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VERSUS

OLDHAM

SUNDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 1982

Match Ball Sponsor: Mr Ken Young, Millers Inn, Halifax

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME: 25p

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SO AT LAST we come to our first Sunday home League match of the season. Trips on the first four Sundays to Leeds, Barrow, Leigh and Castleford would have been daunting prospects for any club, and a midweek home match with Hull K.R. was little consolation.

Today, then, represents Halifax's first realistic chance of League points. But this is not to say that Oldham are anything other than a formidable side. Most of the game's supporters would agree that of last season's four promoted clubs, Oldham are the most likely to succeed. They began their recruitment campaign at the right time—last season—bringing in such as powerful prop forward Brian Hogan and former Whitehaven and Wakefield hooker Alan McCurrie. Proven First Division performers like these are helping to bring out the best in Welsh International Gareth Owen, Londoner Adrian Alexander and fellow Cockney Bob Mordell, Dave Nicholson, and a trio of fine youngsters in Mick Worrall, Andy Goodway and Alan Platt. In addition, Oldham have as captain Under 24 International loose forward Terry Flanagan, at 21 the youngest skipper in the game.

In the backs, Mick Parrish has been stealing the limelight with his tremendous scoring feats, but another crop of youngsters including Ray Ashton, Paddy Kirwan and Brian Caffery help to give the side a well-balanced look.

Oldham won comfortably away to Bradford Northern a few weeks ago—and nobody does that without being a top-class side. In their last League match, at home to Warrington, they won by 22-12 to move into a respectable mid-table position, but were defeated 4 days later by Warrington in the Lancashire Cup.

We welcome all the Oldham players, Officials and Supporters to Thrum Hall this afternoon, and hope for a game as close and exciting as recent encounters between the clubs.

THIS AND THAT ABOUT TODAY'S OPPOSITION
By Robert Gate

OLDHAM:

- * Were Second Division Champions in 1981-1982.
- * Lost only two of their 32 league matches—9-15 at Halifax and 7-22 at home to Carlisle.
- * Recorded the highest score in RL last season in beating Blackpool 66-7.
- * Had the best defence in the Second Division conceding only 276 points.
- * Reached the semi-final of the John Player Trophy losing 22-6 to Hull.
- * Had in half-back Ray Ashton the League's second highest try-scorer (jointly with Des Drummond) with 26 tries.
- * Had in centre Mick Parrish the League's second highest points scorer with 379. Parrish also played and scored in every match last season in amassing 164 goals and 17 tries.

OLDHAM CLUB RECORDS:

- * Tries in season 49 Reg Farrar 1921-22
- * Goals in season 200 Bernard Ganley 1957-58
- * Points in season 412 Bernard Ganley 1957-58
- * Appearances in career 634 Joe Ferguson 1899-1923
- * Tries in match 7 Miller v Barry 1908-09
- * Goals in match 14 Bernard Ganley v Liverpool City 1958-59
- * Points in match 30 Abe Johnson v Widnes 1927-28
- * Highest score for 67 v Liverpool City 1958-59
- * Highest score against 67 by Hull K.R. 1978-79

LEAGUE MATCHES BETWEEN HALIFAX AND OLDHAM:

- * Have resulted in 62 victories for Oldham, 49 for Halifax with 3 drawn games.
- * Have seen Halifax victors at Thrum Hall on 38 occasions to Oldham's 19.
- * Have seen Halifax victorious at Watersheddings on only 11 occasions.
- * Have never seen a drawn game at Thrum Hall.
- * On 11th April, 1949 Halifax played a scoreless draw at Oldham. This was the last occasion Halifax were involved in a 0-0 score-line. The teams were:

OLDHAM—Glanville; Batten, Platt, Mitchell, Tate; Hayes, Jones; Ogden, Mundy, Taylor, Anthony, Tomlinson, Rostron.

HALIFAX—Durston; Riley, J. MacDonald, E. MacDonald, Rika; Kenny, Kielty; Condon, Ackerley, Pansegrouw, Healy, Greenwood, Mawson.

RECENT RESULTS OF LEAGUE CLASHES (Halifax scores first)

At Thrum Hall		At Watersheddings
3-24	1977-78	5-19
32- 2	1978-79	25- 5
21-10	1979-80	5-24
10-13	1980-81	19- 4
15- 9	1981-82	5-11

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KNOW THE PLAYERS

No. 27 — Francis Jarvis

AN IMPORTANT contributory factor in Halifax's early season slump was the non-appearance in the team of new signing from Hunslet, Francis Jarvis. His tearaway style of second-row play, plus his tremendous work-rate, would have considerably livened up the side. But he proved to be the start of the injury jinx when he badly injured an arm in a road accident on the eve of the first game.

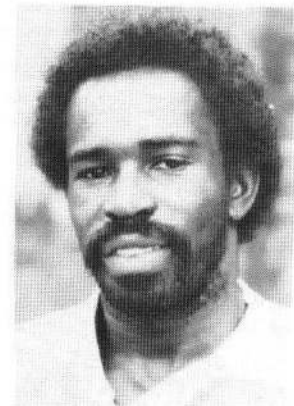


Photo by Jim Moran

Franny finally made his debut in the away match at Leigh. Although Halifax lost the game comfortably, he helped to bring about a great improvement in the team's play, helping in particular to tighten up a previously shaky defence, and making Halifax's only real break of the match.

