

OLDHAM Team Check BRADFORD

MICK BURKE	HUSSEIN M'BARKI	1	KEITH MUMBY
	PAUL SHERMAN	2	PHIL FORD
DES FOY	GARY WARNECKE	3	STEVE DONLAN
GARY WARNECKE	GARY BRIDGE	4	GARY SIDEBOTTOM
HUSSEIN M'BARKI	MIKE TAYLOR	5	WAYNE RACE
(Capt) DAVID TOPLISS		6	JOHN WOODS
PADDY KIRWAN		7	TERRY HOLMES
DAVID HOBBS	BRUCE CLARK	8	IAN SHERRATT HILL
IAN SANDERSON		9	BRIAN NOBLE
HUGH WADDLE		10	BRENDAN HILL MALLINDER
MICK WORRALL		11	KARL FAIRBANK
STUART RAPER	DAVID HOBBS	12	MAL GRAHAM
	TERRY FLANAGAN	13	MARK FLEMING
COLIN HAWKWARD	T.B.A.	14	T.B.A. SIMPSON
NEIL CLAWSON	T.B.A.	15	T.B.A. WHITE

Referee: P. Volante Touch Judges: G. Lightfoot, P. M. Oliver

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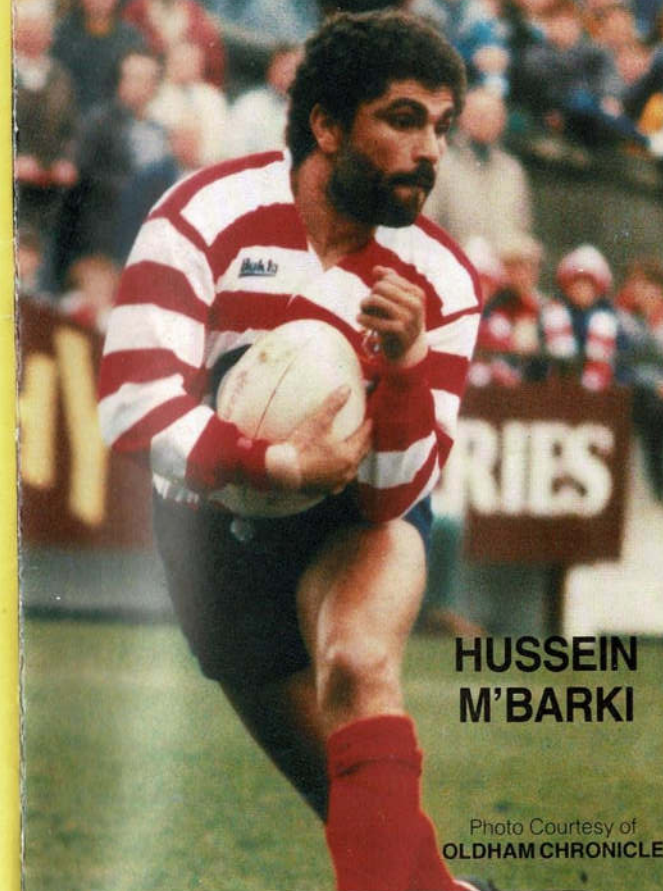
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HUSSEIN M'BARKI

Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE



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BRADFORD

Sunday, 15th March, 1987
Kick off 3 p.m.

OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME
50p

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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

On top of the disappointment of losing at Featherstone – a defeat which puts the team under a lot of pressure now to win a top-eight place – we suffered the cruel blow of an injury to Gary Bridge which could mean the popular Aussie has played his last game in Oldham colours.

Gary damaged his left knee early in the second half when challenging for a loose ball and he was carried off with suspected knee ligament damage. He was due to see a specialist last Thursday, but the nature of the injury and the extent of the swelling suggested there was damage to either a ligament or a cartilage.

As Gary and Bruce Clark are due to leave for home on 26th March – the day after the home match against Wakefield – it seems most unlikely that Gary will be fit in time to make a farewell home appearance, although he is keeping his fingers crossed that he might just be ready in time to play against Trinity the day before his departure.

