

15 OLDHAM **Team Check** FEATHERSTONE 18

MICK BURKE	1	CHRIS BIBB
KEVIN MEADOWS	2	DAVID SYKES
DES FOY	3	IAN SMALES <i>Quinn 3G</i>
GARY WARNECKE	4	PAUL LYMAN <i>Banks</i>
CHARLIE McALISTER	5	RICHARD MARSH
3G PETER WALSH	6	GRAHAM STEADMAN <i>T</i>
MIKE FORD	7	DERYCK FOX
NEIL CLAWSON	8	GARY SIDDALL
TERRY FLANAGAN	9	KEITH BELL
HUGH WADDELL	10	KARL HARRISON <i>Bastion</i>
PAUL ROUND	11	JOHN BASTION <i>Hughes</i>
COLIN HAWKYARD	12	PAUL HUGHES <i>Smith</i>
MAL GRAHAM	13	PETER SMITH <i>Lyman</i>
PAUL LORD	14	JOHN CROSSLEY
Leo Casey	15	STEVE QUINN <i>Harrison</i>

Referee: Mr. P. N. Houghton (Warrington) Touch Judges: D. J. Barratt (Red), W. Brown (Orange)

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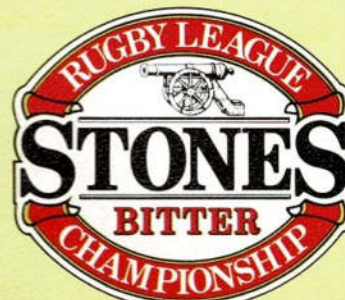
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Record Transfer Fee Paid: \$65,000 to
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Record Try Scorer: Reg Farrar, 49 tries,
1921-22 season

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

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Rugby League Championship Play-off Winners:
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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, 1986-87

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

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PLAYERS PROFILE

HUGH WADDELL

PLAYER PROFILE NO.10



Hugh Waddell receives his Great Britain Test cap from
Oldham director Jim Knox.

Full Name: Hugh Waddell
Nick Name: Fred
Birthdate: 13.11.59
Birthplace: Ayrshire
Marital Status: Gail/Rebecca, Bridgette
Occupation: On the look-out for one
Car: Nissan Sunny
Fav. TV Show: Spitting Images
Fav. Film: Beverley Hill Cops
Fav. Music: All sorts
Fav. food/drink: English breakfast/Britvic
Orange

Fav. reading: Bible
Hobbies: Most sports
Fav. other sports: Golf, football
Likes about game: Playing it

Dislikes about game: The morning after
Superstitions: None
Fav. Ground: Central Park
Fav. position: Scrum-half
Best Moment: Selected for GB
Worst Moment: Losing JPS semi-final
Hardest player to tackle: All scrum-halves
Hardest tackler: Colin Hawkyard
Fav. all-time player: Kenny Dalglish

CAREER WITH OLDHAM

Date signed on: 16.1.87
Debut: v Featherstone (Div 1),
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18.1.87
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Drop goals: 0
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Featherstone	20	8	1	1	260	111	6	1	3	190	133	30
Sheffield	21	7	1	2	187	117	6	0	5	186	140	27
Springfield	19	6	0	3	147	118	6	0	4	117	170	24
Workington	19	6	0	3	148	99	6	0	4	117	170	24
York	19	6	0	4	235	160	4	1	4	164	169	21
Barrow	19	8	0	1	139	81	2	1	7	98	211	21
Runcorn	17	7	0	1	189	130	3	0	6	96	145	20
Mansfield	21	6	1	4	137	153	3	0	7	170	209	19
Keighley	21	7	0	3	206	114	2	0	9	123	223	18
Rochdale	18	8	0	2	135	82	1	0	7	70	209	18
Whitehaven	19	7	0	3	167	81	1	1	7	125	169	17
Carlisle	17	5	1	1	132	83	3	0	7	97	188	17
Doncaster	22	5	1	5	178	193	2	1	8	147	212	16
Fulham	20	5	0	5	157	163	1	0	9	102	245	12
Bramley	21	4	0	6	138	168	2	0	9	133	284	12
Batley	19	3	1	7	137	177	2	0	6	72	101	11
Huddersfield	19	4	1	6	197	204	1	0	7	72	171	11
Dewsbury	19	3	0	5	121	122	1	0	10	134	268	8

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MAL'S MESSAGE

(Chat with Oldham's player-coach)

I think the news that Paul Round and Charlie McAlister may be going to Australia this summer is good for the players concerned and, in the long term, good for the Oldham club.

