at Thrum Hall against promotion hopefuls Halifax.

Bramley still can't understand how they slipped up to Huyton...except for the brilliant display of Geoff Fletcher.

Says club secretary Ryan: "What a fellow that is! If only we could persuade him to come to Bramley. He tore us apart. He is an amazing chap and a credit to Rugby League."

Now haven't we heard that before somewhere?

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A NOTE OF CAUTION

By Roger Halstead

(Oldham Evening Chronicle).

WATCHING Featherstone Rovers playing at Watersheddings two weeks ago nudged the memory about the days not so long ago when the Rovers were feared from Humberside to Huyton.

They are still a very competent and attractive side with speedy and classy backs like Steve Evans, Paul Coventry and John Gilbert who must be the envy of many First Division outfits, let alone sides in the Second Division.

But the old fashioned forward strength for which Rovers were famous has gone. They still have a pack to be feared in the Second Division.

But no way does it compare with that in the days of the famous Post Office Road front-row of Vince Farrar, Keith Bridges and Jimmy Thompson.

Times have changed and it is a sobering thought to realise that Rovers, now in the Second Division, were Rugby League champions in 1977.

They finished the 1976-77 campaign with 44 points - five more than runners-up St. Helens. Dewsbury, too, are a perfect example of how quickly a club can fall away in the cut-throat competition of two-division football.

It seems like only yesterday that Dewsbury were top of the tree. Now they are in the Second Division and by no means certain to get out this time.

It all goes to show how hard it is to establish a club that has the roots and solid foundations not only to achieve promotion - but to stay there.

Though the season is still in its infancy it would take a brave man to put his shirt on Blackpool and York, promoted last time, staying up there in the top flight.

Oldham themselves have had the yo-yo bug since two-division football was restored at the start of the 1973-74 season.

They have been up and down regularly though they are now in their third consecutive season in Division two - and longing to get out!

The four-up, four-down system, though having some points in its favour, only encourages the same clubs to go on bobbing up and down.

I believe a two-up and two-down set-up would be more beneficial in the long run and would enable those clubs who achieve promotion to consolidate in the top flight.

But as things stand at present there will be four clubs going up next April - and four coming down 12 months later.

I believe Oldham will be among the top four at the end of this season. A year later? Who can tell.

But one thing is sure - an enormous amount of work will have to be done in the next 18 months if Oldham are to bob up . . . and stay up.



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ALEX RULES, O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade I Referee)

First of all an apology for an error in the programme for the Featherstone game. Unfortunately the answer for question (d) was missing, and question (e) substituted wrongly. The questions again are as follows:

(d) can a player ever be offside in his own goal area.
(Answer : No)

(e) If two players are running side by side near to and towards the ball, is it permissible for one to charge the other with his shoulder.
(Answer : Yes)

It is pleasing to know that a number of people spotted the error, thus knowing their rules. The Rugby League have just issued the official booklet "International Laws of The Game and Notes on The Laws" - Price 50p.

This booklet states the laws as interpreted internationally. With an appendix pertaining to the variations for the British R.F.L. This booklet is a must for all officials, particularly coaches and players, but I am sure many spectators would find it good and interesting reading.

Some Extracts from Section II
(The Tackle and Play-The-Ball)

(1) **FOUL THROWS:** A tackler must not make use of any special "Holds" or "Throws" which are likely to cause injury, or use his knees in the tackle.

Bringing a player to the ground by pulling arm over the outstretched leg is permissible provided the arm makes contact with the opponent before the leg. The tackler must also keep hold of the opponent.

(7) **SIXTH TACKLE** By "touching" the ball is meant intentionally playing it with any part of the person when it is not held by an opposing player. A ricochet or rebound does not count as a "touch" if the acting half back kicks the ball during a play-the-ball this is a touch.

Charging down a kick counts as a touch.

(9) **STEALING THE BALL** Once a tackle has been completed, no player shall take or attempt to take the ball from the tackled player. It is permissible for a player to take the ball from an opponent who is not effectively tackled. If players make no effort to complete the tackle, but simply hold him up for a colleague to take the ball they should be penalised.

