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John THOMPSON
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Gary PRICE
Nigel BELL
Richard SLATER

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OLDHAM

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G T P

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Richard IRVING
Tommy MARTYN
Ronnie DUANE
Paul LORD
Brett CLARK
Mike FORD
Derrick PYKE
Andy RUANE
Keith NEWTON
Paul ROUND
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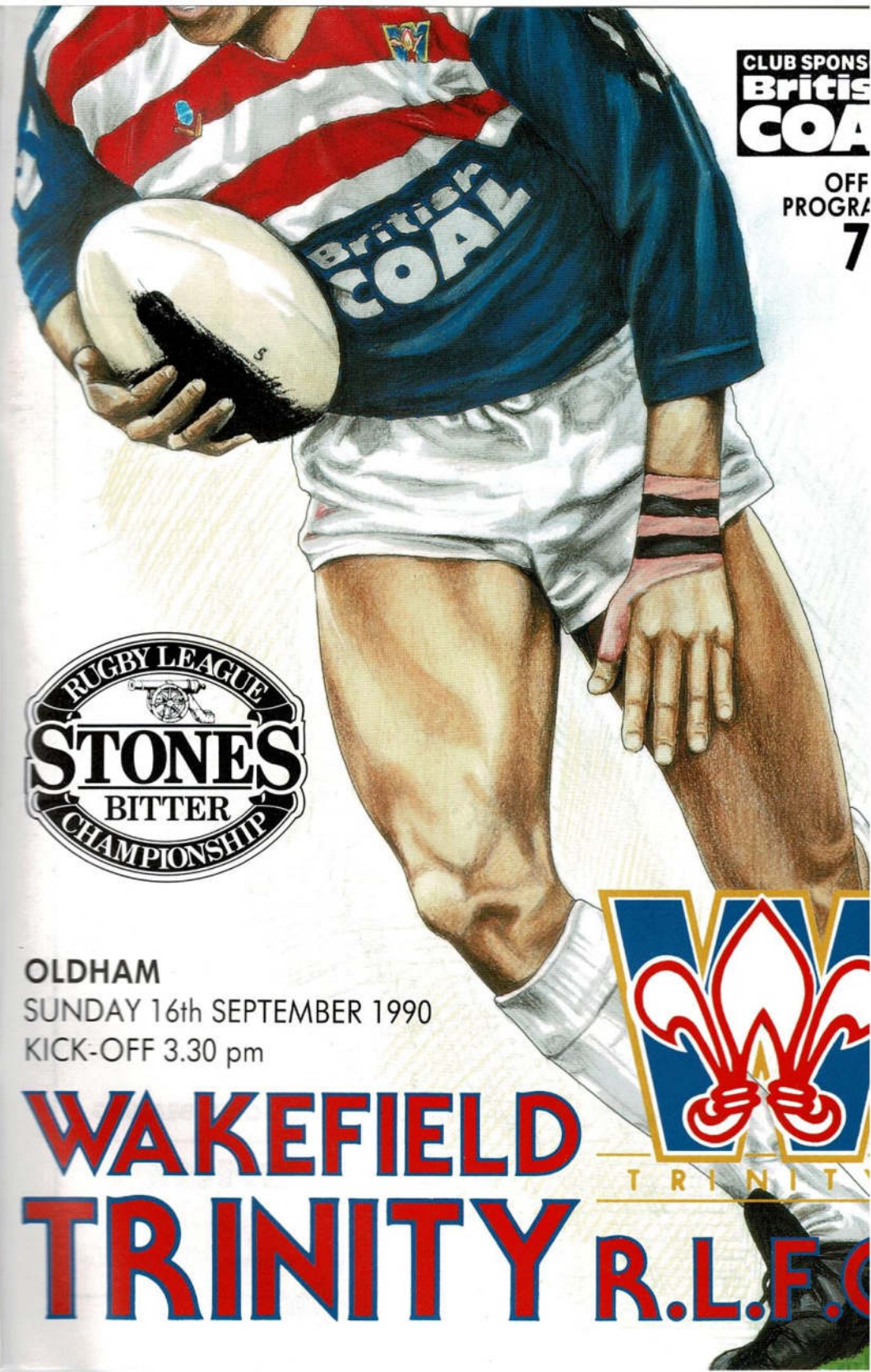
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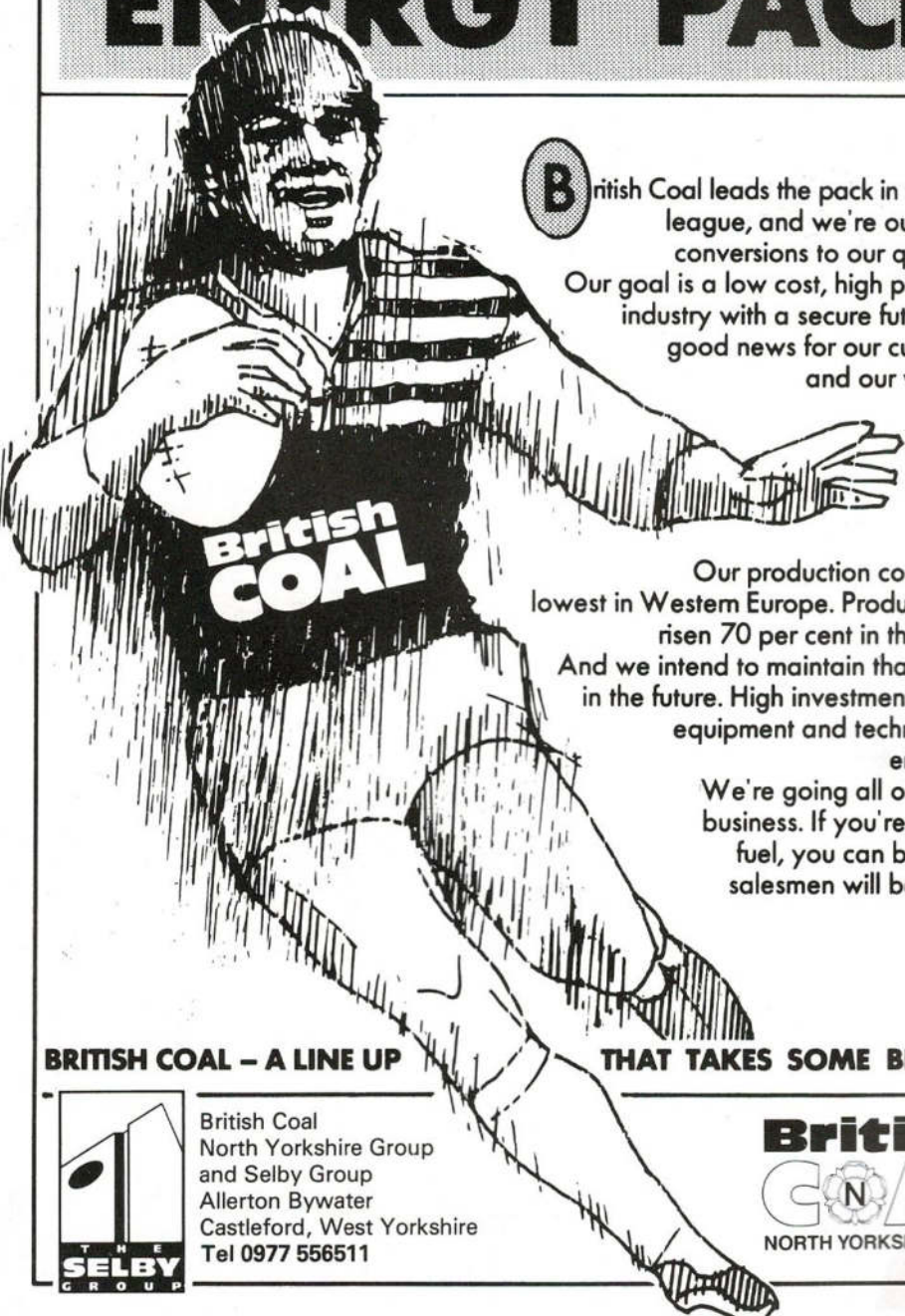
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- Supporters Club

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THE DAVID TOPLISS COLUMN

Welcome back to Belle Vue for yet another home game - our fifth in a row. There is no truth in the rumour that Trinity don't have to play away matches this season, and our first will be for the opening of Sheffield's new Don Valley Stadium on Wednesday, 26 September, kick off 8 pm



Prior to our visit to Sheffield, of course, we have two very important dates, with this afternoon's home fixture against Oldham being followed by our first Yorkshire Cup Final clash for sixteen years, against Castleford at Elland Road.

