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3	DARREN ABRAM	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	PAUL TOPPING	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	ROBERT MYLER	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	FRANCIS MALONEY	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	MARTIN CROMPTON	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	IAN GILDART	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	JOHN CLARKE	☐	☐	☐	☐
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11	GARY LORD	☐	☐	☐	☐
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17	PAUL DAVIDSON	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	CHRIS MCKINNEY	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	IAN SHERRAT	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	ADRIAN BELLE	☐	☐	☐	☐
21	MICHAEL NEIL	☐	☐	☐	☐
22	CHRIS PARR	☐	☐	☐	☐
23	GARY BURNS	☐	☐	☐	☐
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1	FRANCIS CUMMINS (STAND OFF)	☐	☐	☐
2	JIM FALLON (RIGHT WING)	☐	☐	☐
3	KEVIN IRO (RIGHT CENTRE)	☐	☐	☐
4		☐	☐	☐
5		☐	☐	☐
6		☐	☐	☐
7	GRAHAM HOLROYD (SCRUM HALF)	☐	☐	☐
8		☐	☐	☐
9	MICK SHAW (HOOKER)	☐	☐	☐
10	HARVEY HOWARD (PROP)	☐	☐	☐
11	GEORGE MANN (SECOND ROW)	☐	☐	☐
12	ADRIAN MORLEY (SECOND ROW)	☐	☐	☐
13		☐	☐	☐
14	GARY MERCER (LOOSE FORWARD)	☐	☐	☐
15		☐	☐	☐
16	NICK FOZZARD (PROP)	☐	☐	☐
17		☐	☐	☐
18	PHIL HASSAN (LEFT CENTRE)	☐	☐	☐
19		☐	☐	☐
20		☐	☐	☐
21		☐	☐	☐
22		☐	☐	☐
23	ANTHONY GIBBONS (FULL BACK)	☐	☐	☐
24		☐	☐	☐
25		☐	☐	☐
26		☐	☐	☐
27	PAUL GLEDHILL (LEFT WING)	☐	☐	☐

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Stones Super League '96
Saturday 13th April 1996 Kick-Off 6.00pm

THE OFFICIAL OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE £1.50



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Photos courtesy of The Oldham Evening Chronicle
Comments in this programme are not necessarily
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1908, 1911, 1918, 1921, 1954, 1966, 1968, 1986, 1989

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1963-64, 1981-82, 1987-88

Second Division Premiership Winners

1988, 1990 Runners Up 1992

Club Records

RECORD VICTORY

63-0 v Goole, March 18th 1899 (Challenge Cup Rd 1)
67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959 (League)

RECORD SCORE

70-10 v Bramley, Feb 12th 1995 (Challenge Cup Rd4)
67-6 v Liverpool City, 4th April 1959 (League)

RECORD ATTENDANCE

28,000 v Huddersfield, Feb 24th 1912

Individual Records

TRIES IN A SEASON

Reg Farrar 49 1921-22

TRIES IN A CAREER

Alan Davies 174 1950-1961

TRIES IN A MATCH

James Miller 7 v Barry, Oct 31st 1908

GOALS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 200 1957-58

GOALS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 1,358 1950-1961

GOALS IN A MATCH

Bernard Ganley 14 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959

POINTS IN A SEASON

Bernard Ganley 412 1957-58

POINTS IN A CAREER

Bernard Ganley 2,761 1950-1961

POINTS IN A MATCH

Abe Johnson 30 v Widnes (12 goals 2 tries), April 9th 1928

MOST APPEARANCES

Joe Ferguson 628 Sept 1899 - April 1923

MOST CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES

Joe Lawton 134 Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

ALL THE ABOVE RECORDS ARE RELEVANT
TO OLDHAM FIRST CLASS FIXTURES ONLY

Talking

Super League made a whirlwind start and I'm delighted to say that Oldham and our supporters, were very much involved.

Our match against Wigan at Boundary Park was the first Super League game in England to be televised live by Sky, and when we travelled to Paris last Monday we provided the Parisians with only their second home match in that fabulous 22,000 all seater stadium.

This evening we are back at Watersheddings and back on Sky. With three home games in a fortnight, and a fourth match across the Channel, it's been a hectic start for us, but that's what Super League is all about, excitement, entertainment and value for money.

We had a hard fought win against Halifax Bluesox at Watersheddings on Good Friday in one of the most physical games seen on this ground for years. To be honest, it was physical and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing Rob Myler a speedy recovery from his serious facial injury.

There can be few players in modern rugby league who have been as unlucky as Rob in the past couple of years or so. His bad luck hasn't changed since he came to Oldham and it was a depressing sight to see him going off with a broken nose and a suspected fractured cheekbone.

I think we must all be alive to the fact that spectators want to see good rugby, with the emphasis placed on the speed and the skills of the game rather than on sheer brawn.

Within 24 hours of recording their first Super League victory, the players were preparing to fly out to Paris on a trip that created once again a little bit of club history. Some of our loyal spectators had already departed late on Friday night and another batch moved out on Saturday morning.

In all, a total of seven coaches took supporters to the French capital. More went by plane and I'm sure a few made their own way by car.

Due to the Easter holidays these notes had to be compiled before we left, so I will leave my comments on the French adventure until my next programme notes. Suffice to say at this point that going to Europe for a league game in one of the world's most famous and attractive cities was a far cry from anything we have been used to in 100 years of Rugby League football.

Who would have thought even 18 months ago, that our fans would be going to Paris in the Springtime in support of the Oldham team? It was a far cry from the game's cloth cap days of years gone by and I am confident that gates interest and spectator appeal will increase steadily as the summer unfolds and the traditional winter sports come to an end.

Gates on the opening day of the season were extremely encouraging, topped by the 18,000 who watched Paris beat Sheffield. Almost as exciting was the crowd approaching 10,000 who watched London Broncos

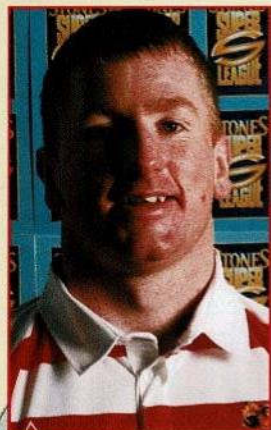
beat Paris a few days later the London club's first home game after their win at Halifax.

We drew nearly 8,000 at Boundary Park and almost 4,000 for the visit of Halifax on Good Friday. We were hoping for a good result in Paris not only to provide the icing on the cake for the fans who supported us over there, but to keep interest bubbling in the hope that it would be reflected in this evenings turn out.

Welcome to everyone from Headingley for what should be another big night for Super League, and Sky Sports, here at Watersheddings.

Jim Quinn





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YOUR Points

of view...



Unfortunately, due to the Easter holidays and the lack of post we have not received any new letters at this moment in time.

Please keep the letters coming in - tell us about your 'adventures' in Paris and enjoy doing the quiz below.

1. Which two former Oldham players, scored Super League tries for their current clubs on Good Friday (5.4.96)?
2. To which three teams have Leeds already lost this season?
3. Which two Super League players were sent off in Good Friday's round of matches?
4. Which St.Helens player has scored five tries in his last two Super League games?
5. For which Rugby Union team, has ex-Wigan star Frano Botica just signed?
6. Which Wales 'A' team R.U. International was due to play his full debut match for Castleford, versus Halifax last Tuesday (9.4.96)?
7. Which teams are currently top of Super League, Division One, and Division Two some by virtue of points for and against?
8. Which former Oldham and Leeds forward scored a try in South Wales's first win of the season?
9. In which year did Bradford last appear in a Challenge Cup Final and who did they play?
10. Name the Featherstone and Great Britain scrum half who won the Lance Todd Trophy in the above match, he went on to play for Salford and Great Britain?