QUESTIONS:

- (1) Who has loose head? Who puts the ball in?
(a) in normal play.
(b) after six tackles.

Answers:
(a) Say after a knock-out, the defending team make the mark, and put the ball in, the attacking side have loose head.
(b) "Reds" are tackled for the sixth time. "Whites" have loose head and put the ball in.
Moreover if play is in their half they make the mark.

Don't forget, any queries or questions to the secretary
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Girls are you 16 and over? The Rugby Queen Contest this year will be held on October 30th at a Halloween and Disco night in the Social Club. Entry forms from the Social Club or Canteens at todays match.

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NOW JOHN'S A BIG SHOT

By Alan Thomas of the 'DAILY EXPRESS'

One of the few redeeming features of Great Britain's disastrous tour of Australia this summer was the classy football of shooting star John Woods.

The form which pushed his valuation beyond the £30,000 mark has been carried over this season with Leigh. And it's won him the Daily Express/Hepworth Tailoring Player of the Month award for September.

John, whose hobby is game shooting, was delighted to learn he would be collecting a cheque for £100 plus a clothing voucher of the same value and a silver salver. But he gave the praise to his colleagues at Leigh.

He said: "We've had a tremendous start here without getting many pats on the back. Critics have talked about other teams being below strength or off form but we've played very well to win at Wigan, Leeds and Warrington and beat Hull KR and Castleford at home.

"And there have been times when our team has had half a dozen reserves

"Our coach Tam Graaney is doing a great job and with our captain Kevin Taylor shovelling the ball out of the scrums that makes things easier for us in the backs."

When John isn't dazzling defences with try scoring runs and kicking goals with the accuracy of a Bisley marksman he is out shooting game birds.

"I enjoy most outdoor sports, including fishing," says John. "But shooting is my favourite. I find it very relaxing and of course I enjoy eating what I have been shooting when I've been lucky."

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WATCH OUT FOR BARROW!

The postponement of next Sunday's home game against Halifax means that the next visitors to Watersheddings are big-spending Barrow on Sunday, November 11th.

What a game that should be! Coached by our former front-row forward Frank Foster, Barrow have done a tremendous amount of team building in the last 18 months and have gone very strongly into the Rugby Union market.

Full back Steve Tickle, centres Ian Ball and Nigel French and Welsh winger Chris Camilleri are still household names in Union after turning pro. for Barrow.

Indeed, Ball was the first player to reach 100 points this season and is still right up there among the leading goal kickers.

Toss in names like Bob Irving and John Mantle and Barrow are indeed a side that should pack in the crowds at Watersheddings. Note the date - November 11th.

Next week's scheduled match against Halifax has been put back to later in the season because Halifax are in the Yorkshire Cup final next Saturday.

★ ★ ★

Our colts are not the only team to be doing great guns. The "A" team's home win against Swinton was their fifth in six games. The only defeat at the time of writing was the reverse at Leigh against wins over Workington, Blackpool, Warrington, Widnes and Swinton.

★ ★ ★

Two players whom we have signed from Widnes on trial, Eddie Lyon and Phil Fox, made their debuts in that "A" team win over Swinton.

Eddie, a tough prop, is on the Widnes list at £750 and Phil, a very fast winger, is on offer at his own request at £8,000.

Wigan were also in the chase for Fox and had, in fact, been given permission to approach the player when we nipped in and signed him.

Says Phil: "Doug Laughton, the Widnes coach, advised me to come to Oldham. He was very impressed with the set-up when he came with the Widnes 'A' team three weeks ago and he feels the Oldham club is moving in the right direction".



Eddie Lyon (left) and Phil Fox -- the two players we have signed on trial from Widnes.

★ ★ ★

Four Oldham players are among the 100 or so who have been recommended by their clubs for the England under-24 international against France.

