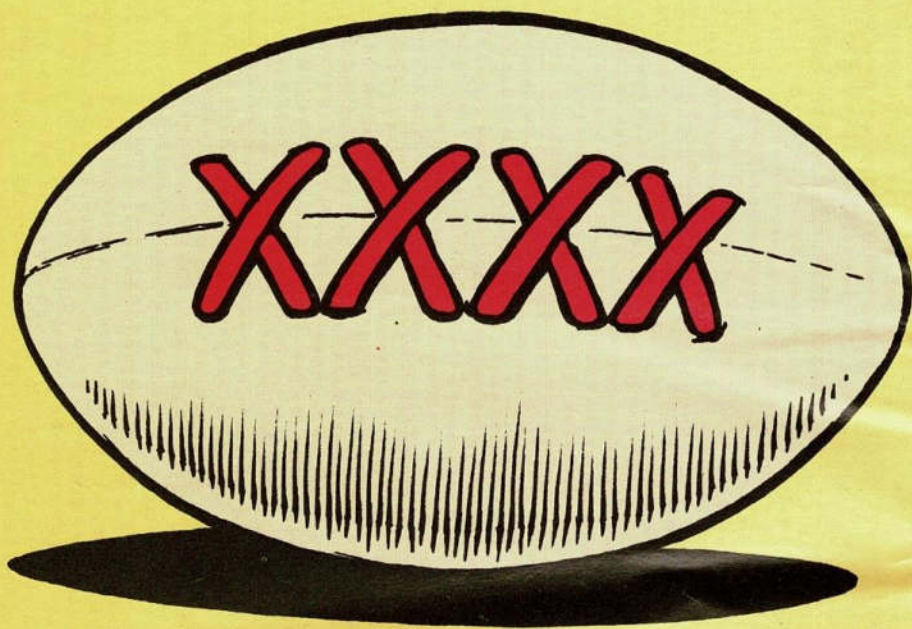


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Rugby League Challenge Cup Winners:

1898-99, 1924-25, 1926-27

Runners-up:

1906-07, 1911-1912, 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, 1989-90

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:

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Colts Premiership Trophy:

1979-80

Second Division Premiership:

1987-88, 1989-90

Wigan Sevens Winners:

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Hon. Secretary: Mr. F. Howarth, B.A.

Coach: Peter Tunks

Assistant Coach: Eric Fitzsimons

'A' Team Coaches: Andy Goodway/Shane Tupaea

Academy Manager: Jack Buckley

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Programme Editor: Peter, Young

Club Records:

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

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

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield,

24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £37,505.50 v Wigan,

5th October, 1989

Record Transfer Fee Paid: £70,000 to Halifax

for Tony Anderson, March 1990

Record Try Scorer: Ref 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

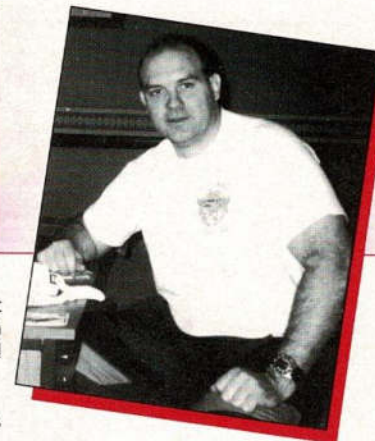
Most Tries: Pre 1900, Jach Hirst, 233

Since 1900, Alan Davies, 182

O.R.L.F.C. VICE-PRESIDENTS SEASON 1993/94

Ronnie Hardaker, Terry Doyle, Alan Butterworth, Mavis Butterworth, Tommy O'Brien, Major B. Howell, Harry Randall, K. Folks, C. Folks, Ken Waddington, J. L. Perrins, A. Perrins, Irene Turner, Adamsons Crash Repair Centre (2), Nigel Tench, Kevin Geany, R. Langton, Rick Coombs (2).

TUNKS' TALKBACK



As we go into game number five of the season let's take a look at how we are doing.

One victory from four matches may seem to some a disastrous start but it doesn't tell the whole story. We started the season with a new team and it was always going to take some time for players to get to know each other and to become a unit.

We performed reasonably well at Halifax and although we were beaten I saw enough good points to be encouraged. The next match saw us lose to Bradford Northern here at Watersheddings. Anyone who saw that game knows that we played some great rugby and it's fair to say that we should have secured a

victory. It's worth noting that at this moment in time, both Halifax and Bradford Northern remain unbeaten.

Game number three saw us on our travels to Hull K.R., traditionally a difficult fixture. We won that game, and we won it comfortably.

Last week we suffered defeat at the hands of Warrington but it was a closely fought game that could have gone either way. So, what conclusions can we draw? In a very, very tough First Division we are competing and competing well. We know that there is room for improvement and we are confident we can take that step up. At First Division level you must minimise your mistakes. If you drop the ball,

throw a loose pass, lose concentration, then you will be punished. You can not afford mistakes against good sides.

We have worked hard this week and we go into today's game well prepared.

On the last two occasions the Eagles have visited Watersheddings they have registered resounding wins. I hope today we can turn the tables on my former club.

Enjoy the game
Peter Tunks.

TUNKS' TEASERS

1. In what year did Oldham and Rochdale first play for the Law Cup?
2. Which Australian club are nicknamed "The Eels"?
3. Which team play at Tattersfield?
4. In 1978-79 which teams finished champions in the 1st and 2nd Division?
5. Who captained the 1973 Australian Touring Team?
6. Who was Oldham's leading try scorer last season?
7. In which year did the French R.L. team receive full Test Match status?
8. Who was the Leeds winger from the 1930's whose nickname was the "Toowoomba Ghost"?
9. What was the venue for the first ever Challenge Cup Final between Batley and St. Helens in 1897?
10. In which season did Blackpool Borough reach the final of the John Player Trophy?

ANSWERS ON STATS PAGE

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A Watersheddings Welcome to . . .