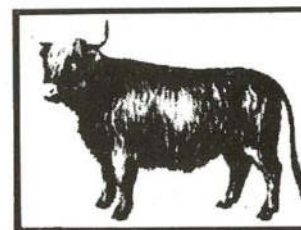
We can also report that Tom Nadiola has left us to join Barrow on a month's loan-cum-trial basis. He made his debut for the Shipbuilders against Leigh last Sunday.

Both Leigh and Rochdale wanted Nadiola on loan, but we turned them both down. The difference in Barrow's case was that they were prepared to pay cash to buy Tom outright. It was Tom himself who was not keen to move permanently until he had 'given it a go' in terms of travelling to Furness from his home in Huddersfield.

We will receive a match-by-match payment from Barrow for Tom's services and, in the meantime, a fee has been tentatively agreed in the event of Barrow wanting to make the move permanent at the end of the month and Nadiola also being happy to stay up there.

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Matthew Brown

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Welcome to Bradford... and the Oldham Connection

The Oldham connection within the Bradford Northern camp is quite strong ... and there will be several people in Northern colours today who will feel "home from home" here at Watersheddings.

TAKE Iain MacCorquodale (we must be one of the few publications to get his Christian name and surname spelt correctly), who is now Barry Seabourne's assistant at Odsal, having stepped up from colts coach earlier in the season. Iain is one of the best-known personalities on the Oldham-area schoolboy and amateur scene and has been mentor to many hundreds of local lads over the years as they have striven to make it in Rugby League.

Iain is a local schoolteacher, perhaps better known for his prolific goalscoring for Salford, Workington Town and Fulham, who will break new ground next year when he takes a party of Oldham schoolboys to Australia on the trip of a lifetime.

TAKE Phil Hellewell, the Bradford centre who had 'A' team trials here at Watersheddings before deciding on a future with Northern.

TAKE winger Wayne Race, a member of the Northern senior squad, who also had a spell in our 'A' team as A.N. Other prior to signing for Northern from West Riding RU circles.

TAKE Ian Sherratt, the Oldham lad who is now making a name for himself as a big, strong prop in the Northern front-row. Ian played in local League and Union circles as a youngster before signing for Northern from the Waterhead club.

TAKE Brendan Hill, a recent recruit by Northern from Leeds. Big Brendan was a target for Oldham when he was on the Leeds transfer-list, but Leeds rejected our approach and Hill finally moved to the club where his father used to play for a fee in the region of £30,000.

TAKE Karl Fairbank, the Northern second-rower who is a brother of our own Mark Fairbank, and both members of the famous Fairbank family of farmers from Greetland. Karl signed from the Elland club, while another brother, Richard, signed for Halifax, and then Mark joined Oldham. Three down, two to go!

TAKE Mal Graham, the Aussie who first made his name with Hunslet and then played for Oldham last season, scoring more than 20 tries to become the club's top try scorer. Mal helped Oldham to reach the semi-final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year before he moved on to Odsal.

Oldham and Bradford have already met twice previously this season. Oldham enjoyed a handsome victory at Odsal in the league but a week later Northern came here in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy and won well.

Since those meetings, Northern have been strengthened by two big signings, Brendan Hill, the big prop from Leeds, and Steve Evans, the former Featherstone, Hull and Wakefield inside back.

Hill cost about £30,000 in a straight cash deal from Leeds while Evans moved to Odsal from Belle Vue as part of the deal that took back-row forward Dick Jasiewicz to Wakefield.

The signings, alas, have failed to have the desired affect so far because in-and-out Northern, whose inconsistency has been similar to that witnessed at Oldham, have just suffered a run of nine consecutive first division defeats, culminating in a 60-6 trouncing at Wigan which represents the club's biggest league defeat in more than 50 years.

This from a side that was putting pressure on the league leaders earlier in the season and which has had some glorious cup triumphs, including the first round John Player victory here at Oldham and the first round Silk Cut Challenge Cup triumph against the much-fancied Warrington at Wilderspool.

In the next round, Bradford came up against Widnes and after holding them to a draw on their home ground they were well and truly licked at Naughton Park.

