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Teams

Watersheddings Sunday November 25th, 1979.

OLDHAM

Cherry/White Loops, Blue Shorts.

FROM

1. MARTIN MURPHY
2. GEOFF MUNRO
3. PHIL WARD
4. STEVE LUND
5. ERIC FITZSIMMONS
6. BILL FRANCIS
7. RAY ASHTON
8. ALAN FORSTER
9. RAY MARTLAND
10. FRED HALL
11. STEVE HERBERT
12. COLIN HAWKYARD
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

14. PHIL LARDER
15. GARRY WALCZAK/GLEN CREHAN

DEWSBURY

Red/Amber/Black, White Shorts

1. DON RICHARDSON
2. JIM WOOD
3. JACK AUSTIN
4. MALCOLM AGAR
5. ERNIE LOWE
6. JOHN WOLFORD
7. JOHN RUSSELL
8. JOHN RANGELEY
9. RAY PRICE
10. ANDY HALL
11. STEVE HAWKINS
12. ALAN CRAVAN
13. STEVE LEE

14.

15.

Referee: MR. R. MOORE (Wakefield)

Red Flag: Mr. K. Ashall (Prescot)

Yellow Flag: Mr. J. C. Stanton (Warrington)

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday December 9th. at 3.00 p.m. BATLEY

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DEWSBURY



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Tel: 061-652 5244

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Chairman: R. Hatton

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)

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 - Glen Crehan -
Pasquale D'Adamo - Peter Deakin - Jim Fidler - Eric Fitzsimmons -
Kevin Flanagan - Terry Flanagan - Alan Forster - Bill Francis - Dave Fricker -
Andrew Goodway - Ken Gwilliam - Fred Hall - Colin Hawkyard - Steve Herbert -
Keith Jackson - Clive Jones - Paddy Kirwan - Phil Larder - Steve Littler -
Steve Lund - Bob Mordell - Ray Martland - Geoff Munro - Martin Murphy -
Tony Newall - Chris O'Brien - Ian Ogden - Roger O'Mahoney - Kevin O'Rourke -
Gareth Owen - Johnny Paterson - Alan Platt - Ian Radcliffe - Warren Ryans -
Ian Taylor - Norman Turley - Garry Walczak - John Walls - Mike Worrall

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

Financial & Admin. manager: David Oakes

Commercial Manager: Keith Masters **Social Club Manager:** Kevin Wilkinson

Secretary & P.R.O. Barbara Wilde 061-624 4865

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

THE MEN FROM CROWN FLATT

DEWSBURY, today's visitors to Watersheddings, come as rivals in the promotion race and the game will certainly be a four-pointer.

Times have changed dramatically at Crown Flatt in the last five years or so. Indeed, it seems like only yesterday that their great side of all talents, which concentrated so superbly on free-flowing football to please the crowds, won the Rugby League championship.

That was the team made famous by Mick Stephenson, now a newspaper columnist in Australia, the Bates brothers, and a whole string of players whose names became household names in League around that time.

Centre Nigel Stephenson was another whose crisp attacking play and accurate goal kicking caught the imagination of the fans.

Sadly, the side broke up all too soon. The famous Mick Stephenson went to Australia for a then world record fee and that seemed to set the pattern as the side disintegrated quickly.

Since those great days for Dewsbury, there have been some close ties between the Dewsbury and Oldham clubs. Dave Cox, our former coach, made a name for himself in two separate stays at Crown Flatt and then, of course, we snapped up scrum-half Alan Bates who served us well for about a season and a half before we sold him to Huddersfield.

Dewsbury have also been active in the transfer market as their side has passed through a transitional stage in recent months.

Centre Stephenson and that great second-row forward Jeff Grayshon have moved on to Bradford and, in return, stand-off or loose-forward Johnny Wolford and former Test back row man Bob Haigh moved the other way to Crown Flatt.

Both Haigh and Wolford had tremendous games against us in the end-of-season match at Crown Flatt last season and it was somewhat ironical that Haigh should do so well because we were very much in the quest for his services before he decided to join Dewsbury, his home-town club.

Dewsbury have always been known as a side which endeavours to play bright, breezy football and there should be a grand game to please the fans of both sides this afternoon.

Finally, spectators of both clubs will be interested to learn that Dave Cox is shortly to emigrate to Australia for another spell Down Under.

Dave was a guest of the Oldham club at the Barrow match two weeks ago. He is due to fly out to Sydney shortly and was here to bid farewell to all his friends.

