

OLDHAM Team Check SALFORD

HUSSEIN M'BARKI	1	PAUL FLETCHER
PAUL SHERMAN	2	ROY WILTSHIRE
DES FOY	3	GERRARD BYRNE
GARY WARNECKE	4	KIERAN O'LOUGHLIN
MIKE TAYLOR	5	PETER GLYNN
DAVID TOPLISS (Capt.)	6	GREG AUSTIN
GARY BRIDGE	7	DARREN BLOOR
BRUCE CLARK	8	STEVE HERBERT
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	PAUL GROVES
NEIL CLAWSON	10	DAVID MAJOR
DAVID HOBBS	11	JEFF SELBY
MICK WORRALL	12	MICK McTIGUE
STUART RAPER	13	TERRY O'SHEA
T.B.A.	14	T.B.A.
T.B.A.	15	T.B.A.

Referee: C. Hodgson Touch Judges: J. J. Beech, B. D. Norbury

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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

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PROGRAMME
50p

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SALFORD
Boxing Day, 26th Dec., 1986
kick off 3 p.m.



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Hon. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr H. Thompson, Mr D. Walker

Physiotherapist: Mr. A. Bonnelle

Asst. Physiotherapist: Mr J. Watkins

Lifeline: L. Bostock

Official Timekeeper: J. Roscoe

CLUB RECORDS

Record Victory: 67-6 v. Liverpool City, April 1959

Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September 1978

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £9,100 v Wakefield, 24th February, 1980

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £40,000 to Featherstone for David Hobbs, February, 1985

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 points v Liverpool City, April 1959

First Game: 21st October, 1876 v Stalybridge

Highest number of points scored: Bernard Ganley, 2,881

Most Appearances: Joe Ferguson, 685

Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jack Hirst, 233. Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

CLUB HONOURS

Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

First Division Champions: 1904-05

Second Division Champions: 1963-64, 1981-82

Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners: 1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up: 1906-07, 1911-12, 1923-24, 1925-26

Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907-08, 1910-11, 1913-14, 1919-20, 1924-25, 1933-34, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1911-12, 1918-19, 1921-22, 1954-55, 1966-67, 1968-69

Lancashire Championship Winners: 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

Runners-up: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1919-20, 1923-24, 1954-55

Lancashire Shield Winners: 1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy: 1979-80



GLEN LIDDIARD Photo Courtesy of OLDHAM CHRONICLE

CLUB NOTES

We would like to wish all our fans, members, supporters, sponsors, friends and backers a happy New Year and that you all had a merry Christmas. Today we welcome the players and officials of Salford in our last game of 1986. It has been a particularly eventful year at Watersheddings and one that will not be forgotten for a long time for events on and off the field.

The early part of the year was memorable for our run to the semi-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup with victories over Carlisle at Boundary Park and Warrington and Bradford at Watersheddings. Semi-final day will not easily be forgotten by players and supporters, and the memory of the excitement created will surely enhance our ambitions to do well again in the forthcoming competition. The summer of 86 will be remembered for the traumatic events concerning the aftermath of the Bradford fire disaster.

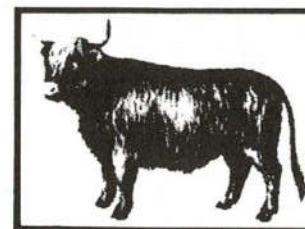
An enormous amount of money had to be spent on our ground before we got our licence under the Safety of Sports Ground Act, and most of the summer was spent in vital talks with the Rugby League and the local authority as we tackled the task in hand in conjunction with another major project, the floating of a limited company. It is no secret that our existing stand must be demolished at the end of this season and that members, by their vote at the last annual meeting have made a "moral commitment" to go limited.

The new season was barely upon us before we were embarking on another cup run, this time the Lancashire Cup final after wins over Leigh, Workington, and Widnes, all at home. We even got a home tie in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy, but our ambitions were quickly dampened when Bradford won here only a week after we had picked up two important League points at Odsal.