It's a marvellous feeling to have taken Trinity to their first major Final since the 1979 Wembley Final - let's hope it's more successful than that occasion and that it's the first of many for a team which is improving steadily each week.

Everyone has been quick to point out that Wakefield have enjoyed the luck of the draw in the Yorkshire Cup - and no one here is disputing that fact. But it was overdue and we still had the games to win. We've won them all convincingly - although no one is kidding themselves that everything is rosy - and against Dewsbury, I felt we won with something to spare.

Dewsbury came out fired up as expected, but we matched them for commitment and even the disruption caused by Mark Conway's unlucky injury absence worked in our favour. Chris Perry was outstanding in his first appearance at scrum-half and must have run the official man of the match, Billy Conway, very closely for the award.

Chris has proved a very handy man to have around this season and has developed into the kind of utility man which all successful sides seem to have. Look around the league, at all the leading clubs, and you'll see quality utility men like Fed Byrne (Wigan), Barry Dowd (Widnes) and Jeff Hardy, at Castleford, performing outstandingly in a variety of roles.

The prospect of playing Castleford at Elland Road does not frighten me because I have

always done well at the ground during my career. It's been a lucky ground, with a number of successes there during my career with Hull. And, we've no reason to fear Castleford after completing a league double over them last season.

But the very fact that Wakefield Trinity's will be appearing in a final is sure to increase awareness in the progress we are making.

It is a fitting reward for the long-serving clubmen at Belle Vue - John Thompson, Nigel Bell, Billy Conway and Phil Eden - and it also offers an early taste of the big time for youngsters like Gary Price, Richard Slater, Lynton Morris and David Jones. And Kevin Harcombe couldn't have timed his comeback better, could he?

Firstly though, there is the little matter of facing Oldham this afternoon. None of us would swap two points for a Yorkshire Cup win, because First Division survival, and ultimate prosperity, is always uppermost in our plans. Cup success is a bonus - but one which we will readily accept.

Oldham were Second Division Premiers last season. They also contested the Lancashire Cup final and went within eighty minutes of appearing in their first Wembley Final. In Tony Barrow they have one of the most demanding coaches in the business and Oldham will be a test for any side in the top flight.

Significantly they gave Leeds a hiding last week, to stone for their Lancashire cup setback at Salford, and they will be looking to surprise Trinity this afternoon. We will be just as keen for the two points.

Hopefully, our success in the Yorkshire Cup will attract new and old supporters to Belle Vue. Our crowds are continuing to improve and we sincerely hope that the people of Wakefield turn out in force to watch us in next Sunday's Elland Road Final.

It will be an occasion not to be missed and the players will be doing everything within their powers to win Trinity's first trophy in 22 years.

On a personal note, I'd like to welcome to Belle Vue the many friends I made during a happy spell with Oldham - it's great to see the famous old club back in the big time, where they belong.

Thanks for your support

David Topliss

FIXTURES • RESULTS • SCORES

DATE	OPPONENT	V	F	A	ATT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
26 Aug	Hunslet (Y Cup 1)	H	28-18	4,500		Harcombe 11, 4G	Wilson	Mason	Eden	Jones	Perry 11	M. Conway 11 Potts	Walker	Walker	Thompson	Lozenby	Price 11	Slater 11	Goddard	Morris
2 Sept	Halifax (Y Cup 2)	H	26-17	6,492		H'combe 5G	Perry	Mason	Eden	Jones	Lozenby	M. Conway 11 Potts	Walker	Walker	Thompson 11 Kelly 11	Price 11	Slater	Wilson	Bell	
9 Sept	Rochdale H.	H	42-6	4,024		H'combe 7G	Wilson 1	Mason 2	Eden 2	Jones	Perry	M. Conway Thompson	B. Clancy	B. Clancy	Glancy	Lozenby	Price	Bell 1	Slater	Morris
12 Sept	Dewsbury (Y Cup S)	H	25-2	5,440		H'combe 4G	Jones	Mason 1	Eden 4	Wilson 1	Lozenby	DC Perry 1	Thompson	B. Conway	Glancy	Kelly	Price	Bell 1	Slater	Morris
16 Sept	Oldham	H	3-30																	
23 Sept	Castleford (Y Cup F)	A	7-30																	
26 Sept	Sheffield E.	A	7-30																	
30 Sept	Hull KR	A	3-00																	
10 Oct	Australia	H	7-30																	
14 Oct	Castleford	A	3-30																	
21 Oct	Widnes	H	3-30																	
27 Oct	GB v Australia	2-30																		
4 Nov	Hull	H	3-30																	
11 Nov	Warrington	A	3-00																	
25 Nov	Wigan	H	3-30																	
2 Dec	Regal T. Round 1																			
9 Dec	Regal T. Round 2																			
16 Dec	Bradford N.	A	3-00																	
26 Dec	Featherstone R.	A	3-30																	
1 Jan	Featherstone R.	H	3-30																	
6 Jan	St Helens	A	3-00																	
13 Jan	Warrington	H	3-30																	
20 Jan	Oldham	A	3-00																	
27 Jan	Castleford	H	3-30																	
3 Feb	Widnes	A	3-00																	
10 Feb	Challenge Cup (1)																			
17 Feb	Sheffield E	H	3-30																	
24 Feb	Challenge Cup (2)																			
3 Mar	Wigan	A	3-00																	
10 Mar	Hull KR	H	3-30																	
17 Mar	Hull	A	3-15																	
24 Mar	Bradford N.	H	3-30																	
29 Mar	Leeds	A	7-30																	
1 Apr	Leeds	H	3-30																	

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TODAY'S VISITORS

Oldham visit Belle Vue for the first time in almost exactly two years, this afternoon, looking for their second league win at the start of their return to the First Division. A tremendous 32 - 22 Watersheddings defeat of Leeds erased the memory of a surprise Lancashire Cup setback at Salford.

Tony Barrow's men are back in the First Division after finishing third in the promotion race, going on to win the Old Trafford Premiership Final for the second time in three seasons, with one of the most amazing comebacks ever seen in a major Final. It was consolation after a season in which they came so close to winning the Lancashire Cup and reaching Wembley for the first time in their history.

Each time, Barrow's men were denied by his former Warrington club, and they desperately want to succeed at First Division level this season, after a yo-yo existence over the past four seasons. Only uncharacteristic end-of-season slip-ups at Workington (14 - 21) and Swinton (12 - 15) cost them a fourth Division Two championship triumph.