Everyone connected with both the Dewsbury and Oldham clubs will wish him well and "Bon Voyage".

The 2nd. issue of 'OPEN RUGBY' is now on sale at the club. Price 35p.

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LEIGH - The likely lads!

By Roger Halstead
(Oldham Evening Chronicle)

One of the most pleasing aspects of the Rugby League season to date is the upsurge of "unfashionable" Leigh. It seems remarkable now that in the early part of this year they were desperate for points to stay in the First Division. They managed it with a remarkable run to the end of last season and are now up among the First Division leaders. They have already beaten many top teams and thousands of television viewers saw them last week making cup kings Widnes look a very ordinary side indeed in the Floodlit Trophy.

On a personal level I am sure I can join thousands of Oldham fans in congratulating the Leigh Skipper Kevin Taylor, who was a great servant of the Oldham club for more than ten years.

Arthur Daley, given a "free" by Oldham a few seasons ago, is also playing a major role in the Leigh success story, having moved to Hilton Park via Huyton.

When a new club gets among the honours and becomes a real force to be reckoned with it can only be good for the welfare of the game as a whole.

Nothing breeds disinterest more than a small handful of clubs monopolising all the trophies. Over the years that has been one of the game's big drawbacks.

And the Leigh story is all the more creditable because much of their success is owed to top-class threequarter play and the sort of pacy attacking that is sure to bring in the crowds.

Few sides can boast the level of skill, pace and handling ability as that provided by Leigh stand-off super star John Woods and his centres Bilsbury and Donlan.

On the wing, too, Leigh have plenty of pace and finishing power as proven by the choice of coloured winger Dess Drummond for yesterday's under-24 international with France at Hilton Park.

Drummond, Woods, Bilsbury and several more members of the Leigh outfit were promising young colts four or five years ago - and that's why Leigh's surge to the top must be highly encouraging for other clubs hoping to take the same path in the next year or two.

Few sides have earned promotion since the re-introduction of two-division football in 1973 and gone on to really establish themselves in the top flight.

The majority are on a yo-yo course between the two divisions.

Bradford and Hull KR "made it" but Northern ought never to have been in the second division in the first place - they went to Wembley the year they were plunged into the lower section - and Rovers have something special going for them with vast supplies of money and tremendous support on rugby-mad Humberside.

But Leigh have really carried the banner for the "unfashionable" brigade and it must be a great source of encouragement to Oldham, also putting a lot of faith in their youth policy, as they strive to follow the trend Leigh have set.

We all hope that in two or three years' time Oldham will have done a "Leigh". They certainly deserve it judging by everything that is going on now at Watersheddings.



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The Referees signals, are to enable the spectators to understand the Referees reason for stopping play, and how play will be re-started. Two new signals have been introduced by the Rugby League Council commencing from 16th November, 1979.

1. **DIFFERENTIAL PENALTY**:- Referee to face the non-offending team and extend the right arm forward from the shoulder, bending the arm from the elbow and with the palm facing inward, point the forearm and hand vertically upwards.

2. **PENALTY TRY**:- Take up a position temporarily, midway between the posts. With the right arm point to the ground, at the same time extending the left arm directly above the head.

SOME WELL USED SIGNALS.

PENALTY KICK:- Face the non offending team and extend the right arm forward with the hand slightly higher than the shoulder level, the palm of the hand at right angles to the ground.

7-POINT TRY:- This term is used to indicate that a penalty try has been awarded for foul play (in the goal area) against a try scorer. The Referee will instruct a Touch Judge to take up a position in front of the posts on the 10m line, before retiring behind the posts to judge the conversion attempt.

PLAY-ON:- Wave the hands chest high, palms facing away from the chest, across and front of the body.

SCRUM-HALF "DUMMIES":- Referee will mime the action of the scrum half, but emphasise the backward motion of the hands.

COLLAPSING THE SCRUM:- The Referee will make a lifting motion with the hand.

TACKLED PLAYER DELAYS REGAINING HIS FEET:- Flick the hand in an upward direction.

TACKLER DELAYS RELEASING TACKLED PLAYER:- Make a downward movement with the hands in front of the body, below the waist.

ALEX RULES, O.K.

By Alex Givvons
(RL Grade I Referee)



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IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT WATERSHEDDINGS.

The attention of the Rugby League world was again focussed on Watersheddings when we followed up the capture of Bob Mordell with four signings in one night - Ken Gwilliam, Alan Platt, Glen Crehan and Norman Turley.