Like Oldham, they will now be determined to salvage something from the season by winning a place in the top-eight play-off.

STONES BITTER PREMIERSHIP DOUBLE-HEADER

*Seat tickets can now be ordered for the new-style end of season finale ...
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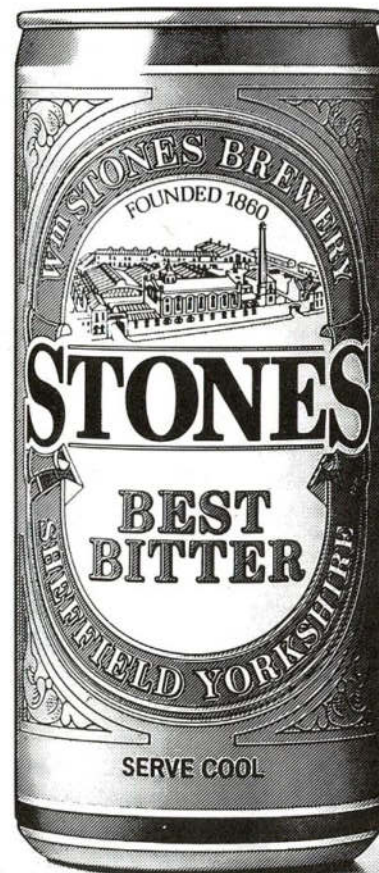
The new Second Division Premiership Final will kick off at 1.30 p.m. followed by the Stones Bitter Premiership Final at 3.30 p.m.

The double-header is a special "two for the price of one" promotion with seat tickets available priced only £7 and £6.

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Around the League... with Roughyed

Bradford Northern are reported to be ready to join several other leading clubs in the hunt for Welsh RU outside-half star Jonathan Davies. Northern indicates their liking for Welsh stars when they paid £80,000 for Terry Homes and are now ready to turn their attention to Davies, who is said to be prepared to turn pro after this summer's World Cup in Rugby Union. The price quoted is £100,000 but despite the massive fee, Bradford, Leeds, Warrington and St Helens are all being linked with the Welshman, who is rated in the Valleys in the same category as Cliff Morgan, Barry John and Phil Bennett.

Warrington say they do not want to sell Great Britain winger Mark Forster, who wants to leave Wilderspool after losing his senior place. Kevin Meadows and Des Drummond are now operating on the Warrington flanks, although Forster has done enough in earlier games to merit selection in the Great Britain side for the Test against France.

Hull's Test forward Lee Crooks is reported to be picking up \$25,000 for 23 games in the Sydney Big League when he joins Balmain this summer. He has previously played with Western Suburbs, who are now looking to Oldham's Bruce Clark to replace Crooks in the Magpies' front-row. Clark is a long-serving stalwart of Wests but he did not play a lot last season because of an ankle injury that he was clearing up in time to come to England. As he has come through the English season without further mishap, Wests see Clark as the man to add weight and strength to their front-row.

Plans to launch a second professional side in Wigan are gathering momentum, and there is talk of local businessmen sharing the home of Wigan Athletic at Springfield Park to accommodate their new team. The identity of the men concerned is not yet known, but they believe there is scope for a second pro club in the town and promise that they will concentrate heavily on the use of local talent from the hotbet of Wigan and surrounding districts.

The Great Britain under-21 side had no trouble in beating France 40-7 in St John de Luz last weekend. Hull star Gary Divorty turned in a sparkling two-try performance and St Helens winger Kevin McCormack also scored twice in a performance which indicated that he is pressing for full Test recognition.

Injuries upset the balance of the side after they had raced into a three-try lead inside 15 minutes, but there were impressive displays from Divorty, McCormack, Martin Dermott, Gary Sanderson, Shaun Edwards, Darren Wright and Paul Loughlin. Sadly, the game in France still struggles to survive. Latest news from across the Channel indicates that the French Government have come to the rescue by handing over £100,000, half to be used to promote the junior game and half for the preparation of international teams. The French are going ahead with plans to pull out of this summer's tour of Australia, however, their ruling body has been dissolved, and there will be an extraordinary meeting of the League in May. The decision by France not to travel to Sydney will throw the World Cup into confusion and it will be up to the international board to come up with a solution.