This afternoon's Oldham line-up is certain to show wholesale changes to that which drew here 12 - 12 in October 1988. No more than five of that team remain in contention for a place, following a summer in which the shrewd Barrow's has signed such seasoned professionals as Derek Pyke, Ronnie Duane, Austin Donegan and Norman Francis.

Full-back Duncan Platt was a member of the Widnes side which eclipsed St. Helens 38 - 14 in the 1988 Premiership Final, and he landed a goal as the Chemics completed a Championship/Premiership 'double'. Platt kicked 126 goals for Oldham in his most consistent season to date, impressing with a fine attacking display in their Cup semi-final defeat by Warrington and starting the new season with four goals against Leeds.

Winger Richard Irving was an influential member of the promotion-winning squad throughout 1989/90. The ex-Moldgreen winger scored 17 tries, including one in the Lancashire Cup Final, Oldham's solitary effort in the Cup semi-final defeat at the hands of Warrington, their only try in a 9 - 6 victory over Hull KR, at Craven Park and one against the Robins at Old Trafford.

Ex-Leigh centre John Henderson recovered from an early-season injury to score 17 tries, including one in the Premiership victory over Hull KR. Winger Paul Lord weighed in with 29 touchdowns to finish top try scorer in Oldham's fifth promotion-winning season since the re-introduction of two division football in 1973. Lord grabbed a vital effort in the Old Trafford defeat of Hull KR.

New Zealander Charlie McAlister remains one of the most popular players to play for Oldham. Having scored 8 tries and 16 goals last term, he has made a successful transition from centre to second row where his blockbusting running wreaked havoc against Leeds and brought a decisive try. Another 'survivor', although he did not face Leeds, is ex-Great Britain centre Des Foy, who returned to the club following a brief, unhappy spell with Newcastle Knights in Australia. Foy's tally of 10 tries included a five-try spree in the home defeat of Hunslet.

Michael Ford is another mainstay, continuing to look one of the best scrum-halves in the business, having benefitted from the experience of touring Australasia with the 1988 Lions party. His scoring contribution last season was limited to 8 tries and 2 drop goals, but the former Wigan and Leigh man created so many more.

Former St Helens and Great Britain Under 21 international back-rower Paul Round, a makeshift full-back or winger two years ago, is back in his more familiar second-row position, where he gained Under 21 honours in 1984.

The strong-running Round scored two impressive tries in Oldham's all-important Easter Monday 30 - 2 defeat of neighbouring promotion-rivals Rochdale Hornets.

Play-anywhere former Wigan star Richard Russell, was a substitute last week, being an outstanding utility back whilst at Central Park, and a former Great Britain Colts and Under 21 players. He operated with equal success as hooker or loose-forward last season, scoring eight tries.

Second-rower Shaun Allen substituted for Mal Meninga, when St. Helens defeated Hull KR in the 1985 Premiership Final against Hull KR, and again made a substitution appearance in their 1988 final against Widnes. Allen is a former Under 21 international and operates equally well at centre or back-row.

Former Great Britain front or back-row forward John Fieldhouse arrived at Watersheddings via spells with Warrington, Widnes and St. Helens, and includes 1987 and 1989 Wembley Finals among four major finals.

His career has also brought him seven Great Britain caps, including one at Old Trafford in the First Test against the Australian touring team, four years ago.

17-try Australian Brett Clark has re-produced the form, for Oldham, that made him a shrewd St. Helens capture from Western Suburbs four seasons ago, when he appeared in the Wembley Cup final. It was his interception try which gave Oldham their early lead last Sunday.

OLDHAM



Paul Round

A leading try-scorer for Oldham, and one of three contenders for the Second Division Player of the Year award he won whilst with Runcorn Highfield three years ago, was dynamic Australian loose-forward John Cogger. His 24 tries included a hat-trick at home to Hunslet and Oldham are delighted that he returned to

Watersheddings after protracted contract negotiations appeared to have borken down. influence is vital.

Ex-Leeds prop-forward John Fairbank came Oldham in a 1988 deal which took Test front-rower Hugh Waddell to Headingley. He has matured into an outstanding forward in his own right, showing the form that won him amateur international honours, with scoring 8 tries on the promotion trail.

Andy Ruane arrived at Oldham after spells with Widnes and Rochdale Hornets, and was a stalwart performer in last season's desperate fight against relegation, scoring 4 tries and 15 goals. This season in competition with Russell, he has scored eight tries.

Keith Newton is another former Widnes player, who has responded to the regular opportunity of first-team football. The undoubted highlight of the second-rower's impressive season was the scoring Oldham's match-winning Cup quarter-final try - one of seven in 1989/90 - against his former Widnes colleagues.

While Barrow leaned heavily on experience in his quest for an instant return to Division One, he has blooded some of the finest young prospects in the game - such as teenagers Neil Flanagan and Tre Croston, with his son Tony, Chris Joynt and Richard Blackman also waiting in the wings.

The best of the prospects, though, is goalkick centre Tommy Martyn, son of the former Leigh and Warrington forward of the same name. The teenage influence altered the nature of the Old Trafford Premiership final last May, and he was man of the match against Leeds last weekend. Martyn should be a Great Britain Under 21 international this season.

And the man who led Warrington to 1990 Premiership success, strengthened his squad with the acquisition of Halifax's match-winning Australian utility back Tony Anderson, but saw the player Australian carried off with a broken ankle at Workington last April. Anderson's future is still doubtful after complications.

They will be hoping that Derek Pyke, the former Leigh, Widnes and Lancashire County prop, recovers quickly from the knee injury sustained against Leeds while 1984 tourist Ronnie Duane is due an injury-free run after endless problems dogged his promising career at Warrington.

The 'Roughyeds' won all fourteen Division Two matches at the Watersheddings, and few teams will relish visiting there in 1990/91. But the key to the survival could be their away form and that's what makes this afternoon's contest such an intriguing one.

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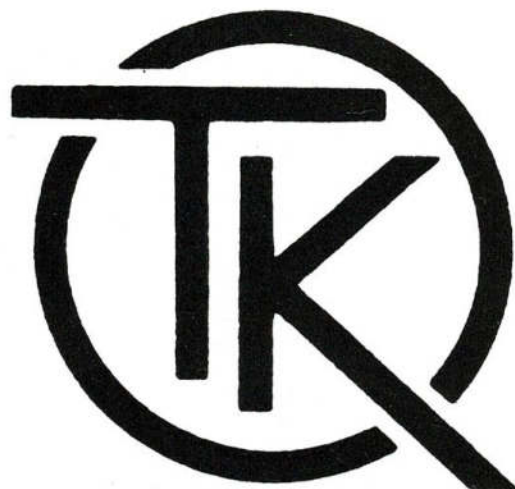
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MATCH REPORT

Sunday, 2 September 1990
John Smith's Yorkshire Cup Quarter-Final
WAKEFIELD 26 : HALIFAX 17

New Trinity captain Andy Kelly led his men for the first time as the side showed three changes to the line-up which had defeated Hunslet in the Yorkshire Cup first-round. Chris Perry switched from stand-off to the right-wing, allowing Tracey Lazenby the No.6 jersey, with Kelly back in the second-row and Nigel Bell and Andy Wilson on the bench.

Trinity reached their first Yorkshire Cup semi-final in seven years with a hard-earned defeat of fallen giants Halifax. But they struggled to finish the stubborn resistance of Second Division opponents relying more on endeavour than inspiration.

Trinity held the upper hand throughout the game, after erasing an early deficit with Mark Conway's 18th minute try, but their insecure defence must have worried David Topliss. Every time they looked to have killed the Halifax challenge, Wilf George popped up with typical blockbusting efforts, before impressive Martin Wood scored late on to keep Halifax's faint hopes alive until the final hooter.