The Welsh Connection (TM)
 Copyright, Kelvin Jones 1996.

ANSWERS
 1. Richard Russell, Castleford and Tommy Martyn, St.Helens.
 2. Warrington, Castleford and St.Helens.
 3. Paul Anderson, Halifax and Karl Fairbank, Bradford.
 4. Danny Arnold (3 v Wigan, 2 v Leeds).
 5. Orrell R.U.F.C.
 6. Diccon Edwards.
 7. St.Helens, Featherstone and Hull K.R.
 8. Hugh Waddell.
 9. 1973, Featherstone 33, Bradford 14.
 10. Steve Nash.

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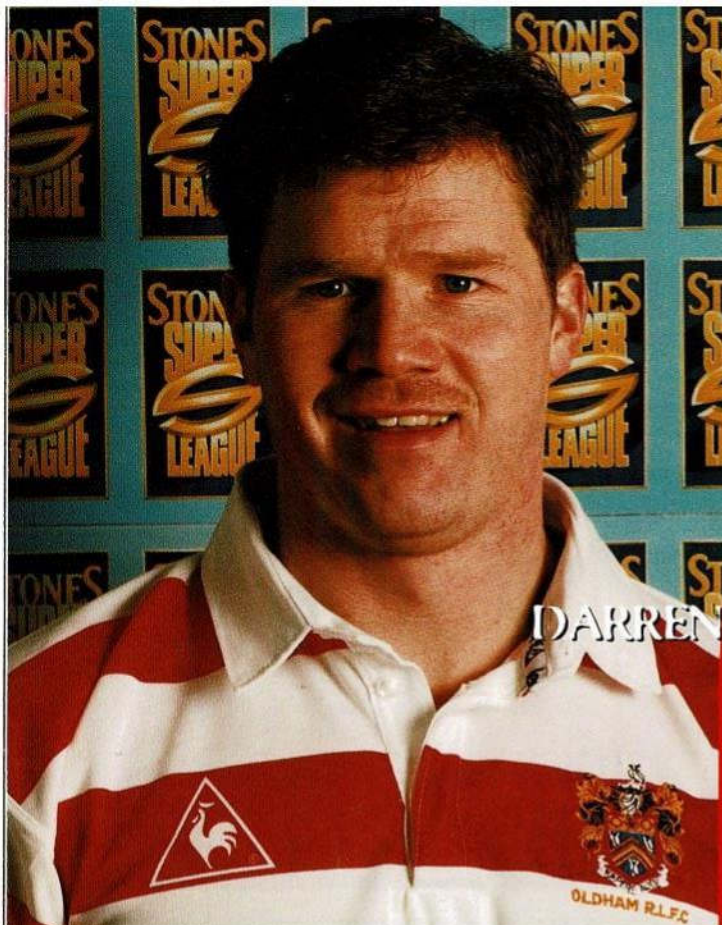
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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE



DARREN ABRAMS

Autograph

Oldham

ANDY Goodway

Talks...



There are no such things as easy games in Super League. That's what everyone wanted ... and that's what we've got. After our opening match against Wigan, we won a really hard game against Halifax Bluesox at Watersheddings and then it was off to Paris before meeting Leeds this evening, all in the space of two weeks.

The programme will settle down to one match a week from now on, but it has been a very hard start for everyone and games don't come much harder than our match against Halifax.

I thought we were the better side overall, although I admit we made life difficult for ourselves for a spell in the second half. One or two decisions went against us, but we also started to make errors in possession and that let Halifax back into the game.

It all came right in the end when first Darren Abram and then Martin Crompton scored late tries to take us clear and provide us with our second consecutive win against Halifax in the past three months.

We won at Thrum Hall in January in the Centenary season and then followed up with last week's victory in Super League. It must be a good many years since we beat

Halifax twice in successive games.

A year ago, or two at the most, they would have come to Oldham and put 30 or 40 points on us, so recent results confirm that we are making steady progress. I am pleased about that, but there is still a long way to go and we are working hard to try and get there.

Consistency and long-term success doesn't come overnight. It is the result of a gradual improvement and that's what we are trying to achieve.

People keep telling me to watch out for London and Paris, our opponents in France last Monday.

London made a great start with wins at Halifax and at home to Paris. The Frenchmen started well with a home win against Sheffield, then lost at The Valley to the Broncos before taking us on on French soil.

This column was written before we left for France but, whatever the result on Monday, it doesn't alter what I am going to say. It applies just as much to London and Paris as it applies to Oldham.

Let's see where we finish up before we do any shouting. It's the places at the finishing post which are the significant ones, not League positions after two or three outings.

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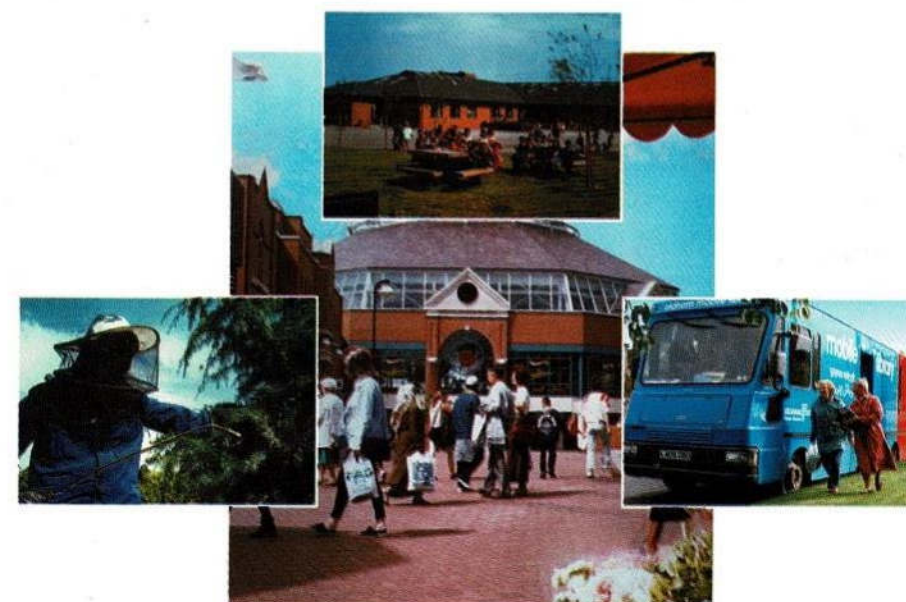
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Bears



Hope you have all arrived back from Paris safely. Three points from the two Easter games, not bad going, 'well done the Bears'.

Today we welcome supporters of Leeds R.L. Club to Watersheddings as well as Eddie Hemmings & Stevo from Sky, bet I can guess who he has tipped to win can you? Let's hope for our first win this season on T.V as well as another home win against a team from Yorkshire.

Now that the hectic Easter programme is out of the way, we can settle down to getting your membership forms sent out to you and start to plan for our first meeting, watch the local press for details of where & when!!

A little brain teaser for you this week, Which former Oldham player now plays for Warrington??

I'll give you the answer in my next programme notes. Are you ready with your voices let's hear 'come on you Bears' ringing round the ground this evening.

Buster Bear.

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Don Yates Looks Back To A Match From Yesteryear

Two weeks today, the Empire Stadium, Wembley stages what could be the last final of what has been the most glamorous competition on the Rugby League calendar. The final of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is invariably a sell out and even in these days of Super League and World Cup Challenge matches, an appearance at Wembley is coveted by every player in the game.

During recent seasons Wigan have dominated the tournament, winning it every year since 1987. However, when the Rugby Football League decided to switch their National Cup Final to Wembley in 1929 Wigan were not quite the dominant cup fighters which they are today. They had appeared in only three finals, losing in 1911 and 1920 but lifting the trophy in 1924 when they beat Oldham 21-4 at the Athletic Grounds, Rochdale.