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Sat 8am-12 noon



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SALFORD FORTUNES ON

The Red Devils of Salford will be here today determined to pick up points to bolster their bid to climb out of the lower reaches of the First Division. The decision to relegate four clubs this season has put enormous pressure on clubs who have found difficulty in picking up points in the first half of the season and half the teams in the First Division, in fact, cannot yet consider themselves home and dry. After doing well last season in their first year up, Salford ran into an early season injury blitz this time and failed to get off to the flier they would have hoped for.

Due to the Christmas holiday, these notes had to be penned before last Sunday's matches, when the Reds were due to play a rearranged fixture at Halifax. At the time of writing they were second bottom of the First Division with two wins from 13 matches played – but what terrific wins they were! How many teams will win at Castleford this season? That's where Salford picked up their first win of the campaign, followed by a home victory over Widnes. Despite a disappointing home defeat by Hull in the John Player Trophy, League wins of that magnitude are bound to have given Salford confidence and a self belief that might easily have started to falter as defeat followed defeat.

Another interesting point is that Salford have already played many of the top teams home and away. Home and away matches against Wigan, Widnes, and Warrington have already been completed, which must give the Willows men confidence that they can pick up enough points over the next four months to rise above relegation rivals such as Barrow, Featherstone and Leigh. They are already much better placed than bottom club Wakefield, although the Salford management will not need reminding that they lost matches against teams they could have been expected to beat – namely Barrow at home and Featherstone away – and that every point gained will be precious between now and the end of the season.

The Salford team includes several players who are already known to Oldham followers, especially prop Steve Herbert, who was with us at Watersheddings until his transfer to Barrow several years ago, and local lad Darren Bloor at scrum-half, who has never played for Oldham, but who is a native of our town and is exceedingly well known in local RL circles.

THE UP... AND UP?

Bloor has made a name for himself with Salford and he was, in fact, a member of Maurice Bamford's train-on squad last summer for the Test series against the Aussies.

Paul Fletcher is a reliable full-back while there is plenty of experience in a back division that reads Roy Wiltshire (ex-Rochdale Hornets), Ged Byrne, Keiron O'Loughlin (ex-Wigan, Widnes, and Workington), and Peter Glynn, who first made a name for himself with hometown St Helens. There is an interesting stand-off half in Australian Greg Austin, who was at Rochdale Hornets last season when he did exceptionally well with fellow countryman Phil McKenzie, who moved on to Widnes. Austin and Bloor form a formidable half-back partnership, operating behind a pack that features Herbert, Paul Groves and long-serving David Major, son of our former player Harry, in the front row.

Mick McTigue partners Geoff Selby, an Australian from the Cronulla-Sutherland club in Sydney, in the second row, while New Zealander Terry O'Shea racks down at loose-forward. This Kiwi utility man plays for the Te Atatu club in Auckland, from which Oldham gained the services of Alan Sinclair and Craig Coyle three years ago. He is a close personal friend of Test star Mark Elia, with whom he played in the south in the days of Kent Invicta and Southend. Terry is a strong, robust player like Selby, Major, Herbert, Bloor, Austin, and O'Loughlin and there is no doubt that Salford must be afforded the utmost respect.

Coach Kevin Ashcroft will have them well fired up for this one and you can be sure that Salford will come here today determined to pull off a shock and continue their climb away from the lower reaches of the First Division.

