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OLDHAM v FEATHERSTONE. Sunday, March 27th, 1994. Kick Off 3.00

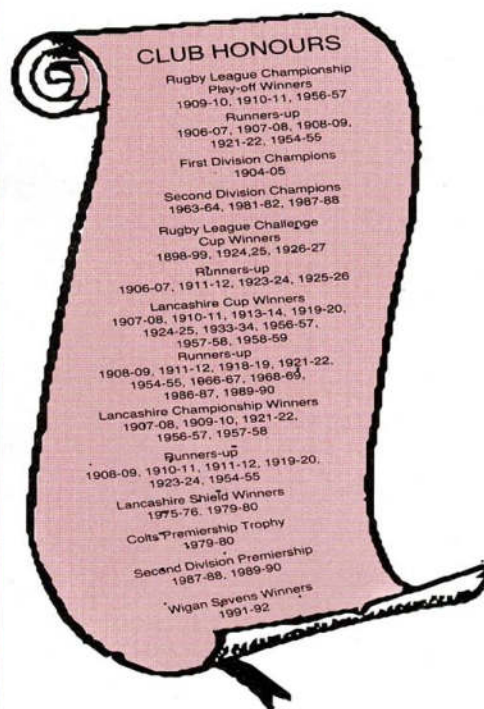
OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
Telephone: 061-652 5244 and 061-624 4865

ROLL OF HONOUR

CHAIRMAN: Jim Quinn

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Marketing Executive: Ian McMahon

'A' Team Coach: Shane Tupaea

Academy Manager: Jack Buckley

Hon. Consultant

Orthopaedic Surgeons: Mr. H. Thompson,

Mr. D. Walker

Hon. Safety Officer: Roger Norris

Official Timekeeper: Mr. J. Roscoe

Club Records:

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

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

Record Attendance: 28,000 v Huddersfield, 24th February, 1912

Record Receipts: £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, Jack Hirst, 233

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).

FROM the BOARDROOM

by **CHAIRMAN JAMES QUINN**



Our recent attendances at Watersheddings have been disappointing, but a glance at the gate figures throughout the game as a whole have indicated that we are not alone in finding it difficult to attract our supporters in big numbers.

Fans throughout the game seem to be getting increasingly choosy. This must be a cause of concern for the game's administrators and I feel sure they will be looking at what the future might have in store and what steps can be taken to get the turnstiles clicking again.

It would appear that about four clubs – five at the most – are going to dominate our game for several years to come and I often wonder if the game as a whole would benefit from a more even spread of resources and playing strength to try and avoid a monopoly of honours and produce far more matches which were less predictable.

Summer rugby is also an issue that cannot be ignored. Nobody can guarantee that a switch of seasons would do the trick, but one has to be sufficiently independent to hold a view on major topics within the game and, as you probably know, it is my view that summer rugby could be an answer.

It is all about paying wages, contracts and bills. Tradition won't pay bills and keep a club financially viable. People through the turnstiles will. Could it be that a lot more people would turn out in nice, pleasant conditions than have been tempted away from their firesides in this long winter we have just experienced?

At present, a handful of clubs hold the monopoly and they have the resources to sign up the top players, such as Paul Newlove, who went from Featherstone to Bradford Northern. Even a club like St. Helens found they could not hold on to

Gary Connolly, when Wigan put him on their shopping list.

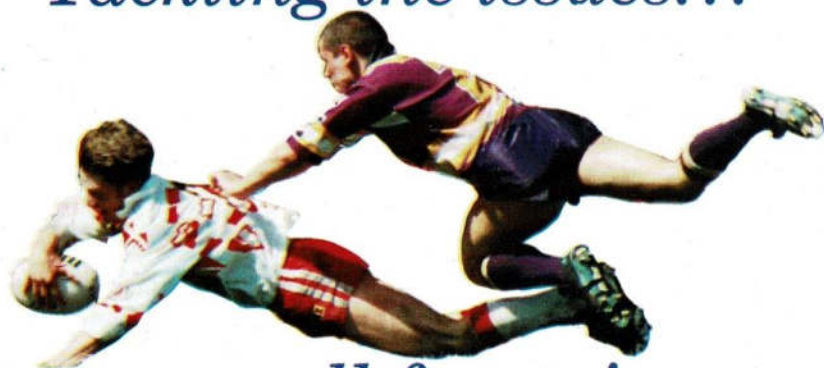
It has been reported recently that the Wigan wage bill for a recent financial year was £2 million and that is TWICE as much as the Oldham clubs total turnover. That probably applies also to a lot of clubs in the First Division.

The question has to be asked: Are we heading towards a four-club league?

Maybe, the answer is to attract a few Jack Walkers into our game. He has transformed Blackburn Rovers, from a modest club in the First Division of the Football League, to a leading contender for honours in the Carling Premiership and there is no way they could have made such incredible progress so quickly without Mr. Walker's financial backing.

We need a few Jack Walkers in Rugby League . . . but there are not many of them about.

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A Watersheddings Welcome to . . .

FEATHERSTONE R.