It was in February 1929 that 32 teams set out on the first road to Wembley. Oldham visited Bramley and won 16-0; Cup holders Swinton, who had appeared in the three previous finals but who have never played at Wembley, beat Leigh 5-2; Wigan beat Batley, the first winners of this competition, 25-0 and unfancied Dewsbury, a middle of the table club, had a comfortable 37-0 victory over Cottingham amateurs.

Dewsbury made critics sit up and take notice in round two when they beat Swinton 14-7; Wigan beat Hunslet 16-0 and Oldham crashed out at Warrington 7-0. The quarter-final matches included a superb 10-4 Dewsbury win at Warrington whilst Wigan drew 2-2 at St Helens. Wigan won the replay 25-5 but then had to face the other pill town side, St Helens Recs, in the semi-finals. That match also ended in a draw 7-7, but Wigan won the replay although it was a close 13-12. By then Dewsbury had already qualified for Wembley with a 9-3 victory over Castleford.

Wigan were favourites to win the final which attracted a crowd of 41,600. The line up for that historic first Wembley final was as follows:

Dewsbury

Jack Davies; Tommy Bailey, Clifford Smith, Herbert Hirst, Henry Coates, John Woolmore, Jim Rudd, James Hobson, Percy Brown, William Rhodes, Harry Bland, Joe Malkin & Joe Lyman.

Wigan

Jim Sullivan, Johnny Ring, Tom Parker, Roy Kinnear, Lou Brown, Syd Abram, Arthur Binks, Wilf Hodder, John Bennett, Tommy Beetham, Frank Stephens, Len Mason & John Sherrington.

Despite starting as underdogs, Dewsbury began well and dominated much of the first half. However, Wigan not only kept Dewsbury at bay but fought back to score twice against the run of play. After just three minutes skipper Jim Sullivan landed a penalty and ten minutes later stand-off Syd Abram had the honour of scoring Wembley's first try. A dropped goal from Dewsbury full-back Jack Davies brought the first half scoring to a close. Wigan led 5-2.

After the interval Wigan got well on top. On the hour winger Lou Brown scored an unconverted try and ten minutes from time his centre Roy Kinnear went in under the posts. The simple conversion from Jim Sullivan left the final score at 13-2 for Wigan.

Since then Wigan have made a further twenty appearances at Wembley and have now won the trophy a record 16 times. In direct contrast, Dewsbury have never returned to Wembley whilst Oldham have yet to grace the Venue of Legends. Let us hope that this famous competition is allowed to continue so that one day Oldham can rectify that one glaring blemish on their proud history.

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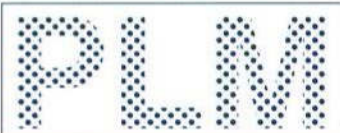
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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

It was on this day in 1955, Wednesday 13th April that Headingley staged a Services international between Great Britain and France. The match attracted a disappointing crowd of only 3,453 but it proved to be an entertaining encounter. The French led 7-2 at half time but the British boys staged an exciting recovery which saw them run out winners by 15-7. The British tries were scored by Phil Jackson (Barrow), Brian Howard (St. Helens) and Les Brookfield (Hull KR) whilst Laurie Giffedder (Warrington) landed three goals.

Leeds also staged a big match five years ago today, on Saturday 13th April 1991. It was the televised Stones Bitter First Division match between Leeds and Wigan which attracted a much better crowd of 15,313 to Headingley. Wigan were facing their final league match of the campaign and their eighth match in 19 days. They had to win this match in order to pip Widnes for the League Championship. They did win, by 20 points to 8, crossing for three tries one of which was scored by our current coach Andy Goodway.

It was on this day in 1990, Good Friday, 13th April that Swinton

defeated Oldham 15-12 in a Second Division match at Station Road. Scott Ranson scored one of the three Swinton tries prior to his move to Watersheddings.

Two years ago, on 13th April 1994, the Halifax and former Leeds winger John Bentley signed for a summer season of Winfield Cup rugby when he joined the Sydney based Balmain outfit. Although Bentley enjoyed his stint in Australia he failed to produce the high scoring feats which he has been able to achieve in the British game, scoring just one try from 10 outings.

Dewsbury winger Dai Thomas produced a far better scoring ratio in season 1906-07 when he crossed for a club record 40 touchdowns. Eight of those tries were scored on 13th April 1907 when Dewsbury ran in 16 tries as they demolished Liverpool City 60-0.

Finally, this time last year the Rugby Football League were involved in the major upheavals which were necessary to bring in Super League. It was on Thursday 13th April 1995 that Keighley's application to join the Super League as First Division Champions was rejected by the Rugby Football League. The Cougars then indicated that they would sue the League Management but despite their protestations Keighley remain in Division One.

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BEARS Question

Time...

with Joe Faimalo



1. What is your full name and nickname at the club? Joe Faimalo.
2. Where is your place of birth? Christchurch, N.Z.
3. Which team did you support as a child, League/Union or other sport? Woolston Rams R.L.
4. Which was the first team you played for, League or Union? Linwood R.L. Under 11's.
5. Who was the biggest influence on your career? Dad (Seni Faimalo).
6. Which is your happiest memory in the game? Scoring my 1st try.
7. Which is your saddest memory in the game? Thinking I've had a good game and being told I've had a bad game.
8. Which current opponent or teammate do you respect most? Mal Meninga.
9. Who is the greatest player you have played with, against, seen or read about? Mal Meninga.
10. Do you have a favourite ground? Why? Central Park - atmosphere.
11. Do you have a least favourite ground? Why? Workington - worse than Sheddings.
12. What, if anything, would you like to change in the game? Nothing really.
13. What aspect of your career do you enjoy most? Winning and giving 100%.
14. Is there an aspect of your career that you dislike?

Giving 100% and losing.

15. Do you have any pre-match routines or superstitions? Coco Rice before the game.

16. Apart from your current playing position, what position do you enjoy playing in? Prop.

17. Can you recall an amusing incident about the game? No.

18. What is your ambition in the game? Make the Samoan team.

19. What is your ambition outside the game? To make loads of money.

20. If you were not a rugby player, what occupation would you pursue? Physio.

21. What car do you drive? Nissan Micra.

22. What is your favourite food and drink? Coke and Hamburgers from N.Z.

23. Do you have any particular musical tastes? Soul Music.

24. What is your favourite holiday resort? Fiji.

25. What is your hobby/pastime outside rugby? Sleep.

26. What is your most prized possession? Wife (joking).

27. If you won the National Lottery, what would be the first thing you would buy? A plane ticket.

28. What is the most dangerous thing that you have attempted? Fighting my brother.

29. Which person would you most like to meet? Booyaa Tribe.

30. Who do you think will win the forthcoming World Cup competition? Samoa.

"Monty's"

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS

Harder drier pitches are causing more skin abrasions and grass burns which while not serious are often very painful. Knees and elbows are the worst affected and a lot of players are taking to wearing supports to protect their skin and not their joints.

The pitch at Paris St Germain initially caused concern as it seemed to be quite ruffed with many potholes. This could have caused a lot of ankle injuries had we not taken the precaution of heavily strapping all players and fortunately they came through relatively unscathed.

From Fridays match with Halifax luck again did not go Rob Myers way. His nose was very badly broken and he may need further surgery for reconstruction. Shaz had bruising to his collar bone and missed the Paris match but should be fit for today. Dave Bradbury has sported a black eye all week and there were a few others with sore necks and heads as a result of the enthusiastic Halifax tackling. I'm sure Rob Myler will be more than disappointed that measures were not taken earlier in the match as he was the victim of at least two other dubious challenges before he had to retire from the game.

J.Watkins.