The visitors, in high spirits after an unexpectedly easy passage at Doncaster, made all the early running and it was ex-Trinity half-back John Lyons who opened the scoring with a 6th minute drop-goal. Four minutes later, much-travelled back-rower Alan Platt cheered the vast Halifax contingent in the impressive 6,492 audience by landing a good penalty goal.

Trinity missed an opportunity to reduce the deficit when Harcombe fired wide with a 30 yard penalty attempt, but responded to the challenge two minutes later, with a stroke of good fortune helping them into a 6-3 lead.

Mark Conway wriggled free of a cluster of defenders on the Halifax quarter-line but seemed to have over-hit his grubber kick for the line. The ball struck the upright, however, ricocheting into the in-goal area and allowing Conway to win the race for a fortuitous touchdown. Harcombe landed the simple conversion.

It was 8-3, three minutes later, with Harcome landing a penalty goal after hooker Andy Walker was floored by a high tackle from Lyons. The Trinity hooker was in the thick of the action at this point, and he and Halifax counterpart Jason Ramshaw were sin-binned for ten minutes by referee Holdsworth in the 26th minute.

Trinity should have extended their advantage when Price, Conway and Kelly combined skilfully, but Harcombe, in a left centre position and with the line open, put down the chance. Three minutes later that miss looked even costlier, as Halifax opened out stylishly down the left flank for Wood to send Hutchinson away and Wilf George beat the cover superbly and stretched out for a try which made it 8-7.

Nigel Bell replaced Steve Potts five minutes before the break and the long-serving forward immediately set-up the position from which Trinity scored a crucial try just before the interval.

After Kelly and the hard-working Richard Slater, gone close, Cup specialist John Thompson forced way over for an all-important try and Harcombe added the extras with a difficult, angled conversion.

Thompson, whose rare tries last season included cup-tie efforts in the Challenge Cup against Swin and Sheffield, fully deserved his score for an unstinted first-half effort.

Halifax soon made their intentions clear on resumption and Platt landed a 25 yard penalty goal to reduce the deficit. But they were back in the contest only temporarily.

Conway's high kick caused panic, and Slater nevertheless uncovered Perry on the right, the hasty pass going into the touch on the first tackle. From the result scrum referee Holdsworth awarded one of a number of scrum penalties, to Trinity, and lively hooker Ar Walker threw a long pass which sent Gary Price driving through the heart of the Halifax cover for important try, inevitably goaled by Harcombe.

Dogged Halifax refused to concede defeat and after a spell of pressure Ramshaw's pass freed George the corner for the winger's second try. Again, the hosts were relieved to see Platt's kick drift wide.

On the hour, Wakefield again seemed to have ensured their semi-final place, as Conway's high kick was pursued by Price and the impressive David Jones whose pass sent skipper Kelly over. Harcombe landed his fifth goal and it was 24-13.

Still, never-say-die Halifax came again, and Lycro scored the break from which loose-forward Wood scored their third try. But Trinity, with man-of-the-match Conway, winger Jones, Gary Price and Kevin Harcombe most impressive, had done enough to ensure overdue Cup progress. The chance of an overdue Cup Final appearance now beckons.

WAKEFIELD: Harcombe; Perry, Mason, Eden, Jones, Lazenby, M.Conway; Potts, Walker, Thompson, Kelly, Price, Slater. **SUBS:** Wilson (for Slater); Bell (for Potts); T- Conway, Thompson, Price, Kelly, G- Harcombe (6).

HALIFAX: Smith; Atkinson, A.N.Other, Hutchinson, George; Southernwood, Lyons; Scott, Ramshaw, Fairbank, Platt, Keebles, Wood. **SUBS:** Needham (for A.N.Other); P. Bell (for Atkinson).

T- George (2), Wood. G- Platt. DG- Lyons.

REFEREE: J. Holdsworth (Kippax).

Half-time: 14- 7
Penalties: 7-7

Att: 6,411
Scrums: 7

PROFILE - ANDY MASON

ANDY MASON - BACK IN THE GROOVE

The season began in earnest for Trinity's free-scoring centre Andy Mason against Rochdale Hornets.

He opened his try account with two opportunist efforts, as Wakefield romped to their biggest first Division victory for nine years, and the signs look good for the coming nine months.

And now the former Trinity skipper has his sights on the milestone of fifty tries for the club, just three years after leaving Leeds in one of the most controversial transfer deals in history.

Mason... Conway... Rayne... and... Fox, in exchange for Gary Spencer and John Lyons. No wonder, David Topliss still shakes his head in disbelief at his good fortune.

The 28 year old, who joined Bramley from Roundhay RUFC in January 1985, has been noted throughout his Rugby League career for his try-scoring consistency. It was that ability to poach tries on a regular basis which made him one of Topliss's initial transfer targets. He has not disappointed.

Andy grabbed 32 tries in only 53 appearances for the 'Villagers', during which time he became Bramley's ninth post-war Yorkshire County player. Maurice Bamford, who allowed him to leave Leeds, also called him into the Great Britain squad for the 1986 Ashes series.

He totalled five tries, including a try-scoring debut at Hull, in his brief 17-match stay with Leeds, before embarking on a career with Trinity. And Sunday's brace of touchdowns against the Hornets took him to the 47 mark, after only 92 appearances.

Mason's try-every-other-game ration has been crucial to Wakefield Trinity's First Division survival over the past two seasons. Each time he was the club's top try-scorer - refuting the criticism of those who said he could not match it with the best at the top level.

His try hat-trick, even in a 17 - 34 defeat at the Boulevard last March, gave him great personal satisfaction. It was the first by a Trinity player at First Division level since 8 January 1984... when a certain Wally Lewis starred in a 31 - 22 defeat

of St. Helens.

Few players will be more disappointed than Mason that Yorkshire's annual slaughter of Lancashire has been temporarily abated. It invariably provided an annual showpiece for him to display his talents to a wider audience.

But the fact that Peter Fox's men have been denied a clash with the Kangaroos is tempered by the fact that Mason's 17 tries (a personal best) helped to secure ninth spot in 1989/90, earning Trinity their first duel against Australia in seventeen years.

"I've always regarded try-scoring as a fundamental part of my game", he has said in the past, "and it helps my confidence when I'm scoring regularly."

Few players have matched his consistency in that department in recent years, and all at Belle Vue are hoping that he reaches the magic half-century mark in the note-too-distant future.

ANDY MASON TRY SCORING RECORD

	App	Tries	Pts
BRAMLEY			
1984/85	16	10	40
1985/86	31	16	64
1986/87	6	6	24
Totals	53	32	128

LEEDS

1986/87	17	5	20
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WAKEFIELD TRINITY

1987/88	31	14	56
1988/89	27	14	56
1989/90	31	17	68
1990/91	3	2	8
Totals	92	47	188

Career Record

162	84	366
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In association with the Sportscast Division of British Aerospace and BSB, The Clock Tower will be broadcasting live and pre-recorded Rugby League in the Kingswood Suite of Wakefield Town Hall. Scheduled matches for September 1990 are as follows:-

Sun 9th	Barrow v Salford	1.00 p.m.	Live
Sun 9th	Bradford v Widnes	6.30 p.m.	Live
Mon 10th	Hull v St. Helens	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Tue 11th	Warrington v Castleford	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Mon 17th	Castleford v Wigan	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Tue 18th	Leeds v Hull	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Sun 23rd	Ryedale York v Chorley	1.00 p.m.	Live
Sun 23rd	Oldham v Castleford	6.30 p.m.	Live
Mon 24th	Featherstone v Bradford	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Tue 25th	Warrington v Leeds	8.00 p.m.	Recorded
Sun 30th	Dewsbury v Fulham	1.00 p.m.	Live
Sun 30th	Leeds v St. Helens	6.30 p.m.	Live

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For soccer fans, there will be a live international match from Wembley on Wednesday 12th England v Hungary 8.00 p.m.

