

TEAM CHECK

OLDHAM		WIGAN
DUNCAN PLATT	- 1	- SEAN TYRER
STEVE ROBINSON	- 2	- HENDERSON GILL
GARY HYDE	- 3	- GED BYRNE
RICHARD IRVING	- 4	- DEAN BELL
PAUL LORD	- 5	- MARK PRESTON
BRETT CLARK	- 6	- PHIL BLAKE
MIKE FORD	- 7	- SHAUN EDWARDS
LEO CASEY	- 8	- IAN LUCAS
ANDY RUANE	- 9	- MARTIN DERMOTT
JOHN FIELDHOUSE	- 10	- ANDY PLATT
KEITH NEWTON	- 11	- GED STAZIKER
SHAUN ALLEN	- 12	- IAN GILDART
JOHN COGGER	- 13	- ANDY GOODWAY
RICHARD RUSSELL	- 14	- BOBBY GOULDING
JOHN FAIRBANK	- 15	- LES DAVIDSON

Referee: Mr. R. Whitfield (Widnes). Touch Judges: Mr. J. Chamberlain (Orange Flag). Mr. J. Mean (Red Flag)

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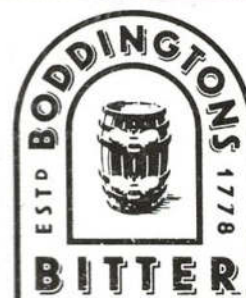
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Record Defeat: 11-67 by Hull K.R., September,
1978

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4th February, 1987

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £65,000 to
St. Helens for Paul Round August 1987 and £65,000
for Mike Ford January 1988

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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Second Division Champions:
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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

Lancashire Shield Winners:
1975-76, 1979-80

Colts Premiership Trophy:
1979-80

Second Division Premiership:
1987-88

WE'RE PUTTING OUR SHIRTS ON OLDHAM



NOBODY needs to tell me that my Oldham boys face a tough one tonight to conquer Wigan ... I believe Wigan will win the Stones Bitter championship, removing the crown from Widnes, because I feel they have the strength in depth to go all the way.

I tipped Wigan for the title before the season began and I see no reason to change my mind now although it is a terrible blow for them to lose players like Ellery Hanley and Andy Gregory for long periods.

They have pace, strength, class and experience ... but at least we know what we have to do tonight if we are to pull off a surprise and move into the final of the Grünhülle Lancashire Cup.

We gave Wigan a few frights in the third round of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last season and then we made a marvellous second-half comeback in the league game at Watersheddings on Easter Monday.

If my memory serves me correctly, we would have gone in front with only a few minutes left if we had not had a Paul Lord try disallowed because the final pass from Duncan Platt was judged to be forward.

I think we are a better side now than we were then and our comprehensive victories at Barrow and St. Helens in the first two rounds of the Lancashire Cup tends to support that point of view.

Some people will say Barrow were very poor and St. Helens were weakened by an injury pile-up.

Barrow were poor ... but we piled up more than 40 points. Saints were weakened, true, but we could not call upon John Henderson, Des Foy, Paul Round and Trevor

Croston — four guys who have a lot of pace — and we didn't just beat them, we demolished them to the tune of 36-6.

The impartial men who decide these things judged my boys to be worthy winners of the performance-of-the-round award in both the first round and the second round. It is good to know that our efforts are coming to the notice of people outside Oldham.

It is gratifying, too, to see so many good things coming from players we have bought in the past few months, such as Duncan Platt, Gary Hyde, John Fieldhouse, Keith Newton, Shaun Allen, Richard Russell and John Cogger.

None of them cost a fortune, on today's market, but they have all settled in well at Watersheddings and our teamwork and dressing room spirit is now second to none.

Brett Clark made his debut at St. Helens after watching our performance from the stands at Barrow, and I know he will strengthen our squad considerably and increase the competition for places around the No. 6 and No. 7 positions.

In this game, a lot can be achieved if the spirit and the attitude are right and in assembling my squad of players over the past few months I have tried to ensure that I have bought players whose attitude is totally honest.

My thoughts on Leo Casey's early-season form have been well chronicled. Leo is coming along in leaps and bounds and much of that is due to his quiet determination to succeed and to his work behind the scenes which the spectators know nothing about.

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TODAY'S

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Welcome to Wigan

THE Graham Lowe days at Central Park are now in the record books, and the new man in charge is Australian John Monie, who has spent several seasons with the famous Parramatta club in Sydney.