G B TOURS – 75 YEARS

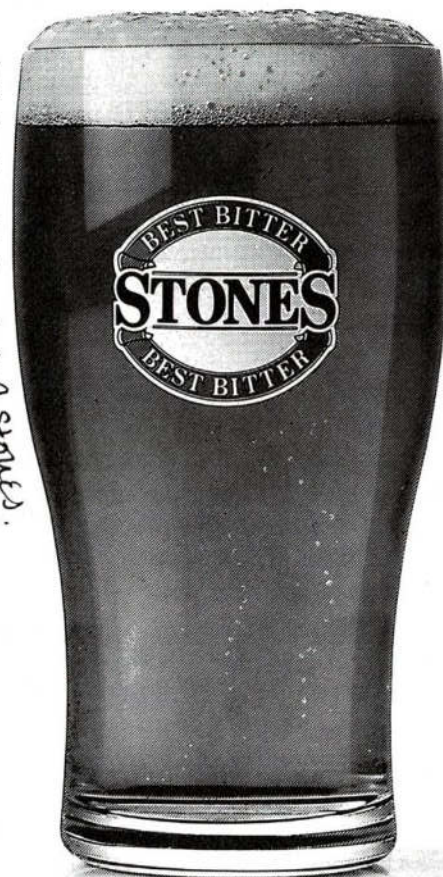
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When the amber sun slips slowly,
Over the grandstand,
And the afternoon becomes still,
The whistle blows,
Your team is lolly,
And you think, "This lot's over the hill,"
For Pete's sake go and

have another pint of Stones.



Stones. Sheer poetry.

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Around the League . . . with Roughyed

Leeds Under 11's and Warrington Under 11's have been selected to contest the 1987 Schoolboy Curtain Raiser to the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. The popular schoolboy showpiece was launched in 1975 and the 12th junior encounter will be staged at the 1987 final on Saturday, 2nd May, kicking off at 2:00 p.m. for 12 minutes each way. Leeds appeared in the second schoolboy curtain raiser in 1976, drawing 5-5 with Hull, while Warrington achieved the same scoreline against Hunslet in 1980. The ball boys for the 1987 Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final will be provided by Hunslet and Morley Under 13's.

* * * *

Slalom Lager Challenge Cup holders, Swinton Crusaders, are drawn away to current Alliance League leaders, Wigan, in the first round of the 1987 tournament. A total of 27 sides are chasing the Slalom Lager Alliance Cup and prize money of £1,000 for the winners and £500 for the runners-up, the first round being staged on the weekend of Saturday, 7th February. Five clubs have been given byes into the second round - Barrow, Hull, Leeds, Leigh, and Wakefield Trinity. The full draw is: Carlisle v Keighly, Workington T. v Batley, Huddersfield P. v Hull K.R., Dewsbury v Salford, Wigan v Swinton, Featherstone R. v **OLDHAM**, Hunslet v St. Helens, Widnes v York, Castleford v Halifax, Bradford N. v Bramley, and Whitehaven v Warrington.

* * * *

The first weekly radio programme on Rugby League to be heard by fans throughout the heartland of the game was launched on Sunday, 7th December. Six BBC local radio stations simultaneously broadcast "Rugby League Review" to scores of thousands of listeners across the north, from the east to west coasts, in the biggest combined broadcast on the sport ever undertaken by local radio. Harry Gratton, presenter of the BBC regional television news magazine "Look North", from Leeds, and a regular reporter on Rugby League on BBC 1's Grandstand, introduced the programme. The six radio stations transmitting the programme are Leeds, Humberside, York, Manchester, Cumbria and Merseyside, all areas where there is a big following for Rugby League. It is broadcast at 5:45 p.m. each Sunday. Harry is a former sports editor at Radio Leeds, where he started the station's first Sunday afternoon Rugby League programme in 1982. Another former Radio Leeds man, Chris Hawksworth, now a freelance broadcaster, produces the programme. Both are determined that it will be something Rugby League fans will not be able to miss. "I want it to be punchy and controversial," said Harry. "I want it to make people think and get them to react." Said Chris: "The programme will react to the day's events and there'll be opportunities for players, coaches, administrators and spectators to have their say. We're hoping we'll get a lively and even sometimes rude postbag, but our examination of Rugby League will be basically an affectionate one." David Oxley, Secretary General of the Rugby League, welcomed the programme as "an exciting step forward in the coverage of Rugby League." He added: "Local radio is already an important part of the game's publicity. Radio is an ideal medium, it allows the character of the game to come through."