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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Due to the promotion and relegation fluctuations which both clubs have endured, Trinity and Oldham have met only seven times at First division level during the seventeen seasons since the 'split' in 1973/74. Here, we highlight three of those encounters, plus the classic promotion battle in 1988.

1988 - WAKEFIELD T. 12 : OLDHAM 12

The last First Division meeting at Belle Vue took place on 9 October 1988, when honours were even at 12 - 12. Richard Slater scored his first try in Trinity colours, while Oldham fought from 12 - 2 down to earn a point. It failed to save them from relegation at the end of the season. The teams for that Belle Vue clash were:

TRINITY: Slater (try); Rotherforth, Wilson, Mason, Jowitt; Ella (2 goals), M. Conway; Rayne, B. Conway, Mallinder, Kelly, Glancy, Bell (try). SUBS: Sheldon; Thompson.

OLDHAM: Round; Burke (2 goals), Hawkyard, Henderson, Meadows; O'Sullivan, Ford; Clawson, Ruane, Fairbank (try), Casey, Gilbert, P. Taylor. SUBS: Robinson (try); Flanagan.

1988 - WAKEFIELD T. 22 : OLDHAM 23

Six months previously, Trinity and Oldham had fought an epic promotion battle at Belle Vue, with the 'Roughyeds', on their way to a Second Division Championship/Premiership 'double', winning by the odd point in 45. Terry Flanagan's drop-goal proved the decisive score in a game of eight superb tries. The teams for the 10 April clash were:-

TRINITY: Harcombe (3 goals); Haggerty, Eden, Mason, Fletcher; Topliss, M. Conway (2 tries); Van Bellen, Haigh, Keith Rayne, A. Kelly, Price (try), Bell. SUBS: Halliwell (try), Mallinder.

OLDHAM: Burke; Atkinson, Ford, McAlister, Meadows; Walsh, Ford (try), Sherratt, Flanagan (drop goals), Waddell, Casey, Graham, Warnecke. SUBS: Hawkyard.

1987 - WAKEFIELD T. 10 - OLDHAM 54

Trinity's return to the top flight had been a disaster in 1986, and the home defeat at Oldham proved to be the heaviest of eight opening reverses. Led by David Topliss and with Great Britain centre Des Fothergill having a field day, Oldham romped to record Belle Vue victory of 54 - 10, scoring ten tries in the process. The teams on 10 October 1986 were:

TRINITY: Spencer; Klein, Stanton (try), Edén, Diamond (goal); Evans (try), Green, Cowie, B. Conway, Hopkinson, Gittins, Brennan, Smith. SUBS: Lyons; Thompson.

OLDHAM: Edwards; Sherman (try), Foy (tries), Warnecke (2 tries), M. Taylor, Topliss (try), Bridge; Jones, Flanagan, Clark, Hobbs (6 goals), Worrall (try), goal Raper (try), SUBS: Ashton (try), Hawkyard.

1973 - WAKEFIELD T. 22 : OLDHAM

Almost exactly seventeen years ago Oldham came to Belle Vue looking for the first league points of a season which saw the introduction of two-division football. They were no match for the Topliss-inspired home side who cantered to their seventh win in eight league and cup matches. Teams on 23 September 1973 were as follows:-

TRINITY: Wraith; Smith (try), Crook (goals), Hegarty, Parker; Topliss (try), Bonnar; Valentine, Morgan, Bratt, Tonks, Endersby, Ellis (try), SUBS: Harkin, Knowles (try).

OLDHAM: Blair, Elliott, Davie, Wainwright, O'Brien; Murphy, Kavanagh, Ashcroft, Taylor, Hall, Goodwin, Munro, Farrell. SUB: Peters.

ALLIANCE ANALYSIS

LOOKING AT TRINITY'S PROGRESS IN THE SLALOM LAGER CHAMPIONSHIP

After promotion from the Second Division of the Slalom Lager Alliance Championship, no one at Belle Vue is under any illusions about the enormous task Trinity face in retaining their status in the top flight.

And if they needed a reminder, Ian Brooke and his new assistant, long-serving half-back David Wandless, saw the extent of the challenge they face when their youthful squad faced a Leeds side which would not have been out of place at first-team level, in their opening match.

An 8 - 38 defeat at the hands of last season's Championship runners-up hardly reflected the commitment of a young Trinity line-up which fought gamely to the final whistle. They were simply out-gunned by a vastly more experienced side.

Brooke believes that it is imperative for Trinity to maintain their place in the First Division because that is the way his youngsters will learn

by playing against the best, on the best grounds.

"Leeds were a far more experienced side", says the ex-Great Britain centre, "and, that's the way it will be in many cases at this level. When you've got lads like 16 year-old Richard Goddard and Nigel Wright, it's asking a lot to make such a leap in standards.

"But they, and others like Mark Colbeck and new signing Mark Webster, will learn quickly from the experience.

"Significantly, Trinity were one of only three First Division clubs not to have Alliance teams also in the top section last season. We've rectified that situation, now, leaving only Bradford Northern and Sheffield Eagles (whose Alliance team made their entry for the first time only last season) as the odd two out.

"I'm confident we can do enough to stay in this league - and then we can go on from there."

LAST SEASON'S ALLIANCE DIVISION TWO TABLE

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
1 WAKEFIELD T	28	24	-	4	656	329	48
2 LEIGH	28	22	-	6	652	386	44
3 RYEDALE YORK	28	20	1	7	735	404	41
4 BRADFORD N.	28	19	1	8	767	435	39
5 ROCHDALE H.	28	16	2	10	568	428	34
6 DEWSBURY	28	15	2	11	454	383	32
7 DONCASTER	28	13	3	12	458	526	29
8 SHEFFIELD E	28	13	-	15	503	589	26
9 BARROW	28	11	-	17	483	519	22
10 TRAFFORD B	28	9	2	17	501	616	20
11 WHITEHAVEN	28	10	-	18	476	609	20
12 HUDDERSFIELD	28	9	2	17	371	646	20
13 WORKINGTON T	28	7	4	17	408	591	18
14 KEIGHLEY	28	6	4	18	457	689	16
15 BRAMLEY	28	5	1	22	338	677	11

Promoted: Wakefield and Leigh

ANDY WALKER





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To celebrate the 10th edition of the best-selling Rugby League annual, the 1990/91 Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook reviews the last decade and has presented awards to the leading performers of the 1980s. Pictured with their Rothmans caps are, from left to right, Garry Schofield (most memorable try), Joe Lydon (most memorable drop goal), Ellery Hanley (Man of

the Decade) and Lee Crooks (most memorable goal).

The new 416-page edition of the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook is now available in all good bookshops, priced £12.95, or by post (plus £1.25 packing and postage) from Rugby League Enterprises, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds LS7 4HT.



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HEAD TO HEAD

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP

CASTLEFORD v WIGAN

(Castleford have won 10 of their 16 home First Division clashes with Champions Wigan, but only three of the last nine. They will be looking to repeat last season's emphatic victory and re-establish the superiority which brought them seven consecutive Wheldon Road wins over Wigan between 1973 and 1980).