Coach **Steve Martin** has assembled a strong squad of players at Post Office Road as his side seek to consolidate their position in the top flight.

One absentee from their line up however is home-spun full-back **Chris Bibb** who is at present staying away from Post Office Road. His place has recently been filled by half-back **Martin Pearson** the sides goalkicker, who joined the club five years ago from Travellers A.R.L. Club. He has already represented the G.B. Under-21 side. Wingers **Ikram Butt** and **Owen Simpson** have the pace and power to worry the best of defences and between them, they registered 51 tries for Rovers last season. The former was signed from Leeds in the 1990 close season, whilst the latter came from Keighley three years ago.

Another former Lawkholme Lane player **Terry Manning** has held down a regular centre spot since joining Featherstone over four years ago and he registered ten tries out of his 37 appearances last season.

His partner in the three quarters will be former G.B. Test player **Carl Gibson** who toured Down Under in 1988 and 1990.

The ex-Batley and Leeds centre has played on 11 occasions for G.B., the last of them being against France in 1991.

With Pearson taking the full-back position, the half-back combination of **Francis Maloney** and **Brett Daunt** is that which helped Rovers beat Workington Town in the Divisional Premiership Final at Old Trafford in May, when Maloney scored a try in his sides 20-16 victory.

Maloney began his career at Leeds but was transferred to Rovers twelve months ago. Aussie scrum-half Daunt is now in his second season at Post Office Road after notching 13 tries from 29 appearances during the 1992-93 campaign.

Former Warrington and Leeds prop **Steve Molloy** will probably be wearing the number eight jersey. He has represented G.B. at both senior and Under-21 level, as well as having made an appearance for

England. The other prop is likely to be ex-Oldham forward **Leo Casey** who was a club record signing in the 1990 close season. At first he was dogged by injuries but now seems to be enjoying his rugby again. Hooker **Richard Gunn** is another former Headingley favourite who joined Featherstone in September 1992, taking over **Trevor Clark's** role.

Second row forward **Neil Roebuck** was with Bradford Northern before moving to Castleford in December 1989.

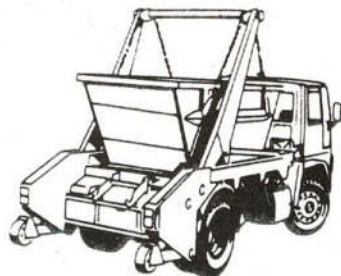
However, he made the short move to Featherstone in January 1993 and was a substitute in Rovers Divisional Premiership Final victory at Old Trafford. He has represented G.B. Under-21's.

Gary H. Price joined Rovers this season from Wakefield Trinity and he has played for G.B. at both senior and Under 21 level, whereas his namesake **Gary S. Price** has been at Post Office Road for over four years since his move from Leeds.

Loose forward **Brendon Tuuta** is a Kiwi International who first came to prominence with the 1989 New Zealand Tourists to this country. He signed for Featherstone in 1990 and is now in his fourth season at Post Office Road.

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Roughy 'eds Recalled

No. 24 SYD RIX



Also a try scorer in the 1927 Cup Final victory over Swinton, he topped the tries in a season list for Oldham on two occasions in 1922-23 and 1929-30.

By the time Syd played his last match for Oldham on 26th March, 1932, again against Rochdale, he had

made 330 first class appearances for the "Roughyeds", scoring 155 tries and four goals. Awarded the club captaincy in the late 1920's, there can be no doubt that SYD RIX was one of the finest three-quarters ever to play for Oldham R.L.F.C.

No. 25 GEOFF ROBINSON



Originally from Irlam O'th Heights, in Manchester, Syd joined Oldham just after the First World War and made his first team debut at Rochdale on 22nd March, 1919.

Best remembered as a winger, he also was very effective in the centre position and turned in a storming performance in the 1925 Cup Final, when playing centre to Joe Corsi.

Syd became a great favourite of the Watersheddings fans, as the team became the Cup specialists of the mid 1920's and was one of four Oldham players selected for the 1924 Tour to Australia and New Zealand. He played in all six tests on the tour, scoring a try in the first against Australia in Sydney and another in the second against New Zealand in Wellington.

A member of the formidable Whitehaven "pack" in the late 1950's, Geoff signed for Oldham on 12th August, 1959, making his debut three days later in the 27-12 victory over Leeds at Watersheddings.

A second row or loose forward, Geoff played for Oldham for six years before he was transferred to Warrington.

During his spell at Watersheddings, he

notched up 174 senior appearances and scored 19 tries, of which the most famous, by far, was his touchdown in extra time, in the first replay of the 1964 Challenge Cup semi-final against Hull K.R. This try looked to have put Oldham on the path to Wembley, but unfortunately for Geoff and Oldham the match was abandoned soon after his try, because of failing light.