The four whose names we have submitted are forwards Andrew Goodway and Terry Flanagan and half-backs Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan.

Of the four, scrum-half or stand-off Ashton has played the most senior rugby so far in his first season as a professional. And anyone who saw the way he destroyed Featherstone in the second half will vouch for the quality of the youngsters we are now attracting to Watersheddings.

★ ★ ★

Jim Fiddler, the prop we signed last March, has been placed on the transfer list at £15,000. Jim asked for a move and the club reluctantly agreed to place him on the list.

OLDHAM ACTION



Ray Ashton, the Oldham scrum-half, goes in for his second try in consecutive matches against Featherstone.

Alan Forster, seen here on a driving run, had another brilliant game against Featherstone.

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BRAMLEY

100 years old this season - formed by vicar of parish, Rev. S.W. Cope. 1st Meeting at conservative club when Abe Clarke was elected captain and Joe Fletcher the secretary. Players had to buy own equipment, pay for own refreshments and travelling and make a contribution to club funds. Alderman Blackburn later Lord Mayor of Leeds provided the kit and the players paid for it by instalments.

Gate receipts in first year ranged from 2 shillings to £1.7s. in early days. In 1886-87 the team never lost a match. Harry Bradshaw played for England 7 times and Albert Hambrecht, his brother C.J. Hambrecht and "Bobby" Whitely (another international) a policeman were stars about 75-80 years ago. The famous Jimmy Lomas played but due to a technical error in signing him, Salford were allowed to secure his services. He was captain of the first Great Britain touring team in 1910.

Walter Popplewell ("Pop") became secretary in 1903 when players were paid 12 shillings for a win, 8 shillings for a draw and 4 shillings for a defeat. In 1949 the rates were respectively, £6, £4 and £3. "Pop" became chairman and was joint manager of our touring teams to Australia and New Zealand in 1936 and 1946. His father, before him, was connected with Bramley for 20 years and 'Pop' served 38 years on the Yorkshire County Committee. He helped to start our game in France. Australia defeated Bramley 92-7 in November 1921.

Some of the better known players associated with the Club at the Barley Mow Ground (now known as McLaren Field) were John Wilson, a New Zealander, John Wolford, Jack Austin, Dave Horn (whose grandfather played for "The Villagers" also) Brian Wrigglesworth, Willis Rushton, Graham Idle (who joined Wakefield Trinity for Bramley's record transfer fee of £8,000) Geoff Dudley, George Langfield, Dennis Warrior, George Gabriel, "Smut" Smith the Kiwi (played with Oldham) Jack Rodgers (Oldham) John Etty (Oldham)

Les Phillips served many years as secretary.

Tom Cook is a long serving official of the supporters club and the Yorkshire Federation of Supporters Club.

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COLTS CORNER

Following the signing of local boy Pasquale D'Adamo on professional forms, we signed another Oldhamer last week. He is 17-years-old Joe Warburton, a versatile utility player, who has done a great job for the colts in recent weeks as emergency hooker.

He won the ball against both Leeds and Widnes and it was his splendid all-round performance at Widnes that was the decisive factor in his signing.

Warburton was a loose-forward in his school days and captained both the St. Alban's team and the Oldham senior town team which, two years ago, reached the semi-finals of the English Schools' Trophy.

Under his leadership, St. Alban's reached the final of the Lancashire top school knock-out and met Beaumont School of Warrington, who were captained by Mick Worrall, one of the 12 teenage signings we have made since last Spring.

Warburton also played for the Saddleworth under-18 side and turned out on the wing in last season's BARLA Youth Cup final against Hunslet at Borough Park, Blackpool.

Our colts suffered their first defeat of the season when beaten 19-12 by Leeds, but they showed their mettle by bouncing back to triumph 24-17 at Widnes and regain the lead at the top of the Colts League.

The try Paddy Kirwan scored at Widnes took his tally for the season to nine - four more than Andrew Goodway, his nearest challenger. Winger Johnny Johnson is next in line with four and Mick Coombes follows with three.