SHEFFIELD EAGLES



MARK ASTON

Age 26 Height 5.10 Weight 12.12 GB Caps 1

Holds the club records for goals (148) and points (307) in a season, achieved in 1988/89, when he also joined the elite band of players to play and score in every game during the season. Man of the Match in the Eagles' 1989 Divisional Premiership victory, he is the club's all time leading scorer with over a thousand points to his name and ended last season one goal short of a 500 milestone. In scoring 12 goals against Keighley in April 1992, he equalled Roy Rafferty's long standing club goals in a match record. Became the Eagles' second international, appearing as a late substitute in Britain's defeat of France in Perpignan in 1991 and was drafted into the Lions tour squad last summer, playing four games.

PAUL BROADBENT

Age 25 Height 6.01 Weight 15.09 Signed from Castleford amateur club Lock Lane in 1987 and has made over 150 appearances for the Eagles. Played as tour replacement in Australia in 1992 and made two appearances for the Lions. Has made the Eagles' number 8 jersey virtually his own and figured in both the Eagles' Divisional Premiership wins, scoring a try in the 1989 Final.

ANTHONY FARRELL

Age 26 Height 6.00 Weight 14.02 GB U-21 Caps 2

Eagles' £55,000 record signing from Huddersfield in 1989, Farrell was unlucky with injuries during the first two seasons at the Eagles. Last season, however, he was a revelation at loose forward, scoring 8 tries in his 28 appearances for the club. His recent form makes a full cap a distinct possibility in the not too distant future.

DAVID FRAISSE

Age 24 Height 6'2" Weight 14.7 French Caps 13

Signed on a one year contract from Carpentras. A promising career was brought to an abrupt halt in 1990 by a motor accident. Now fully recovered, this powerfully built centre or full back is back to his previous form and Eagles are hoping for great things from the Frenchman this season.

MARK GAMSON

Age 28 Height 5.10 Weight 12.10 The Eagles' second signing, from Leeds Colts, back in the Eagles' formation year, 1984. One of the most versatile players in the squad, only the prop and second row jerseys having eluded him to date. Only skipper Daryl Powell has played more

games for the Eagles, Mark trailing him by only two at the start of the 1993/94 season. His appearance record includes a club record run of 76 consecutive appearances between 1989 and 1991. Starred in both the Eagles' Divisional Premiership Finals at Old Trafford and was a try-scorer in the Yorkshire Cup Final defeat last season. An occasional goal kicker, he is proud of his record of having only once been unsuccessful with the boot.

IAN HUGHES

Age 21 Height 6.02 Weight 15.07 GB U-21 caps 2

Signed from East Leeds in 1991, Ian has quickly earned a regular place in the Eagles' side, playing in 32 of their 35 games last season. Unfortunately, one of the three games he missed, through injury, was the Yorkshire Cup Final, after putting them well on the way to the Final with a sensational 60 yard try in the first round defeat at Halifax. Played in the 34-20 defeat of Oldham in the 1992 Divisional Premiership Final and was selected to play against France at Rochdale last February.

DALE LAUGHTON

Age 23 Height 6.02 Weight 15.10

One of the successes of the Eagles' development policy, signed from the Dodworth amateur club, near Barnsley, in July 1989. After a couple of seasons in the Youngers Alliance team, he made his first team debut in 1991 and went on to command a place in the Second Division Championship and Premiership side. Quickly made an impression on the First Division defences, moving up from second row to prop and playing in 30 of the Eagles' 35 matches last season, scoring two tries.

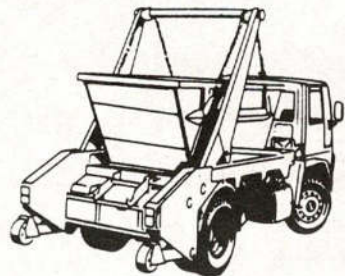
TIM LUMB

Age 22 Height 4.09 Weight 12.00

Signed from Hunslet after a loan period towards the end of the 1991/92 season, during which he was part of the Divisional Premiership team. Tim is fast and elusive and has a good kicking game, combining to make his one of the game's most promising players. Played in 25 games last season, scoring three tries.

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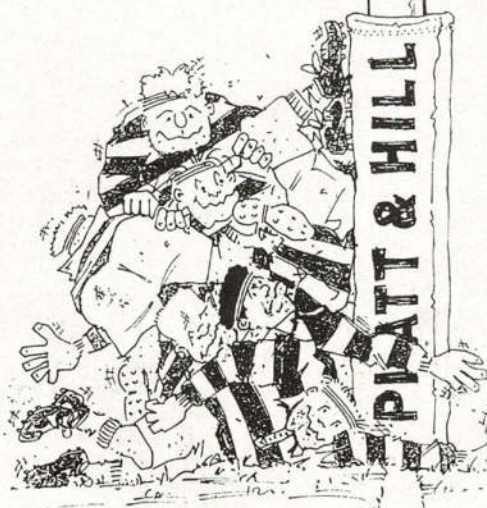
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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 4 ERNEST KNAPMAN



a reputation for being a fine defensive full-back. Ernie was also a useful kicker and topped the Oldham goal scoring list in season 1992-23.

His consistent displays earned him a regular place on the 1924 tour to Australia and New Zealand as understudy to the great

Jim Sullivan and he played in the first N. Z. test of the tour to Auckland.

The Knapman career was ended prematurely by a serious shoulder injury, but not before he had played 206 first class games for Oldham kicking 124 goals and scoring seven tries along the way.

No. 5 STUART RAPER

More than any other position, over the years Oldham have been served by a number of great full-backs; R.L.Thomas, Alf Wood, Tommy Rees, Bernard Ganley and Martin Murphy would head an impressive list and right up there with them would be

..... ERNIE KNAPMAN.

Born in Torquay, Ernie played his first first rugby with the local R.U. fifteen, where his displays soon brought him honours with Devon County. he was on the fringe of gaining his first full Union cap when Oldham moved in to sign him in January 1921.

On coming North he soon established himself in the Oldham first team, gaining

Son of the famous Australian Test forward, Johnny Raper, Stuart's spell with Oldham was one of the highlights of the relegation fated season of 1986-87.

Not the subject of an expensive contract, Stuart simply turned up at Watersheddings, was given a trial and finished the season having made 30 first team appearances most of these in the loose forward position.

Good at backing up and a keen tackler, Stuart helped Oldham to their first Lancashire Cup Final for 18 years and turned in an



inspired performance against his fellow countrymen as Oldham held the 1986 "Kangaroos" to the closest score of the tour, eventually going down 16-22.