* * * *

TOUR ATTENDANCES

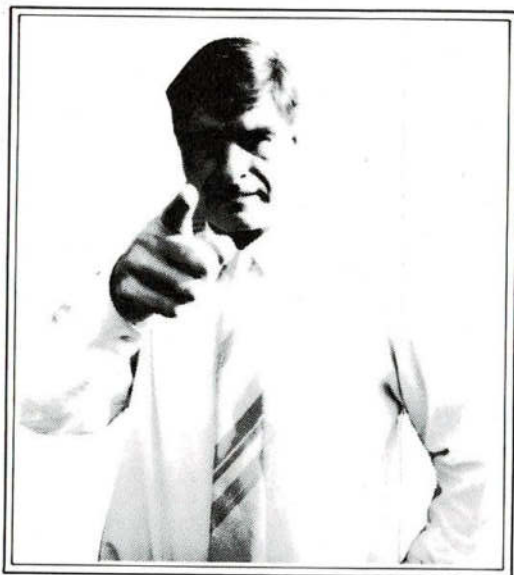
The 13 Tour matches totalled 212,068. The aggregate attendances for the three Tests of 101,560 was only the second time a 3-match series in this country had passed the 100,000 mark. The record is 114,883 in 1940.

Record attendances were:

Biggest for an actual match in this country: 50,583 for the 1st Test at Old Trafford, Manchester

Biggest for any tour game against a club side: 30,622 at Wigan.

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The Men We Face Today

PAUL FLETCHER: (Full-back) Local lad. Signed from the Colts side in 1980 after representing his country at that level. Tricky player with a fantastic sidestep. Last season he was a regular “Man of the Match” award winner.

PETER GLYNN: (Winger) Joined the club from St Helens in July 1983 in a straight swap for full-back Steve Rule. An England international and “Down Under” Tourist. Class player who can play anywhere in the backs.

KEIRON O'LOUGHLIN: (Centre) Vastly experienced player signed from Widnes for £14,000 during the 1985 close season. Spent almost 10 years at Wigan but left before his benefit to join Workington Town.

GED BYRNE: (Centre) Usually a centre, but recently returned to the side and played on the wing. Wigan born, he was signed from Wigan St Patricks A.R.L. Club in the summer of 1981. Plenty of pace.

ROY WILTSHIRE: (Winger) Joined Salford last February from Rochdale Hornets after a spell on loan. The £5,000 rated winger moved to the Willows in a deal which saw second row forward Colin Meachin move to the Athletic Grounds plus a cash adjustment.

GREG AUSTIN: (Stand Off) Australian, Former North Sydney player who was signed at the end of last season after playing for Second Division Rochdale Hornets. Clever Footballer.

MARK WAKEFIELD: (Stand-off) 24 year old utility back, from top Sydney Club Cronulla. Played over 100 games in top flight Sydney competition. Signed during close season and recently made captain.

DARREN BLOOR: (Scrum-half) Oldham born. He joined Salford from Oldham St Annes A.R.L. Club in August 1983, following a successful trial. Represented G.B. Amateur open age side. His displays earned him a place in the G.B. Test squad for this season.

STEVE HERBERT: (Prop) Strong, robust front row forward who was signed from Barrow in a swap deal involving utility back Stewart Williams, who moved to Craven Park. Steve, who has also played for Oldham, is the son of former star player Norman Herbert.

PAUL GROVES: (Hooker) Now regularly playing in the first team following his broken leg sustained at Halifax last season. Former G.B. Colts international who progressed to become captain of the G.B. under 21 side. Became Salford's youngest ever captain at the age of 20.