RESULTS

1989/90	Castleford	34 - 10
1988/89	Wigan	17 - 4
1987/88	Castleford	12 - 10
1986/87	Wigan	12 - 6
1985/86	Wigan	14 - 12
1984/85	Wigan	20 - 12
1983/84	Castleford	38 - 10
1982/83	Wigan	14 - 6
1981/82	Wigan	17 - 14
1979/80	Castleford	21 - 13
1978/79	Castleford	21 - 7
1977/78	Castleford	34 - 10
1976/77	Castleford	18 - 3
1975/76	Castleford	28 - 10
1974/75	Castleford	22 - 12
1973/74	Castleford	31 - 7

CASTLEFORD RECORD: P 16, W 10, L 6

HULL KR v WARRINGTON

(Warrington have only won twice in 15 First Division visits to Craven Park, although this will be their first encounter at the Robins' new ground. The Wires ended a 13-match spell without a win at Craven Park, helping to send Rovers to relegation with their 17 - 7 victory in 1988/89).

1989/90	Warrington	17 - 7
1987/88	Hull KR	17 - 0
1986/87	Hull KR	14 - 10
1985/86	Hull KR	12 - 8
1984/85	Hull KR	36 - 12
1983/84	Hull KR	34 - 19
1982/83	Draw	9 - 9
1981/82	Hull KR	16 - 10
1980/81	Hull KR	13 - 12
1979/80	Hull KR	16 - 0
1978/79	Hull KR	21 - 8
1977/78	Hull KR	12 - 7
1976/77	Hull KR	23 - 11
1975/76	Warrington	17 - 13
1973/74	Draw	6 - 6

HULL KR RECORD: P 15, W 11, D 2, L 2.

WAKEFIELD TRINITY v OLDHAM

(Honours are even after seven First Division clashes between Trinity and Oldham at Belle Vue. The most recent meeting at this level, in October 1988, produced a 12 - 12 draw, while each club has won three of the previous six.)

1988/89	Draw	12 - 12
1986/87	Oldham	54 - 10
1983/84	Trinity	28 - 22
1980/81	Trinity	24 - 15
1976/77	Oldham	13 - 11
1975/76	Oldham	23 - 18
1973/74	Trinity	22 - 0

WAKEFIELD RECORD: P 17, W 3, D 1, L 3.

LEEDS v HULL

(Leeds have regained the upper hand in home First Division meetings with Hull, following a spell of five consecutive Hull victories in the mid-80's. Leeds have won three of the last four clashes to take a 7 - 5 lead in the series.)

1989/90	Leeds	18 -
1988/89	Hull	13 -
1987/88	Leeds	28 -
1986/87	Leeds	28 -
1985/86	Hull	35 -
1984/85	Hull	24 -
1983/84	Hull	40 -
1982/83	Hull	20 -
1981/82	Leeds	8 -
1980/81	Leeds	21 -
1979/80	Leeds	27 -
1977/78	Leeds	25 -

LEEDS RECORD: P 12, W 7, L 5.

HELENS v BRADFORD NORTHERN

(Saints have lost only twice in 16 home meetings with Bradford Northern in First Division football, and have won the last four meetings. Northern's last Knowsley Road league success was in January 1986.)

1989/90	Saints	32 -
1988/89	Saints	23 -
1987/88	Saints	38 -
1986/87	Saints	40 -
1985/86	Bradford	18 -
1984/85	Saints	28 -
1983/84	Saints	29 -
1982/83	Saints	12 -
1981/82	Saints	20 -
1980/81	Saints	16 -
1979/80	Bradford	21 -
1978/79	Saints	31 -
1977/78	Saints	28 -
1976/77	Saints	34 -
1975/76	Saints	19 -

SAINTS RECORD: P 16, W 14, L 2.

WIDNES v FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

(Rovers might just have an inferiority complex about travelling to Naughton Park, having lost their last First Division matches there, and conceded no less than 179 points during their most recent three visits. Their last success was in their title-winning 1976/77 season when Steve Quinn kicked them to their third successive league victory at Naughton Park.)

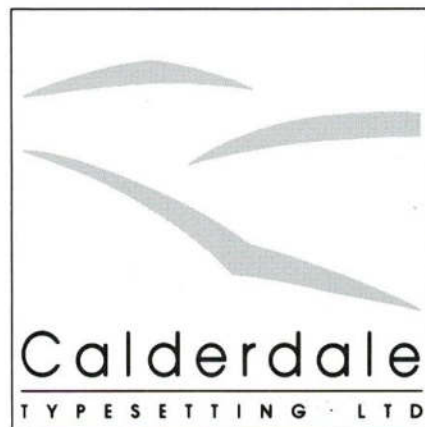
1989/90	Widnes	59 -
1988/89	Widnes	58 -
1986/87	Widnes	62 -
1985/86	Widnes	30 -
1984/85	Widnes	34 -
1983/84	Widnes	40 -
1982/83	Widnes	30 -
1981/82	Widnes	39 -
1980/81	Widnes	14 -
1978/79	Widnes	25 -
1977/78	Widnes	15 -
1976/77	Featherstone	12 -
1975/76	Featherstone	22 -
1974/75	Featherstone	7 -
1973/74	Widnes	14 -

WIDNES RECORD: P 15, W 12, L 3.

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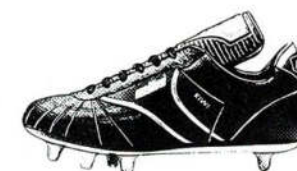
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League Results

		Home		Away	
BATLEY	W	13-4	W	13-2	
BELLE VUE R.	L	3-20	L	4-9	
BRADFORD	L	0-5	L	16-28	
BRAMLEY	W	18-10	W	14-2	
CASTLEFORD	W	13-4	W	14-13	
DEWSBURY	W	11-10	L	9-14	
FEATHERSTONE R.	W	35-0	L	11-19	
HUDDERSFIELD	W	13-6	L	5-18	
HULL	W	29-2	L	10-22	
HULL KR	W	18-0	L	18-6	
HUNSLET	D	7-7	L	10-13	
KEIGHLEY	W	31-4	L	3-21	
LEEDS	L	12-38	L	0-31	
OLDHAM	W	28-15	W	24-5	
ST. HELENS	W	10-7	D	5-5	
SALFORD	W	15-8	L	9-10	
WIDNES	W	33-0	L	0-6	
YORK	W	37-12	W	5-2	

YORKSHIRE CUP: Round 1 (1st Leg) - Hull KR (a) 18 - 11; (2nd Leg) - Hull KR (H) 12 - 3; Round 2 - Hull (H) 23 - 14; Semi-Final - Huddersfield (H) 18 - 15; Final - Leeds (Fartown) 7 - 7; Final Replay - Leeds (Odsal) 8 - 7.

CHALLENGE CUP: Round 1 (1st Leg) - Salford (a) 13 - 2; (2nd Leg) - Salford (H) 20 - 15; Round 2 - Bradford (H) 3 - 3; Replay - Bradford (a) 2 - 9.

TOUR MATCH: New Zealand 3 - 30.

APPEARANCES: Baddeley 30; Banks 21; Boocker 32; Booth 35; Bratley 41; Brooks 16; Chester 2; Cowling 5; Fletcher 38; Goodchild 1; Goodfellow 28; Gray 9; Higgins 18; Horner 2; Howes 30; Hughes 29; Jenkinson 27; H. Jones 14; J. Jones 1; Kieley 6; Luckman 1; Marson 34; Moore 6; Murphy 27; Naylor 3; Perry 39; Rylance 21; Stott 17; Swales 1; Taylor 15; Teal 23; Wilkinson 36; Trialist 2 - 33 PLAYERS.