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EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY



ACTION GALLERY No. 3 SCOTT RANSON (Oldham at Old Trafford)

Oldham winger Scott Ranson dives in for a stunning try that was the highlight of the 1992 Divisional Premiership Final at Old Trafford.

This try crowned a superb Oldham fight back and tied the scores at 20-20, but after playing with one man down for most of the game, Oldham eventually ran out of steam for the "Eagles" to win by 34-20.

Action Gallery

To coincide with their return to the First Division of the Rugby League, Oldham R.L.F.C. are introducing this special new feature into the matchday programme for the 1993-94 season.

The ACTION GALLERY is a set of excellent water colour paintings, that depict some of the star players and dramatic moments in the club's history on the field of play.

With the centenary of the Rugby League now just two years away the ACTION GALLERY will cover the full time-span of almost 100 years of professional Rugby League in Oldham, from the early days of the "Northern Union" right up to the intense, high pressure atmosphere of the game in the 1990's.

The team that dominated the R.L. Championship in the 1906-1911 era; the cup specialists of the mid 1920's; the "great" entertaining team of the late 50's, all of these are sure to feature in this unique series which is a must for collectors of Oldham and Rugby League memorabilia in general.

FULL COLOUR copies (size 11 1/2" x 8") are to be made available and will come complete with a detailed narrative giving particulars of the player or incident depicted in the painting. The copies will cost £3.20 each (add 80p if requiring the copies to be sent by post) and can be obtained from **Mr M. Turner, 158 Balfour Street, Oldham, OL4 1NS.**

Please note that the ACTION GALLERY series are not fabricated images and have all been painted from actual photographs.

A limited number will be available in the club shop for 30 minutes after the match.

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A-TEAM NEWS

HUNSLET 'A' 18 OLDHAM 'A' 29

The 'A' team maintained their 100 per cent record with a hard fought victory against Hunslet 'A' in a very physical game. Hunslet play first team games at the multi million pound, thirty odd thousand capacity, Elland Road stadium. Unfortunately the 'A' team play their games in a field - the quaintly named Busiling Thorpe Vale Ground.

It was an entertaining game and the result was in doubt up until the last few minutes when two Paddy Mitchell tries secured the points for Oldham. It was good to see Mark Meadows back from injury and he began to make strong drives as his confidence grew. David Stephenson played his first game since his return from Australia and he looked like he meant business. He was if anything a little over enthusiastic and earned himself a sin-binning for a swinging arm.

Oldham's tries came from Mitchell (2), Strett, Olsen and Gouldbourne. Martin Strett kicked four goals and Mark Hudspith dropped one goal.

TEAM: - Hudspith, Trialist, Holden, Ranson, Gouldbourne, Mitchell, Strett, Heaton, Stephenson, Meadow's, Olsen, Norman, Edwards, Green, Trialist.

PLAYER PROFILE - MARTIN HOLDEN

Full Name: Martin Gerard Holden.

Date of Birth: 23/6/69.

Birthplace: Wigan.

Previous Clubs: Wigan St. Patricks.

Favourite Player: Ellery Hanley.

Favourite Ground: Hilton Park.

Most Difficult Opponent: Most of them.

Biggest Influence on Career: David Ruddy.

Favourite Food: Tuna/Chicken.

Favourite Drink: Coffee/Water.

Favourite T.V.: Don't see much 'cos we're usually training.

Favourite Film: GoodFellas.

Person you would most like to meet: Mickey Edward's psychiatrist or Ben Olsens hairdresser.