Scrum-half Gwilliam, one of the most experienced half-backs in the game, joined us from St. Helens in a deal which the Daily Express described as "the bargain of the season".

We believe Ken can take a lot of weight off the shoulders of Bill Francis, increase the options in selection, and help the progress of our young half-backs, particularly Ray Ashton and Paddy Kirwan.

Certainly, we are very conscious of the need not to block the progress of the youngsters and the signing of Gwilliam was made with that very much in mind.

Alan Platt, only 17, was signed by Oldham despite the stiffest competition possible from Leigh, Wigan and Salford. We had been interested in him for about a year and as soon as he attained the age of 17 we pounced to win his signature.

Alan is a clever, ball-playing type of loose-forward or second-row man and has already proved himself quite an accomplished kicker.

One of his biggest triumphs was in playing a fabulous game for England schoolboys against France at Hull last season.

He scored a try and kicked six goals from seven shots in a performance that really impressed the great Johnny Whiteley, who described his kicking as one of the finest exhibitions he had seen from one so young.

Glen Crehan joined us from Swinton. The utility back, a former Leigh RU player who turned pro at Station Road, was here on trial several weeks ago, but Swinton insisted he went back until negotiations for his transfer were finally completed.

Glen is a quantity surveyor and a speedy attacker whom we think will have a successful and happy stay at Watersheddings.

The fourth signing was that of Norman Turley, listed by Blackpool at £6,000.

Many fans will remember Norman as a full back with a mighty kick in his Warrington days. He still has that tremendous boot on him, though now he prefers to play in the back row of the pack.

Norman has come on a month's loan and we wish him well in his trials.

Unfortunately, our luck was out when Ken Gwilliam broke a thumb on his debut in the tremendous 6-5 win over Second Division leaders, Barrow.

He was the second Oldham player this season to be injured in his first game, hooker Ray Martland having damaged his ribs on his debut several weeks ago.

The win against Barrow kept intact our unbeaten record and was due in no small measure to the immaculate kicking of Eric Fitzsimmons and some tremendous tackling by the forwards, particularly in the second half.

Eric landed three goals from three shots to win us the match and many fans said our tackling was the best they had seen from an Oldham side for many seasons.

The "A" team, alas, lost only their second game of the season when going down 22-16 at Barrow, but they had a chance to make amends last Thursday when they played St. Helens here at Watersheddings in the first leg of the second round tie in the Lancashire Shield.

Off the field, too, there has been plenty of activity. Centre Phil Ward asked to be taken off the transfer list and we were happy to oblige him, just as we granted similar requests from Ian Taylor and Geoff Munro.

On the administrative side we have appointed our public relations officer Barbara Wilde as club secretary to succeed Kevin Wilkinson.

Barbara has done a good job on the advertising side since she joined us in April - this programme is one of her responsibilities - and we feel she will be an ideal choice as club secretary.

This is one "first" we cannot claim because Wigan and Workington also have women as secretaries. Barbara is certainly the first female secretary of the Oldham club. Well done!



Action from Swinton...as Steve Herbert moves out the ball to Bob Mordell.



Four signings in one night...Alan Platt, Glen Crehan, Ken Gwilliam and Norman Turley. In the rear are player-coach Bill Francis, assistant manager Terry Gorman, and manager Graham Starkey.

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Phil Ward on the move at Swinton, but Geoff Munro was bundled into touch just short.



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TOM WEBB'S YESTERYEAR

We are attempting to give all the Oldham R.L.F.C. results since the club started in 1876. In the following tables the letters M, G, T, stand for Minors, Goals, and Tries. Minors are dead balls (DB), touch in goals (TIG), and touch downs (TD). Dead balls occurred when the attacking side either kicked or carried the ball over the dead line and a touch down was when the defending side made the ball dead. In the early Rugby Union days, a goal counted more than any number of tries and on one occasion Oldham 'A' scored eight tries but lost because the opposition dropped one goal. Unfortunately the full match details are incomplete for the 1980's. Any details would be welcomed by the programme editor or by me, Tom Webb of 3 Haggate Crescent, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5NF., as I am researching the history of the club.

We continue now with the 1877/78 Season, Match results.

DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE	OLDHAM POINTS			OPPOSITION POINTS			REMARKS
			M	G	T	M	G	T	
1877									
October 24	WARRICK FOREST	WARRICK	17			17			Draw in favour of Oldham
October 28	ROCKDALE HORNETS	ROCKDALE	14			14			Draw
October 31	OLDHAM A	OLDHAM	14			14			Draw
November 3	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 10	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 17	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 24	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 1	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 8	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 15	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 22	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 29	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
January 5	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
January 12	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
January 19	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
January 26	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
February 2	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
February 9	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
February 16	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
February 23	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
February 30	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
March 6	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
March 13	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
March 20	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
March 27	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
April 3	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
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July 31	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 7	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 14	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 21	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 28	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 4	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 11	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 18	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 25	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
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April 23	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
April 30	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
May 7	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
May 14	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
May 21	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
May 28	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
June 4	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
June 11	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
June 18	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
June 25	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
July 2	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
July 9	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
July 16	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
July 23	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
July 30	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 6	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 13	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 20	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
August 27	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 3	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 10	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 17	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
September 24	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
October 1	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
October 8	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
October 15	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
October 22	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
October 29	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 5	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 12	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 19	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
November 26	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 3	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 10	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 17	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 24	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw
December 31	STAMFORD A	STAMFORD	14			14			Draw

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COLTS CORNER

Congratulations are in order to our five young players who were chosen to represent Lancashire against Yorkshire in the inter-county colts match at Bramley on Friday night of last week. Full back Steve Littler, halves paddy Kirwan and Ray Ashton, prop Pasquale D'Adamo and loose-forward Terry Flanagan all played their part in a cracking match, which Yorkshire won 22-15. In a real thriller, spiced with some tremendous attacking play from both sides, Yorkshire only clinched victory in the dying minutes. They were leading 17-15, but broke away on an interception to seal Lancashire's fate.

Everyone interested in colts rugby now awaits with interest and keen anticipation the announcement of the Great Britain colts squad to take on France early next year.

We believe all five Oldham lads did well and we will certainly be bitterly disappointed if we do not have any representation in the national side.

The fact that we had five men on county duty gave us the option of postponing our league game scheduled for last week-end.

Salford should have been here but we called off the match and they will now play at Water-sheddings on Tuesday night. We played Hunslet yesterday and now look forward to the visit of Salford on Tuesday in what should be a really entertaining affair.

We kept our position at the top, still having lost only the one game, with a truly remarkable 8-6 win at Bradford in our last match.

Because of injuries and the demands of first and "A" team calls we could not field anything like our usual team and the boys on duty did a fantastic job to bring both league points back to Oldham. Of the regulars only Mick Worrall, Pasquale D'Adamo and Joe Warburton were in the side. They set the lead and the other boys, many of them only 16, responded magnificently to the defensive demands after tries by Mick Worrall and Joe Warburton, and a Worrall goal, pushed them in front. Perhaps special mention should be made of Jeremy Broadbent, son of the club treasurer, who is a soccer player and went to the match merely as a spectator.

As we had no subs he volunteered to play and did a very good job.

All in all the match spotlighted once more the urgent need for us to continue our strengthening activities. Some of the boys have progressed to "A" and first teams and injuries to Mike Cowley (shoulder), Mick Coombes (back), Les Cook (knee) and Andrew Goodway (hand) really stretched our resources.

The signing of Leigh lad Alan Platt was a great step in the right direction and we welcome Alan to our "nursery" and wish him all the very best for his future at Oldham.



Alan Platt signs on the dotted line, watched by assistant manager Terry Goman, Chairman Ray Hutton, and Vice Chairman Jack Bowden.

COLTS FIXTURES

1979

Aug. 18	Leigh	A	16-11
25	Bradford	H	38-2
Sept. 1	Leeds	A	15-13
8	Bramley	H	29-4
15	Castleford	A	28-11
29	Leeds	H	12-19
Oct. 6	Widnes	A	21-17
13	Hull	A	17-16
20	St. Helens	H	P
27	Wakefield	A	37-16
Nov. 3	Hunslet	H	19-13
10	Bradford	A	8-6
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



New scrum-half Ken Gwilliam welcomed to the fold by Chairman Ray Hutton, Treasurer Keith Broadbent, Manager Graham Starkey and Vice-Chairman Jack Bowden.

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LEAGUE LEADERS

By Brian Batty
Daily Mail

With the season's halfway mark on the horizon the fight for League honours has developed into neck-and-neck struggles in both First and Second Divisions.

The tightest situation by early November was in the First Division with only three points separating as many as seven clubs.

Salford - at this point - were still unbeaten and their great defensive record in the League was holding them above Hull K.R. with Leeds, Bradford Northern, Leigh, Widnes and Warrington on their heels.