Wigan star Ellery Hanley and Hull's Gary Schofield are being lined up as possible League representatives on the BBC A Question of Sport programme.

Congratulations to local lad Stephen Molloy, the Oldham St Anne's prop, on his selection for the Great Britain amateur under-19 squad to play for France at Warrington on 5th April. Stephen captained Lancashire at the same age group this season — although he is only 17 — and has a good chance of 'making' the GB side. Soon, he is to fly out to Brisbane to gain experience with Valleys and he is expected to turn pro on his return.

Another youngster who is attracting a lot of attention just now is Simon Longstaff, the 17 year old Yorkshire loose-forward who is the son of former Huddersfield, Hull KR, Castleford and Rochdale player Paul Longstaff.

Best wishes for the match.



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14-9-86	LEIGH Lancs. C.C.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Target Finishing Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	J. Bowden Ltd Oldham	Fashion Craft Middleton	Grünhalle Lager
21-9-86	HULL K.R.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Fairway Rubber Salford Automatics	Salford Automatics Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Lawrence Perrins Ltd., Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship
24-9-86	WORKINGTON Lancs. C.C.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Frank Knowles Ltd., Royton	Salford Automatics Ltd	B.C.C. Oldham	H. Ashworth Manchester	Grünhalle Lager
1-10-86	WIDNES Lancs. C.C.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Grünhalle Lager	Salford Automatics Ltd	Barry Bromley Weir Hotel, Bacup	—	Grünhalle Lager
5-10-86	WIDNES	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	F.D. Kitchens Prestwich	Salford Automatics Ltd	B.C.C. Oldham	Bosch Services Middleton	Stones Bitter Championship
2-11-86	BARROW	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Austin Timber Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	M.A. Appleton Preston	Monty's Bar Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship
4-11-86	AUSTRALIA	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Matthew Brown Ltd	Salford Automatics Ltd	Britvic Ltd Leeds	Halifax Building Soc., Oldham	Tour Match
16-11-86	ST HELENS	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Bardsley Cleaning, Ashton	Salford Automatics Ltd	N.W. Decoiling Warrington	Guttenberg International Rawtenstall	Stones Bitter Championship
30-11-86	BRADFORD J.P.S.T.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	John Player Harveys (Nissan)	Salford Automatics Ltd	Fairway Rubber Manchester	Sat-Tel (UK) Ltd Oldham	John Player
14-12-86	HALIFAX	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	F.D. Kitchens	Tyson's Medical Indust. Health Ltd, Manchester	Stones Bitter Championship
26-12-86	SALFORD	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Saffron Construction Co Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	H.B.S. Builders Merchants, Bury	Leslie Powell Blazers, Manchester	Stones Bitter Championship
18-1-87	FEATHERSTONE	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	—	Salford Automatics Ltd	—	—	Stones Bitter Championship
4-2-87	WIGAN Silk Cut C.C.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Sponsor Silk Cut Donor: Blue Bird	Donor: Salford Automatics Ltd	Donor: Commercial Vehicles, Manchester	J. Knox Fairway & Grundy	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
14-2-87	ST HELENS Silk Cut C.C.	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Sponsor: Silk Cut Donor: St Helens Glass	Donor: Salford Automatics Ltd	Donor: Peter Kendall Commercial Vehicles	J. Knox Fairway & Grundy	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
14-2-87	HULL	Seddon Atkinson Ltd	Harveys (Nissan) Oldham	Salford Automatics Ltd	B & H Decor Royton	George Dew & Co., Oldham	Stones Bitter Championship

The committee would like to thank all the sponsors and advertisers who have supported Oldham Rugby League F.C. with their generous financial support during the 1986-87 season

