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Substitutes:

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15. EDDIE HUNTER

Referee: R. MOORE (Wakefield)

OLDHAM

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1. ALAN TAYLOR
2. GREEN VIGO
3. BRIAN CAFFREY
4. COLIN HAWKYARD
5. ASHLEY McEWEN
6. MICK PARRISH
7. RAY ASHTON
8. BRIAN HOGAN
9. ALAN McCURRIE
10. ANDY GOODWAY
11. ALAN PLATT
12. MICK WORRALL
13. TERRY FLANAGAN

Substitutes:

14. WALLY JONES
15. MICK COOMBES

Touch Judges: G. Lightfoot (Red Flag)
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1982				1983			
Aug	14 Sa Hull K.R.	A	8-28	Jan	1 Sa SALFORD	H	
	18 W BARROW	H	58-0		8 Sa Featherstone	A	
	21 Sa ST. HELENS	H	9-12		15 Sa BRAMLEY	H	
	24 Tu Oldham	A	Aband.		22 Sa Salford	A	
	28 Sa Castleford	A	27-18		29 Sa WAKEFIELD T	H	
Sept.	4 Sa HUNSLET	H	20-17	Feb.	5 Sa Huddersfield	A	
	11 Sa Halifax	A	39-16		12 Sa Colts Challenge Cup - 1st Round		
	18 Sa ROCHDALE H.	H	77-0		19 Sa Barrow	A	
	25 Sa Leeds	A	26-20		26 Sa Colts Challenge Cup - 2nd Round		
Oct.	2 Sa HULL K.R.	H	20-7	Mar.	5 Sa LEEDS	H	
	9 Sa York	A	32-21		12 Sa Hunslet	A	
	16 Sa CASTLEFORD	H	25-11		19 Sa HULL	H	
	23 Sa Wakefield T.	A	12-38		26 Sa FEATHERSTONE	H	
	30 Sa BRADFORD N.	H	37-20	April	2 Sa Open date		
Nov.	6 Sa Bramley	A	46-3		9 Sa St. Helens	A	
	13 Sa YORK	H	52-0		16 Sa Open date		
	20 Sa Rochdale H.	A	P		23 Sa Open date		
	27 Sa HUDDERSFIELD	H	P				
Dec.	4 Sa Bradford N.	A					
	11 Sa HALIFAX	H					
	18 Sa Hull	A					
	28 Tu OLDHAM	H					

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WELCOME OLDHAM

Rugby League has produced many success stories over the years but none has been more welcomed or deserved than the one currently being enjoyed by Oldham.

And it is no fairy story either that has taken Oldham from a mediocre Second Division side into one of the First Division pacesetters. Instead it is a story of loyalty, determination and courage going back several seasons when the nucleus of today's side was formed. Now the hard work is bearing fruit as Oldham, last season's top second division side, are now one of the First Division's most attractive sides with a superb defensive record.

Today's match is very important, the John Player Competition is extremely lucrative and progress in the tournament is essential. Because of this and the undoubted abilities of both sides we can look forward to an entertaining game this afternoon.

A lot of Oldham's success must be credited to the extremely capable coaching set up of Frank Myler and his assistant Peter Smethurst. Frank was an outstanding player in his time, starring at stand off for Widnes for 11 years. He moved on to St. Helens in 1967 after touring with Britain in 1966. The highlight of his career came in 1970 when he captained the Ashes winning Great Britain side in Australasia. He went to Rochdale as player coach in 1970 and then moved to coach Widnes, retiring in 1977-78 after forming the basis of the great Naughton Park team. He was persuaded to return to the game by the Watersheddings club where he is now adding one more success to his tally.

Peter Smethurst needs no introduction to Leigh. Peter will always be remembered for his courage and dignity during Leigh's successful years in the late 60's, finishing with his most memorable moment — the Challenge Cup Win at Wembley in 1971.

Frank, Peter, and their players, supporters and officials are very welcome to Hilton Park this afternoon.

So we will take a look at some of the players who have contributed so much to Oldham's success this season.

Firstly in the backs — MICK PARRISH is having a fine season with his strong centre play and accurate goal kicking which has him showing up in the goal scorers chart. He cost £18,500 from Hunslet two years ago.