Unfortunately, John has not had the best of luck regarding injury problems since he arrived in the North of England for the first time shortly after the start of the season.

Perhaps his biggest setback was to discover that Ellery Hanley had returned from Australia with torn stomach muscles. He has now had surgery, but he is not expected to play before Christmas — a blow not only to Wigan, but to Great Britain's hopes of success in the forthcoming Test series with New Zealand.

Worse was to follow when Joe Lydon (hamstring) and Denis Betts (hamstring) were forced to pull out of the War of the Roses clash and then, during the Lancashire versus Yorkshire game, Andy Gregory and Steve Hampson had to leave the field with worrying injuries.

Gregory has damaged his knee ligaments and, like Hanley, he is unlikely to play for Britain against the Kiwis.

There is a chance that Hampson may be back in action tonight, but one has to recognise that Wigan have had no luck in the first few weeks of the 1989-90 campaign.

They have also lost Kevin Iro and Adrian Shelford, who have joined up with the New Zealanders on tour, but they have moved quickly to replace them with Australian pair Phil Blake and Les Davidson, who will be remembered for their feats with Warrington last season.

Iro and Shelford have been struck off the Wigan register for the duration of the Kiwi tour, thus creating space on Wigan's overseas quota to enlist Blake and Davidson on short-term contracts.

When the tour is finished, Iro and Shelford will be re-instated and Blake and Davidson will be released.



Picture courtesy of Wigan Evening Post

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Flashback . . .

1988/89

Oldham 4, Wigan 12



This nail-biting televised classic could have gone either way as the two teams battled for a place in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-finals on a snowbound Watersheddings pitch. Wigan eventually came out on top despite this Paul Lord try and went on to win the Cup against St. Helens.

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Spotlight on . . COLIN HAWKYARD

THIS coming Friday promises to be a rather special occasion for Colin Hawkyard, one of Oldham's longest-serving and most popular players, who makes his comeback after a long lay-off in the A team against Salford.

Colin, 31, has endured more than his fair share of injuries during his career, including three dislocated shoulders, but nothing was as bad as the shattered leg he suffered last February in an A team match against Bradford at Odsal.

A nasty break like that could have ended the careers of less determined players, but Colin never doubted he would return.

"Finish? Not on your life. I've three seasons to do yet — at least — and when I do retire it will be the saddest day of my life," says the player who has established a reputation for strong and forceful running, dreadnought tackling and an insatiable desire for hard work.

Throughout a long eight months Colin endured without complaint all the frustrations of such a serious injury and is now ready to return to action.

That patience is now being rewarded as the veteran of nearly 200 senior games and countless reserve team appearances prepares to resume his career with Oldham that began way back in 1978 at Alt Park when his two tries helped beat Huyton 25-13.

The Huddersfield electrician also received another reward at the beginning of the season when the club granted him a testimonial in recognition of a decade of loyal service.

Looking back on his time with Oldham, he says: "Eleven years — I've enjoyed every minute. That's the most important thing of all. I can look back and think of so many grand times, so many friends and so much fun."



One match in particular sticks out in Colin's memory as he recalls that dramatic night the Aussies came to Watersheddings expecting an easy victory.

"They didn't count on the Oldham fighting spirit or the incredible vocal support from the terraces that encouraged us to give the Aussies their biggest fight of the tour — and I started the charge with a try."

Another fond memory is the Second Division Premiership final at Old Trafford against Featherstone Rovers when Oldham won a desperately close match.

"My lasting memory of that great, exhausting day is the thousands of deliriously happy Oldham fans who were rejoicing in our victory."

These are the memories that Colin will cherish in the future, although he plans to add a few more before he hangs up his boots — starting this Friday.

A glossy benefit review, aptly titled **"Life in the Hard Lane,"** that tells the Colin Hawkyard story, is available from the Club's Souvenir Shop priced £1.