DAVID MAJOR: (Prop) Been at the Willows since November 1979 when he joined Salford from crosfields A.R.L. Side (Warrington). Represented Lancashire youth and is the son of former player Harry Major.

GEOFF SELBY: (Second-row) Signed from Sydney St. George and only just missed selection for the Kangaroo touring squad. Played in the centre for Illawarra last season before joining St George.

MICK METIGUE: (Second Row) Wigan born. Signed from Leigh in October 1982 for £12,500. Tremendous tackler who always gives 100%.

TERRY O'SHEA: (Loose-forward) Latest signing for Salford, this New Zealander Hails from the Te Atatu club, Auckland. Previous experience with Kent Invicta.

PAUL BROWNBILL: (Prop) Recently returned to first team duty with a sound display against Widnes. Joined Salford from St Helens in March 1984.

NEXT HOME MATCH

WAKEFIELD

Sunday 11th January, 1987 kick off 3:00 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	11	5	0	0	202	69	6	0	0	210	65	22
Wigan	11	5	0	0	187	35	5	0	1	129	47	20
Warrington	12	6	0	1	195	108	4	0	1	141	83	20
Bradford N.	12	4	0	2	136	81	5	0	1	154	91	18
Widnes	12	5	0	1	176	102	3	0	3	132	119	16
Castleford	12	4	0	2	119	70	4	0	2	111	103	16
Halifax	13	4	0	2	120	88	3	1	3	136	150	15
Oldham	12	4	0	2	131	98	2	0	4	120	108	12
Hull K.R.	13	5	0	2	144	121	1	0	5	85	158	12
Leeds	12	3	0	3	161	135	2	0	4	98	116	10
Hull	12	4	0	1	108	109	1	0	6	72	215	10
Leigh	13	3	0	3	120	120	1	0	6	100	222	8
Featherstone	12	2	1	4	142	177	1	0	4	64	128	7
Barrow	13	1	0	6	102	138	1	1	4	98	138	5
Salford	13	1	0	6	74	193	1	0	5	77	198	4
Wakefield	13	0	1	5	68	169	0	0	7	86	244	1

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	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hunslet	14	6	0	0	150	53	7	0	1	200	59	26
Swinton	12	7	0	0	238	64	3	0	2	80	52	20
Sheffield	14	6	0	1	162	78	4	0	3	181	148	20
Blackpool	14	4	0	2	113	92	6	0	2	183	128	20
Whitehaven	14	7	0	0	192	60	2	0	5	84	114	18
Doncaster	13	3	1	2	144	94	5	0	2	131	114	17
Rochdale	12	5	0	1	126	57	2	1	3	89	118	15
Runcorn	13	5	0	2	152	99	2	1	3	83	109	15
York	15	4	0	5	192	182	3	0	3	102	100	14
Bramley	12	4	0	1	94	81	3	0	4	91	160	14
Carlisle	15	5	1	2	122	122	1	0	6	92	157	13
Huddersfield	15	2	0	6	136	173	3	0	4	120	131	10
Batley	12	1	0	3	56	41	4	0	4	117	196	10
Dewsbury	13	4	0	3	121	104	0	0	6	56	168	8
Fulham	11	3	0	3	131	138	0	0	5	74	117	6
Workington	13	2	0	5	125	137	1	0	5	63	175	6
Mansfield	14	2	0	5	132	193	0	0	7	83	207	4
Keighly	14	1	0	6	72	145	1	0	6	84	205	4

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OLDHAM RLFC FIXTURES & RESULTS 1986-87