Charlie is still learning the game and it will do him a lot of good to continue the learning process with Newcastle Knights in the Sydney competition. He will come back a much better and wiser player and he will be better equipped for Oldham in the First Division next season.

Paul is going to Lakes United, the club where Peter Walsh was player-coach last season, and he will be on unofficial 'trial' for the Knights, one of three new teams in Sydney, for the following season.

Paul, too, will benefit from firm grounds and intense competition week in and week out and both will come back ready for the start of the new English season because they will have been training and playing right through.

An added bonus in going to Newcastle is that both players will be in easy reach of Peter Walsh and myself when we get back there in the summer and we will be able to keep our eye on them and make sure that they feel at home and are well looked after.

MAL GRAHAM



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STATISTICS AND ALL THAT

**Oldham statistician Steve Rigby
puts the case for those tell-tale "stats")**

A positive attitude and the clinical application of talent are the hallmarks of quality players and successful teams. We often hear the word 'talent' used to describe many players but without the correct attitude and application on and off the field that talent is worthless.

One of the positive aspects of the club this season has been the close monitoring of players' performances, both during the game and during mid-week training. When a player trains well, or has an outstanding game, he sets himself a standard that he then has to live up to. To fall below acceptable standards set by himself, a player must cause his coach to place question marks about the player's commitment or fitness.

The competition for places is often highlighted by the coaching staff and it is interesting to see how many 'A' team players study with interest the statistics on first-team performances. This gives them goals to aim for as well as a possible insight into players whose lack of form may give an opportunity to press for a place in the senior side.

Another positive development has been the emphasis on self-discipline, a quality that all today's great players possess in abundance. With the aid of statistics and video recordings, today's players can assess their own performance and note how they acted or re-acted in a match situation.

To simply believe that statistics revolve around a simple tackle count is naive. They are far more complex and detailed.

It was interesting to observe that after all three matches in which one of the Great Britain selectors watched Hugh Waddell, prior to his call-up for the Tests against France, Hugh's match statistics were of great interest to the Great Britain 'scout'.

Hughie's "stats" certainly are impressive when you look at the yardage he makes during a game. Hopefully, similarly impressive statistics by other members of the Oldham team will not only help them in their individual careers but will help the team climb from the Second Division into the First and become once more a member of Rugby League's elite.

STEVE RIGBY

WITH THE SUPPORTERS CLUB

Each and every Oldham fan will have his or her own ideas about who is playing well who is off form, who has the best level of consistency etc; Well, we are now coming to the time when members of the supporters club can do more than just talk about it; they can actually vote for their player of the year award in our annual and popular competition. It culminates in the player of the year dance at the end of the season which is always a popular social event. If you want to be part and parcel of all this why not join the Supporters' Club now! The dance, of course, is open to all but to get a voting paper for the player-of-the-year award you have to be a member – another advantage to joining in addition to making savings on the cost of away travel and, for juniors, saving on the cost of admission to home games.

Tickets for the dance will be limited, so make sure you get yours as soon as they go on sale. Its no good turning up on the night and saying you didnt know. You have been warned.

You will have noticed that our video crew has been resited on the Herbert Street side of the ground. The early video films looked lost with no crowd scenes, but with plenty of fans on film now they look terrific. The film crew is also using a new platform provided by Mr Ray Kelly of Kellscaf Ltd., of 11 Borrowdale Close, Royton (624 5359). Many thanks Ray. Thanks also to Mr David Lord, a former committee man, Mr Noel Brady of Chadderton, and B J Gallaghers (confectioners) of Edward Street, Werneth for kind donations to the juniors half-time draw. We are still on the lookout for their sponsors on the said draw. £5 is all we ask and there will be a full acknowledgment in the programme for firms and businesses etc.