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EVENING CHRONICLE

Oldham born and read

ACTION GALLERY

ACTION GALLERY No. 13 (Jack Read & Fred Ashworth)

Two of Oldham R.L.F.C.'s greatest clubmen, Jack Read (extreme left) and Fred Ashworth (extreme right) are captured in action against the Kiwis on October 23rd, 1926. Between 1926 and 1939 Jack and Fred notched up over 800 senior appearances for Oldham. In the centre of the image are two more members of the formidable Oldham "pack" of the 1920's; Ambrose Baker and Albert Brough.



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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B.D.S., V.U. Manc.

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A-TEAM NEWS

I was very pleased with our preparation in the week leading up to our semi-final in the Youngers Alliance Challenge Cup against Hull K.R. and in front of a very good crowd, who gave the lads plenty of encouragement, we went on to record a very resounding 44-6 victory, which put us into our third knock-out final of what has become a remarkable season.

I went to Salford the following Monday to run the rule over the Salford-Warrington semi, which resulted in a narrow Salford victory and I am glad to report we won the toss for the right to stage the final at Watersheddings, on a date still to be announced. But before the final we have more important League games to play, starting last Friday at Huddersfield, as we go for our ultimate goal of the Youngers Alliance Second Division Championship which will give our younger players better competition next year as they play the top Alliance sides, week in week out.