NEXT HOME MATCH CASTLEFORD

Sunday, 29th March, 1987. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	19	9	0	1	337	65	8	0	1	186	73	34
Warrington	21	10	0	1	302	159	7	0	3	237	178	32
St Helens	20	9	0	1	359	137	7	0	3	279	119	32
Halifax	22	10	0	2	295	165	5	1	4	158	178	31
Castleford	22	8	0	4	245	164	6	0	4	179	173	28
Leeds	22	6	0	4	288	183	5	0	7	169	216	22
Widnes	20	8	0	3	273	166	3	0	6	142	212	22
Hull K.R.	20	8	0	3	192	150	3	0	6	121	182	22
OLDHAM	21	7	0	2	209	150	3	0	9	202	266	20
BRADFORD N.	20	4	0	4	162	119	5	0	7	220	306	18
Hull	18	7	0	1	195	149	1	0	9	120	286	16
Salford	23	6	0	7	233	275	2	0	8	131	273	16
Leigh	21	3	1	5	143	153	3	0	9	201	345	13
Featherstone	22	5	1	5	211	219	1	0	10	139	309	13
Barrow	22	4	0	8	199	221	1	2	7	159	252	12
Wakefield	21	0	1	9	118	293	0	0	11	125	393	1

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Barrow	■	18-14	14-24		12-23	16-17	24-6	16-23				12-34	38-13	9-6	16-18	8-16
Bradford	36-20	■	12-7	41-2	8-12				18-26	10-18					27-14	10-20
Castleford		46-18	■	16-7		16-6	16-10	12-14	19-8	22-18	20-21	12-10	42-16	18-24		6-12
Featherstone			16-18	■	16-16	18-12	0-14		50-16		16-6	8-44	27-10	22-29	14-48	
Halifax	40-14	20-4	12-16	34-8	■	28-16	24-18	23-8	43-24	20-14	18-8	20-19		13-16		
Hull	41-18	27-22		26-6	28-23	■		10-32	31-26				12-6			
Hull K.R.		12-30		36-14	14-0	29-6	■	10-6	35-20	6-4		4-36	22-11		18-0	6-23
Leeds		4-12		33-12			42-7	■	26-12	20-26	46-10	20-40	46-4	16-54	35-6	
Leigh	9-9		6-12		20-28		8-12	20-8	■	40-12				22-17	18-20	0-35
Oldham	32-20			20-16	18-20	24-18	28-12	14-12		■	34-18	17-18				
Salford	12-24	12-22	36-10	26-16		29-18	14-34		20-12		■	4-38	36-12	10-25	22-16	0-34
St Helens		40-14		43-14	38-16	50-10			50-18	28-6	32-14	■	32-11	42-22		4-12
Wakefield	14-14	22-32	12-40	2-29				14-28	6-12	10-54	10-16	6-30	■			
Warrington	24-20	31-10	20-26	32-15	18-10	42-10		20-6		22-18	42-14		28-18	■		23-12
Widnes	26-14	14-36	29-20				26-8	35-10		44-10	13-12	16-10	48-14		■	16-22
Wigan	18-6	60-6	16-6			34-7		30-8	31-0		42-12		62-10	4-6	40-4	■