Utility player ALAN TAYLOR now seems settled at full back and as a last line of defence he will take some beating. The experienced RAY ASHTON is a very wily scrum half. One of Myler's biggest headaches this season has been finding a stand off partner for Ashton. A name to look out for in the future at stand off is 19 year old CHRIS WILLIS who made his senior debut against Carlisle last month. St. Helens and ourselves were interested in the Saddleworth amateur, a former schoolboy captain at town, Lancashire and England level. He opted to sign for his home town club however and joined them in September of this year. He is also a capable goalkicker.

GREEN VIGO is another well known name in RL circles. This winger began his career in England in 1973 when Wigan brought him over from South African R.U. After a spell with Swinton he moved to Oldham in August in an exchange deal with Clive Hunter.

Other backs include centre BRIAN CAFFERY, PADDY KIRWAN, Winger PHIL WARD, and stand off or centre ASHLEY McEWAN.

Oldham have a good combination of youth and experience in the forwards. Their best known forward is their much travelled captain and pack leader BRIAN HOGAN who was surprisingly listed recently at his own request. The asking price for the experienced scrum-mager who moved to Oldham from Widnes last year is £20,000. Brian, who began his career with St. Helens in 1967 has also played for Wigan (twice), Widnes (twice), Bradford and Workington.

London based forward ADRIAN ALEXANDER, a former Harlequins captain, is listed at £25,000 as is former England RU star BOB MORDELL.

A very important cog in the wheel is hooker ALAN McCURRIE. Cumbrian Alan began his career with Whitehaven and hailed as a try scoring sensation he was snapped up by Wakefield for £11,000 in 1978. He has been a consistent try scorer and joined Oldham twelve months ago.

Oldham recently signed Rochdale forward WALLY JONES for a bargain £2,000. A prop or free running second rower, the 26 years old is a former Latchford Albion amateur.

Other forwards include Huddersfield based COLIN HAWKYARD who operates equally well at centre, young, tough tackler MICK Worrall, another good young defender ANDY GOODWAY. Leigh based ALAN PLATT had a fine close season when he captained GB Colts on their summer tour Down Under. Loose forward is TERRY FLANAGAN, an Under 24 International and there is prop GARETH OWEN, son of former Leigh favourite Stan, 21 year old MICK COOMBES, a very good prospect and second rower DAVE NICHOLSON.

OTHER TIES BEING PLAYED TODAY

Blackpool	v	Batley	Keighley	v	Bradford N
Cardiff	v	Rochdale	Leeds	v	Bramley
Carlisle	v	Doncaster	Salford	v	Hunslet
Castleford	v	Wigan	Swinton	v	Huddersfield
Dewsbury	v	Barrow	Warrington	v	Halifax
Featherstone	v	Hull	Widnes	v	Wakefield
Hull KR	v	Whitehaven	York	v	Workington



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We are delighted to welcome officials of John Player Ltd to our game this afternoon.

We would also like to welcome Management and Staff of N. W. Decoiling Ltd. of Palatine Works, Warrington who have kindly agreed to donate today's Man of the Match award and Mitre Match ball.

Finally, a warm welcome to Mr. Ken Fisher, an ex Oldham chairman who has kindly sponsored today's match "refreshments" for Players and Officials.

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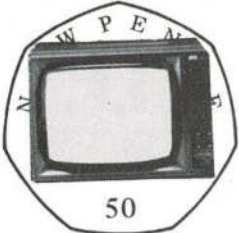
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THE 'A' TEAM

We haven't reported much about the 'A' team in recent weeks, but to be honest there hasn't been much to write about.

The absence of fixtures has not helped the spirit and enthusiasm of the lads but their fixture last week does really deserve a mention as they recorded a 17-15 win at Widnes.

That was the first game for the Reserve side for four weeks, their last game being on October 28th when the 'A' team suffered an unexpected set-back — a 12-18 defeat at Rochdale Hornets.

More about the 'A' team in the next programme.

P. A. SYSTEM

We would like to apologise to supporters for the failings of our P.A. system against Hull. We are aware that our system is not the most efficient of systems but against Hull the problem we faced was rain which had penetrated into the microphone system.

We are doing all we can to improve the system, but cost has been the hold-up. We very much hope that the P.A. System will be much better this afternoon.

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Their Man of the Match — Derek Pyke.