RING NOW FOR THE LATEST NEWS 0891 44 00 70

OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

15

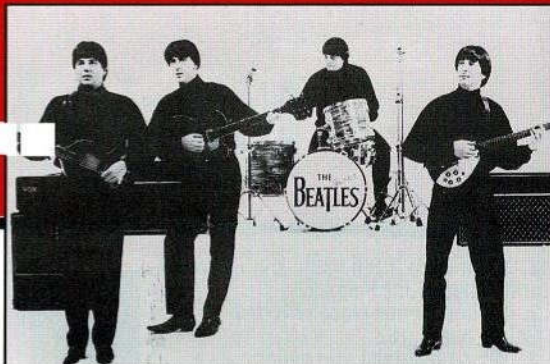
BEAR

Facts...

Welcome to everyone today, what a great days entertainment we have in store for you. I hope everyone arrived back from Paris safely! What a great trip that turned out to be, (but what a long way on a coach).

Well the big day kicks-off at 1 pm when our Academy plays Salford Reds there then follows a short break before we start our big match entertainment. And continuing in our theme of "Stars in your Eyes" we have got a great act tonight **"THE BANDIT BEATLES"**.

THE BANDIT BEATLES show is a true and accurate adaptation of the original songs and performances, embracing many of their world renowned hits. Superbly penned numbers such as - **SHE LOVES YOU - TWIST AND SHOUT - CAN'T BUY ME LOVE - HELP - HARD DAYS NIGHT - DAY TRIPPER - GET BACK - HEY JUDE** - just to name a few. And not only are these songs performed as The Beatles performed them live, but they are performed and sung in the original keys.



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GMR'S Malcolm

Lord...

A Serious Question.

I need to start off by asking a serious question, is there a factory somewhere turning out clones of Tina Turner?

It just seems that at every Super League game that I have attended to date there is a Tina Turner lookalike performing on the pitch prior to the game. Now don't get me wrong I am not complaining it's just that if there is a production centre somewhere, well I would like to place my order! Actually with my luck I will probably find that with every Tina Turner

you get two free Freddie Mercuries. By the way, great to see Prescott Panthers record a

long overdue victory, after providing new club South Wales with their first win I was pleased to see the Panthers bounce back and beat Barrow. Many congratulations again, not just for the win but also for somehow against all the odds keeping the game alive, well done. Apparently, the recession over the last few years has been the worst on record. According to my credit controller at work it's still so bad that even people who have no intention of paying have stopped ordering. That my friends is a bad recession. I only mention this because the crowds in the opening games have been very healthy indeed and I know that there is only a certain amount of spending money in everyone's pockets so again well done. Finally a Wigan spectator came up to me recently and although bitterly disappointed at missing out on Wembley this year, he was pleased that with the money he would save from his day out in London he could afford to take his family abroad for a fortnight.

Malcolm Lord,
BBC GMR.

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GRAHAM Beales

"A" Team



HALIFAX 30 OLDHAM 12

This is a very disappointing result for us in a match I felt we should of won, after a good display last week against Wigan. This game brought us down to earth, we started off very brightly Belle scored a good try and Deacon added the goal, the game suddenly turned as Garland had to retire from the field, Oldham continued to press but gave the ball away far too much. Three clear tries were missed and we were punished on each occasion by a strong HALIFAX side who started making good yards, 16-6 at half-time to HALIFAX, if we had taken our chances we could have been well in front.

In the second half we were the first to score Belle again and Deacon goaled which brought us back in contention, again we suffered when Deacon had to retire through injury, without half-backs we had no real direction on the field and at times we looked lost, HALIFAX who gained in strength gradually were wearing us down with their non-stop tough tackling, HALIFAX scored further tries towards the end of the game. Best for Oldham were Belle, Norman, Nuttall.

OLDHAM BEARS ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Thursday	28/3/96	Wigan	Away	32-36
Thursday	4/4/96	Halifax	Away	7.30
Thursday	11/4/96	Leeds	Away	7.30
Thursday	18/4/96	CASTLEFORD	HOME	7.30
Thursday	2/5/96	ST. HELENS	HOME	7.30
Thursday	9/5/96	Bradford	Away	7.30
Thursday	16/5/96	SALFORD	HOME	7.30
Thursday	23/5/96	HULL	HOME	7.30
Thursday	6/6/96	Warrington	Away	7.30
Thursday	13/6/96	WIGAN	HOME	7.30
Thursday	20/6/96	HALIFAX	HOME	7.30
Friday	28/6/96	Hull K.R.	Away	7.30
Thursday	4/7/96	LEEDS	HOME	7.30
Thursday	11/7/96	Castleford	Away	7.30
Thursday	18/7/96	St. Helens	Away	7.30
Thursday	25/7/96	BRADFORD	HOME	7.30
Thursday	1/8/96	Hull	Away	8.00
Thursday	15/8/96	WARRINGTON	HOME	7.30
Friday	23/8/96	Salford	Away	8.00
Thursday	29/8/96	HULL K.R.	HOME	7.30

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SEE PAGE 15



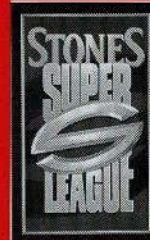
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an infertile woman is defended by an expert

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... and Read'

NEWS From

R.L.H.Q.



EASTER BONANZA FOR STONES SUPER LEAGUE

It was a bumper Easter weekend for the Stones Super League as crowds rocketed.

This year's 11 Super League Easter holiday matches brought 88,236 fans streaming through the turnstiles at an average of 8,021, compared to an average of 6,242 from 16 matches in the old Stones Bitter Championship 12 months ago.

This follows just eight days after the Rugby Football League announced record attendances for the opening weekend of Super League - the best since the one division fixture set up was scrapped 23 years ago.

Rugby Football League Chief Executive, Maurice Lindsay, said: "Super League is continuing its healthy trend even though the weather is yet to turn into the warmth of the summer.

"Another aspect of Super League which, in my opinion, is important is that the players are becoming better. The pace of the game has dramatically increased under the new rules and that will lead to prime fitness levels."

Congratulations to St.Helens teenage wing star Danny Arnold, who currently heads this seasons try scoring chart with 13, including nine in the Super League plus four in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. The winger, who celebrates his 19th birthday on 15 April, has scored 3 hat-tricks, including one four try feat.

His centre team-mate Paul Newlove is the only other player into double figures with 11, including four Super league touchdowns.

Saints captain Bobbie Goulding heads both the points and goal scoring charts, with 99 from 50 goals, including one drop. He is the top Super League kicker with 25.

POINT SCORING RUN

Chris Wilkinson of Leigh Centurions has the current longest pointscoring run covering 25 matches, beginning with two goals in a 28-18 Division Two win at home to Swinton on 27 August 1995.

The Stones Super League player with the best pointscoring run is Wigan's **Henry Paul**, who has scored in 14 successive Cup and League matches, starting with four goals and a try in a 32-18 home defeat of Halifax on 13 December 1995.

WINNING RUN

St.Helens have the current longest winning run, having won all seven matches this season - four Silk Cut Challenge Cup ties and three Stones Super League games. Their last defeat was 32-24 at Halifax in their final Centenary Championship match on 21 January 1996.

LOSING RUN

Prescot Panthers ended a run of 37 matches without victory - including 18 successive defeats - with their 20-8 defeat of Barrow Braves, the previous last club to lose to them back in January 1995.

It was also the former Highfield club's first home win since 28 March 1993 when they beat Blackpool Gladiators on their old Hoghton Road ground. The run without a home win had covered 42 matches, including two draws.

Workington Town and **Chorley Chieftans** now share the longest losing run of six matches, stretching back to last season.

MILESTONES

Eddie Rombo of Featherstone Rovers reached a career century of tries with one in the 52-12 Division One home defeat of Dewsbury.