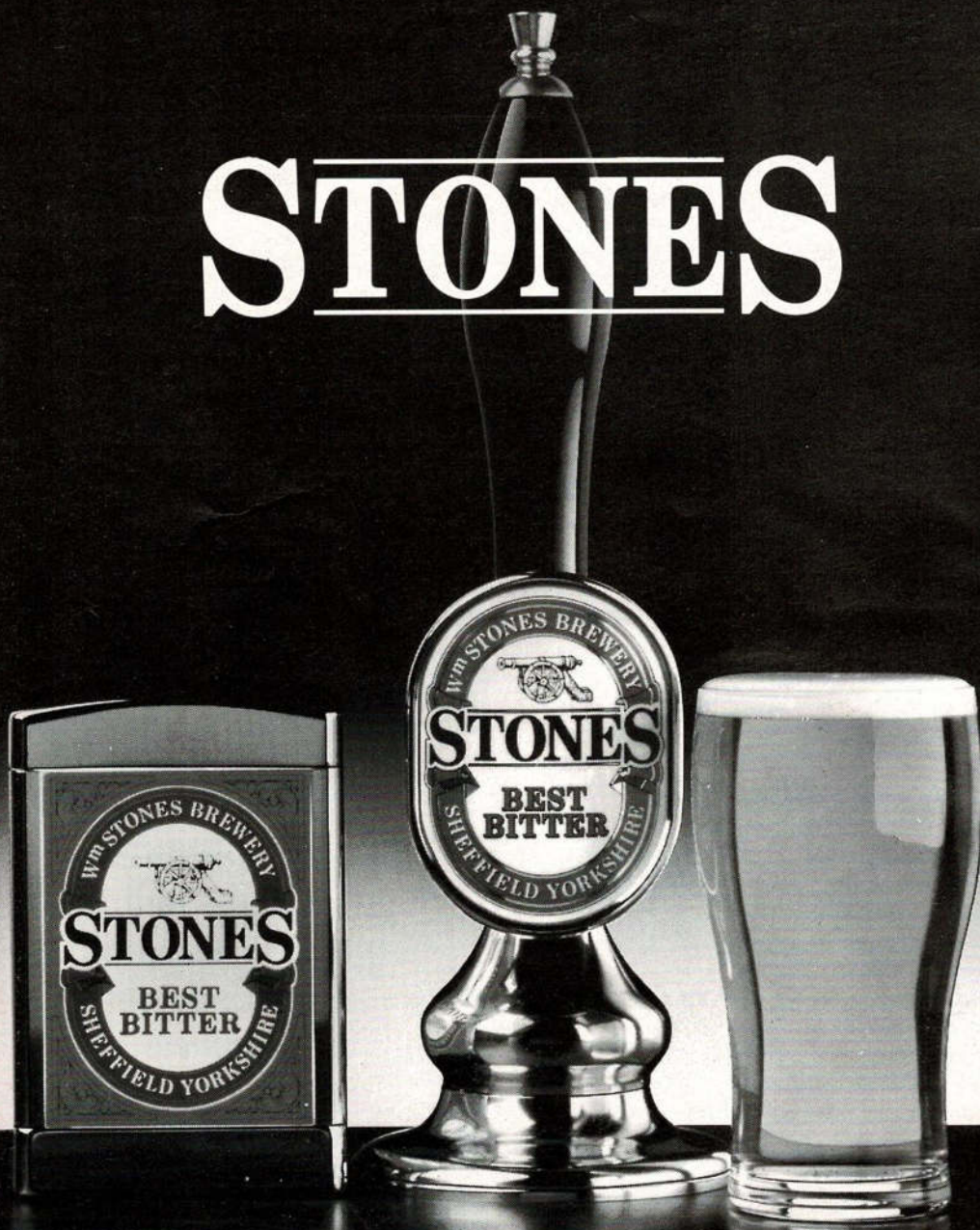


YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

AUGUST					
Saturday	28th	Workington	H	(W)	44-16
SEPTEMBER					
Saturday	4th	Rochdale	A	(W)	30-18
Thursday	9th	Hull K.R.	H	(W)	32-12
Thursday	16th	Hunslet	A	(W)	29-18
Saturday	25th	Doncaster	A		
OCTOBER					
Friday	1st	LCCS - Round 1			
Thursday	7th	Leigh	H		
Friday	22nd	LCCS - Round 2			
Saturday	30th	Swinton	A		
Sunday	31st	Regal Trophy - Round 1			
NOVEMBER					
Saturday	6th	London	H		
Saturday	13th	Youngers ASDC - Round 1			
Thursday	18th	Huddersfield	H		
Saturday	27th	Youngers ASDC - Round 2			
DECEMBER					
Saturday	4th	Leigh	A		
Saturday	11th	Barrow	H		
Saturday	18th	Bramley	A		
Wednesday	22nd	Carlisle	H		
JANUARY					
Friday	7th	Youngers ACC - Round 1			
Friday	14th	Huddersfield	A		
Saturday	22nd	Barrow	A		
Friday	28th	Youngers ACC - Round 2			
FEBRUARY					
Thursday	3rd	Rochdale	H		
Thursday	10th	Keighley	H		
Friday	18th	Youngers ACC - Round 3			
Monday	21st	Sheffield	A		
Saturday	26th	Carlisle	A		
MARCH					
Saturday	5th	London	A		
Thursday	10th	Dewsbury	H		
Friday	11th	Youngers ACC - Semi-final			
Thursday	17th	Swinton	H		
APRIL					
Thursday	14th	Youngers ACC - Final			

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STONES



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FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



The Directors were very encouraged last Sunday by the attendance of 5,755 for the Stones Bitter Championship clash with Warrington. A lot of fans came from Wilderspool - one of the big advantages of playing in the First Division - but, even so, there was a much bigger turn-out of Oldham supporters than we had at the previous home game against Bradford Northern and that was a very gratifying sight indeed for the board.

By anyone's standards it was a good game of Rugby League against Warrington, with Oldham on top in the first half and the Wires coming from behind in the second half to finish deserving winners.

The Bradford game was a thrill-a-minute stuff in which the lead changed hands several times before Bradford snatched victory with an interception try two minutes from time.

Two home games played - and two defeats. But I think you will all agree that, in

both games, we competed well. Warrington were the stronger team in the second half, but we gave them a good game and they were glad to hear the final hooter, believe me.

The pity of it all, of course, was that once we got the fans into the ground we could not provide them with the right result. However, I am sure that Peter Tunks and the players will get to grips with the situation and that the right results will come as we progress in the First Division.

Needless to say the directors are keen that the support stays with us. I have said many times before, and I will say again, that Oldham is essentially a Rugby League town. I have no doubt that, if we can build a team to win major honours we won't be talking of 5,000 fans, but of 10,000 fans. There is a lot of work to do, but you can rest assured it is being done.

There will be a lot of top-class rugby league played

on our own ground in the next few months and I am confident that the coaching staff and players will put us on the right road sooner rather than later. They are professional in every sense of the word and it was very encouraging to me to listen to them analysing the Warrington game and highlighting areas in which their game can be improved.

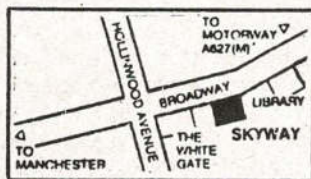
Today we welcome Sheffield Eagles. This will be another tough game - they are all tough in the Stones Bitter Championship - but the players will be keen to put the disappointments of the Bradford and Warrington games behind them and pick up their first points on home soil after the win at Hull KR a fortnight ago.

Played four, won one is not the start we would have chosen, but in each of the three defeats we competed well and proved that we have what is essentially a First Division side.

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GENTLEMEN A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Thursday November 4th we are holding a Sportsman's Dinner at the Birch Hall Hotel, Lees, Oldham. Our guest speaker for the evening will be one of the sporting worlds most famous and controversial characters - Ex England cricketer Freddie Trueman. Also on the bill will be the man regarded by many as the funniest act around Johnny Casson.

Our master of ceremonies will be - Carruthers (of the Foreign Office)

Tickets inclusive of four course Dinner cost just £20
Company packages are also available - for more details contact Judy 061-624 4865.

JUST THE TICKET

The Golden Gamble match day draw is proving popular with supporters. Tickets cost just one pound each and give you the chance to win half the proceeds as a cash prize. The draw will take place on the pitch at half time. Look out for our Golden Gamble sellers and remember - you have to be in it to win it.

GO AWAY!