Our thanks also to Mr Fred Laughton for standing in for Nigel, our match commentator, who has had a spell in hospital. Thanks Fred.

Welcome to all our friends from Featherstone for todays top-of-the-table clash. We trust we will enjoy a good, clean game in the true spirit of Rugby League. Our canteens (newly signposted) around the ground are open for business and the souvenir hut is open for the sale of sweaters, scarves bob hats badges etc;

Match videos are on sale at £10.00 each or on hire for £1.50 per night. Orders can be given in at the club shop or on on 665-3876 after office hours.

Fans wishing to book away travel please ring Joe Gallagher on 627-0235 or Don Pilkington on 665-1832 and not the social club. Book early. Departure times will appear in the press when possible.

FACE IN THE CROWD

AFTER the recent disappointment of two consecutive defeats (Wakefield in the league and Warrington in the cup) it was good to return to winning ways against Workington and Carlisle, and we had to combat some appalling weather conditions at Derwent Park, as well as a resolute display by a determined Town side.



JACK DEARDEN

— our man on the terraces

We followed up with two more points against Carlisle with which to set the scene for last week's crucial game at Featherstone and the return clash at Watersheddings today in what should be a cracker played in front of a huge crowd.

Nice to see our 'A' team back in action after several weeks of inactivity. They have enjoyed three good wins over Huddersfield and one of the pleasing aspects about the reserve team has been the competition for places. This gives an indication of the strength of the playing staff. The 'A' team is also much younger now than it used to be, which should please a lot of supporters who believe that not enough young, local talent is given a chance.

We have already seen the rewards of this policy with an excellent display by Paul Lord when he was called into action for the cup-tie at Warrington.

It was a little disappointing to hear of Hugh Waddell's dispute with the club, but unfortunately this can be one of the problems associated with progressing into the 'big league'. I hope the matter can be amicably resolved soon and I'm certain we all hope it does not have an unsettling affect on either Hugh or the team.

You can't keep Rugby League out of the headlines this season, can you? We have now progressed to the House of Commons ('Hear, hear' I say). Labour MP Ian McCartney is about to form a group to protect and promote the sport in Westminster's corridors of power and I'm sure all supporters wish him well in his quest.

It is about time Rugby League appeared in a more positive light and any move in this direction is to be applauded. More good news comes from the BBC who are to present a new sports programme, starting on March 4 on BBC 2, which they say will lean heavily towards Rugby League. We've all heard this before, of course, so we will just have to wait and see.

Keep smiling and supporting. We'll get there eventually!

JACK DEARDEN

NEXT HOME MATCH

Sunday March 6
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IN THE

Manchester Evening News



COMMERCIAL CORNER

(Development Office Topics with Ray Hill)

IF it is true that success breeds success, then we should be in for a bumper time over the next few weeks in the Commercial Department. Our recruiting figures on Cashline and Lifeline have been exceedingly encouraging in the past few weeks, mainly due to the terrific success of our public relations "team" in going around workshops and factories on a meet-the-people drive.

There is nothing like face-to-face contact. It gives our players the opportunity to witness at first hand how deep runs the affection in the town for the Oldham team and it gives the fans the chance to meet the men they cheer on a Sunday afternoon. It also gives the club the chance to pick up Cashline and Lifeline, and I can assure you it has been working very well indeed!

We will soon have 1,500 Lifeline members and we have been encouraged to such an extent that we are now targeting for 50 new members each week. There are similar targets for Cashline, too. Anyone wishing to join either scheme, or anyone whose firm will let our 'team' go into business premises, please contact us on the hot-line - 626-4501.

There must be many Oldham fans who work at places where the management would welcome a visit. If you are one of them, give us the tip and we will follow up and receive formal permission to come and see you at work. It's all good fun, it keeps the employees happy, and we usually carry out a free draw for Oldham rugby items - club tie, beaker, autographed ball etc - to create additional interest.

On the shop counter, front, we can now report that the long-awaited ski-jackets have arrived at last and we also have new supplies of bags and scarves. The ski-jackets are really smart so do call in at your convenience and take a look.