GOLDEN TRY TICKETS

The times for the first goal and try against Hull were as follows:

First Goal	12 minutes 01 seconds
First Try	39 minutes 55 seconds



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Record score:	67 v Liverpool City 4.4.1959.
Record defeat:	67 v Hull K.R. 24.9.1978.
Tries in a match:	7 by Miller v Barry 31.10.1908.
Goals in a match:	14 by B. Ganley v Liverpool City 4.4.1959.
Points in a match:	30 by A. Johnson v Widnes 9.4.1928.
Tries in a season:	49 by R. Farrar 1921-22.
Goals in a season:	200 by B. Ganley 1957-58.
Points in a season:	412 by B. Ganley 1957-58.
Record appearances:	634 by J. Ferguson. 1899-1923.
T. E. Rees made 115 consecutive club appearances between March 1933 and December 1936.	
Championship Winners:	1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57.
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Lancashire League Winners:	1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58.
Lancashire Cup Winners:	1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59.

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1982 JOHN PLAYER TROPHY COMPITION

Today we start the 1982-83 John Player campaign with the first round match against OLDHAM.

This is the 12th season of the competition and it is now worth a total of £55,000 for the Rugby League. There is a record £10,000 first prize for the eventual winner from the total prize pool of £44,500. In addition the Rugby League's Capital Development Fund will receive £10,500 for ground developments.

Today's winner goes forward to the second round of the competition and the draw for that round will take place in Leeds tomorrow at breakfast time (7.50 a.m.) and will be broadcast on local radios and announced in newspapers throughout the day.

This season the John Player Trophy has got a real Christmas and New Year flavour to it with all the early round matches taking place in the weeks leading up to the festive season and the two semi-finals actually being played in the holiday period.

The remaining dates of the competition are:—

Second Round	Weekend of 11/12 December 1982.
Third Round	Weekend of 18/19 December 1982.
First Semi-Final	Tuesday, 28 December 1982.
Second Semi-Final	Saturday, 1 January 1983.
Final	Saturday, 22 January 1983.

The two semi-Final matches and the final will be staged on neutral grounds.

PAST WINNERS OF THE JOHN PLAYER TROPHY ARE:—

1971-72	— Halifax
1972-73	— Leeds
1973-74	— Warrington
1974-75	— Bradford Northern
1975-76	— Widnes
1976-77	— Castleford
1977-78	— Warrington
1978-79	— Widnes
1979-80	— Bradford Northern
1980-81	— Warrington
1981-82	— Hull

NEWS IN PICTURES



Top Left: Ken Green misses today's important cup tie through suspension.



Top Centre: Tommy Martyn expected to return after injury this afternoon.



Top Right: Geoff Clarkson misses today's clash with a badly gashed ankle.



Bottom Left: David Dunn, expected to take Kenny Green's scrum half role this afternoon.



Bottom Right: Terry Bilsbury — made his comeback in the 'A' team at Widnes last week following a close season knee operation.

HISTORY 'SNIPPETS'

John Player Facts:—

- * The highest attendance was 25,165 recorded at the Hull v Hull K.R. final at Leeds in 1982.
- * Warrington are record holders with 3 wins in 1973-74, 1977-78 and 1980-81. They were also runners up in 1978-79.
- * Halifax were the Competition's first winners in 1971-72 when they defeated Wakefield 22-11 at Bradford.
- * In 1981-82 attendance records were broken in every round of John Player Cup with a 24 per cent increase. A new aggregate total of 170,435 was recorded.
- * When Barrow reached the John Player Final in 1981 it was their first final since 1967. They lost 12-5 to Warrington.
- * Three Leigh players have taken the Man of the Match awards in the John Player Finals. They are Kevin Ashcroft for Warrington in 1973-74, David Eckersley for Widnes 1978-79 and Tommy Martyn for Warrington in 1980-81.
- * The highest score in all rounds was Castleford's 88 points against Millom's 5. Sammy Lloyd Scored 17 goals and 3 tries in this match and John Joyner scored 5 tries.

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LANCASHIRE R.L. COLTS 18 pts. YORKSHIRE R.L. COLTS 21 pts.

Our Colts were very well represented in the Lancashire side which took on Yorkshire last Saturday at Barrow.

John Henderson, Wayne Atherton, Phil Johnson, Man of the Match Gary Hughes, substitutes Paul Hardman and John Westhead and 16th man Darren Beazant all belong to the Leigh club.