Markers Work,
Shane

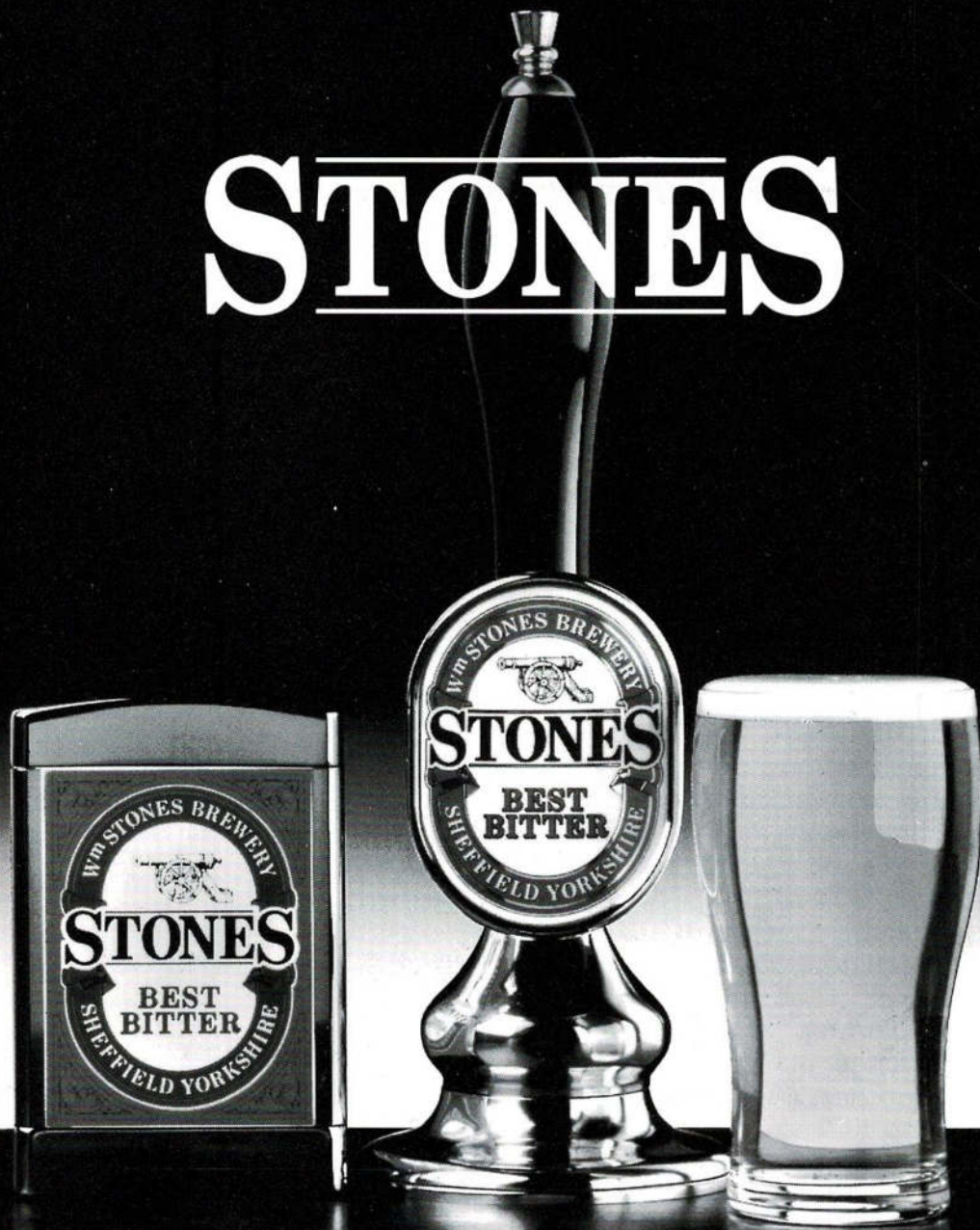


YOUNGERS ALLIANCE SECOND DIVISION FIXTURES SEASON 1993/94

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 (W)		36-16
OCTOBER					
Saturday	2nd	LCCS - Round 1 Workington	H (W)		38-10
Thursday	7th	Leigh	H (W)		26-24
Saturday	23rd	LCCS - Round 2 Wigan	A (W)		26-22
Saturday	30th	Swinton	A (W)		28-2
NOVEMBER					
Wednesday	3rd	LCCS-Semi Warrington	H (W)		12-6
Saturday	6th	London	H (W)		64-30
Saturday	13th	Youngers ASDC Round 1: London	A (W)		16-6
Thursday	18th	LCCS Final Rochdale	A (W)		32-20
Saturday	27th	Youngers ASDC Round 2: Hunslet	(W)		36-10
DECEMBER					
Wednesday	1st	Huddersfield	H (W)		48-2
Saturday	4th	Leigh	A (W)		39-16
Monday	20th	ASDC semi Dewsbury	A (W)		32-10
Wednesday	22nd	Carlisle	H		
JANUARY					
Friday	7th	Youngers ACC - Round 1			
Friday	14th	Huddersfield	A		
Saturday	22nd	Barrow	A (W)		48-14
Friday	28th	Youngers ACC - Round 2 Bradford N.	A (W)		27-25 (AE1)
FEBRUARY					
Saturday	5th	ASDC final Doncaster	A (W)		20-14
Thursday	10th	Keighley	H (W)		26-12
Friday	18th	Featherstone Y	ACC - Rd 3(W)		46-4
Monday	21st	Sheffield	A (W)		14-6
Saturday	26th	Carlisle	A (W)		44-16
MARCH					
Saturday	5th	London	A (W)		94-6
Friday	11th	Youngers ACC - Semi-final Hull K.R.	(W)		44-6
Thursday	17th	Swinton	H		
APRIL					
Saturday	2nd	Barrow	H		
Tuesday	5th	Dewsbury	H		
Friday	8th	Carlisle	H		
Thursday	14/15th	Youngers ACC - Final Salford			

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ACTION EXTRA . . .



Walter on
another
sortie, as
workaholics
Shane &
Clarky as
ever near
the action

HALF-TIME TEASERS

1. Who won the Lance Todd Trophy in 1953?
2. Which team play at The Willows?
3. Who captained the 1932 Great Britain touring team to Australia and New Zealand?
4. Who was the first Oldham player to kick over 100 goals in a season?
5. Which team have official colours of myrtle, white and flame?
6. Who is the only Keighley player to play for Great Britain?
7. Who holds the tries in a season record for Hull?
8. Who were the first team to win the Lancashire Cup in successive seasons?
9. In which season did the Rugby League operate a bottom 14 competition?
10. Who was the first Great Britain player to make three tours to Australia and New Zealand?

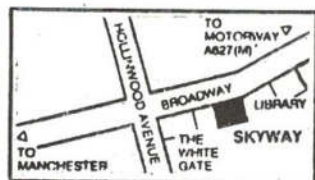
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Time never stands still here at Oldham, already plans are afoot for next season. The two most likely to create discussion amongst the Older element of our supporters are:

PENNY RUSH

In a return to the halcyon days of rugby here at Watersheddings, we are re-introducing the "Penny Rush" standing area for school children. The whole of the Hutchins Stand will be a Family Enclosure, with the standing area for the children only.

As suggested in the title, entry for children will be just "One Penny".

COMPETITION TO RE-NAME OLDHAM RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB

Maybe, not as radical as the Competition Title suggests.

Chicago have the "Bears" and the "Bulls", Washington have the "Redskins", Brisbane the "Broncos", Canterbury the "Bulldogs". New franchises in the Winfield Cup have also named themselves Auckland "Warriors" and the Western "Reds".

What we want to do is give ourselves a name that we can market to the youngsters in and around the surrounding area. In these modern times we have to compete with American Football, W.W.F. Wrestling etc. Here at Oldham we have decided to take the initiative and in a bid to develop the game. What you will see next season is a whole different concept. We will make a day at Oldham a day to remember.

THE COMPETITION IS QUITE SIMPLE: GIVE OLDHAM RUGBY CLUB A NEW NAME.

All names will be considered, it does not have to be an animal, it can be anything. If you can, try and design a new logo for the club to go with your new name.

The winning entrant will win a replica shirt and also two season tickets for next season, to witness the New Era.

Send your entry to: Ian McMahon, Oldham R.L.F.C., The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham OL4 2PB.

Alternatively, hand them in at the Club Shop.

Closing date is 17th April.

BIG LEAGUE CASH BONANZA

WEEK No. 11

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Winner: H8568 F. Howarth
Winner: F6374 P. Ford
Winner: A9046 Frank Clarke
Winner: C2538 Carol Waite

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OLDHAM TO MEET FEATHERSTONE ROVERS

Featherstone Rovers visit Watersheddings today and there will be plenty of local interest in their team as provided by Leo Casey, Steve Molloy, Matt Calland and last but not least Iva Ropati.