Finally, don't forget our special sportsmen's luncheon in the social club on Wednesday. Allan Lamb, the Northants and England cricketer, and our own Terry Flanagan will be guest speakers, and Micky Finn will be the comedian. Tickets at £12.50 are still available on 620-4870 but hurry because time is running out - and so are the tickets.

This is our first effort in putting on a sportsmen's lunch, as opposed to a dinner in the evening, and we are confident it is going to prove great value for money and a rip-roaring success.

If you've a couple of hours to spare on Wednesday lunch time why not join us for lunch..with Lamb and 'Flan'.

**We apologise to any
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from the front cover of the
last programme.**

**May we take this
opportunity of thanking
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THE BOSS TALKING...

(A personal view by Oldham coach Eric Fitzsimons)

THERE was an unusual mixture of emotions in the Oldham dressing room at Post Office Road last Sunday after the 8-8 draw - a subdued silence with a few handshakes to Featherstone players; little said on the way in; then a few faltering words from one or two, particularly Tony Morrison and Martin Hall, who were trying hard to get some normality into the atmosphere by kind words of praise and encouragement.



There followed the customary requests for injury reports from me for doctor and physiotherapist and then suddenly the whole room was singing out at the top of their voices, "Hail, hail, the boys are here".

It was as if everyone was waiting for the right show of emotion - afraid of looking happy, in case it was mistaken for apathy. Safer in sadness where there was no blame to be dealt out.

What was the right mood? How are you expected to feel? We knew we had them on toast, and so did Featherstone. Peter Fox is a man I have a great respect for. He said we were the better team and deserved to win and I don't disagree with him. It was a game of "if only's and I don't intend to start the ball rolling here. All I will say is that the players' reaction after the game was good. It showed the right balance of caution and a reason to be optimistic.

Featherstone may have picked up a little bit this week when they read of the injuries to Mick, Hugh, Gaz and Colin, but I can assure you it would take wild horses to stop them playing in this one. I have no doubt as I write this on Monday that they will be running out in six days time.

Featherstone still carry their unbeaten record. They are a fine side, they will make it a fine game and the team that wants to win most on the day will triumph. The message is clear - we make no team changes, we make minor adjustments to our tactics, and most important we aim to turn the breaks into points.

Fox, Bell and Steadman were key players last weekend and they can expect far more attention than they got last week. We missed 25 tackles last week and that is poor by our standards. We don't intend repeating it this week. The Oldham players know what is expected of them.

A big thanks once more to our travelling supporters who swelled the Featherstone crowd to 3,500 on the day. Great stuff. Keep shouting. We all appreciate it!

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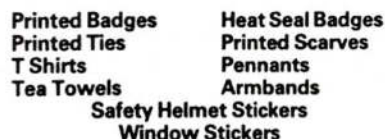
	APPTS (inc.Subs) T	G	DG	PTS
Atkinson K.	7	1	27	58
Irving R.	9	1	-	4
Hawkyard C.	21	3	-	12
Meadows K.	26	10	-	40
Edwards J.	6	-	1	2
Peters S.	13	-	-	-
Kirwan P.	9	2	-	8
Sherratt I.	4	1	-	4
Sanderson I.	21	4	-	16
Waddell H.	24	6	-	24
Worrall M.	6	2	2	12
Graham M.	26	6	-	24
Flanagan T.	25	4	-	16
Round P.	25	15	-	60
Sherman P.	3	-	-	-
Copeland T.	3	-	-	-
Morrison T.	5	-	-	-
Bardsley M.	9	-	-	-
Marsden R.	1	-	-	-
Burke M.	19	4	4	25
Walsh P.	21	7	58	144
Bates I.	3	1	-	4
Clawson N.	21	2	-	8
McCarthy B.	17	10	-	40
Foy D.	16	8	-	32
Robinson S.	8	1	-	4
Nadiola T.	3	-	-	-
Warnecke G.	15	6	-	24
Myler C.	3	-	-	-
Hall M.	3	2	-	8
Ford M.	7	1	-	4
McAlister C.	6	3	1	14
Lord P.	2	1	-	4
Casey L.	3	-	-	-

LAMB FOR LUNCH

A corny headline, maybe - and certainly a direct lift from the Oldham Chronicle. But we couldn't think of a more appropriate way to advertise the club's big sportsmen's lunch in the social club on Wednesday, March 2 when Northants and England cricketer Allan Lamb will be the chief speaker. Terry Flanagan will also speak. Perhaps there should be a second line to the headline: 'Flan for sweet!' Micky Finn will be the comedian and tickets priced at £12.50 are available in the commercial department ('phone 620-4870).