Leigh had emerged as the division's surprise packet with their leap to the top and it looks to me as if we are going to get a continually changing situation with the leaders.

Those clubs who had done well in the county competitions and the John Player trophy were left in the position of having games in hand over League rivals.

December looks like being the month of decision with the John Player final followed by the Lancashire Cup final and then comes the B.B.C.'s Floodlit Trophy Final.

Widnes are again setting the pace in the trophy hunt with another highly successful start to the season.

They cannot be written off in the First Division battle either while Leeds are anxious to add more success to their lifting of the Yorkshire Cup.

With the heavier grounds now appearing teams like Bradford Northern with their heavyweight pack and solid defensive record are likely to prove a greater threat.

Hull K.R.'s pack has settled down into a powerful unit and they obviously don't intend to relinquish the League championship without a real scrap and are keen to regain the Floodlit Trophy.

At least ten clubs are bound to be looking a little nervously over their shoulders in the fight for survival which is going to gain momentum in a couple of months.

In the Second Division we have Featherstone Rovers, Barrow, Oldham, Halifax, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Rochdale Hornets and Bramley well in the hunt for promotion.

There has been some stiff jockeying already for the top position which looks like changing hands as regularly as in the First Division.



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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	Home		7-31
Sept. 19	B.B.C. St. Helens			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.	22-9
Oct. 28	Halifax	Home	3.00 p.m.	P
Nov. 4	Huddersfield	Away		12-3
Nov. 11	Barrow	Home	3.00 p.m.	6-5
Nov. 18	Swinton	Away		12-15
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.	25-15
Nov. 1	Leigh	Home	7.30 p.m.	16-3
Nov. 10	Barrow	Away	2.30 p.m.	16-22
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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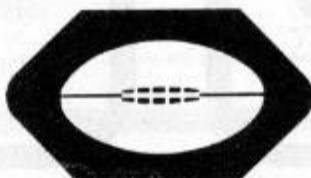
By Alan Burke
Public Relations Officer,
Oldham Amateur Rugby League

Waterhead, currently Oldham's leading side in the Pennine League, take a break from their full-scale fixtures next Saturday as they compete in their first ever Final of the new John Player Amateur Sevens competition. The Oldham team have previously beaten Moldgreen WMC (Huddersfield), Queensbury (Bradford), Woolston (Warrington), and St. Patrick's (Wigan), and therefore are extremely confident of their chances in the decider against National Dock Labour Board of Hull, who themselves won the BARLA Seven-a-side Championships in 1975 and 1976. However, Waterhead feel certain they can overcome the Dockers and gain the main prize of £500, although their main aim is to become the first-ever winners of the new trophy and gain a place on the British Amateur Rugby League Association's Roll of Honour. The Amateur Sevens Final will take place immediately prior to the Bradford-Widnes professional decider, which is to be staged at Headingley, Leeds.

The following day, Sunday, December 2nd, the Oldham Amateur league's Under-19's team play hosts to Warrington in the semi-final of the BARLA Inter-League Youth competition, with Oldham aiming for their first ever appearance in the Final. Both teams will have several County players on view, including Oldham's Steve Topham, Tony Ogden, and Kevin Byrne, while Danny Cheetham, who was also tipped for representative honours this season, should be making a reappearance after breaking his shoulder last month. The following Saturday, December 8th, the Oldham League's open-age town-team will also be in action, when they are at home to Humberside in the quarter-finals of the senior BARLA Inter-League tournament. Humberside won the trophy on four consecutive occasions between 1974 and 1977, and were runners-up in 1978. In Round 2 they defeated last season's winners, St. Helens, and will therefore provide Oldham with another stiff test, following their victories over Manchester and Copeland. Oldham's side will include newly-capped Great Britain International Fred Howarth, while the visitors will field several County and International representatives.

Due to the open-age Inter-League match being scheduled for that date, the Second Round matches in the Oldham Standard Cup, which were also to be played that day, have been postponed until January. The First Round of the competition was due to take place yesterday, and the draw for the next round, which has already been made, is as follows: Higginsshaw v Waterhead or St. Anne's; Shaw or Mayfield v Salem Hornets; Hollinwood or Langworthy v Saddleworth; Ferranti v Spotland or Fitton Hill. The Rochdale Charity Cup, which several local "A" teams have entered, was also due to commence yesterday, and it is hoped that the Second Round draw can be made tonight on B.B.C. Radio Manchester's "Rugby League Special" programme.

FOR ALL THE LOCAL AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS:
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