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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 1T 1G	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 3G	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	6,821	6	28	Edwards	Sherman 1T	Foy	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton	Hobbs	Flanagan	Clawson	Worrall 1G	Hawkyard	Raper	Atkinson	Hall
	26 Salford	4,011	34	18	M'Barki 1T	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Ashton 1T	Clark	Flanagan	Clawson	Hobbs 1G	Worrall 4G	Raper 1T	Edwards	Hall
Jan	1 Leeds	7,570	26	20	Bridge	Sherman	Foy	Warnecke 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Hall	Hobbs 3G	Flanagan 2T	Worrall	Raper 1T	Nadiole	Clawson
	4 Hull	4,895	16	20	Triallist	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Ashton	Clark	Sanderson	Hobbs 2G	Worrall	Flanagan	Raper	Kirwan	Clawson
	18 Featherstone	2,719	20	16	Burke 1T	Sherman	Foy 1T	Bridge 1T	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson 1T	Waddell 1T	Hobbs 1T	Flanagan	Raper	Edwards	Clawson
	21 Widnes	2,798	10	44	Burke 1G	Sherman	Foy	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Clawson	Flanagan	Raper	Edwards	Nadiole
Feb	4 Wigan (S.C.C.C.)	10,050	10	8	Burke 3G	M'Barki	Foy	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan 1T	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs	Flanagan	Warnecke	Raper
	14 St Helens (S.C.C.C.)	7,698	14	24	Burke 3G	M'Barki	Foy 1T	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs	Flanagan	Warnecke	Raper 1T
	22 Hull	24	18	Burke 5G	M'Barki	Foy	Bridge	Taylor 1T	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Hobbs 1G	Sanderson	Waddell	Hawkyard 1T	Raper	Flanagan	Warnecke	Sherman	
March	1 Castleford	3,947	18	22	Burke 2G	Warnecke	Foy	Bridge 1T	Taylor 1T	Topliss 1T	Kirwan	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Hobbs 1G	Worrall	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Raper
	8 Featherstone	2,033	6	24	M'Barki	Sherman	Warnecke	Bridge	Taylor	Topliss	Kirwan 1T	Clark	Sanderson	Waddell	Worrall	Hobbs 1G	Flanagan	Hawkyard	Raper
	11 Warrington																		
	15 Bradford N.																		
	29 Castleford																		
April	5 Barrow																		
	12 Leigh																		
	17 Salford																		
	20 Wigan																		

Appearances & Scorers

	APPS (inc. Subs.)	T	G	DG	PTS
ASHTON, R. (Now with Leeds RL)	18	3	—	3	15
ATKINSON, K.	7	3	1	—	14
BRIDGE, G.	18	8	—	—	32
BURKE, M.	6	1	14	—	32
CLARK, B.	27	3	—	—	12
CLAWSON, N.	21	1	—	—	4
EDWARDS, J.	14	—	—	—	—
FLANAGAN, T.	28	2	—	—	8
FOY, D.	23	13	—	—	52
HAWKYARD, C.	19	4	—	—	16
HOBBS, D.	24	6	46	1	117
JONES, W.	5	—	—	—	—
KIRWAIN, P.	14	2	—	—	8
M'BARKI, H.	21	5	—	—	20
NADIOLE, T.	11	1	—	—	4
RAPER, S.	24	9	—	—	36
SANDERSON, I.	8	1	—	—	4
SHERMAN, P.	25	6	—	—	24
TAYLOR, M.	25	9	—	—	36
TOPLISS, D.	27	3	—	—	12
WADDELL, H.	7	—	—	—	—
WARNECKE, G.	21	9	—	—	36
WORRALL, M.	26	4	31	—	78
CASEY, L.	2	—	—	—	—
HALL, M.	4	—	—	—	—
LOWNDES, P.	2	—	—	—	—
MARSDEN, R.	1	—	—	—	—
OGBURN, J.	1	—	—	—	—
TRIALIST	1	—	—	—	—

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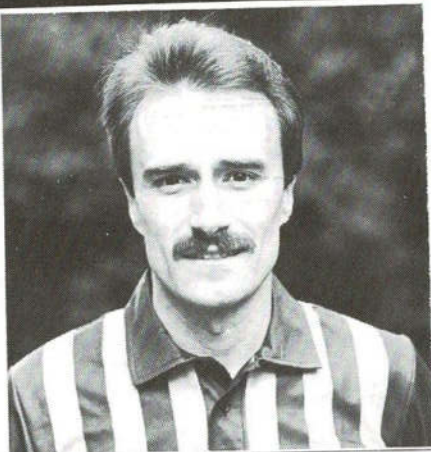
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THE EDITOR TALKING

... on Red Rose Power

The balance of power in Rugby League is certainly swinging. There was a time not so long ago when Hull and Hull K.R. were the game's big two, closely followed by Leeds. The White Rose has withered, however, and most of the major honours this season look like going to Lancashire (or possibly Cheshire if you want to be precise). Wigan, Rolls Royce men of Rugby League just now, won the John Player Special Trophy with a victory over Warrington at Bolton's Burden Park.