It is pleasing to record that hooker Les Cook, who badly injured a knee in the pre-season sevens at Swinton and has yet to make his colts debut, is progressing well and hopes to be back in light training very soon.

He has recovered well from his cartilage operation and is making speedy and satisfactory progress. Unfortunately, Coombes is now troubled by a back complaint which kept him out of the team that won at Widnes and then travelled to Hull the following Saturday.

In recent weeks several 16-year-olds have made their debuts. Prop Mark Edwards had a fine game at Widnes and others are coming along nicely as every attempt is made to keep the supply-line moving.

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLDHAM	7	6	0	1	168	80	12
Bramley	8	5	1	2	189	92	11
Salford	8	5	0	3	122	137	10
Hunslet	7	4	0	3	137	87	8
Bradford	6	4	0	2	86	104	8
Leeds	7	3	1	3	158	92	7
Hull	5	3	1	1	95	66	7
Leigh	8	3	1	4	124	136	7
Rochdale	4	3	0	1	79	65	6
Castleford	7	2	1	4	136	182	5
Widnes	5	2	0	3	103	96	4
Hull KR	4	2	0	2	70	97	4
St. Helens	7	1	1	5	82	178	3
Wakefield	7	1	0	6	102	150	2
Dewsbury	6	1	0	5	73	162	2



COLTS line-up. Back row (left to right): Brian Gartland (Coach), Mark Edwards, Johnny Johnson, Tony Wood, Phil Vincent, Andrew Goodway, John Walls, Mick Coombes, Pasquale D'Adamo, Mick Worrall, Terry Flanagan, Derek Foy (Assistant Coach). Front: Steve Littler, Joe Warburton, Paddy Kirwan, Stephen Dobb, Ray Ashton.

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

16-11	Jan. 5	Salford	A
38-2	12	Bramley	A
15-13	19	Hull	H
29-4	26	Dewsbury	A
28-11	Feb. 2	Rochdale	A
12-19	9	Cup-First Round	
21-17	16	Hull KR	H
17-16	23	Cup-2nd Round	
	March 1	Castleford	H
	8	Hull KR	A
	22	Dewsbury	H
	29	Wakefield	H
	April 5	Rochdale	H



A dream came true for local lad Joe Warburton who signs on the dotted line watched by club official David Oakes and Colts coach Brian Gartland.

JOE GALLAGHER

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WATCH OUT FOR WALES!

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail



With the season barely a third of the way into its arduous programme there are signs that Wales are going to make a serious challenge for the European championship.

The international selectors must welcome the fact that so many of the Welsh players have shown up well in early season games.

and it looks as if the international selectors will ask Roy Mathias to make the switch again from the wing to the pack. He did such a good job for Wales against the Aussies at Swansea last season despite carrying the burden of a badly broken nose. With his club St. Helens badly hit by injuries this season he has again looked the part, on being switched to both loose forward and second row.

His fine form in the John Player trophy at Barrow earned him two tries and then he showed up well in the second row in the next round of the competition at Widnes.

It could turn out that Chris Seldon - his partner in the second row at Widnes - will make his mark in the Welsh pack.

The former Pontypridd Player of the Year has looked most promising, although he may eventually need to have an operation to remove a piece of floating bone in a knee.

Big Jim Mills, who is feeling his way back gently, was impressed on seeing Seldon and said after the tie: "I like the look of Seldon. He has got what it takes and will do well in League."

Jim's teammate Glyn Shaw has certainly struck his best form since turning professional, with a great start to the season and he will be an automatic choice on current displays.

The selectors seem to have plenty to pick from and will no doubt want to build a pack around young Trevor Skerrett, the star against Australia at Swansea last season.

Skerrett went on to show the Aussies how much he has developed into a top forward with no fear of any of their stars during a highly successful tour Down Under.

His wakefield Trinity teammates Brian Juliff and Steve Diamond will be pushing for threequarter spots in the Welsh side.