TRIES: Perry 23; Fletcher 14; Boocker 12; Bratley 11; Howes 10; Baddeley 10; Hughes 8; Goodfellow 7; Rylance 6; Stott 5; Marson 4; Jenkinson 4; H. Jones 3; Wilkinson 3; Booth 3; Banks 2; Cowling 2; Brooks 1; Higgins 1; Gray 1; Murphy 1.

GOALS: Perry 48; Stott 39; Rylance 11; Gray 9; Murphy 2; Fletcher 2; Banks 1; Howes 1; Teal 1; Booth 1.

MOST TRIES IN A MATCH: 3 - Perry v York (H).

MOST GOALS IN A MATCH: Stott v Oldham (H).

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: J. Perry (Yorkshire); L. Marson (Yorkshire); J. Booth (Yorkshire); R. Rylance (Yorkshire and England); A. Fletcher (Yorkshire).

A HISTORY IN FACTS & FIGURES

NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

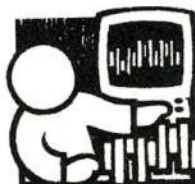
	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Pts
1 WIGAN	36	33	1	4	226	258	63
2 WARRINGTON	36	30	1	5	688	232	61
3 HUDDERSFIELD	36	26	2	8	668	240	52
4 BRADFORD N.	36	26	3	10	549	310	52
5 WORKINGTON T.	36	22	4	10	426	236	48
6 HUNSLET	36	21	4	11	449	239	46
7 WIDNES	36	21	1	14	331	228	43
8 ST. HELENS	36	20	2	14	476	305	47
9 LEEDS	36	20	2	14	588	409	42
10 WAKEFIELD T.	36	20	2	14	496	378	42
11 SALFORD	36	20	1	15	454	301	39
12 HULL	36	19	1	16	455	383	39
13 CASTLEFORD	36	19	1	16	455	383	39
14 LEIGH	36	18	1	17	374	452	37
15 DEWSBURY	36	17	2	17	232	307	35
16 OLDHAM	36	17	1	18	336	383	36
17 BELLE VUE RANGERS	36	17	0	19	333	358	34
18 HALIFAX	36	16	0	20	359	449	31
19 SWINTON	36	15	2	20	315	437	31
20 KEIGHLEY	36	15	1	20	295	432	30
21 BARROW	36	14	2	20	336	311	24
22 ROCHDALE HORNETS	36	11	2	23	321	482	24
23 BRAMLEY	36	12	0	24	330	482	24
24 BATLEY	36	11	1	24	281	482	23
25 HULL KR	36	10	1	25	303	470	21
26 LIVERPOOL S	36	8	1	27	192	550	12
27 FEATHERSTONE R.	36	6	0	30	270	724	9
28 YORK	36	3	1	31	216	849	9

LEADING SCORERS

TRIES		GOALS	
1 BEVAN (Warrington)	57	1 WARD (Wigan)	141
2 RATCLIFFE (Wigan)	49	2 BAWDEN (Huddersfield)	102
3 COOPER (Huddersfield)	37	3 RISMAN (Workington T)	96
4 BARTEN (Bradford N)	36	4 MILLER (Hull)	89
5 EDWARDS (Bradford N)	36	5 PALIO (Warrington)	82
6 HILTON (Wigan)	32	6 WARD (Bradford N)	76
7 McCORMICK (Belle Vue)	31	7 WHITEHEAD (Leeds)	71
8 LAWRENSON (Wigan)	28	8 STOTT (St. Helens)	65
9 ASPINALL (Salford)	27	9 MILLS (Keighley)	62
10 PERRY (Wakefield T)	26	10 LEDGARD (Dewsbury)	53

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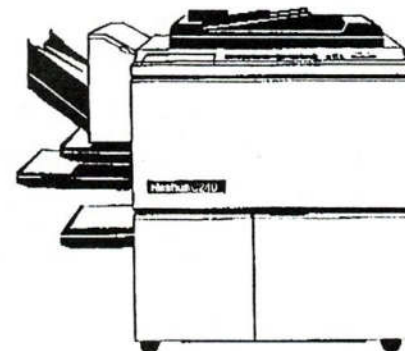
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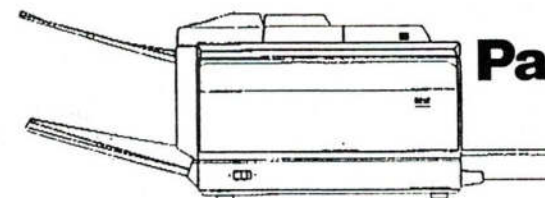
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MARK CONWAY

CONWAY RUES CRUEL INJURY SETBACK

"It's so frustrating. To miss a semi-final, of all matches. But, hopefully, the boys will ensure there's a Final to look forward to."

Trinity's attacking inspiration Mark Conway was reflecting on the leg injury which sidelined him for Trinity's all-important Yorkshire Cup semi-final meeting with Dewsbury.

It was his first absence at first-team level for 53 games and nearly two years, since the 1988 home John Player tie with Carlisle. And he had badly wanted to show the man who released him from Leeds, Maurice Bamford, that he was wrong - yet again.

But hopefully Trinity will have won through to their first Yorkshire Cup Final in sixteen years and Mark Conway will be contemplating appearing in a major Final at Elland Road . . . seven years after being denied, what many felt was his rightful chance.

Former Stanley Rangers junior Conway first came to prominence in a Leeds team which qualified for the John Player Final against Wigan in 1982/83 season. As a teenage goalkicking scrum-half, he deputised for international Kevin Dick in the quarter-final at Barrow . . . and was the star of the show, scoring a brilliant try and two goals.

In the semi-final against Widnes, at Fartown, it was Conway's ice-cool pressure kicking which secured Leeds' 8-2 victory. His four goals seemed to have won him a first major Final appearance.

But Dick was fit to resume for the Final clash with Wigan and coach Robin Dewhurst went for the experienced Great Britain half-back, leaving Conway kicking his heels in frustration on the bench.

Leeds lost 4-15 and for Mark there was not even the consolation of a substitute's appearance. It remains his biggest disappointment.

So, a Yorkshire Cup Final appearance on 23 September would be overdue reward for a man whose career has been revitalised since leaving Headingley for hometown Trinity. And, while it may have been a culture shock, initially, he has

no doubts now that the transfer was the making of him.

"There's more of a team spirit at Trinity, although I still get on well with many of my former Leeds colleagues", he says. "We're all pulling the same way and that's what makes playing for Wakefield so enjoyable.

"It was always my ambition to play for Leeds. I'd idolised players like John Holmes and Les Dyl and it was a dream-come-true to play alongside them. But, on reflection, it was never going to happen for me at Leeds.

"I was rarely given the extended run that might have built my confidence. At Belle Vue, I've hardly missed a game in three years and that's been the difference. My confidence soared and it's shown in my game."

Conway's general play and consistent goalkicking form won him the Trinity Player of the Year award for the second time in three years, in 1990, and the former Colts tourist and Great Britain Under 21 international may yet achieve his ambition of full Test honours.

"I'm not concerned about losing the goalkicking duties to Kevin Harcombe", adds Mark. "I can take or leave the job, I don't mind either way.

"But it's good that Kevin came back to the club because his was a talent that was too good to squander. Now, he's playing better than ever.

"And I can concentrate more on my own game. I think my supporting game has improved already this season and I'm looking to score a lot more tries than the six of last season. That was a disappointment to me and my aim is to significantly improve on that figure."