The Stones Bitter championship is a three-horse race between Wigan, St Helens and Warrington, and a few would bet on the title ending up anywhere other than Central Park or Knowsley Road. Even in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, Red Rose power reigns supreme. It looked at one stage as though Yorkshire might have the greater representation in the semi-finals, but Leigh's shock win at Hull in round three and the Widnes victory at Leeds put paid to all that. So out of the four semi-final teams only Halifax are left to represent Yorkshire against the Lancashire trio of Leigh, St Helens and Widnes.

By the time these notes are read, either Saints or Leigh will already be at Wembley for the final on 2nd May, leaving Halifax and Widnes to battle it out in the second semi in a fortnight's time. Halifax are now the top team in Yorkshire — and what a remarkable transformation there has been at Thrum Hall since David Brook took over as president a couple of years ago. Last season, there was the Slalom Lager Championship, and now Halifax are only one match away from returning to Wembley for the first time in more than 30 years. They will, however, face a terrific task against Cup kings Widnes who always seem to possess the knack of coming good when the Challenge Cup comes around.

Halifax's recent League win at Naughton Park will count for Nothing come the semi-final — but Halifax boss Chris Anderson is far too experienced to think otherwise. Indeed, one of the remarkable features of last weekend's games was the steely and determined attitude displayed by teams whose main thoughts must now be on the semi-finals. The St Helens match was postponed, but Leigh won a vital four-pointer in their relegation dog-fight at Barrow, and Halifax and Widnes slogged out a real humdinger in their dress rehearsal for the real thing. You often find that teams in the lower reaches of the First Division began to battle for their top-flight existence at this time of the year.

Featherstone have done it for years and their annual Houdini-act is now one of the features of end-of season Rugby League. Their win over Oldham last Sunday will no doubt inspire them to keep up the good work. Salford are already pulling away nicely, after at one time looking certain to go down, and Leigh will clearly gain confidence following their cup win at Hull and their vital League Victory at Barrow last weekend. Barrow will also be scrapping every inch of the way — and it all means that clubs which might appear safe and dry at first glance, such as today's teams Oldham and Bradford, will be anxiously glancing back over their shoulders unless they start to pick out a few points in the next week or two.

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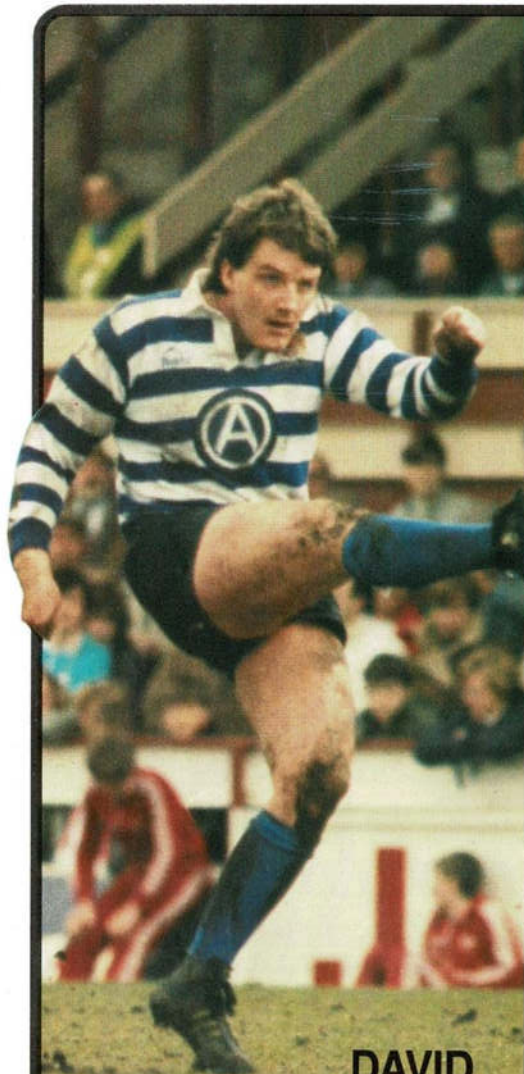
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CAPTAIN'S TALE
by DAVID TOPLISS

We are all bitterly disappointed at Featherstone last Sunday, not only because we were beaten but because of the nature of the defeat. Rovers seemed to want to win more than we did, which was difficult to understand because I think we still have a lot to play for this season in terms of qualifying for the Premiership play-off.