Even though Lancashire finished up on the losing side after a couple of controversial decisions there was some excellent rugby played on a very successful afternoon.

Yorkshire scored first with a try and goal after 5 minutes but by then Lancashire took the lead. Phil Johnson scored their first try by going over from acting half back and then the superb Gary Hughes set up the next try for centre Paul Howard. McCormick added one goal.

Yorkshire then took on half time lead from a try by No. 10 prop which Lancashire claimed came from a forward pass. Bell kicked the goal.

Two quick tries in 10 minutes from Ingham and Tosney put Yorkshire 16-8 up but more brilliant work by Hughes put John Henderson over for a try which McCormick goaled.

John Westhead, on for Proudlove, was having a fine game. He started off a move and then finished it with a try after taking the final pass from Andy Platt, and Lancashire led 18-16.

There had been no stoppages in the second half but the game was allowed to run 4 minutes over. Loose forward Bell dived over but lost the ball over the line. Incredibly Yorkshire were awarded the try, Bell kicked the goal and Lancashire considered themselves robbed of the honours in this close, thrilling game.

TESTIMONIAL TOPICS

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM

Owing to the great response to our Competition it is proving a mammoth task sifting through all the entries to find a winner.

Hopefully, we can publish the winner in next week's press and in our next home programme.

TONIGHT'S DISCO

We have arranged a disco after today's game. As usual, this will be at Leigh Liberal Club starting at 8.00 p.m. with admission £1.00.

There will be no admittance after 10.30 p.m.

DISCO BOXING NIGHT

Celebrate Christmas with the players at our Boxing Night Disco after the home game with Warrington.

Again this will be at Leigh Liberal Club, doors open at 8. Admission £1.00.

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LEIGH 16 HULL 16

A repeat of last seasons home result against The Airlie Birds and our third draw at home this season.

For most clubs a 16-16 draw against title favourites Hull would be a first class result but knowing the facts of the occasion it goes down, as far as we are concerned, as a very disappointing result indeed.

When we were given the Hull team — three quarters of an hour before kick-off - we couldn't believe our luck, Hull were so depleted with so many big names missing, a win should really have been a formality for the Leigh lads, especially following their superb "in form" win against Wigan the previous Sunday.

The dismissal of Hull scrum half Tony Dean for dissent mid-way through the second half was another factor which should have ensured a win but the 12 man Hull outfit really pulled out all the stops and to be honest deserved a point.

The Hull Directors were extremely disappointed at the result, they felt that their team had done enough to win — scoring four tries to two — and from that angle, I suppose they could have a point.

There is no doubt at all that our 16-8 lead in the second half should have been good enough but some slack defensive work allowed Hull to come back to share the points.

The draw against Hull was the seventh league point we have lost at home this season. If we are to keep up our challenge to retain the title then we certainly can't afford to lose any more.



Derek Pyke — Man of the Match against Hull.

AMATEUR NOTES by TREVOR HUNT

This afternoons curtain raiser is a "top of the table" clash in the N.W. Counties Junior League, between Leigh Juniors Under 12's and Ince St. Williams Under 12's.

At the present time, the undefeated Juniors hold the pole position, by virtue of having inflicted the only defeat on the Wigan side so far this season.

Juniors are coached by Dave Blood and Fred Ashworth, and they feel that their team has just the right blend of pace and power to lift major honours this season.

Their mobile pack is well lead by captain Sean Whiteside, who gains valuable support from Tony Raines, Michael Partington and Brendan Blood, whilst lively half-backs Steven Bailey and Steven Cawley maintain a steady flow of possession to speedmen Gareth Jones and Mark Sarsfield.

St. Williams are a newly formed age group side, but they have already caused a few surprises, and are now starting to believe that they too can get in amongst the honours. Their main strength is in the forwards, with Sean Kennedy, Paul Clarke, Alan O'Donnell and John O'Loughlin having played at Wembley for Wigan school-boys. (Any names recognisable there?).

Coaches John Taylor and Cliff Sayer have wasted no time in moulding their lads into shape and their hard work is beginning to pay dividends.

A tremendous match is in store, and if the boys show the form that we know they are capable of, then todays winners will be the spectators, privileged to watch the stars of the future.