Telex:
627135

And Traditional Sunday Lunch



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FOLLOW THE 'A' TEAM

OUR young reserve side picked up its sixth consecutive win with an impressive 44-12 victory at Huddersfield to complete three wins over the Fartown men in successive matches. One of these was in the Alliance Cup which earned us the right to play the formidable Widnes side - leaders of the Alliance first division - round two at Naughton Park last Tuesday night. Unfortunately, the programme goes to press earlier than that so we are unable to report how we fared in our big cup test.

We scored eight tries at Fartown with winger Chris Myler leading the way. He grabbed a hat-trick in an impressive performance and other try scorers were Tony Morrison, Trevor Croston, Mick Bardsley, Paul Sherman and Paddy Kirwan, starting his comeback after a long absence with a broken leg.

Chris Myler landed two goals, Martin Hall tacked on four more and there were eye-catching displays from Myler, Kirwan, Bardsley and Morrison, while Ian Sherratt also showed that his comeback is continuing to make progress.

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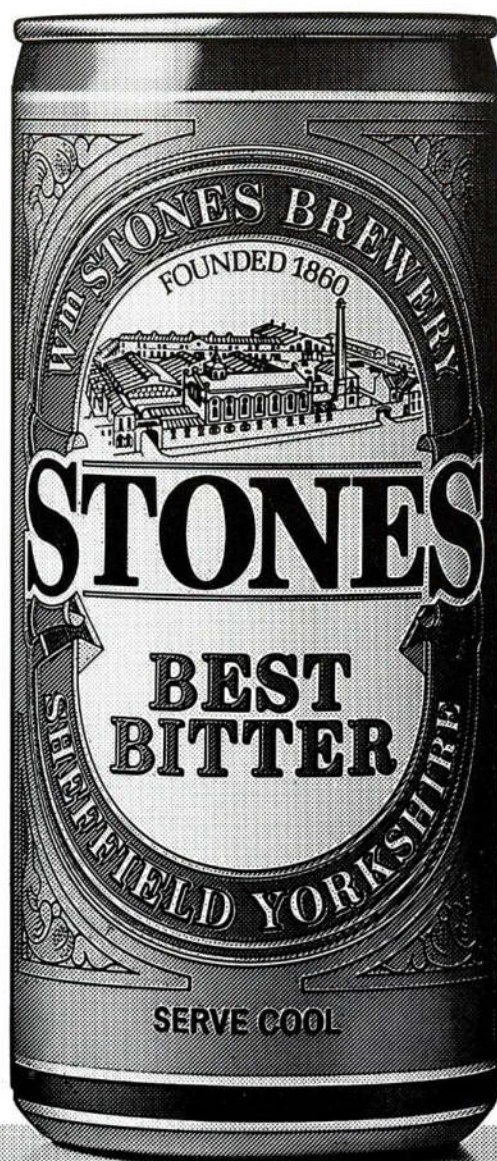
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DIRECT FROM THE BOARD

(A regular feature in which a member of the board takes you behind the scenes)

THIS WEEK - GREG PACHE



A share issue update occupies my thoughts this week because I know all supporters are keen to be kept informed of the latest developments. I am sorry to have to report yet another delay in our quest to sell shares in Oldham RLFC.

There are still problems arising from the old member's club which date back to the start of the century and the 1930s. It is taking time to sort everything out. Old records need scrutinising and deciphering and as you all know the professional institutions are not the quickest organisations in the world, even when you shout.

However, it should not be long now and there will be a members' meeting called in the not-too-distant future at which our professional people will be present to explain all the implications regarding the P.L.C.

Thanks for your patience and keep up the terrific support.