Featherstone, of course, were fighting for First Division survival and they got a couple of early breaks that produced tries on a day when the heavy conditions made it difficult to get back at them. The conditions deteriorated as the game wore on.

It was not a day for catching up, if you know what I mean, and I thought to myself that if we had gone 12-0 up all we would have needed to do was to shut up shop. We now have to do well in a run of four consecutive home games, which started last Wednesday night when Warrington were here.

Today, we entertain Bradford Northern. You will recall that we won well at Odsal early in the season, but only a week later they came back to Watersheddings in the first round of the John Player Special Trophy and knocked us out at the first hurdle.

Maybe, we were a bit complacent on the day after winning at Odsal seven days earlier, but we all know that there is no room for complacency in the First Division, and we will be determined not to slip up this time.

The game is particularly important to us because we are one of a handful of clubs who are chasing the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth places in the play-off, and Bradford are doing likewise.

It is important not only that we pick up two invaluable points but that we also deny the points to Bradford, who will be just as keen to win a premiership spot as we are.

Photo Courtesy of
OLDHAM CHRONICLE

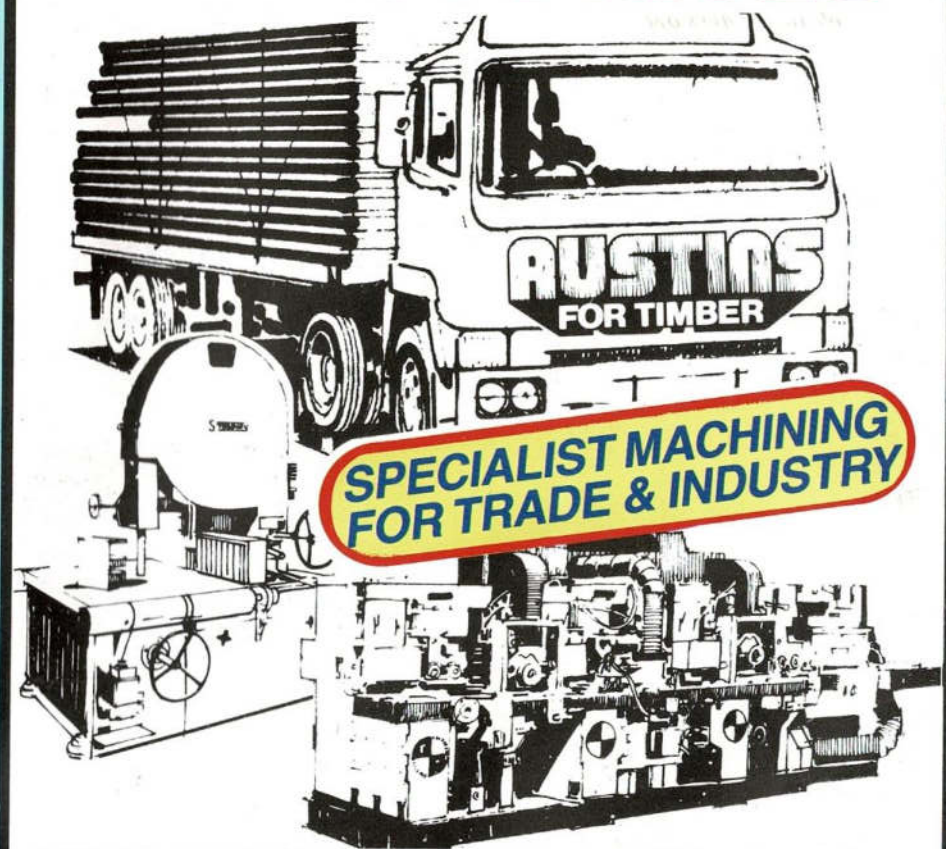
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