If you are driving to Naughton Park for the game against Widnes here are Directions:-

From M62
Junction 7 (A57/A569)
Follow signs to Widnes A569
Junction with A568/A5080
At mini-roundabout turn left then at next roundabout turn right A568
After 1.2 miles turn right into Highfield Road.
After ½ mile at crossroads forward into Lowerhouse Lane, Widnes R.L. ground on the left.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Today we welcome past players as guests of the club for our annual ex players reunion. They will include some famous and some not so famous names and faces but one thing they will have in common is that they all wore the red and white of Oldham with pride. We extend to each and every one of these ex roughly 'eds our very best wishes and we hope they all enjoy their day here at Watersheddings.

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WEDNESDAY	£100	Winner: A 0084, F. Brown	Agent: 257 Waggon and Horses
THURSDAY	£100	Winner: E 2900, J. Barlow	Agent: 275 High Crompton P.O.
FRIDAY	£100	Winner: A 0080, Mrs. Wood	Agent: 048 D. Shawcross
SATURDAY	£100	Winner: H 0384, G. Deakin	Agent: 149 D. Orwell
SUNDAY	£100	Winner: F 1643, G. Fisher	Agent: 144 G & M Fisher

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YOUR CHANCE TO WIN AN XXXXXELLENT PRIZE

To mark the beginning of Oldham's new season, Castlemaine XXXX has a rugby ball signed by the entire Oldham RLFC team to give away, including the autograph of new player Australian International Bob Lindner, who won't be feeling too homesick as long as there's Castlemaine XXXX around.

Just answer the following five questions and keep hold of your answers. Five more questions will appear in the next home programme. Send all ten of your answers on a postcard together with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Castlemaine XXXX rugby ball competition, Harrison Carlross Ltd, Church House, Blackfriars Road, Newcastle-under-Lyne, Staffordshire ST5 2ED.

The first correct answer from the bag wins the prize.

CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE



XXXXX



TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 1993

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Wally Gibson
2. Charlie McAllister
3. Shaun Irwin
4. Paul Topping
5. David Jones
6. Martin Strett
7. Martin Crompton
8. Tiny Solomona
9. Paul Groves
10. Ian Sherratt
11. Bob Lindner
12. Andy Goodway
13. Mike Kuiti
14. Craig Richards
15. David Bradbury

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6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Referee: C. A. STEELE

SHEFFIELD E. Team Changes

1. Mark Gamson
2. Linton Stott
3. Richard Price
4. Chris McKenna
5. David Plange
6. Ryan Sheridan
7. Mark Aston
8. Paul Broadbent
9. Lee Jackson
10. Dale Laughton
11. Paul Carr
12. Bruce McGuire
13. Anthony Farrell
14. Ian Hughes
15. David Fraise

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

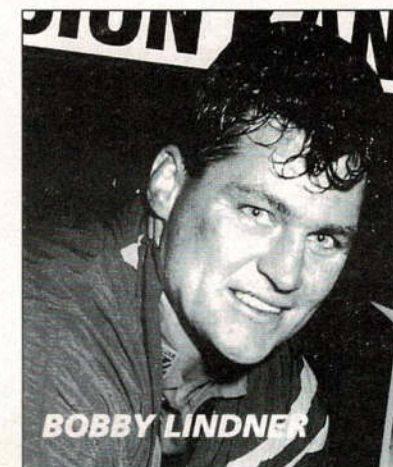
SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20

Touch Judges: J. Price (Red Flag)
M. J. Hesketh (Yellow Flag)

Questions

1. What was the venue for Oldham's Challenge Cup semi-final against Wigan in 1991?
2. In which year did Oldham last reach the Lancashire Cup Final?
3. From which team did Oldham sign Paul Groves?
4. Who is Oldham's all-time record points scorer?
5. Who were Oldham's opponents in the last league game of last season?



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IN TOUCH with H.Q.

NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR KIWIS TOUR 1993

On Monday 20th September, the Junior Kiwis, currently rated the best Youth Rugby League side in the world, arrived at Gatwick Airport to begin their keenly awaited nine-match tour of Great Britain.

It is the Junior Kiwis' first visit to this country since 1987, and their first encounter with British opposition since 1991, when they hosted a tour by the BARLA Under-19 side. On that occasion, they won the series 2-0, taking the first Test at Greymouth 34-16 and the second in Auckland by the convincing margin of 28-0.

It was twelve months ago, however, that the Junior Kiwis made the world sit up and take notice when they routed the Australian High Schools 36-14 at Auckland's Carlaw Park.

In their 58-match history, the Australians had been beaten only once, 10-16 by Auckland Under-19 back in 1982, and never in a test match. They had already been rocked by the Junior Kiwis in the first Test at Rotorua, which they held on to win 26-24, despite being outscored by five tries to four. Now, one week later, they were simply blown away, even though their coach considered them to be at least the equal of their predecessors in the Australian colours.

Coach Frank Endacott brings five of that successful Junior Kiwi side to Great Britain with him now: wingers Alex Chan and Peter Lima, half-back Taneatua Manihera, second row Joe Vagana, and prop David Fatialofa, nephew of the Western Samoa Rugby Union captain, Peter. Endacott was denied a sixth by the senior Kiwi selectors, who chose brilliantly Manly stand-off Gene Ngamu for their squad to tour this country next month, despite his still being eligible for the Junior Kiwis.

Endacott's squad is a young one, more than half of whom will be available for selection again next year. The captain is Te Atatu utility man Henry Paul, one of a clutch of Junior Kiwi players already signed up for the Auckland Warrior's Winfield Cup squad by coach John Monie. Paul will play full-back for the tourists, and is one of eleven members of the Auckland Under-19 side which won their national tournament to have earned selection. Canterbury, the beaten finalists in that competition, provide a further seven players.

Endacott is now in his second year as coach of the Junior Kiwis, having succeeded Bob Bailey and Howie Tamati in the job, both of whom went on to coach the national side. He rates his squad as very similar in strength to that which beat the Australians, although he considers the loss of Ngamu a major blow. He realises, though, that the itinerary planned for his squad is much more formidable than that which faced the 1987 tourists, with seven of the nine matches against Rugby League Academy opposition. The remaining two pit them against a BARLA International XIII and a BARLA President's XIII. As well as the two Academy internationals at Wembley and Wigan, the Junior Kiwis will meet the Yorkshire and Lancashire representative sides, plus the trophy-winners and runners-up from last year's Academy League and Challenge Cup competitions.