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WELCOME Leeds to

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JAMES FALLON (Winger)

Jim joined Leeds Rugby League Club four years ago from Union glamour club Bath. Many regard last season as Jim's best since his transition to Rugby League. His sheer physical presence and dynamic strength and pace has caused havoc for every defence in the land. Fallon finished second in Leeds' tryscorer's chart with twenty four touchdowns. The powerhouse winger is looking forward to the new season where he will most certainly continue his excellent progress made in the game.

KEVIN IRO (Centre)

On his day the Kiwi international is probably the most devastating runner in World Rugby League. For such a big man he has breathtaking acceleration, gigantic stretch, an exceptional fend and an audacious sidestep.

Iro signed for Leeds in the Autumn of 1992 after a stint with Australian side Manly-Warringah. He scored two tries on his Leeds debut against Widnes. The giant centre has represented New Zealand on twenty four occasions, which included a tour of Europe in 1989. Leeds is not the only British club Kevin has played for. He had an illustrious five year spell at Wigan where he won nine trophies in all including four Challenge Cups. Iro will be a major force in Leeds' Championship bid and he is looking forward to teaming up with his former Wigan and New Zealand teammate Dean Bell, now Leeds Football Manager.

HARVEY HOWARD (Prop Forward)

Joined Leeds from Widnes for £110,000 in January 1994. Had an impressive season in the front row for Leeds last season, which earned him his first representative honour when he played for England against Wales in the European Championships. Harvey has played in three successive Wembley Finals in the last three years. This season he has firmly set his sights on helping Leeds lift a major trophy. He has also played for Australian club Eastern Suburbs during the 1993 Winfield Cup.

FRANCIS CUMMINS (Winger)

Francis Cummins is a Rugby League teenage sensation. He holds the record as the youngest player to play and score in a Challenge Cup final, at 17 years and 200 days during the 1994 final against Wigan. Last year he represented Great Britain at three levels, academy, Under 21's and full during the World Sevens in Sydney, Australia. He also scored against France in his full England debut during the European Championship match at Gateshead.

Francis is a product of the club's Apprentice Scheme signing from local amateur side St John's Fisher in 1993. Still only a teenager he has appeared for Leeds on over sixty occasions since his debut in 1993, a phenomenal career in such a short career.

GRAHAM HOLROYD (Half Back)

The Leeds half is another product of the now famous Leeds scouting programme. Still only a junior he has played over seventy times for the 1st team. Holroyd, a classy individual half back with lightning pace off the mark, a superb bullet like pass and his main attribute being a fine goal kicker. Last season Holroyd put his name into the Leeds history books by becoming only the fifth Leeds player to score 300 points in a season.

Graham started his Rugby League career at Halifax amateur side Siddal before the Loiners lured his services to Headingley. He has represented Great Britain at Academy and under 21 level. During the close season Graham pledged his long term future to the club by signing an extension to his contract until 1999.

ANTHONY GIBBONS (Full Back)

One of the main components in this season's Leeds Alliance side. A

quality full back with all round skills. His main attribute being his defensive skills and a quick eye for the gap. Anthony is also Leeds' regular goal kicker. Along with his brother David, they are the first twins to play for the Loiners since the Rayne brothers in the mid eighties. The talented full back also made his first team debut in the Centenary season, representing the first team on eight occasions and scoring three tries.

PHIL HASSAN (Centre)

At twenty one years old many say Phil Hassan is the experienced campaigner in the Leeds ranks. A superb defensive centre who loves pulling off the big tackles. Has a fine turn of speed and knows exactly when to release his wing partner. A vital member of the squad and all round quality player with first team experience.

MICK SHAW (Hooker)

Signed from the Siddal Amateur Rugby League Club three seasons ago. Last year he made his first team debut against Swinton in the Regal Trophy. The livewire hooker had a superb season for the Leeds' Alliance side in which he was awarded the Alliance player of the year, voted by the First Division clubs.

NICHOLAS FOZZARD (Prop Forward)

The Wakefield born teenager is into his third year at the club. At 6'3" and weighing 17st 7lb is was obvious that he would get his first team opportunity at an early age. He made his first team debut at St. Helens two seasons ago as a sixteen year old amateur and turned professional in July of 1994. Last season he was given added experience by lining up in the Leeds first team squad on three occasions. The coaching staff believe he has the physique and ability to become a regular in the first team.

GEORGE MANN (Prop Forward)

The former St. Helens forward was a fine capture for Leeds last season. A tremendous powerful forward with great all round skills and good mobility. Dubbed Mr Versatile by his colleagues because he can play in a variety of positions including prop, second row, hooker and stand off. Has represented New Zealand on eight occasions from 1990 to 1991. Represented Auckland during their tour of Great Britain in 1987.

GARY MERCER (Second row)

Gary Mercer is probably Leeds' most consistent performer week in week out. He has won the Supporters' player of the season award in successive seasons (1994 & 1995). The typical modern day forward with plenty of pace and power. His main attribute is busting the line out wide. Gary started his career in New Zealand before signing for Bradford in 1987. Initially he was a flying winger who toured with the Kiwis to Great Britain in 1989. During that tour he was awarded the Man of the Series. Immediately after the tour he signed for Warrington where he stayed at Wilderspool for three seasons before making the journey to Headingley. Now a well equipped forward, he has represented New Zealand on twenty one occasions. He will be without doubt a vital member of the Leeds squad as they hunt for honours in 1995-96.

ADRIAN MORLEY (Second Row)

Made his Leeds debut last season at the tender age of seventeen years old. An outstanding prospect with fantastic ability. He plays in the style of a modern day second rower running wide of the rucks managing to off load and burst tackles with great power and a fine turn of speed. He was an ever present member of the Leeds Alliance and Academy championship winning sides of last season. He will almost certainly figure in Leeds first team plans this season.



ESENE FAIMALO



MIKE FORSHAW



KEVIN IRO



TONY KEMP

Francis Cummins



Academy...



I hope all our supporters have had a nice Easter especially with 2 of the Bears teams winning, the first team against Halifax and our Academy team had a great win against Hull KR by 20 points to 11. This game was played prior to our match against Halifax and the lads really enjoyed themselves playing ahead of the first team. Our points came by way of two tries to Joe McNicholas one for Chris Wheeler and a try and two goals to our Academy captain Craig Barker. Their was a couple of outstanding displays by Stuart Fraser who is a new acquisition to our playing side and also 16 year old Dale Aldred who is only just tasting Academy rugby but he is definitely one for the future.

Yours in sport
Brian Gartland.

OLDHAM BEARS JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Day	Date	Team	H/A	Kick-Off
Monday	1/4/96	ROCHDALE	H	7.30pm
Friday	5/4/96	HULL K.R.	H	1.00pm CR
Monday	8/4/96	Batley	A	3.30pm
Saturday	13/4/96	SALFORD REDS	H	4.00pm CR
	20/4/96	BLANK WEEKEND		
	29/4/96	JJB SPORTS ACADEMY CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND		
Sunday	5/5/96	Widnes	A	1.00pm CR
Monday	13/5/96	HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30pm
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR
Sunday	16/6/96	Rochdale H.	A	2.00pm CR
Sunday	23/6/96	Hull K.R.	A	4.30pm CR
Monday	1/7/96	BATLEY	H	7.30pm
Sunday	7/7/96	Salford Reds	A	4.00pm CR
	15/7/96	BLANK WEEKEND		
Monday	22/7/96	WIDNES	H	7.30pm
Monday	29/7/96	Huddersfield	A	7.30pm
Sunday	4/8/96	Keighley Coug.	A	4.00pm CR
Sunday	11/8/96	Swinton	A @ Halifax Borough	3.30pm
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm

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Match day information: 01977-552674 Fax: 01977-518007