	Opponents	Att.	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Aug	31 Leeds	4,621	14	12	Atkinson 1T1G	M'Barki	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 2DG	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 1G	Hawkyard	Worrall	Kirwan (10)	Nadiole (4)
Sept	3 Halifax (7-30)	4,869	14	20	Atkinson 1T	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 3G	Hawkyard	Clawson	Worrall	Kirwan D.N.P.	Nadiole (12)
	7 Warrington	4,000	18	22	Atkinson	Sherman	Foy	M'Barki 1T	Taylor	Ashton	Kirwan	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Hobbs 3G	Clawson	Hawkyard 1T	Worrall	Edwards	Nadiole
	14 Leigh L.C.C. 1	4,566	29	22	Atkinson	Sherman 1T	Foy	M'Barki 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Nadiole 1T	Clawson	Worrall 6G	Raper	Edwards	Hobbs 1DG 1T
	21 Hull K.R.	4,069	28	12	M'Barki	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Nadiole	Worrall 3G	Hobbs 1G 1T	Raper 1T	Edwards	Clawson
	24 Workington L.C.C. 2	3,412	46	13	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark 1T	Flanagan	Hobbs 7G 1T	Nadiole	Worrall 1T	Raper 1T	Hawkyard	Clawson
	28 Leigh (3-30)	4,000	12	40	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Taylor	Bridge	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 2G	Clawson	Worrall	Raper	Topliss	Casey
Oct	1 Widnes L.C.C. s/f	5,601	16	14	M'Barki	Sherman 1T	Bridge	Warnecke	Edwards	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 1T 4G	Nadiole	Worrall	Raper	Kirwan	Hawkyard
Oct	5 Widnes	3,875	22	16	Edwards	Sherman	Hawkyard	Warnecke 1T	Atkinson 1T	Topliss	Kirwan	Jones	Hall	Clark 1T	Hobbs 1T	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Ogburn	Casey
	19 Wigan L.C.C. Final	20,180	6	27	M'Barki	Sherman	Bridge 1T	Warnecke	Atkinson	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Flanagan	Hobbs 1G	Worrall	Nadiole	Raper	Hawkyard	Clawson
	26 Wakefield T. (3-30)	2,740	54	10	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy 3T	Warnecke 2T	Taylor	Topliss 1T	Bridge	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Hobbs 6G	Worrall 1G 1T	Raper 1T	Ashton 1T	Hawkyard
Nov	2 Barrow	3,306	32	20	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy	M'Barki	Taylor 1T	Warnecke	Ashton 1T	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hobbs 6G 1T	Worrall 1T	Raper	Hawkyard	Nadiole
	4 Australia (7-30)	5,678	16	22	Edwards	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	M'Barki	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 3G	Hobbs 1G	Raper	Hawkyard 1T	Nadiole
	9 Hull K.R.	4,481	4	6	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hawkyard	Nadiole	Worrall 2G	Edwards	Marsden
	16 St Helens	5,752	17	18	M'Barki	Sherman 1T	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 1DG	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 2G	Hawkyard 1T	Raper	Edwards	Nadiole
	23 Bradford N. (3-30)	4,060	18	10	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor	Topliss	Bridge	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 1T 3G	Nadiole	Raper 1T	Lowndes	Jones
	30 Bradford N. (J.P.S.)	5,642	12	22	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke 1T	Atkinson	Topliss	Bridge	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 2G	Nadiole	Raper	Ashton	Lowndes
Dec	14 Halifax	4,905	18	20	M'Barki	Sherman	Foy 1T	Warnecke	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Bridge 1T	Jones	Flanagan	Clark	Worrall 1G	Hobbs	Raper 1T	Hawkyard	Clawson
	21 St Helens																		
	26 Salford																		
Jan	1 Leeds																		
	4 Hull																		
	11 Wakefield																		
	18 Widnes																		
	25 Halifax																		
Feb	1 Silk Cut Cup (1)																		
	8 Wigan																		
	15 Silk Cut Cup (2)																		
	22 Hull																		
March	1 Castleford																		
	8 Featherstone																		
	15 Bradford																		
	29 Castleford																		
April	5 Barrow																		
	12 Leigh																		
	17 Salford																		
	20 Wigan																		