The Kiwi had a successful spell with Oldham and helped the club to win promotion last season. So on his return to Watersheddings wearing the Featherstone colours he will no doubt be out to impress.

Calland, Molloy and Casey are all local lads and well known rugby personalities in Oldham.

Indeed Casey is still Oldham's record transfer, his move to Post Office Road three years ago costing Rovers a fee of £100,000.

OLDHAM 'A' SWEEP THE BOARD

Oldham's 'A' team still remain unbeat-

CASTLEMAINE
XXXXX

CASTLEMAINE



XXXXX



TEAM CHECK

SUNDAY, 27th MARCH, 1994

OLDHAM Team Changes

1. Wally Gibson
2. Scott Ranson
3. Shaun Irwin
4. Darren Abram
5. David Jones
6. Glen Liddiard
7. Martin Crompton
8. Ian Sherratt
9. David Stephenson
10. Andy Goodway
11. Shane Tupaea
12. Bob Lindner
13. Mike Kuiti
14. Paul Topping
15. Nigel Heslop

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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. Morris

FEATHERSTONE Team Changes

1. Carl Gibson
2. Ikram Butt
3. Terry Manning
4. Iva Ropati
5. Chris Bibb
6. Martin Pearson
7. Brett Daunt
8. Steve Molloy
9. Graham Southernwood
10. Leo Casey
11. Richard Gunn
12. Gary H. Price
13. Brendon Tuuta
14. Matt Calland
15. Neil Roebuck

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: W. Blunden (Red Flag)
D. Holland (Yellow Flag)

en this season after 26 matches in cup and league, so full marks to coach Shane Tupaea, the boys and all concerned for the big effort.

Having already lifted the Youngers Alliance Second Division Cup and the Lancashire Shield, the Watersheddings Reserves are well on course for a record breaking four trophy haul.

They are red hot favourites to win the Youngers Alliance Second Division Championship, in which they command a six point lead at the top and are through to the final of the Yorkshire Alliance Challenge Cup in which they will meet Salford at home in April.

SPENCE
(David and Pauline)
Happy Anniversary
Dave on our
Silver Wedding.
Hope today's a winner
like you,
Love, Pauline

CASTLEMAINE
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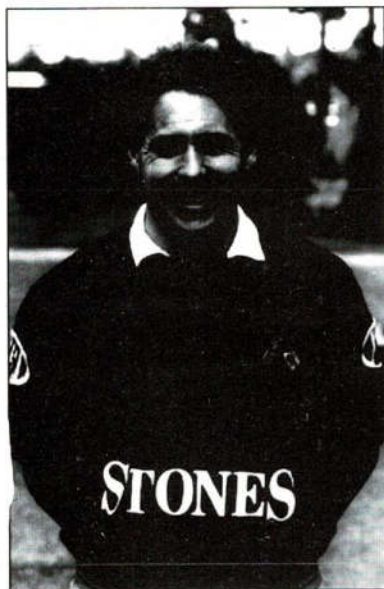
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TODAY'S MAN IN THE MIDDLE



**Colin Morris
(HUDDERSFIELD)**

Date of Birth

11.3.57

Grade One:

1989-90

IN TOUCH with H.Q.

**SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL, CENTRAL PARK, WIGAN
LEEDS v. ST. HELENS, SATURDAY, 26th MARCH, 1994**

Teenager Francis Cummins could be in line to become the youngest-ever player to appear in a Challenge Cup Final at Wembley, if Leeds beat St. Helens - by one day.

Cummins, who has played on the left wing in the three previous rounds, was born on 12th October, 1976. That would make him 7 years and 200 days on the day of the final, 30th April.

Shaun Edwards, born on 17th October, 1966, was one day older when he was at full-back in Wigan's defeat by Widnes at Wembley on 5th May, 1984. Edwards is now set to make a record-breaking ninth final appearance this year.

Cummins was still 16 when he made his first team debut as a substitute on 19th September this season, scoring two tries in the 42-6 home League defeat of Hull Kingston Rovers.

He made one other sub appearance before his full debut as a winger, scoring a try in the 27-18 home League defeat of Leigh on 21st November.

Cummins has now made 17 appearances, including two as substitute, and scored 11 tries plus a goal. Five of his full appearances have been at centre and 10 on the wing.

The birth dates of other 17-year-olds in Leeds possible Cup Squad are: Paul Cook (23rd July, 1976) and Marcus Vassilakopoulos (19th September, 1976). Eighteen-year-old regular Graham Holroyd was born on 25th October, 1975.

Leeds are aiming for their first Wembley Final since beating St. Helens 14-12 in 1978. Since then they have been beaten in four semi-finals, including last year against Widnes.

They have appeared in 14 Finals and won 10. Their record includes five wins in eight Wembley appearances.

St. Helens last semi-final was in 1991, when they went on to lose to Wigan in the Final.

They have appeared in 13 Finals and won five, their last victory being in 1976 against Widnes. All five wins were at Wembley, where they have lost six times.