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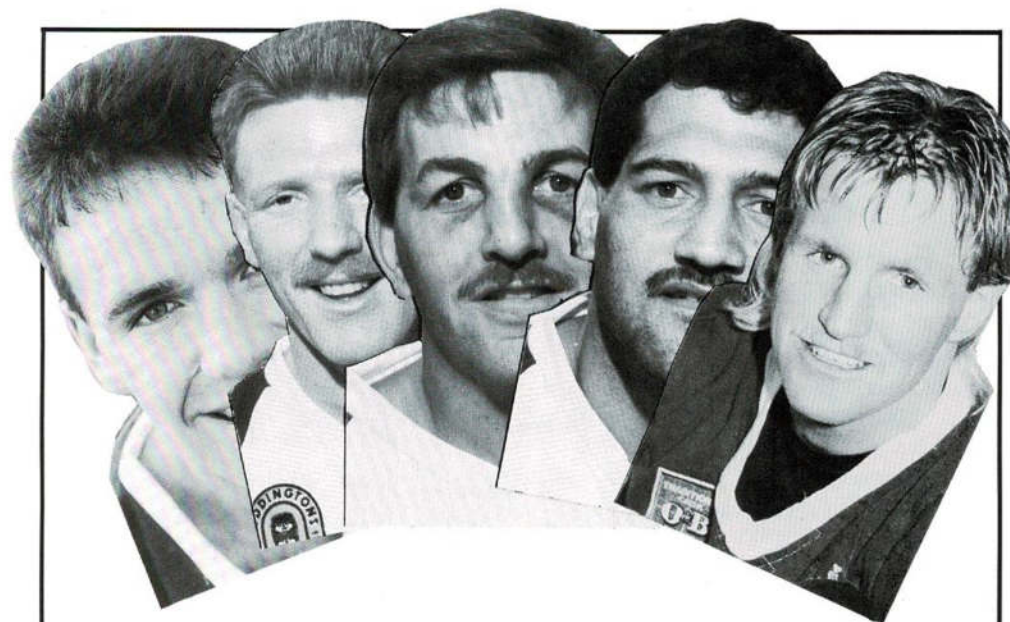
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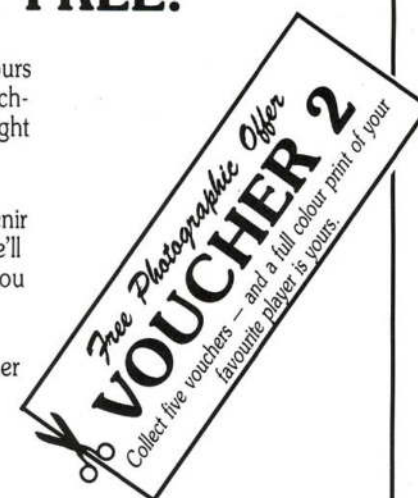
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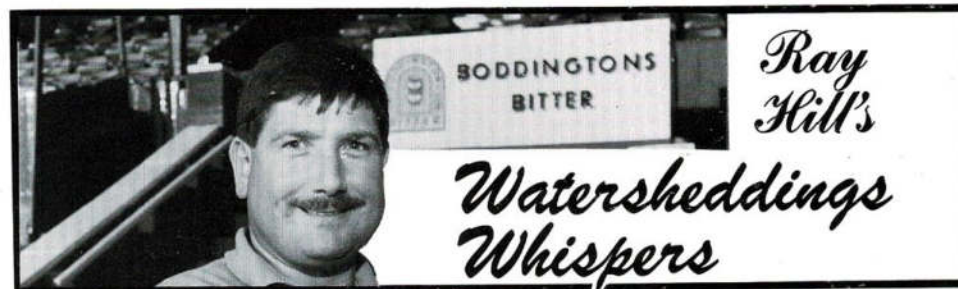


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WHAT a week! A memorable cup victory against St. Helens followed by a hard-fought win — and two invaluable points — against promotion rivals Hull KR. The icing on the cake was the appearance of so many former players who took the applause before the Hull KR game to help celebrate 100 years at the Watersheddings.

And now we're looking forward to tonight's match against Wigan for a place in the Lancashire Cup final!

Busy times like this make you really appreciate what a club like Oldham means to the local community.

All week the atmosphere has been electric with fans clamouring for tickets and sponsors queuing up to do their bit, too.

They realise the value of sponsorship and it is encouraging to see so many wanting to get involved.

We have various sponsorship deals available at the club, all of which represent great value for money. These include executive, match-day and match-ball packages. Anybody interested in getting involved with sponsorship should contact me on 061-620 4870.

Hope you all liked the new-look programme and the eye-catching front cover featuring September's Evening Chronicle OB Man of the Month, Leo Casey, powering through the Workington defence. If you missed out buying a programme at the Hull KR match you can always pop into the club's Souvenir Shop and buy your copy over the counter.