"The British Rugby League have done a real job on us," cracks Endacott. "It's the toughest course imaginable. I showed it to senior Australia coach Bobby Fulton, and he said we must be mad to attempt it. But we didn't want it easy, and it'll prove just how good we are, as we'll have to be very durable. It'll sort out the men from the boys."

JUNIOR KIWI TOUR ITINERARY

Thursday	23rd September	Hull	7.30
Monday	27th September	BARLA Presidents XIII (at Sheffield Eagles)	7.30
Thursday	30th September	Lancashire (at St. Helens)	7.30
Monday	4th October	Wigan	7.30
Thursday	7th October	Yorkshire (at Featherstone Rovers)	7.30
Monday	11th October	Warrington	7.30
Saturday	16th October	GREAT BRITAIN ACADEMY (at Wembley)	12.30
Monday	18th October	BARLA International XIII (at Whitehaven)	7.30
Thursday	21st October	GREAT BRITAIN ACADEMY (at Wigan)	7.30

TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



C. A. STEELE

(Dalton-in-Furness)

Date of Birth:

11.9.60

Became a Grade One
referee in
1987/88 season.

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Last Time Out . . .

with ROGER HALSTEAD

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of May 18th, 1992



OLDHAM'S hopes of celebrating a trophy triumph at Old Trafford for the third time in five years nosedived with the 25th minute dismissal of prop Ian Sherratt in yesterday's Divisional Final against Sheffield Eagles.

Oldham played their hearts out to make up for the deficiency in numbers, but in the end it proved too much and Sheffield pulled clear in the last ten minutes after being given the fright of their lives.

Trailing 16 - 4 at half time, Oldham scored three tries to one in the first 30 minutes of the second half despite sweltering temperatures and exhausting humidity.

When Ged Byrne, Keith Newton and Scott Ranson crossed the Eagles' line to bring Oldham back from the dead, many fans started to wonder if it was going to be 1990 all over again.

Victory on this occasion would have been all the more remarkable because Oldham had only 12 men, but with nine minutes left it was 20-20 and Oldham looked to be the stronger side.

Alas, Tim Street was over-ambitious with an inside pass deep inside his own half and Sheffield snatched possession, never to look back.

Oldham were up against it from the start when the first five penalties of the match went against them.

There was an ironic cheer from Oldham fans when their side was awarded its first penalty in the 26th minute - only a minute after Sherratt was sent off by Widnes referee Stuart Cummings for a high tackle on Darryl Powell.

I thought Sherratt was unlucky to go. It was the first incident of its kind in a good mannered match.

The big prop was flying out of the defensive line and, as Powell gave him the slip, he lunged and caught the Sheffield man a blow which was more instinctive than intentional.

Similar incidents later in the game - Farrell on Street and Martyn on Gamson - merely produced penalties and a lecture.

There were worse tackles in the Wigan - Saints match (Hampson on Veivers and Platt on Connolly) which did not bring the ultimate retribution from referee John Holsworth.

Such consistency is highlighted when matches take place in quick succession and referees react differently to similar situations.

Referee Cummings is a young, up and coming official. You cannot buy experience, nor can you assume that there are grounds for criticism merely because he has dismissed an Oldham player on the three occasions he has handled Oldham matches. Some may feel he acted correctly and the vastly experienced Holsworth was too lenient.

It is my opinion, however, that the young Widnes official over-reacted in the heat of the moment on the big stage and with the eyes of the whole Rugby League world upon him.

Wisely, he would not comment fully afterwards, other than to say: "The Oldham man was sent off for a high tackle. The details will be in my report

to the Rugby League."

It was a devastating blow for Oldham, who had already been knocked for six by the skills and class of the two men who dominated the match - Aston and Powell.

Powell's three first half tries gave him the man of the match award, but it was scrum-half Aston who quietly engineered the openings and fashioned the chances with his astute use of the pass and his vision to change the direction of the attack.

Aston pulled the strings and Test man Powell responded with the finishing touches in a superb double-act that could have easily killed Oldham off in the first half.

Sheffield loaded the blind side on numerous occasions and caught Oldham out where they were weakest thanks to Aston's fox-like cunning.

Oldham had no luck at all in the first half. The bounce of the ball and the referee's decision invariably went Sheffield's way.

Oldham made a lot of mistakes, however, and seemed powerless to beat the excellent defensive work of their opponents, apart from the occasion from which Platt scored wide out after a telling break by Byrne.

This was probably Byrne's finest game for Oldham, and it was merely a sign of things to come when he split the defence brilliantly for Ropati and Tyrer to send Platt crashing in.

It just about summed up Oldham's luck when Platt's goal-kick from out wide struck the upright and bounced out.

Overall, however, Oldham were nervous in the first half.

They were vulnerable to the bomb and the right flank of Nicklin and Ranson was too easily beaten or dragged out of position.

They were already 12 - 4 down when Sherratt was sent off and within minutes, Powell completed his hat trick by waltzing past Platt on the inside after a defence splitting pass by Aston.

In the second half, Street and Byrne took charge up front and Oldham's luck began to change. Slowly but surely, the balance of power began to swing.

Decisions gone against Oldham earlier were now going for them.

More than once, Sheffield were beaten by the little kick, but the ball refused to sit up into Oldham hands.

Still, it was Oldham's turn for good fortune when Mycoe went over, only to have put a foot in touch. Broadbent was turned on his back over the line and McAlister seemed a certain try scorer only for the referee to rule that he bounced the ball when trying to touch down.

Encouraged by these Sheffield lapses, Oldham began to claw themselves back into contention thanks to the sterling work of Ropati, Russell, Byrne, Warburton and Street.

Newton worked hard throughout and Joynt began to come into his own as an attacking force.

As Oldham started to find gaps down the middle it was the Hull KR thriller all over again.

The fight back began when Byrne sold an outrageous dummy to go behind the sticks and Martyn goaled.

Nicklin, now at full-back, saved the day when he wrapped up Lumb before Joynt and Warburton went majestically down the middle to pave the way for a Newton try, goaled by Martyn.

Incredibly, Oldham were level at 16-16, but Street released an ambitious pass after a stunning break and back came Eagles for Aston and Powell, the deadly duo, to fashion a try in the corner for Mycoe.