Ticket information phone No: As above Capacity: 11,750 Number of seats: 1,500 Advanced ticket availability: Sometimes. Price reductions for: Children: Yes Age: Under 16. Pensioners: Yes Unemployed: No Students: No Disabled: Yes (Blind or wheelchair only) Disabled supporters: Facilities: Free admission to wheelchair users Wheelchair access: Enclosure on first come first served basis Disabled toilets: No The blind: Free admission to totally blind. Club Shop: Location: On Wheldon Road by Turnstiles Telephone: 01977-553309

Opening hours: Wednesday to Saturday 9.30 am to 12 midday, and 1 hour before matches Supporters Club: Address: Ms D Howard, 163 Hugh St, Castleford WF10 4DU Food and Drink: In the ground: Restaurant open to away supporters. Kiosks. Bars: Yes Transport: Car parking: Training field adjacent to Wheldon Road. Street parking also available Public transport: Information: 0113-245-7676 Nearest BR station: Castleford

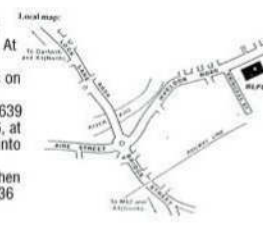
Buses: 167, 168, 468. West Riding Buses depot is a few minutes walk from the ground on Wheldon Road. Tourist information: Wakefield Tourist Information, Town Hall, Wood Street, W. Yorkshire WF1 2HQ. Tel: 01924-295000/1, Fax: 01924-295283.

Directions by road:

From west: M62 take junction 31, A655 to Castleford. At roundabout turn right into A6032 (Aire Street). At next roundabout, take second exit, which is Wheldon Road. Ground is on right.

From east: M62 take junction 32, A639 to Castleford. Turn right onto A656, at roundabout with A6032, turn right into Wheldon Road. Ground on right.

From north and south: Either A1, then M62 as for east above, or take B6136 from A1, which joins A639. Turn right, then as for east above.



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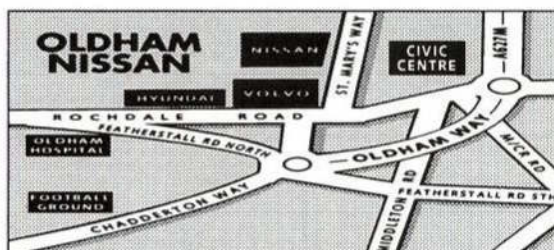
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WHAT'S **New**

Today Don

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

After today's vital Conference, Premier League match at Heworth, Saddleworth Rangers visit Leigh Miners Welfare next Saturday, 20th April before taking Wembley weekend off. They then return to Greenfield on May 4th when the visitors are Millom.

St Anne's quest for promotion from the First Division will look much clearer after next Saturday's visit to Eastmoor, another of the promotion candidates. That match at Wakefield kicks-off at 2.30 pm so why not go and give Saints some support before travelling the short distance to Castleford where the Bears kick-off at 6pm. The following Saturday, 4th May Saints entertain Walney Central at Higginshaw Road. It's their final home match of the season and, hopefully, their final one in Division One.

BNFL NATIONAL CUP FINAL

The BNFL National Cup Finals will be staged at the

Willows Salford this year. The date of these finals has been set for Saturday, 25th May with the first final kicking-off at 1 pm. Although no local clubs will be involved it still promises to be an entertaining day out watching the major finals of the under-16, under-18 and open age competitions.

QUOTE

Quote of the week comes from Henry Blaha who, in 1972 said, "Rugby is a beastly game played by gentlemen, soccer is a gentlemen's game played by beasts and American Football is a beastly game played by beasts".

Brough Scott commenting on a recent race was heard to say, "... and there's the unmistakable figure of Joe Mercer, or is it Lester Piggott?"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JASON

Our strong running big hitter Jason Temu celebrates his 24th birthday next Wednesday. Have a good day Jason.

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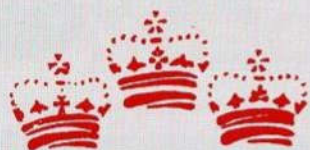
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Thoughts from the Terraces...

Has there ever been anyone more unlucky with injuries than Rob Myler? I am sure we all wish him a rapid recovery, and a change of luck. It would be great to see him at Watersheddings in the form and fitness he showed in his star season at Wilderspool outside Jonathan Davies. Although, as usual, we did it the hard way, what a crucial victory it was last Friday. An early win takes so much pressure off us and with a share of the points from Paris it means we are not down among the dead men from the start. If Martin Crompton and Paul Atcheson in particular can sustain this superb form, I don't think a top six place is at all out of the question. What I found particularly disappointing on Good Friday, though, apart from Mr. Kirkpatrick's now familiar lack of judgement, was what looked like a premeditated attempt to intimidate by Halifax. Dave Bradbury certainly now seems to be a target. Over the past few years, Fax have played some really attractive rugby. But this was more like the dour, physical Thrum Hall sides of distant times past. It was the case however I felt, that they lost primarily through

being reduced to 12 men. Some strange goings-on last week at Red Hall. The authorities want supporters through the turnstiles - and, incidentally, what an atrocious turn-out we had on Good Friday. But they don't seem too keen on sharing information with us. Last year, there was the strange affair of journalistic presence at disciplinary hearings, in the name of openness. It happened a time or two - and the journos were impressed by the fairness and thoroughness displayed - but then it stopped. A few weeks ago, League Express invited Maurice Lindsay to publish in full the News Corporation contract with European Super League clubs, so that we would all know its complications in the light of affairs down under. The response? Deathly silence. Then, last week, there was an apparently fairly ordinary business meeting of the RL Council. But the Chairman instructed those present not to talk to four named journalists, whose job it is to report the game, and undoubtedly have its interest at heart. Isn't freedom of speech part of our heritage?



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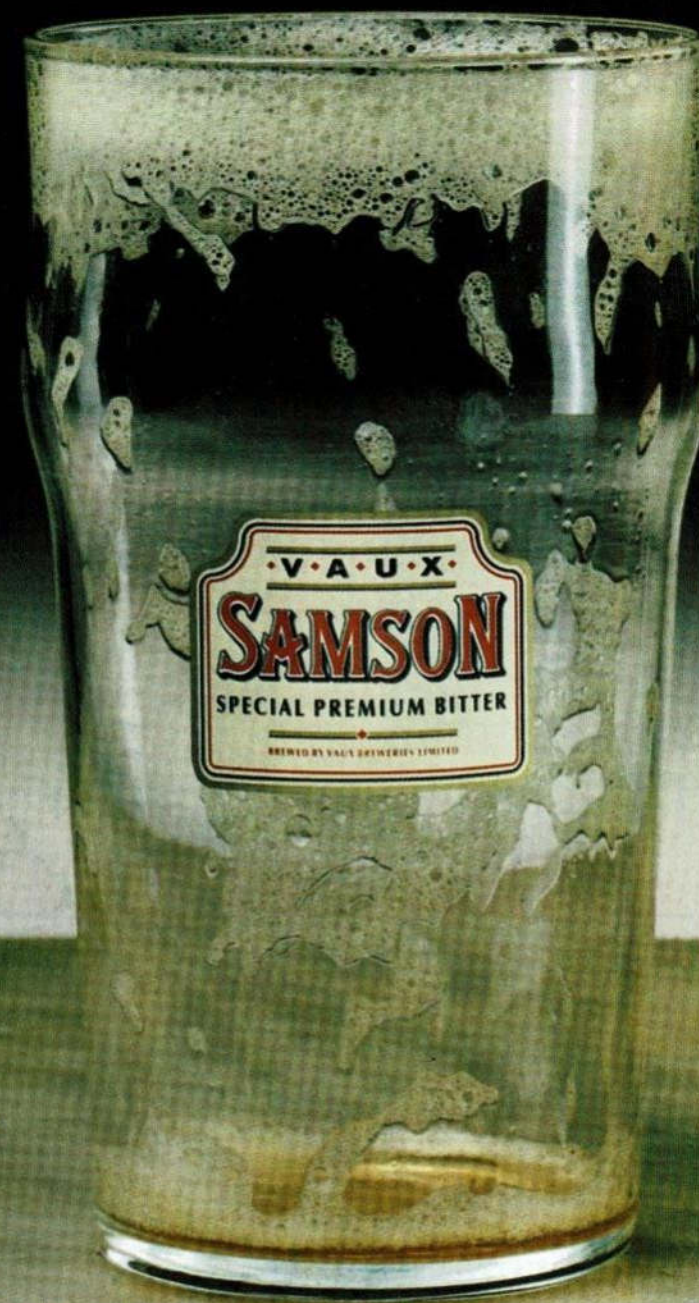
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This evening's televised match at Watersheddings is the 126th meeting of these two famous old clubs. The Loiners have had the better of the previous 125 matches, having won 69 to Oldham's 51 with five matches ending in a draw. As far as League matches are concerned there have been 107 previous clashes with Leeds having won the last five to take their total of League successes to 58. Oldham have won 44 with those previously mentioned five draws all being League games.