PREVIOUS CHALLENGE CUP MEETINGS LEEDS v. ST. HELENS

1910-11 (2)	St. Helens	6	Leeds	11
1929-30 (2)	Leeds	5	St. Helens	18
1970-71 (2)	Leeds	4	St. Helens	0
1971-72 (F) (At Wembley)	St. Helens	16	Leeds	13
1976-77 (SF) (At Wigan)	Leeds	7	St. Helens	2
1977-78 (F) (At Wembley)	Leeds	14	St. Helens	12
1982-83 (2)	Leeds	13	St. Helens	23
1991-92 (2)	Leeds	12	St. Helens	32

SRL PREMIERSHIP FINAL

The Student Rugby League's regular season reaches a climax on Wednesday, 23rd March, at Tattersfield, Doncaster, when Cardiff Institute meet Leeds Metropolitan University in the SRL Premiership Final (kick-off 7.30 p.m.).

Cardiff will be defending the title they won last year, by beating Chester College 36-18 at Knowsley Road, St. Helens. Their success has continued unabated this season, as they have claimed the Inaugural SRL Division One South Championship and won through to the SRL Cup Final for a fourth consecutive year. Coached by the Rugby Football League's Welsh Development Officer, Mark Isherwood, and bolstered by the arrival of former dual Welsh International Rob Ackerman, they were also the first student side to appear in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, when they lost in the first round at Milford by 18-8.

Leeds Metropolitan University last appeared in the Premiership Final in 1992, when they beat Loughborough at Wilderspool, Warrington. This season has seen them return to former glories by winning the Inaugural SRL Division One North title - making this Premiership Final a real battle of the champions. With BARLA Internationals Mick Hill and John Fairhurst in their back row, and Keighley Cougars Andy Hinchcliffe and Oldham's Hugh Gumbs in the backs, Leeds look more than capable of posing Cardiff a genuine test.

The delayed UKC SRL/UJAU Cup Final between Cardiff I. and Salford U. will now take place at The Willows, Salford, on Wednesday, 4th May. Before that, the SRL will launch the first four-nation British Championship in South Wales from 10th-17th April, with matches to be played at the Morfa Stadium, Swansea, Neath R.F.C. and Aberavon R.F.C.

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Last Time Out . . .

with ROGER HALSTEAD

An extract from Roger Halstead's match report in the Oldham Evening Chronicle of November 8th, 1993.

FEATHERSTONE 30, OLDHAM 24

Oldham played their hearts out at Featherstone yesterday to compensate for the 25th minute dismissal of prop Barrie McDermott, but in the end the handicap proved too much.

McDermott, playing his first senior game of the season, was penalised for a high tackle in the 20th minute and sent off five minutes later for a similar offence on Gary H. Price.

Price, the former Wakefield forward who almost joined Oldham at the start of the season was carried off on a stretcher and taken to hospital with concussion and a suspected jaw injury.

Oldham were 12-6 down at the time. They quickly conceded two more tries - one of them a gift - to trail 20-6 before starting a fightback which left Rovers clinging on desperately in the last few minutes.

From a point just before half-time when Wally Gibson scored in the corner and Paul Topping goalied off the touchline, Oldham scored 18 points to the home sides 10 despite playing with only 12 men.

The question on everyone's lips was: could Oldham have won had McDermott stayed on the field?

"I cost the lads the game," said McDermott afterwards, "but I must be, the unluckiest player in Rugby League."

"I wasn't angry or growling. I was cool and composed and I thought I was playing well up to that point."

"I saw a Wakefield forward come strongly from behind Leo Casey and I went in to tackle him hard."

"I suppose I must have hurt him because he was carried off on a stretcher, but I didn't mean to tackle him illegally or anything like that. I just saw him coming and threw myself into the tackle."

Oldham coach Peter Tunks and chairman Jim Quinn preferred not to comment straight after the match and that was wise because it was practically impossible from their vantage point - and mine - to see exactly what went on at close quarters in the tackle that sent Price to hospital.

Widnes referee David Campbell confirmed that McDermott was sent off for a high challenge.

And a fair and honest view from the Featherstone camp was provided by one of McDermott's rival props, man of the match Steve Molloy.

Nobody seemed to know what caused the damage - head, shoulder, forearm or elbow.

Said Molloy: "The referee had no option but to send Barrie off because he had spoken to him earlier and the rules of the game demand a clamp-down on head tackles these days."

"He had to go, but in my opinion ten minutes in the sin-bin to enable him to cool down might have been enough."

"He tends to lead with the elbow and if he isn't careful he is going to get a reputation for himself and then referees will really cane him."

"As far as I was concerned, his dismissal spoiled the game and it was a pity for him as well as for Oldham because he was probably their best forward up to that point."

"After saying all that, he did take Gary Price out of the game, so there will always be an argument that he had to go, too."

Oldham will want to study the video re-run of the incident before issuing any statements.

Molloy admitted that Rovers knew they were in danger of letting Oldham snatch a draw in the dying minutes.

"We were our own worst enemies," he added, "but all credit to Oldham. When we led 24-14 and turned the screw to force them into three drop-outs from under their sticks we thought that would kill them off."