First Division 1986-87	Barrow	Bradford	Castleford	Featherstone	Halifax	Hull	Hull K.R.	Leeds	Leigh	Oldham	Salford	St Helens	Wakefield	Warrington	Widnes	Wigan
Barrow	■		14-24		12-23	16-17	24-6					12-34			16-18	8-16
Bradford	36-20	■	12-7	41-2					10-18						27-14	10-20
Castleford			■	16-7		16-6			19-8		20-21		42-16			6-12
Featherstone			16-18	■	16-16				50-16		16-6	8-44		22-19	14-48	
Halifax			12-16		■	28-16	24-18	23-8		20-14				13-16		
Hull		27-22			28-23	■		10-32	31-26				12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30	36-14		29-6	■		35-20	6-4		4-36	22-11				
Leeds		4-12	33-12				■				46-10	20-40		16-54		
Leigh					20-28			20-8	■	40-12				22-17	18-20	0-35
Oldham	32-20						28-12	14-12		■		17-18			22-16	
Salford	12-24	12-22				14-34					■	4-38		10-25	22-16	0-34
St Helens					38-16	50-10			50-18		32-14	■	32-11			
Wakefield	14-14	22-32						14-28	6-12	10-54			■			
Warrington			20-26	18-10	42-10				22-18	42-14		28-18	■		23-12	
Widnes	26-14	14-36	29-20				26-8	35-10					48-14		■	
Wigan	18-6					34-7			31-0		42-12		62-10			■

Appearances & Scorers

	APPS (inc. Subs.)	T	G	DG	PTS
ASHTON, R.	13	2	—	3	11
ATKINSON, K.	6	3	1	—	14
BRIDGE, G.	7	2	—	—	8
CLARK, B.	18	3	—	—	12
CLAWSON, N.	15	1	—	—	4
EDWARDS, J.	10	—	—	—	—
FLANAGAN, T.	17	—	—	—	—
FOY, D.	13	9	—	—	36
HAWKYARD, C.	15	3	—	—	12
HOBBS, D.	14	6	35	1	95
JONES, W.	5	—	—	—	—
KIRWAN, P.	6	—	—	—	—
M'BARKI, H.	16	4	—	—	16
NADIOLE, T.	15	1	—	—	4
RAPER, S.	13	6	—	—	24
SHERMAN, P.	17	5	—	—	20
TAYLOR, M.	14	4	—	—	16
TOPLISS, D.	16	1	—	—	4
WARNECKE, G.	15	8	—	—	32
WORRALL, M.	18	4	26	—	68
CASEY, L.	2	—	—	—	—
HALL, M.	1	—	—	—	—
LOWNDES, P.	2	—	—	—	—
MARSDEN, R.	1	—	—	—	—
OGBURN, J.	1	—	—	—	—

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J. Sagar, L. Wolstencroft

The Supporters Club and Members would like to welcome all our friends from Salford for today's match. Hoping for a good clean game. We would like to invite all home and away supporters to our canteens situated around the ground. The Souvenir Shop at the Pavilion End of the ground will be open throughout the match for sale of replica shirts, ties, badges etc. The Programme Shop is situated near the scoreboard in the old bar.

Could we take this opportunity to ask all our friends and supporters to watch for any hooligans present at home and away matches. They are slowly creeping in to League and Cup matches throughout the R.L. Our game is known the world over for its well behaved fans. Let's keep it that way please report any idiots to the nearest policeman or steward. And if possible give their names to any club official who will take the necessary action.

Have a happy New Year

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THE EDITOR TALKING

... On a Double Injury Setback

It never seems to rain, but it pours! Just as the Oldham team looked like getting back to full strength for the first time in weeks against Halifax on 14th December, there was a double injury blow involving first-choice props Wally Jones and Bruce Clark. Wally's appearance against Halifax was his first game since he damaged a shoulder at Wakefield in late October. For much of the early part of the season, he was troubled by a pelvic problem that kept him sidelined for most of the time.