Oldham could have been forgiven for capitulating but they refused to lie down. Warburton almost got Joynt over, before half the side handled a brilliant move which enabled Byrne to unleash Ranson on the half-way line.

It was the winger's one chance of the afternoon and he took it brilliantly by scorching up the touchline, turning inside the cover and then heading for the corner to beat Mycoe for speed.

It was a fantastic try that brought the house down.

Martyn could not put Oldham in front with his goal kick off the touch line, but Sheffield were visibly wobbling by this stage and there were only ten minutes left.

Eagles looked dead and buried when Street pushed off three defenders to another defiant dash but, again, he chanced his arm and from his misdirected pass the Eagles regained possession.

That was almost the last Oldham saw of the ball. Lumb squeezed over from dummy half for Aston to kick the goal.

Then Aston goaled again - the killer kick - when Byrne obstructed him after he had chipped ahead. Finally, that man Aston supplied the final pass for Mumby to crash over near the posts.

Aston kicked the goal to crown a marvellous individual display which could easily have taken the Tom Gergin man of the match off Powell.

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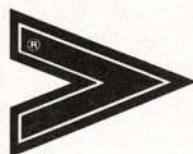
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	4	-	-	-	-	-
NIGEL HESLOP	3	-	1	-	-	4
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	4	-	-	9	-	18
SCOTT RANSON	2	-	-	-	-	-
DARREN ABRAM	4	-	1	-	-	4
STEVE KERRY	1	-	-	1	-	2
"TINY" SOLOMONA	4	-	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	4	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	4	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
DAVID BRADBURY	1	2	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	4	-	-	-	-	-
DAVID JONES	2	1	-	-	-	-
ANDY GOODWAY	3	1	-	-	-	-
CHARLIE McALISTER	2	1	-	-	-	-
MARTIN STRETT	1	1	-	4	-	8
SHANE TUPAEA	1	-	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	-	3	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	2	-	2	-	-	8
MARTIN CROMPTON	2	-	2	-	-	8
BOB LINDNER	2	-	-	-	-	-

LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BRADFORD N.	4	4	0	0	105	72	8
HALIFAX	4	3	1	0	116	52	7
LEEDS	4	3	0	1	102	69	6
CASTLEFORD	4	3	0	1	81	48	6
WIGAN	4	3	0	1	110	77	6
WARRINGTON	4	3	0	1	86	57	6
FEATHERSTONE	4	3	0	1	99	86	6
ST. HELENS	4	2	0	2	76	63	4
HULL	4	1	1	2	58	58	3
OLDHAM	4	1	0	3	72	82	2
SALFORD	4	1	0	3	79	101	2
WIDNES	4	1	0	3	83	112	2
SHEFFIELD E.	4	1	0	3	83	116	2
WAKEFIELD T.	4	1	0	3	48	89	2
HULL K.R.	4	1	0	3	56	110	2
LEIGH	4	0	0	4	42	104	0

THE ACADEMY

with Manager
JACK BUCKLEY

This week we take the opportunity to introduce the players in our Academy squad to the increasing numbers of fans who are lending their support both home and away.

Local players include the Club's three young professionals, Richard Badby at stand off who has excelled in all our games so far, hooker Martin Halkyard who is fighting his way back to full fitness and centre Lee Bradbury who unfortunately faces a six week lay-off with ligament problems after a powerful start to the season. The other two local lads are 16 year old winger Damian Munro and forward Martin Breslin.

The rest of the squad are mainly from the Wigan area and are all seventeen years old in their first year of Academy football. The exception is our captain, prop forward Mick Twist who played for St. Helens Academy last season. Mick's usual partner in the front row is

Ross Buckley, a big powerful runner. Second row forward Mike Prescott is the talk of the terraces at Watersheddings where his style of play is likened to that of a young Andy Goodway. Andy Smart and Andy Walsh vie for the other second row row spot, whilst loose forward Jody Morgan is becoming a firm favourite with the crowd. John Curless and Stuart Cooper are two other forwards who have performed consistently well this season.

In the back division, scrum half Wayne Riding is forging an impressive partnership with Richard Badby and the wings are full of pace from Munro and Adie Meade.

The right centre spot is a hotly contested place between Darren Grimshaw, Tommy Glavin and Simon Silcock, whilst the full back position belongs to the consistent Stephen Hunt.

The squad is completed by tricky half back Andy Swift. After the 1st November we will be able to add new players to the squad and we already have two or three exciting prospects in the pip-line. The Academy staff promise the Watersheddings faithful that we will do our utmost to entertain you with fast and open youth football.

Please give the lads your best support.

GROUP 3 (20.9.93)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	pts
Hull	5	5	0	0	218	23	10
Leeds	5	5	0	0	222	62	10
Wakefield	5	3	0	2	152	114	6
Oldham	4	2	0	2	124	114	4
Barrow	4	2	0	2	100	76	4
Bradford N	4	2	0	2	98	90	4
Featherstone	4	1	0	3	78	108	2
Hunslet	4	0	0	4	42	196	0
Batley	5	0	0	5	22	269	0

DEVELOPING SCENE

with
Development
Officer
NIEL WOOD

One of the main areas that my job as Rugby league Development Officer is concerned with is that of mass participation. Today I want to highlight three projects that are going on.

Number one is the in-school coaching. Currently coaches

are working in seven schools, Grange, Failsworth, Littlemoor, Diggle, Freizeland, St. Georges (East Crampton) and Buckstones. Hopefully all of these schools will then take part in schools festivals. The first festival of the year is at Crossley Playing Fields, Broadway, next Thursday at 4.00. The children taking part are also invited to go along to their local amateur club.

Project number two is the brand new mini league Centre which is held every Saturday morning at Hathenshaw Sports Centre from 10.00 until 11.30. Youngsters from 5 to 10 can

come along and play mini-league. They will be put into teams, shown what to do and away they go! Again interested youngsters will be directed to their local Amateur Club.

Project Number Three is again aimed at Schools. That is the promotion of curtain raisers to Oldham 1st team games. Today we welcome Littlemoor, Leesfield, Stoneleigh and Our Lady's. Oldham Rugby League Club kindly invite 25 youngsters from each school to play in the curtain raiser and attend the game. Over the season we hope to feature almost 30 junior schools.