Collecting programmes is a hobby for a lot of Rugby League fans, many of whom belong to the Rugby League Collectors Federation, an organisation that aims to preserve the game's heritage by collecting and exhibiting memorabilia featuring programmes, photos, books and badges.

The Federation runs programme fairs and exhibitions at Rugby League venues throughout the area and is always on the look-out for rare collections or single items to buy or borrow.

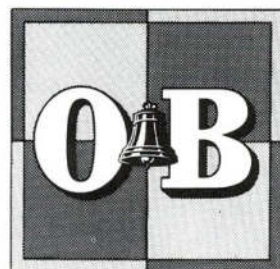
Anybody who wants a copy of the RLCF's catalogue or wants to join the Federation should contact Mike Green, The Rugby League Collectors Federation, 17 Santa Monica Crescent, Idle, Bradford, BD10 8QQ.

On the subject of printed matter, the essential handbook to the 1989/90 Rugby League season — the official Guide — is now available priced £6.50 (including postage and package) from the Public Relations Department, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapel-town Road, Leeds, LS7 4HT. The 240-page publication is packed full of information and represents great value for money.

Talking of great value, our next home match against Halifax on October 15 is going to have one lucky Lifeline member driving off with a brand new luxury £6,000 G-reg car. That could be you, so make sure your subscriptions are fully paid up!

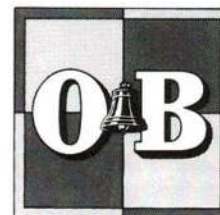


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LEO IS MAN-OF-THE-MONTH

BUSTLING Oldham prop forward Leo Casey is this season's first winner of the Evening Chronicle OB Man of the Month award, which he earned for his outstanding displays against Workington, Halifax, Barrow and St. Helens. His all-action efforts won him this accolade from the Chronicle's Rugby League writer, Roger Halstead.

"Leo has shrugged off neck and thigh injuries to make a massive impact on Oldham's early-season performances.

"His form has been particularly impressive in the two Lancashire Cup wins at Barrow and St. Helens."

Leo, whose presentation was held over because of the 100-year anniversary parade at the Hull

KR game, will receive an inscribed medal, a £100 cheque and a case of Boddingtons bitter to celebrate in traditional style after tonight's game.

OOPS!

IN the Hull KR programme notes, we mentioned that Royton's Church Inn has just been refurbished. Unfortunately, we named the landlord of the OB local as Denis Adams (who runs the Hathershaw Hotel) when, in fact, it is Denis Taylor. Our apologies to all concerned.

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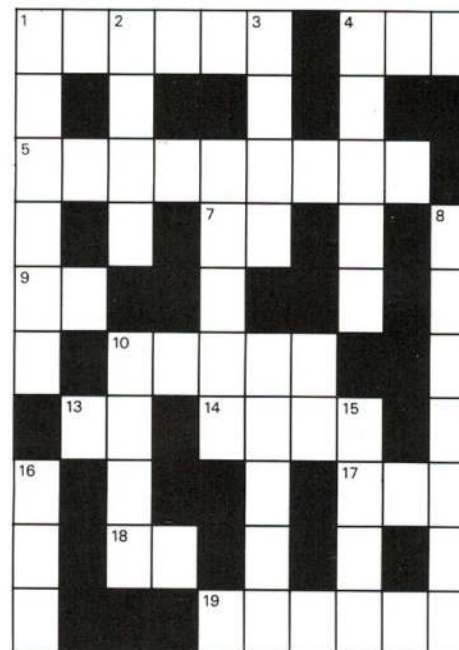
CROSSWORD 2

ACROSS:

1. Cumbrian Amateur Club (6)
4. Hull utility back of the early 80s (3)
5. Des Foy's Sydney League Club (9)
7. Initials of British centre in 3rd Test victory over Aussies in 1988 (1,1)
9. Initials of former Leeds and GB centre (1,1)
10. Halifax and Leeds forward (5)
13. Initials of an Oldham signing from St. Helens (1,1)
14. Many goalkickers use this nowadays (4)
17. _____ Park, former home of Huyton (3)
18. Roger Millward has served this Hull Club for many years (1,1)
19. Steve _____, former Castleford winger (6)

DOWN:

1. St. Helens former Welsh prop (6)
2. Manly-Warringah coach for 1990 (4)
3. Vince _____, former referee (4)
4. Frank _____, Oldham star of the 50s (5)
6. Former Widnes and GB loose-forward (5)
8. Coach of all-conquering Kangaroos in 1982 (7)
10. Aussie Test full-back of the 80s (4)
11. Will this bird be seen at Owlerton this season? (5)
12. Initials of former Salford and GB scrum-half (1,1)
15. The Old _____, Aussie expression for the British Isles (4)
16. _____ Casey (3)





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11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

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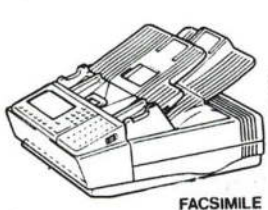
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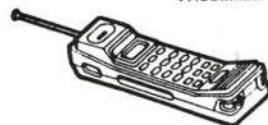
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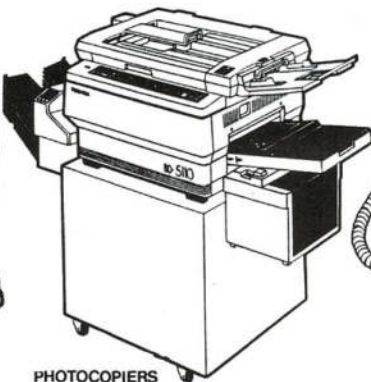
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Workaholic Shaun Allen touches down to score Oldham's fifth try as the team powered its way to an emphatic 36-6 victory over First Division St. Helens in the Lancashire Cup.



Oldham skipper, John Cogger, scores for the fourth consecutive match as he dives over the line against St. Helens.

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Fixtures and Statistics

Date	Opponents	V	KO	P	Res	F-A	Tries	Goals	Att
Sep 3	Workington T	H	3.00	11	W	40-8	Henderson (2), Cogger (2), McAlister, Lord, Ruane, Russell	Platt (4)	3,743
	10 Halifax	A	3.00	11	L	12-22	Platt, Cogger	Platt (2)	8,612
	16 Barrow (Lancs Cup)	A	2.30		W	46-2	Lord (2), Ford, Casey, Platt (2), Allen, Hyde, Cogger	Platt (5)	2,300
	27 St. Helens (Lancs Cup)	A	7.30		W	36-6	Robinson, Ford, Platt, Cogger, Allen, Newton	Platt (6)	7,834
Oct 1	Hull KR	H	3.00	12	W	12-4	Lord	Platt (4)	5,797
	8 Runcorn H	A	3.00						
15	Halifax	H	3.00						
22	Carlisle	A	2.30						
29	Batley	H	3.00						
Nov 5	Doncaster	A	3.00						
12	Keighley	H	3.00						
19	Fulham	A	2.30						
26	Doncaster	H	3.00						
Dec 3	Regal Trophy (1)								
	10 Regal Trophy (2)								
	17 Workington T	A	2.30						
	26 Rochdale H	A	3.00						
Jan 1	Swinton	H	3.00						
7	Hunslet	H	3.00						
14	Hull KR	A	3.00						
21	Chorley	A	3.00						
28	Silk Cut Challenge Cup								
Feb 4	Fulham	H	3.00						
	11 Challenge Cup 2nd Rnd								
18	Chorley	H	3.00						
25	Keighley	A	3.15						
Mar 4	Huddersfield	H	3.00						
	11 Batley	A	2.30						
18	Runcorn	H	3.00						
25	Huddersfield	A	3.00						
Apr 1	Hunslet	A	3.30						
8	Carlisle	H	3.00						
13	Swinton	A	3.00						
16	Rochdale	H	3.00						

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Appearances and Scorers

1989/90 SEASON

	P	Sub	G	D	T	Pts
Shaun Allen.....	5	0	0	0	2	8
Leo Casey.....	5	0	0	0	1	4
Neil Clawson.....	0	1	0	0	0	0
John Cogger.....	5	0	0	0	5	20
Trevor Croston.....	1	1	0	0	0	0
John Fairbank.....	0	3	0	0	0	0
John Fieldhouse.....	5	0	0	0	0	0
Mick Ford.....	5	0	0	0	2	8
John Henderson.....	2	0	0	0	2	8
Gary Hyde.....	5	0	0	0	1	4
Richard Irving.....	3	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Lord.....	5	0	0	0	4	16
Charlie McAlister.....	3	0	0	0	1	4
Keith Newton.....	5	0	0	0	1	4
Duncan Platt.....	5	0	20	0	4	56
Andy Ruane.....	4	0	0	0	1	4
Steve Robinson.....	2	3	0	0	1	4
Richard Russell.....	3	2	0	0	1	4