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WATERSHEDDINGS SURVEY

(News and views from inside the club)

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie McAlister on signing a three-year contract. We wish Charlie well in his future with Oldham and trust that he will continue to enjoy a new game. The big 'fella has impressed in his trials and the way he was playing it was only a matter of time before he became a fully-fledged professional. Unfortunately, we had to release Bryan McCarthy to comply with the overseas quota but we are hoping to re-register him if we can show that Charlie is of Scottish descent, as we feel sure we can.

*Agreement has also been reached with Neil Clawson on a contract covering the rest of this season and all of next. Again, congratulations are due to Neil. We are confident he can do well in the top flight next season and continue the progress he has made this year.

*On the Terry Flanagan benefit front, Terry would like to thank the people who have donated various items for his benefit. These items, including Test programmes, will act as raffle prizes during the year and Terry would like to hear from anyone who could similarly donate a prize or two.

Also to commemorate his benefit year, Terry is producing a large, glossy brochure which will be full of interesting reading, following his career through schools, amateur football and finally on his years at Oldham. He intends to make the brochure a 'good read' thanks to quiz pages and competitions, as well as tributes to people who have helped his career along.

He would also like to hear from potential advertisers, who would be interested in a full, half or quarter page advert in the brochure. Terry can be contacted on 633-5231.

*Apologies now to the sponsors for the last home game against Carlisle. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the names of A and J Fabrications, Denis Travis Jewellers, Greenacres Hotel (D.Ferguson) and George Sumner, the main sponsor, were omitted from the front page of the programme. We apologise to the firms and individuals concerned.

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MATCH REPORTS

Oldham v Carlisle

An excellent first-half performance saw Oldham produce a workmanlike 26-4 win over Carlisle to maintain our title challenge. The Cumbrians never stopped working hard and playing with tries by Charlie McAlister, Mal Graham and Terry Flanagan and two goals by Peter Walsh.

The Second half was not quite so good, but further tries were added by Paul Round and Kevin Meadows, with Walsh adding another goal.

Featherstone v Oldham

What a cracker this was! Not many points scored (8-8) but a game fitting the clash of the titans in the Second Division. It had everything - good rugby, tough tackling, thrills and spills, excitement, chances missed and tries disallowed.

Gary Warnecke grabbed our try and Peter Walsh kicked two goals as the scene was set for a stunning return match at Watersheddings today.

ROVERS' RETURN

The return match featuring Oldham and Rovers needs little introduction today in view of our match at Post Office Road last Sunday. Suffice to say that we extend a real Watersheddings welcome to the Rovers board, coaching staff, players and spectators and trust that today's encounter will be just as great a nail biting thriller as last Sunday's game.

Rovers coach Peter Fox is one of the best-known coaches in the game, and players like Chris Bibb, Paul Lyman, Graham Steadman, Deryck Fox, Gary Siddall, Keith Bell, Peter Smith and Steve Quinn are well known to Oldham followers of the game. But watch out for youngsters who may well be playing here for the first time, among them David Sykes, Ian Smales, Paul Hughes and John Bastion.

PRESS BOX CHATTER



For the benefit of Rovers' fans the following is an extract from Roger Halstead's report of the Post Office Road game in the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE.

Slow down, heart, while I draw breath and prepare for the next Second Division title thriller at Watersheddings on Sunday. If it's half as exciting as yesterday's epic battle between Featherstone and Oldham at Post Office Road the return encounter here will be worthy of a box-office hit.

Rugby League at its best gripped Rovers' biggest crowd of the season, produced a match that was full of drama and incident from beginning to end, supplied top-class football and dreadnought tackling, created a cup-tie atmosphere, and fashioned a draw on points with the title rivals still looking for the knock-out punch when battle resumes in six days time.

The draw was the right and proper result, in my view, and the winner was Rugby League thanks to the guts, courage, skill, discipline and sportsmanship of the 26 men who, as we thought they would, turned this crucial match into a First Division classic in everything but the name.

As Wakefield creep into the top spot on points difference and no doubt relish the thoughts of another draw in the return match, Sunday's Oldham-Featherstone showdown assumes even greater importance.

It will be no place for the faint-hearted, believe me!