Winger Juliff was unlucky not to tour while Diamond has looked a really improved player this term and has been proving his value to Trinity with his fine goalkicking.

I can see France and England having their hands full with the Welsh side if free from injury this season.

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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.	23-22
Oct. 14	Whitehaven	Away		13-13
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.	P
Oct. 18	Wigan	Home	7.30 p.m.	18-17
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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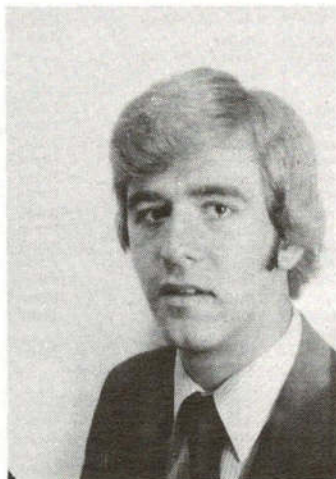
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OLDHAM TRIUMPH AT THE DOUBLE

By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League.

The Oldham Amateur Rugby League's town-teams both made progress through to the next stage of their respective competitions last weekend, with the open-age side beginning their challenge for the British Amateur Rugby League Association's Inter-League Shield with a convincing 27-7 away win against Manchester, and with the youth team defeating York at home by 34 points to 12 to take them into the semi-finals of the Under-19s' tournament. The senior event is now down to the last 16 teams, while the Oldham youth side are now just one match away from entering the Inter-League Final for the first time ever at that age-group. In the draws for the next rounds of both the open-age and youth competitions Oldham have received two home ties, with the senior team meeting Copeland (Whitehaven) on November 10th, and with the Under-19s' entertaining Warrington on December 2nd.



In Oldham's open-age win at Manchester, winger Brian Caffrey proved his worth by landing six goals and scoring a try, while touchdowns came from prop-forward Dave Harrop, with 2, centre Dave Cassells, and second-rower John Glover. Wally Walker, the new senior team coach, was suitably satisfied with his side's display, as was the youth boss, Ray Clark, after watching his team's fine display against York. Ray has described his front row forwards, Tony Ogden, Kevin Byrne, and Martin Gratton, as the best such partnership at that age-group that he has witnessed all season, and it was certainly true that this trio were again very much to the fore in last Sunday's success, just as they were when Oldham defeated Leigh 27-5 in Round 1. Steve Topham, Graham Robinson, and Gary Ainsworth, each scored 2 tries in the victory over York, while Craig Whitehead and Mark Derbyshire added others, and Robinson also landed 5 goals.

Two local sides were yesterday involved in cup competitions at club level, with Waterhead taking on Woolston at Warrington in the quarter-finals of the John Player Amateur Sevens, and with Saddleworth Rangers being at a similar stage in the Lancashire-Cumbria Cup for their away match in Cumbria against Wath Brow Hornets. If Waterhead were successful, they would not only qualify for the semi-finals, but also guarantee themselves of at least £100 prize money, with an even greater reward waiting for them should they reach the Final. Should Saddleworth have won their match, they would then be just two victories away from a place in the Rugby League Challenge Cup, this being the ultimate prize for the winners of the BARLA County Cups. The draw for the semi-finals of the John Player Amateur Sevens tournament is to be made later this week in Leeds, while the pairings for the last 4 of the Lancashire-Cumbria Cup can be heard on tonight's BBC Radio Manchester "Rugby League Special" programme (6.15pm).

The Papua New Guinea International team arrive in Britain next week for their three-match tour following their visit to France. The tourists will play the St. Helens Amateur League at Knowsley Road on October 31; the Great Britain Amateur team at The Boulevard, Hull, on November 4th; and the Cumbrian Amateur side at Craven Park, Barrow, on November 6th. In the New Year, the Australian Schoolboys' side will be visiting this country for a Test Match at Headingley against the Great Britain Under-19s on January 12th. BARLA are also hoping that the Australians might agree to play another match against the Lancashire Youth side on the following day, with Watersheddings being a possible venue.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:
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