Division Two League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rydale York.....	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	122	44	8
Fulham.....	4	2	0	0	60	15	2	0	0	28	14	8
Rochdale.....	5	2	0	0	72	42	2	0	1	94	69	8
Batley.....	5	2	0	1	58	41	2	0	0	32	12	8
Halifax.....	3	2	0	0	58	24	1	0	0	72	20	6
Doncaster.....	4	2	0	1	86	36	1	0	0	12	2	6
Swinton.....	5	1	0	1	56	21	2	0	1	72	56	6
Huddersfield.....	5	1	0	2	36	39	2	0	0	76	22	6
Keighley.....	5	2	0	1	98	90	1	0	1	31	41	6
Hull KR.....	3	1	0	0	48	8	1	0	1	54	28	4
OLDHAM	3	2	0	0	52	12	0	0	1	12	22	4
Dewsbury.....	4	1	0	1	41	23	1	0	1	41	56	4
Hunslet.....	6	1	0	2	50	73	1	0	2	44	48	4
Workington.....	4	1	0	1	32	64	1	0	1	29	56	4
Carlisle.....	3	1	0	0	54	14	0	0	2	28	80	2
Trafford.....	3	1	0	1	64	43	0	0	1	8	48	2
Whitehaven.....	6	1	0	2	60	81	0	0	3	42	74	2
Chorley.....	4	1	0	2	33	54	0	0	1	4	48	2
Bramley.....	4	0	0	2	19	58	0	0	2	26	52	0
Nottingham.....	4	0	0	2	32	95	0	0	2	27	71	0
Runcorn.....	5	0	0	2	0	51	0	0	3	30	146	0

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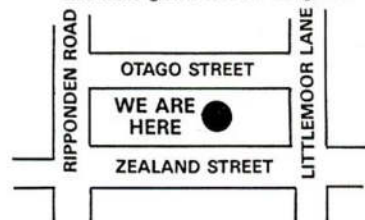
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Terrace Talk

WELL, what a prospect ... a semi-final date with one of the best Rugby League teams in the world, and coming so early in the season.

Already we have two first division scalps under our belt — the victories at Barrow and St. Helens, and both of them away — so it's especially rewarding to be drawn at home this evening. Another incentive for Oldham being an opportunity to gain some revenge for our Lancashire Cup Final defeat against Wigan a couple of years ago. There are also two ex-Wigan players appearing for Oldham — Mike Ford, who notched a try against Oldham in that Lancashire Cup Final defeat, and, of course, Richard Russell joined the Roughyeds during the close season.

Oldham have not won the Lancashire Cup for thirty-one years, but the odds offered of 50-1 before the 1st Round must have considerably shortened with those two superb victories; the one against Saints being particularly sweet for John Fieldhouse.

And what a way to start for new signing Brett Clarke, who after settling in should provide more options from the crucial stand-off position, which in all fairness does seem to have been something of a problem position for Oldham in the past.

Tonight's problem, though, is Wigan, who are going for a record-bursting fifth Lancashire Cup Final appearance. A truly remarkable record even by Wigan's own high standards who have once again proved their total commitment to achiev-

ing even more success by replacing established players Kevin Iro and Adrian Shelford (who have now joined the Kiwi tour) by bringing over Phil Blake and Les Davidson to supplement their already star-studded squad. But Oldham, with home advantage and a big crowd, will be out to spring a surprise as they did on that unforgettable night at Watersheddings when they knocked Wigan out of the Challenge Cup. However, all that is history now and it's the next 80 minutes that count. Tony Barrow will have his boys well prepared and John Monie will have the Wigan lads motivated to achieve that Lancashire Cup record.

Further spice is added (as if it's needed) by the return to Watersheddings of former player Andy Goodway, who is beginning to hit the type of form that prompted Wigan to sign him. So an emotion-charged atmosphere awaits the players with many of them having the ability to be potential match-winners.

Wigan will be heartened by their 12-4 victory in last season's Challenge Cup, but Oldham have had a great confidence-booster by beating Hull KR on Sunday by the same score. In a recent interview Oldham coach Tony Barrow told me, "The main task is to put Oldham back where they belong in the 1st division, and if we can get a good draw in the cup competitions we might just make it into a major cup final. You never know your luck!" — the next 80 minutes should provide the answer.