ROGER HALSTEAD



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CORKY'S COMMENTS

(Iain MacCorquodale on the local scene)

CONGRATULATIONS to Paul Kay of St. Anne's, who has been selected to play for Great Britain under-19s against the French in Toulouse in March. Martin is from a family with a strong rugby tradition and is the latest of a long line of successful players to graduate from the prolific St. Anne's nursery.

Oldham boys playing for Lancashire against Yorkshire at St. Helens had great success. The under-11s, with Damian Munro and Paul Highton starring, won 16-4 while the under-13s, captained by Lee Bradbury, won 32-4 with Phil Russell, Chris Eckersley, Martin Halkyard and Mick Martindale all playing well.

All those involved in the proposed schools' tour to Australia were shattered by the news that the tour may be in some doubt. Suffice to say we are all keeping our fingers crossed. In the meantime fund raising continues and we are grateful to Sophies Choice and Bloomers in Grotton, Zolly Boshers and the Bath Hotel for their much appreciated help in holding recent functions.

The Boxing Night at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was an outstanding success and we are grateful to Gallagher Boys for their organisation and to the following for their sponsorship of bouts.

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Ray Hicks was, as ever, a tremendous MC while the top table was graced by Roger Halstead, Terry Flanagan and Hughie Waddell.

Good promotional work has been undertaken by Mike Ford, who has been coaching Higginshaw's youth sides, and Hugh Waddell, for visiting young Glenn Dunkerley, who had written wishing Hughie all the best for his international games.

Congratulations to Waterhead's under-16 side for clinching their league title. It is no secret that Oldham scout Jack Bowden has been seen watching recent Waterhead youth games.

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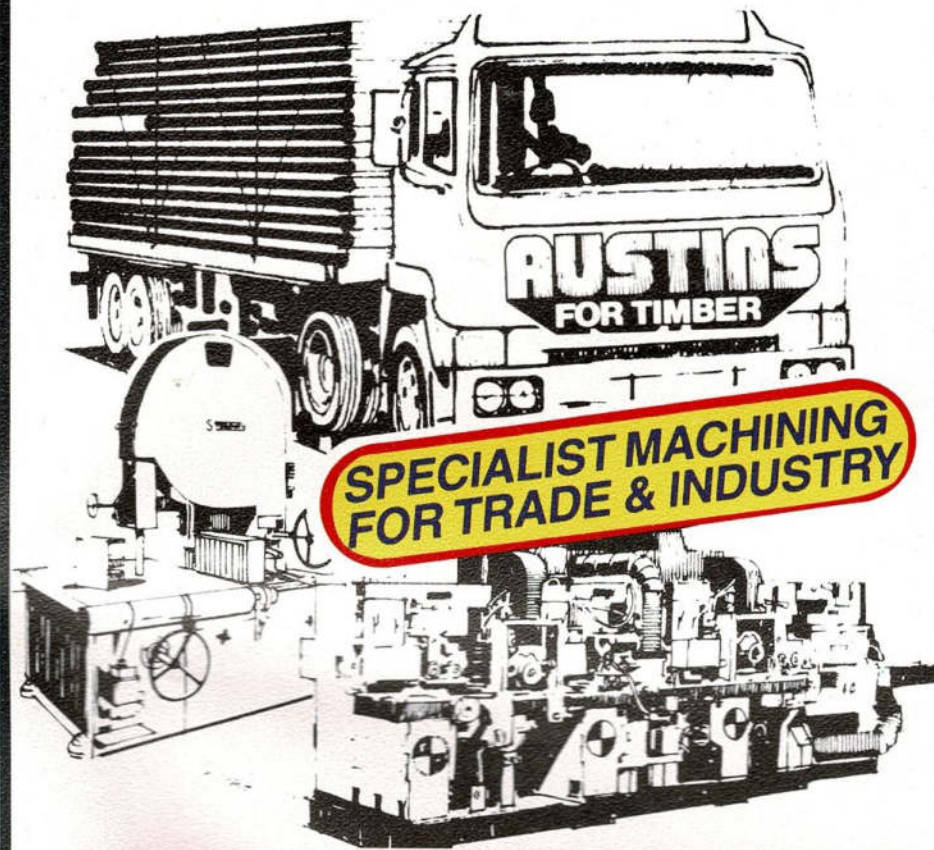
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