When Leeds last visited Watersheddings in October of last year, their 43-14 victory was their best ever at Watersheddings. Their biggest home win against Oldham came in a Challenge Cup-tie during January 1971 when they beat the Roughyeds 49-2. Oldham's biggest home win against Leeds came way back in September 1911 when the Loiners were crushed 27-9. Leeds were also beaten 26-8 at Headingley during April 1929 which constitutes Oldham's biggest away win over Leeds.

Results of Oldham - Leeds meetings during the past 10 seasons are as follows with all matches being League encounters.

1986-87	Oldham 14	Leeds 12
	Leeds 20	Oldham 26
1987-88	did not meet	
1988-89	Oldham 22	Leeds 28
	Leeds 48	Oldham 4
1989-90	did not meet	
1990-91	Oldham 32	Leeds 22
	Leeds 28	Oldham 12
1991-92	did not meet	
1992-93	did not meet	
1993-94	Oldham 21	Leeds 6

	Leeds 26	Oldham 22
1994-95	Oldham 14	Leeds 21
	Leeds 40	Oldham 20
1995-96	Oldham 14	Leeds 43
	Leeds 28	Oldham 26

DETAILS OF LEEDS' LAST VISIT TO WATERSHEDDINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

Sunday, 1st October 1995 Stones Bitter Centenary Championship

Oldham	14	Leeds	43
half-time	2-12		

Attendance 3,782

Oldham: tries Gary Lord & Howard Hill
Goals: Francis Maloney (3)

Leeds: tries Alan Tait, Jim Fallon, Kevin Iro, Garry Schofield, Neil Harmon, Ritchie Eyres & Craig Innes,
goals: Paul Cook (7)
dropped goal: Garry Schofield.

Oldham: Paul Atcheson, Wally Gibson, Paul Topping, Darren Abram, Scott Ranson, Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton, Chris Parr, Steve Gartland, Jason Temu, Gary Lord, Iyan Green & Howard Hill. Substitutes: Mike Neal, Adrian Belle, Paul Davidson & Chris McKinney.

Leeds: Alan Tait, Jim Fallon, Kevin Iro, Marvin Golden, Paul Cook, Tony Kemp, Garry Schofield, Neil Harmon, James Lowes, George Mann, Adrian Morley, Ritchie Eyres & Craig Innes. Substitutes: Francis Cummings, Dave Gibbons, Nick Fozzard & Mike Forshaw.

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Rd	Date	Team	Venue	Time	Score	Att	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●									●	●
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●						●	●
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					●	●
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm																											
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm																											
	Sat 27 April	SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP FINAL																													
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm																											
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm																											
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	6.00pm																											
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm																											
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm																											
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm																											
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm																											
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm																											
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm																											
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm																											
16	Sun 14 July	CASTLEFORD	H	6.00pm																											
17	Sun 21 July	ST HELENS	H	6.00pm																											
18	Sun 28 July	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00pm																											
19	Sun 4 Aug	Workington	A	3.00pm																											
20	Sun 11 Aug	LONDON BRONCOS	H	6.00pm																											
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																											
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	6.00pm																											

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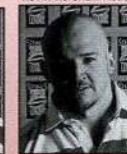
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Chris Done



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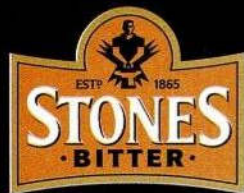
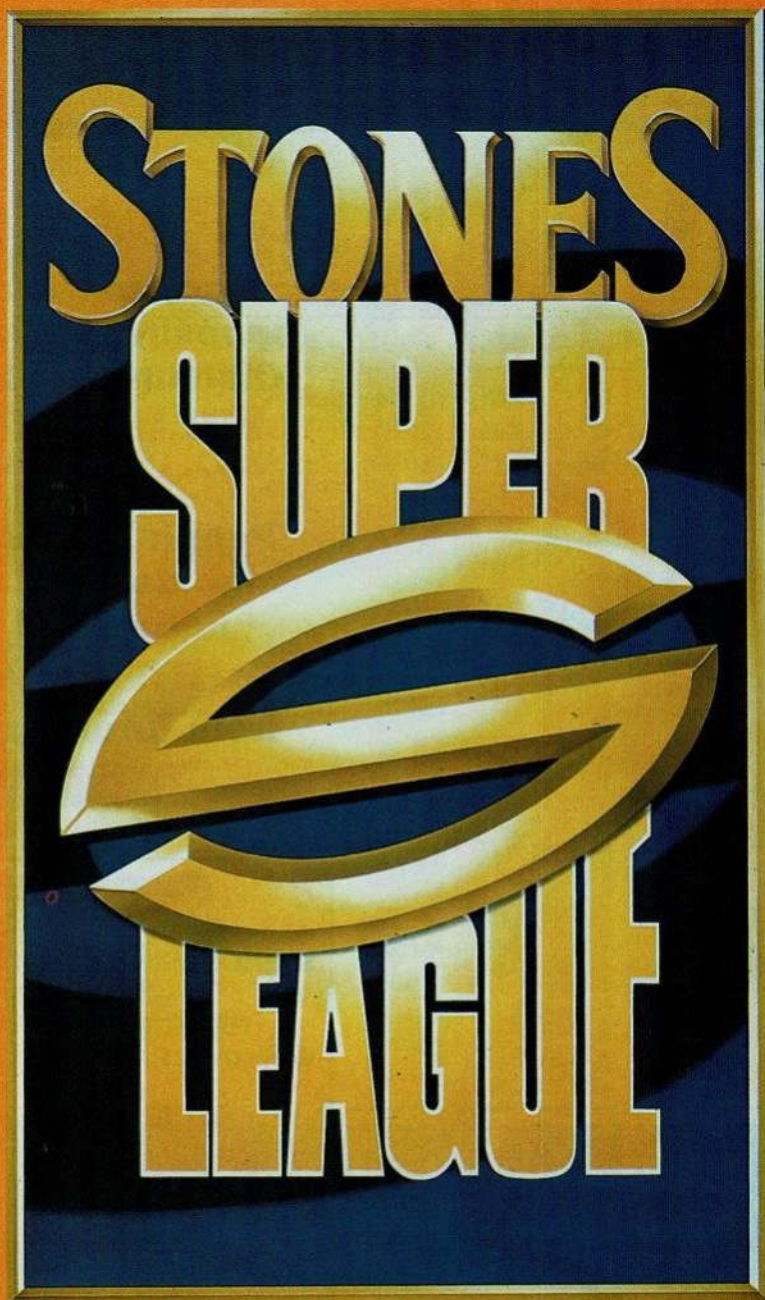


STEVE GARTLAND
Number 16
Alex Hammond

CHRIS PARR
Number 22
Irene Calow

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NEWS From

Down Under...