On the open-age scene, Leigh Miners enhanced their chances of retaining the N.W. Counties Premier Division Championship, when travelling to Wigan to defeat the previously undefeated St. Patricks by 23-0 pts. The man to catch the headlines was flying wingman, Derek Bate, who raced in for a hat-trick of tries, whilst Steve Nixon and Jimmy Reynolds grabbed one apiece, and Chris Gaskell celebrated his return to first team rugby with four goals.

In the BARLA Lancashire Cup Final, Wigan side Rosebridge turned the form book up side down to crush favourites Crosfields of Warrington by 25-5 pts. In the BARLA Cumbria Cup Kells defeated Hensingham by 14-9 pts. on Wednesday evening. Now both Rosebridge and Kells qualify to participate in the Reporter — Carlsberg "Champions of Champions" Competition that will take place at Leigh Miners in August 1983.

STOP PRESS

Heartiest congratulations to Gary Hughes and Wayne Atherton who have been selected to play for the Great Britain Colts side versus France in France on Saturday 15th January 1983.

Their superb performances in the Colts County game last weekend, obviously impressed the selectors.

Gary Hughes deserves additional congratulations as he will become the youngest ever player to represent this country at Colts level, at the age of 16 years.

AP Alan Prescott

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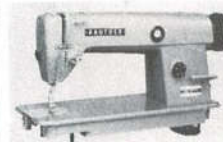
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Saturday 9.30—2.30
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First Team

FIXTURES

'A' Team

1982				
Aug	15	Su	Wakefield T. Charity Match	H 15-14
	22	Su	St. Helens	H 19-19
	25	W	Wigan	A 9-10
	29	Su	Widnes	A 10-9
Sep	5	Su	Rochdale Lancs Cup	H 32-20
	12	Su	Halifax	H 28-0
	15	W	Carlisle Lancs Cup	H 12-13
	19	Su	Featherstone R.	H 5-7
	26	Su	Leeds	A 8-20
Oct	3	Su	Castleford	H 32-16
	6	W	Widnes	H 19-19
	10	Su	St. Helens	A 19-10
	17	Su		
	24	Su	Carlisle	A 23-7
	31	Su	Bradford N.	H 15-23
Nov	3	W	Australia	H 4-44
	7	Su	Hull K.R.	A 9-22
	14	Su	Wigan	H 12-5
	21	Su	Hull	H 16-16
Dec	5	Su	Oldham J.P.Tr.	H
	12	Su	John Player Trophy 2nd	
	19	Su	Castleford	A
	26	Su	Warrington	H
1983				
Jan	2	Su	Workington T.	H
	9	Su	Halifax	A
	16	Su	Hull K.R.	H
	23	Su	Bradford N.	A
	30	Su	Barrow	A
Feb	6	Su	Carlisle	H
	13	Su	State Express Chal.Cup 1st Round	
	20	Su	Hull	A
	27	Su	State Express Challenge Cup 2nd Round	
Mar	6	Su	Oldham	A
	13	Su	Barrow	H
	20	Su	Workington T.	A
	27	Su	Featherstone R.	A
Apr	1	Fri	Oldham	H
	4	Mon	Warrington	A
	10	Su		
	17	Su	Leeds	H

1982				
Aug	20	Fri	St. Helens	A 10-31
	26	Th	Widnes	H 20-10
Sept	4	Sa	Whitehaven	A 8-25
	10	Fri	Salford	A 13-23
	16	Th		
	25	Sa	Barrow	H 22-15
	28	Tu	Swinton	A 13-6
Oct	7	Th	St. Helens	H 10-7
	16	Sa	Workington (Shield)	A 12-16
	21	Th	Swinton	H 29-5
	28	Th	Rochdale	A 12-18
Nov.	12	Fri	Wigan	A P
	18	Th		
	26	Fri	Widnes	A 17-15
Dec	2	Th		
	9	Th	Wigan	H
	16	Th	Warrington	H
	23	Th		
	30	Th		
1983				
Jan	6	Th	Salford	H
	15	Sa	Whitehaven	H
	22	Sa	Workington	A
	27	Th		
Feb.	3	Th		
	11	Fri	Oldham	A
	19	Sa	Warrington	A
	24	Th		
Mar	3	Th	Oldham	H
	12	Sa	Barrow	A
	19	Sa	Workington	H
	24	Th	Rochdale	H
	31	Th		