No one at Belle Vue has done more to turn the club's fortunes around than the bargain-basement signing from Leeds. His half-back partnership with 1982 Colts tour colleague Tracey Lazenby has been critical to Trinity's climb towards success.

Conway deserves to savour the atmosphere of a major Final, after almost a decade as one of the game's finest entertainers. And he realises that when he came 'home' to Wakefield, he found the grass to be much greener than it was ever likely to be with 'millionaires' Leeds.

MARKING TIME



SUPPORTERS CLUB

WEMBLEY 1991

The Supporters' Club once again will be running a day trip to the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley on Saturday, 27 April 1991. Tickets have been ordered at £13 and £20 and preference will be given to supporters booking places on the day trip. Prices for the trip have yet to be decided but will be similar to last year. It is requested that a deposit of £5 accompanies each reservation.

AWAY MATCHES

The Supporters' Club will once again be running buses to Away Matches. However, due to bookings being made and places not being taken up, it is now regretted that no seats will be guaranteed after 12.30 pm on the day prior to the match.

Please take careful note of the following:

Should we lose tonight then the following arrangements will apply:

The first Away Match is scheduled for the new home of Sheffield Eagles, the Don Valley Stadium on

SATURDAY, 22 September 1990. Buses will depart from Borough Road at 1.30 pm for a 3.00 pm kick-off. Bookings can be made either at the Supporters' Hut or by ringing Neil on 93 - 723845. Bookings will also be accepted during working hours at "The Shop" either in person or on 363703.

Supporters should please note that the scheduled date is Saturday and not Sunday.

However, should we be successful tonight, the first Away Match will be the Yorkshire Cup Final at Elland Road, Leeds. Buses will depart from Borough Road at 1.45 pm for a 3.00 pm kick-off.

Whether we are at Sheffield on Saturday or Elland Road on Sunday, bookings can be made either at the Supporters Hut or by ringing Neil on 93 - 723845. Bookings will also be accepted during working hours at "The Shop" either in person or on 363703.

FIRST TEST v AUSTRALIA

The Supporters' Club will be running a coach to the First Test Match v Australia at Wembley on Saturday 27 October 1990. Bookings can be made at the Supporters' Club Hut together with a deposit of £5 per person.

May I ask anyone who gave their name in last season as being interested to please re-book, together with the appropriate deposit.

SOUVENIRS

Why not give the Supporters' Club Hut inside the ground a visit. We carry a wide range of gifts, souvenirs and other items, including jackets, sweaters, track suits and Trinity replica shirts (when available) all at reasonable prices.

A new series of colour photographs of all first team players signed and framed if required are now available.

There is now available a video of the 1968 "Watersplash Final" between Wakefield Trinity and Leeds.

The video is in black and white and costs £11.50. We feel it may be of great interest, particularly to our longer term supporters.

All profits made by the Supporters' Club go directly to Trinity by way of donations.

CORRECT SCORES v Rochdale;

Mr Binns	£15 Full Time Correct
Mr Davidson	£ 6 Half Time Reverse
Mr Farmer	£ 9 Half Time Correct

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES ETC.

Once again we will use this column to pass on birthday or anniversary wishes to Supporters. Anyone wishing to make use of this facility please forward details either to the Supporters' Hut or "The Shop".

Happy Birthday to Louise Curtis who will be 18 years old today. Her favourite player is Mark Conway.

Happy Birthday to Helen Thorp who is 12 years old tomorrow, 17 September 1990 and her favourite player is Billy Conway. Love from mum and dad.

Happy Birthday to our timekeeper Ray Thackrah who will be 41 years old on 18 September 1990. Love and best wishes from wife Joan and son Mark.

Birthday wishes to Rowland Idle on 10 September, Doreen Beech on 16 September and Rowland Beech on 21 September from the rest of the rabble.

Happy Birthday to Gail Boardman on 25 September 1990 from sister Lynn and the rest of the Supporters' Club Committee.

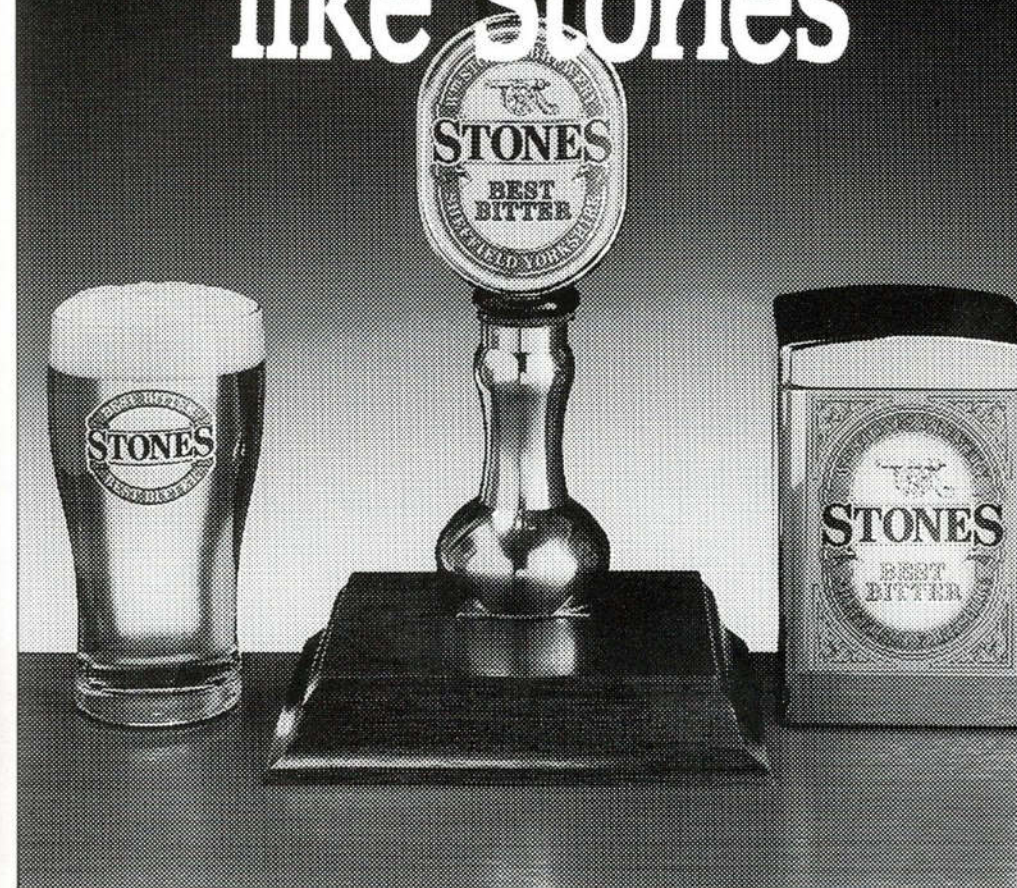
MISS TRINITY

Once again the competition for the title of "Miss Trinity" is almost upon us. This year's competition will be held on 6 November 1990 at "Corrigan's" here at Belle Vue. The winner will receive a cash prize and automatic entry to the Yorkshire Federation of the Supporters' Clubs "Miss Yorkshire" competition. Any lady who feels she would like to take part should contact Lynn, Gail or Marge at the Supporters' Hut.

XMAS DINNER

For the first time in many years the Yorkshire Federation of Supporters' Clubs will be holding their Annual Christmas Dinner within the immediate area of this Club. The event will be held at the Wilton Ballroom, Altofts, Normanton, on Saturday, 24 November 1990, tickets are priced at £10 and are bookable at the Supporters' Hut.

Wherever you may wander there's no taste like Stones



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