Enjoy your rugby!

Jack Dearden

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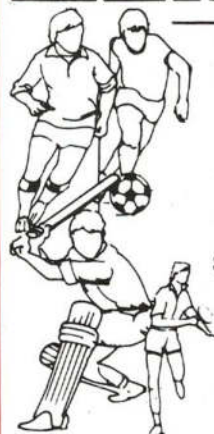
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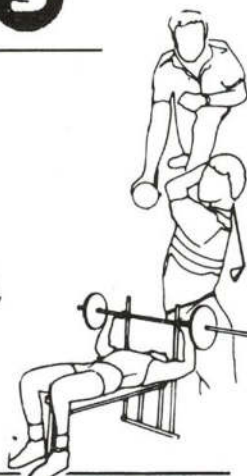
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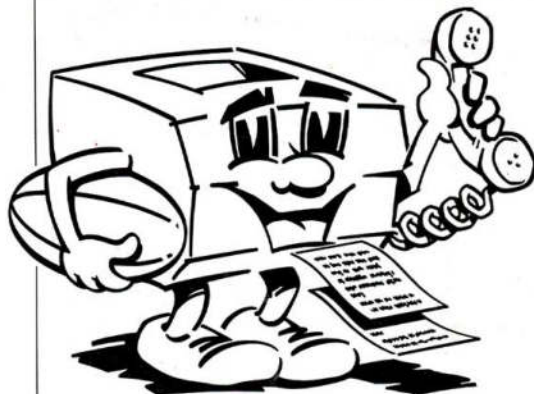
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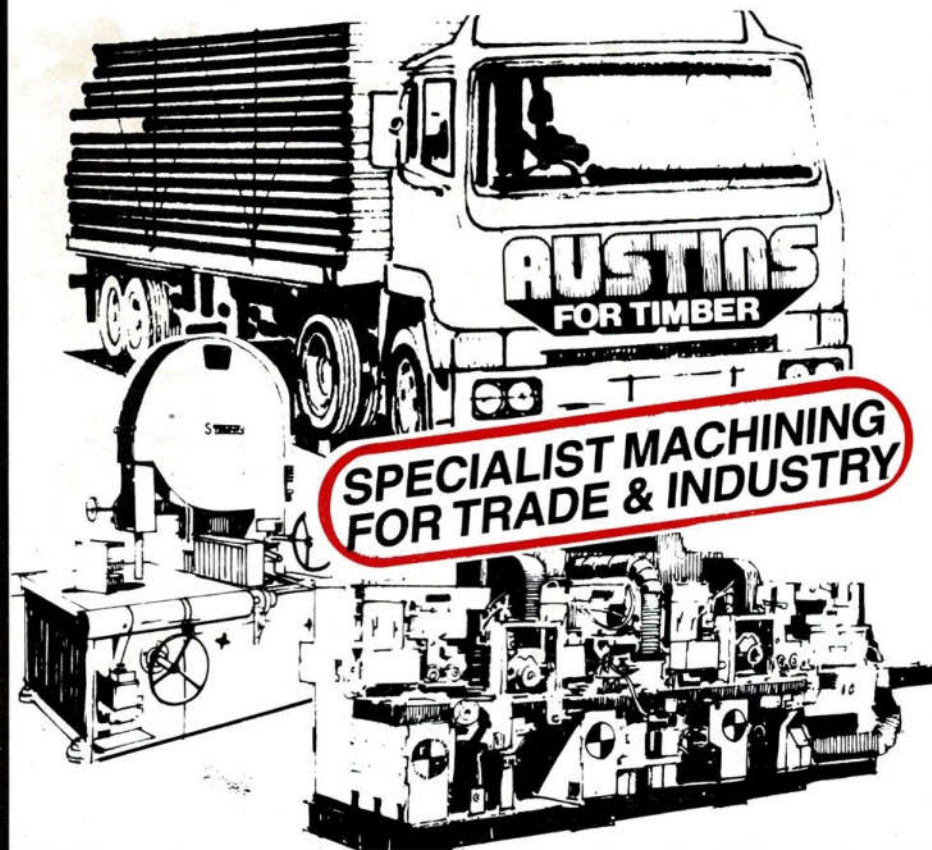
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