Oldham Rugby League Development is sponsored by P. CASEY & COMPANY

QUOTE - UNQUOTE

"Peter Tunks has put his faith in me, the club want to go places, I thought long and hard about coming down to Oldham and I now want to pay back Peter by playing well week in and week out and out and put Oldham near the top where they belong."

(Martin Crompton on his move to Watersheddings)

"We must learn by our mistakes. If we do that, we will survive in the First Division, and survival is the first priority."
(Andy Goodway)

"Good teams make you pay and we're still learning, but I'm getting sick of saying that."
(Peter Tunks)

"There is a lot of work to do and certain areas in which we can improve, it is also important that we start to punish teams and score points when we have running opportunities out wide."
(Bob Lindner)

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ACTION PHOTOS

Courtesy of the OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE



David Bradbury tries to bust the Warrington defence



No way through this time for Tiny

BACK PAGES

by Michael Turner

OLDHAM V SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Since the Rugby League began its expansion programme in 1980, there is no doubt that the biggest success story so far concerns today's visitors SHEFFIELD EAGLES.

Although the Sheffield club entered the League in the 1984-85 season it was not until October 1987 that the first Oldham v Eagles encounter took place.

The results of all the previous matches between the two clubs are listed right.

It is interesting to note that Oldham have never lost in Sheffield, although the opening match of the 1991-92 season ended in a 16-16 draw at the Don Valley Stadium.

In cup football the clubs have one victory each, Oldham winning the Challenge Cup 2nd Round tie in February 1989 and the Eagles denying the Roughy 'eds their third Divisional Premiership success at Old Trafford in May 1992.

Overall Oldham have a good record against the Eagles but they will need no reminding that Sheffield have triumphed on their last two visits to Watersheddings and another tough encounter can be expected today.

NOTE: In all matches between Oldham and Sheffield both teams have scored in double figures.

11.10.87	Oldham	44	Sheffield	20 Div 2
27. 3.88	Sheffield	15	Oldham	28 Div 2
12. 2.89	Sheffield	20	Oldham	32 RL Cup 2
14.10.90	Sheffield	14	Oldham	24 Div
17. 3. 91	Oldham	27	Sheffield	20 Div 1
1. 9.91	Sheffield	16	Oldham	16 Div 2
27.10.91	Oldham	12	Sheffield	38 Div 2
12. 1.92	Oldham	18	Sheffield	44 Div 2
1. 3.92	Sheffield	10	Oldham	14 Div 2
17. 5.02	Sheffield	34	Oldham	20 Div/Prem Final (at Old Trafford)

List of results since 1987 between Oldham and Sheffield



Courtesy of the Oldham Evening Chronicle
Oldham centre Steve Warburton attempts to evade ex-"Roughyed" prop forward Hugh Waddell in the 16-16 draw at Sheffield on September 1st, 1991.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

**With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER**



It is disappointing to lose any game of Rugby League but it is doubly disappointing to lose a game that seemed to be there for the taking.

Last Sunday we found ourselves in a commanding position at half time in our match with Warrington as we held a 12 points to 2 lead. We had played well for forty minutes and I felt we deserved the ten point advantage but Warrington are a good side and they were not about to give up the ghost at that stage.

When you come up against good sides you know that at some time during the game they are going to put you under severe pressure. How you

deal with that pressure is going to have a major bearing on the result. In the event we didn't do well enough and we paid the price. We made a couple of mistakes too many and were punished accordingly. Once they got their noses in front Warrington closed us down superbly, utilising a well drilled sliding defence.

If you analyse Warrington's tries however, two came from kicks and the third should never have been allowed on two counts.

So disappointment yes, but no despondency. We can and will improve our game. We will need to cut down on our mistakes and it is also

important that we start to punish teams and get points on the board when we have running opportunities out wide.

Today we are head to head with Sheffield Eagles and we have the opportunity to register our first home win. There are no easy games in the Stones Bitter First Division and Sheffield have their fair share of class players. It is up to us today to concentrate to the full and to give 100 per cent commitment.

Only that will be good enough.

Enjoy your Rugby.

This page is sponsored by IRENE and HELEN CALOW

SUPPORTERS CLUB

● The Supporters Club welcome to Watersheddings the Directors, players and supporters of Sheffield Eagles and we look forward to our second win in the First Division. We are sure our players will want to avenge our defeat at our last meeting between the two sides at Old Trafford in the Second Division Premiership Final. Also we hope for a very good, clean and enjoyable game

● Membership of the Supporters Club can now be taken out. So why not join us and take advantage of away travel and 5% discount in the Club Shop. For information call in the Club Shop or canteen to get your forms.

● Junior Reds forms may also be obtained from these two outlets or phone Sue Collinge on 061-681-3397.

● The Supporters Club are running a day trip to the test match at Wembley on Saturday 16th

October. The price is £35 inc. of a match seat ticket and coach seat, to leave at 8am. All enquiries to Club Shop or phone 633-6780 or 665-1832.

● Our next away game is at Widnes on Sunday 3rd October/93 coach seats can be booked in the Club Shop or in the canteen at today's match or phone 665-1832 for details.

● The club shop opening hours are as follows: Mon 10-00am to 4pm, Wed 10am to 4pm, Fri 10am to 4pm, Sundays before and after home matches only.

● Video's of all home and away matches may be hired from the Club Shop for £2.00 per night or purchased for £10 each or can be posted for an extra £2 for package and postage.

● If you have any other enquiries phone 633-6780 or 665 1832.

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TOY SET	£1.99	COMB IN CASE	£1.20
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KEY CASE	£1.50	PENSION BOOK HOLDER	£1.75

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20

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STATS

Opponents	Date	Res.	Ven.	F.A.	Att.
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NEXT HOME GAME
OLDHAM V LEEDS.
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10th
 K.O. 3.00 p.m.

TUNK'S TEASERS - ANSWERS

1. 1921 ✓
2. Parramatta ✓
3. Doncaster ✓
4. Hull K.R. (1st) and Hull (2nd) ✓
5. Graeme Langlands ✓
6. Iva Ropati ✓
7. 1957 ✓
8. Eric Harris ✓
9. Headingley ✓
10. 1976-77 ✓

10/10