It was a terrible blow for the player and the club when, having seemingly got rid of his pelvic problem, he suffered a nasty and niggling shoulder injury as we ran amok at Belle Vue. Strange, isn't it, how so many injuries seem to occur in a relatively easy match? On this occasion, both Wally and Gary Bridge sustained shoulder knocks, but thankfully Gary is now going well, while Wally is still fighting a desperate battle to get on top of his injury once and for all. He played in the last few minutes of the match at Bradford, but then didn't appear again until we had a rearranged match with Halifax a week last Sunday.

Early in the game, Wally took another blow to the same shoulder, suffered a recurrence and had to leave the field at half-time, not to return. Simultaneously, fellow prop Bruce Clark sustained a nasty shin injury, but he was unable to come off as Wally was already sidelined, and there was a vital need for strength and size in the front-row. In the end, the injury proved too painful and Bruce was forced to retire. The following day he went to hospital for a full medical check, and there were early fears that he had, in fact, cracked a bone in the shin.

At that time the swelling was too severe for the medical men to be sure of what was wrong, but it was widely felt that the Aussie had cracked the bone and he was ordered to rest on crutches and report back in a few days time. What made the injuries all the more disappointing was the fact that they happened on the very day when David Hobbs returned to the fold after suffering a knee ligament injury against the Aussies on 4th November. Players, coaching staff and spectators were all looking forward to having Jones, Clark and Hobbs in action again in the same pack, but the signs indicate that this may not be so for some considerable time.

We can only hope that both Jones and Clark are fit again soon — and certainly in time for the cup — because no side can operate without its front-row strength, and Oldham do not possess the strength in depth to withstand an injury crisis. Even the "A" team lads have been going down with the sort of injuries that keep players sidelined for several weeks. First, Tony Morrison broke his ankle, then Bob Marsden smashed his thumb, and the latest casualty was Leo Casey, who dislocated his collar bone at Workington. Add to that the fact that Chris Chisnall picked up a four match ban after being sent off at Dewsbury, and you can see how stretched the resources are.

In fact, Colin Hawkyard only returned in the Halifax game after badly gashing a knee some two or three weeks sooner, while Paddy Kirwan was also missing from the action for six or seven weeks with a knee injury that was similar to Hobb's problem. At the time of writing, Kirwan was still waiting for his first senior appearance since the Lancashire Cup final on 19th October. Yes Oldham have had more than their fair share of injury problems in the first half of the season and one can only hope the situation gets better in the New Year.

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LES BOSTOCK

DES FOY

Our Top Try Scorer at the turn of the year in typical try-scoring action.

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**DAVID
HOBBS**

CAPTAIN'S TALE

CAPTAIN'S TALE

by DAVID TOPLISS

It was another disappointment when we lost to Halifax in our last home game by the narrow margin of 18-20. We are not starting off right. But Bradford and Halifax came here and took the game to us, instead of us - the home side - taking it to them. We must work at putting this right for today's game against Salford and the other matches in the New Year, so that we are back on song by the time the Challenge Cup starts.

Against Bradford and Halifax we spent most of the match chasing the opposition because our tackling was not right early on. The funny thing is that our tackling was terrific up until the last two home games and was certainly one of the strongest points of our side. On a personal note I was sent off against Halifax for the first time in my career - and that started 19 years ago. It was a strange feeling having to leave the field and then watch the rest of the match. It had never happened to me before - and I don't want it to happen again. I am strongly considering making a personal appearance at the disciplinary committee of 30th December.

I certainly retaliated, but I think I owe it to myself and everyone else at Oldham to at least make sure the disciplinary committee is well aware of what happened in the build-up to the incident. Over the last 19 years I have taken a lot of stick without flinching, but on this occasion I retaliated. However, I think my record should stand me in good stead when the disciplinary committee meets next Tuesday, and I hope to be in the side at Leeds next Thursday.

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