A West Indian by birth—he is the first West Indian ever to play for Halifax—Franny moved to Bradford at an early age and quickly showed rugby-playing potential. At St. George's School in Bradford he was a prominent hooker or loose forward, and it was indeed as a hooker that he made his mark with Bradford Northern Juniors Under 17s in the late 1960's.

He was signed by Bradford from Northern Juniors, where he came under the influence of top coaches Albert Fearnley and Trevor Foster, who fully developed his potential. He was in Northern's Wembley squad in 1973—the biggest thrill of his career—then appeared in the victorious John Player Trophy Final team in 1975. He also had a Second Division Championship Winners medal to show for his career at Odsal, where his outstanding displays at both hooker and second row won him a couple of County appearances in Season 1974-75.

He was in the Other Nationalities team which appeared in the County Championship that season, being hooker against Lancashire and in the second row against Yorkshire. In that latter game the loose forward for Other Nationalities was Colin Dixon. Soon afterwards, however, the Other Nationalities team was disbanded, and Franny's County appearances had to end.

In the close season of 1978 he moved to Featherstone Rovers for a fee of £5,000. Here he gained further First Division experience before moving to Hunslet last season.

Now aged 28, Franny is back in Division One with Halifax. He is 5 ft. 10½ in. tall, weighs 13 st. 2 lb., and is a motor mechanic by trade.

Andrew Hardcastle

"MAN OF THE MATCH" AWARD against KEIGHLEY NIGEL WHITEHOUSE

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3 M. AGAR
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5 K. WAITES

Half Backs

6 G. CAWOOD
7 T. LANGTON

Forwards

8 I. VAN BELLEN
9 N. WHITEHOUSE
10 N. GOODWIN
11 B. GREENWOOD
12 F. JARVIS
13 S. BOND

Substitutes

14 N. MARSHALL
15 G. SHARP

Referee:

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(Batley)

Touch Judges:

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(Leeds)

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Half Backs

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7 R. ASHTON

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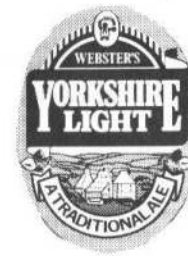
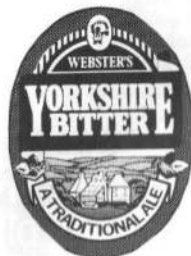
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Action from Halifax's game at Headingley in the first match of the season. The upper photo shows Terry Langton attempting to beat Neil Hague. Below Steve Bond makes a break, backed up by Neil Goodwin (left) and Alan Shillito. Mick Blacker in the background.

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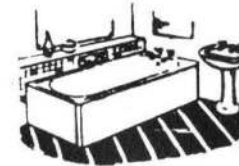
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IN TOUCH WITH RUGBY LEAGUE

TERRY RICHARDSON of Castleford has now scored 100 tries in his career, 3 for Yorkshire and 97 for Castleford. DES DRUMMOND of Leigh has similarly reached his century, his first against Halifax the other week taking him to three figures.

KEITH ELWELL'S record-breaking run of successive full appearances has now ended at 239 matches, as he was dropped for Widnes' game at Featherstone. The previous record was 190 by Gilbert Austin of Hull K.R. between 1919 and 1923.

FUN COMPETITION — No. 2

Over the years many Welshmen have turned out for the Thrum Hallers. Going back only as far as 1960, it is possible (with one slight exception), to select an imaginary team, including substitutes, of these Welsh players.

There are no prizes, but see what sort of a team you can come up with before the next Halifax home programme appears. The half-back positions are, surprisingly, difficult to fill, but there HAS been a Welsh stand-off and a Welsh scrum-half at Thrum Hall in the period in question. The qualification, as always, is that the player must have appeared at least once for the first team since Season 1959-60.

The one problem concerns hooker, for there has been no Welsh hooker in the period. Indeed Halifax have had only a couple of Welsh hookers since the Second World War, both of whom made their last appearances for Halifax in the late 1940s. So there will have to be a special dispensation in the case of the hooker.

The solution will appear in the next programme.

TRAVELLING TO WIDNES NEXT WEEK? The AA recommended route is via the M62 Motorway to Junction 7. Then follow signs to Widnes along the A569. In one mile turn left, then immediately turn right, into the A568. Proceed to Widnes Station, then in half a mile turn right into unclassified Highfield Road. In another half-mile, go over the cross-roads into Lowerhouse Lane for the Widnes ground on the left. Total distance from the centre of Halifax is 51 miles.

For those travelling on the Supporters' Club coach, departure time from Great Albion Street is 1 p.m.

HALIFAX COLTS (Under 19)

The Colts good start to the season has been spoilt by three successive defeats at the hands of Featherstone, Leigh and Hull. Lets hope that todays curtain raiser against Oldham gets them back to their winning ways.

After Jack Scroby's promotion to A team coach, former Halifax and Amateur International player Gerry Slattery has taken over as Colts Coach. Gerry has a lot of work to do with his limited squad and new players are desperately needed.

Gary Murphy, the Colts leading try scorer with three tries in three matches, has been advised to stop playing after suffering severe concussion in a recent match. Nigel Tune has been a revelation this season with his non-stop tackling and ball handling skills and will surely get an A team match in the near future. David Witherspoon has returned to the team and it's to be hoped he recaptures last seasons form.

Any players playing for the Colts can continue playing for their Amateur club without losing their Amateur status or their chances of Amateur Honours. All Colts players receive a pass entitling them to free admission to all home games.

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