"They soaked up 24 tackles on their own line with a man short and then hit us hard with two late tries. It was unbelievable."

In fact, Oldham were camped out on the Rovers line in a thrilling finish and it needed a strange penalty against Tiny Solomona to take off the pressure.

The Kiwi came off the bench to replace Craig Richards after 24 minutes and played a major role in the fightback despite his appearance for New Zealand the day before.

He was stopped only a few yards from the Rovers line and straight in front of the posts as Oldham went all out for the equalising points, but the referee penalised him, claiming he was holding down a defender on top of him in pursuit of a penalty to Oldham.

Neither camp was happy with the performance of referee Campbell, who did not give one of his better displays.

A blatant forward pass led directly to the first Featherstone try by Pearson.

Similarly, Featherstone felt several decisions kept Oldham in the game.



Oldham made a great start when Andy Goodway scored by the posts in the seventh minute, from a Steve Kerry bomb, but the game threatened to run away from them in the next half hour.

Pearson, Butt, Simpson and Manning crossed for Rovers tries, McDermott was sent off and his fellow prop Richards was pulled off and substituted by Solomona in a disastrous opening for the new-look front-row.

The Manning try was a gift. Oldham winger David Jones failed to clear a kick by Daunt on his own line and Manning was left with the formality of touching down.

His confidence affected, Jones similarly slipped up in the dying seconds of the half, but the hooter came to the rescue.

Luckily for Oldham, Pearson was off form with his goalkicking, with the result that Oldham were only 20-14 down when Kerry, Irwin and Topping sent in Gibson and Topping added two goals.

Intense Rovers pressure produced further tries for the dangerous Butt and Pearson, but never-say-die Oldham responded with a Clarke try from dummy half, a Topping goal, and a brilliant individual effort by Irwin.

The former Castleford centre crashed through two tackles and sped off to the corner to score the try that cut the home lead to six points.

Molloy and Casey gave Rovers a crucial advantage in the front-row, as feared, while Daunt played well at scrum-half, Butt, on the wing, was almost unstoppable at times and Tuuta had an excellent game at loose-forward.

Rovers controlled the ball brilliantly, hardly making a mistake, but Oldham refused to lie down and were worth a draw, considering how close they came to it while a man short for nearly an hour.

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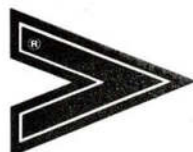
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APPEARANCES & SCORERS

	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
WALLY GIBSON	22	1	4	-	-	16
NIGEL HESLOP	15	2	4	-	-	16
MARTIN HOLDEN	1	1	-	-	-	-
PAUL TOPPING	15	7	2	46	-	100
SCOTT RANSON	24	-	9	-	-	36
DARREN ABRAM	24	-	15	6	-	72
STEVE KERRY	13	1	2	9	3	29
"TINY" SOLOMONA	10	3	1	-	-	4
PAUL GROVES	6	-	2	-	-	8
IAN SHERRATT	24	-	-	-	-	-
IYAN GREEN	4	9	2	-	-	8
DAVID BRADBURY	5	7	-	-	-	-
MIKE KUITI	26	1	5	-	-	20
DAVID JONES	23	2	5	-	-	20
ANDY GOODWAY	22	3	1	-	-	4
CHARLIE McALISTER	8	4	2	-	-	8
MARTIN STRETT	5	1	1	8	-	20
SHANE TUPAEA	13	3	-	-	-	-
CRAIG RICHARDS	3	5	2	-	-	8
SHAUN IRWIN	21	-	6	-	-	24
MARTIN CROMPTON	15	1	7	-	3	31
BOB LINDNER	22	2	7	-	-	28
JOHN CLARKE	17	-	3	-	-	12
DAVID STEPHENSON	5	-	-	-	-	-
MARK MEADOWS	2	-	-	-	-	-
BARRIE McDERMOTT	6	1	1	-	-	4
ALF GOULDBOURNE	1	-	-	-	-	-
BEN OLSEN	1	-	-	-	-	-
CHRIS PARR	2	1	-	-	-	-
ADRIAN BELLE	1	-	-	-	-	-
PADDY MITCHELL	4	-	1	-	-	4
GLEN LIDDIARD	4	1	2	4	-	16

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LEAGUE TABLE 1993/94

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bradford	23	19	0	4	618	407	38
Wigan	20	17	0	3	569	289	34
Warrington	23	17	0	6	470	317	34
Castleford	22	15	1	6	611	320	31
Halifax	23	13	2	8	506	407	28
St. Helens	23	12	1	9	486	407	27
Sheffield	23	12	1	10	509	526	25
Widnes	24	12	0	12	429	489	24
Leeds	23	11	1	11	452	442	23
Featherstone	24	11	1	12	509	523	23
Hull	22	8	2	12	322	374	18
Salford	23	9	0	14	412	483	18
Wakefield	24	7	1	16	341	519	15
Oldham	24	6	1	17	424	508	13
Hull K.R.	24	6	0	18	378	672	12
Leigh	23	2	1	20	282	635	5

THE ACADEMY with Manager JACK BUCKLEY

Unfortunately, our participation in the Academy Cup is at an end for this season. Last week we came unstuck in the mud at Knowsley Road against a very powerful St. Helens side who are unbeaten at home this term.

Although we competed well in the second half, we had no answer to the sheer power of their massive forwards. Certainly the age gap was apparent, and the Saints

coaching staff had done their homework on our danger men.

There were however some outstanding performances from several Oldham players, especially Richard Badby, Mike Prescott and man of the match Jody Moran.

We badly missed the services of Alfie Golbourne on the night due to him being involved in a car crash. On behalf of everybody connected with Oldham Academy we wish both Alfie and his mother a speedy recovery.

The Second Division Championship is now the target and by the time you read this we should have played Hunslet at home and Barrow away to add another four points to our tally. We need Featherstone

Rovers to slip up in one of their games to keep us in control of our own destiny, whilst at the same time maintaining our own winning ways. We need your help for the final push, as your support is much appreciated by the team.

There is a double header on the cards next Saturday at Watersheddings when the Academy and Alliance teams take on Barrow at their respective levels.

P.S. One of the psychic members of the Academy squad has had a vision that teams in red and white will win today's game at Watersheddings and Good Fridays game at Watersheddings. It might be worth risking a few bob on a double.

DEVELOPING SCENE with Development Officer NIEL WOOD

Today should be hectic and exciting with a fine match in prospect and over 1,600 school pupils on hand to watch and, I'm sure, make a lot of noise.

Welcome to all of those

and I hope you have an enjoyable day with the right result and that you come back soon.

Today's curtain raisers are Alexandra Park, Wennett, Westwood and Eustace St. Schools. I'm sure they will have a good day.

Anyone wishing to take their Bronze Lions Award should go to Hathershaw Sports Centre tomorrow from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00

p.m. The cost of the course is £5.00.

Finally bookings for the Wembley trip to see Great Britain playing Australia next October are over 300 but we are a long way short of the 1,000 we aimed for. Of those bookings however less than 200 are from children. Bookings are now closed but anyone wishing to organise their own trip may wish to contact me on 627 4497.

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GLEN LIDDIARD DIVES IN WITH SCOTT AND ANDY LOOKING ON



MARTIN CROMPTON TOUCHES DOWN AS GLOOMY TRINITY FANS LOOK ON

BACK PAGES

by **Michael Turner**

Today we welcome our West Yorkshire visitors from the mining village of Featherstone.

Rovers joined the Rugby League for the 1921-22 season, registering a 17-3 victory in their first-ever senior match at Bradford on 27th August, 1921.

Featherstone's first visit to Watersheddings was on 18th February, 1922. Oldham won the game 28-5 and went on to complete the double with a 3-0 victory at Post Office Road on 15th March, when Widnes-born winger Jim Finnerty touched down for the only score of the match.

After only a few years in the Senior League, Rovers fought their way through to the 1928 Championship Final, losing to Swinton 11-0 at Watersheddings, the only time the Championship decider was ever played in Oldham.

There have been many dour struggles between the "Roughyeds" and Featherstone over the years. A Second Round Challenge Cup tie in 1964 immediately springs to mind, when a late try by hooker Len McIntyre gave Oldham a 9-7 victory.

There can be no doubt that the most famous and dramatic encounter between the two clubs was the 1988 Second Division Premiership Final at Old Trafford, when Rovers

staged one of the most courageous fight-backs in Rugby League history to recover from being 22-0 down to actually lead the game by 26 points to 22, with only a few minutes to go. However, Oldham produced one last big effort and Mike Ford, Des Foy and Gary Warnecke worked a fine move to send Kevin Meadows scrambling under the posts. Charlie McAlister's nervous conversion scraped over the bar and the trophy was on its way to Watersheddings, the final score being 28 points to 26 in Oldham's favour.



Courtesy of the Oldham Chronicle

Oldham wingman, Trevor Simms, is hauled down within sight of the line after a great touch-line run.

Oldham v Featherstone. February 29th, 1964.



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SKIPPER'S SPOT

With Oldham Captain
BOBBY LINDNER



Welcome to Featherstone Rovers for today's Stones Bitter Premiership game. Coach Steve Martin will have a well-prepared, well-organised squad available today. Amongst his squad will be such players at Matt Calland, Leo Casey and Steve Molloy, who will be well-known to many of the Oldham spectators and keen to do well today.

Last weeks game against Wakefield was a heart-stopper for the fans but not great from a player or coaches point of view. I think you will agree that we played some good football and deserved our big lead. The disappointment was in allowing Wakefield back into the game. We will be working very hard to ensure that there are no repeats.

As we approach the business end of the season, I am confident that the whole club is in the correct frame of mind to achieve success.

I believe we will be playing in front of a big crowd from the local schools today. Welcome to all of them. I hope we produce the performance that will attract you back.

Enjoy the game.

This page is sponsored by **IRENE and HELEN CALOW**