It was bad news for two Brits down under last week as Denis Betts was sent from the field and Barrie-Jon Mather was carried off with suspected concussion. Betts was sent off after allegedly butting a West's opponent in Thursday's match as Auckland Warriors went down 22-8 to Western Suburbs.

Mather was driven off the pitch on a 'Special Medicaft' after being knocked out as his team Western Reds beat Cronulla 19-12. Officials say the former Wigan Star was suffering from about of concussion.

It took a brilliant piece of attacking play by half back Adrian Lam and Brad Fittler to separate two excellent defensive performances by Sydney City Roosters and Canterbury Bulldogs as the Roosters clinched the match 10 points to 4. Improved crowd numbers saw North Sydney Bears maul

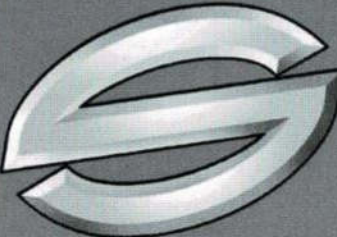
Manley Warringaha and the game was delayed 10 minutes as the gates were thrown open to allow some fans in free. Bears scored two tries just before and one just after the break to put the final result in no doubt.

North Queensland Cowboys won their first match of the season 17-2 over Sydney Tigers and Brisbane Broncos ran up a basketball score of 54-4 over Illawarra as Allan Langer ran amok.

Ricky Stuart suffered a major injury as he tore cruciate ligaments in his knee as Canberra Raiders were sunk at home by Parramata.

South Queensland Crushers were squashed at home by Penrith Panthers by 4 points to 22 and in a scrappy game in front of a very poor crowd at South Sydney's old Home ground they lost out to Gold Coast Chargers as they won their first game of the season 16-18.

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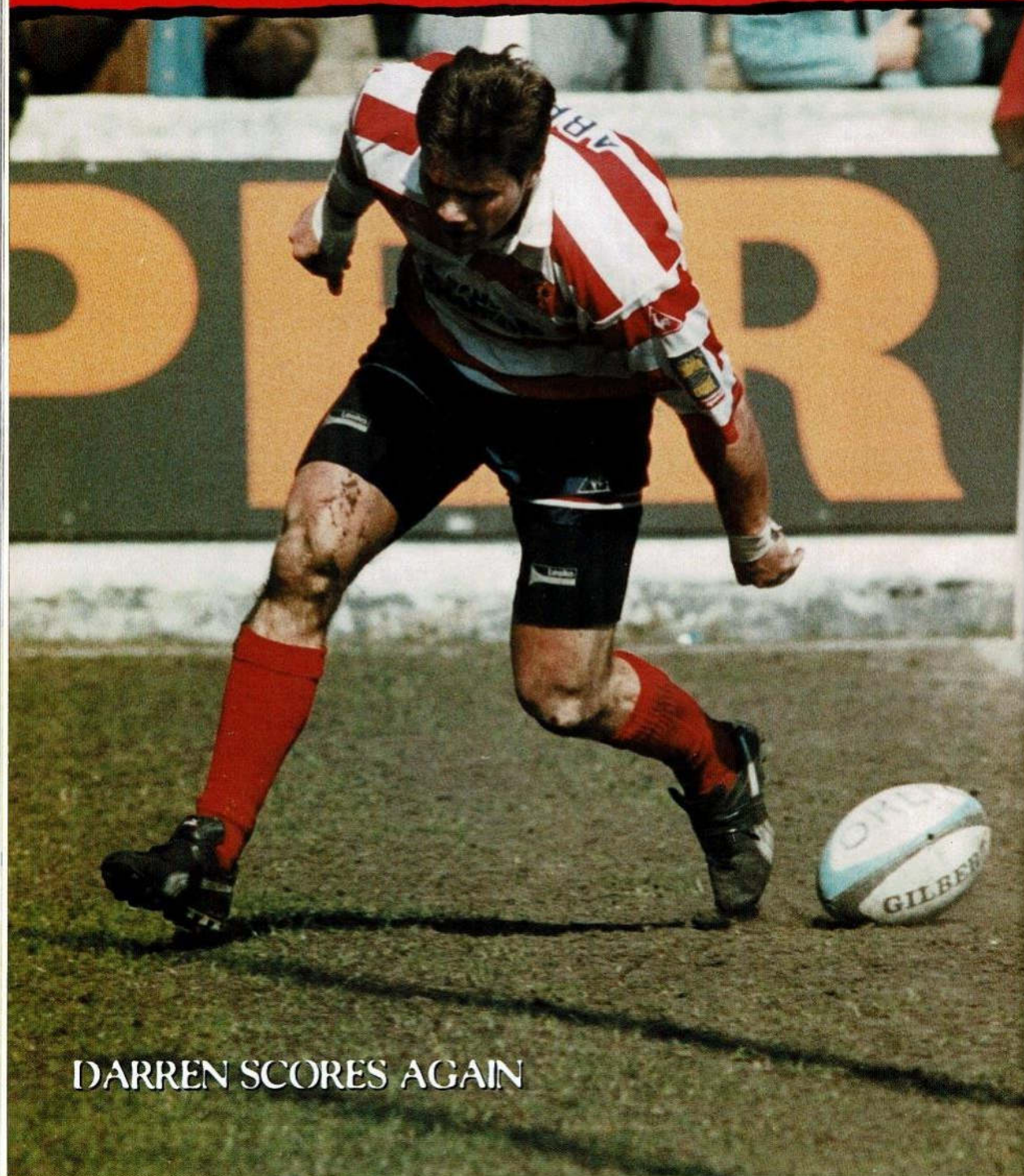
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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

33

STONES SUPER LEAGUE '96 Same Game... New Attitude...

Oldham Bears

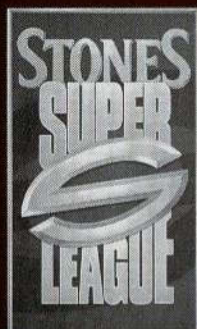


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The game now has a bright future and together we have an opportunity to place it where it belongs - on a world stage.

As for the season ahead, teams have no doubt been rigorously training to win the prestigious title of the inaugural champions and this summer will surely prove to be more competitive than any previously known in the history of the game.



Maurice Lindsay, Chief Executive of the Rugby Football League and Jonathan Nye, Head of Sponsorship at Bass Brewers, toast the new Stones Super League sponsorship.

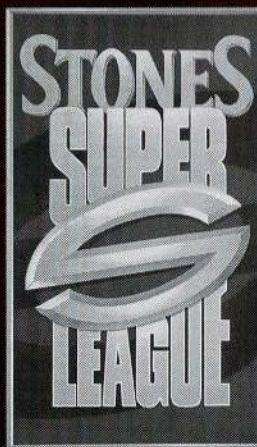


Ready for action - Stars of the Stones Super League at the official launch.

attracting new supporters to the game and it is our belief that once they have discovered the game they will remain hooked for life.



With the kick off to the season, Stones is sure that a new era in sport is being witnessed and with the help of supporters and clubs alike Rugby League will be rocketed in to the 21st Century.



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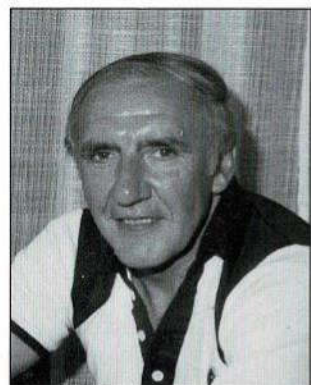
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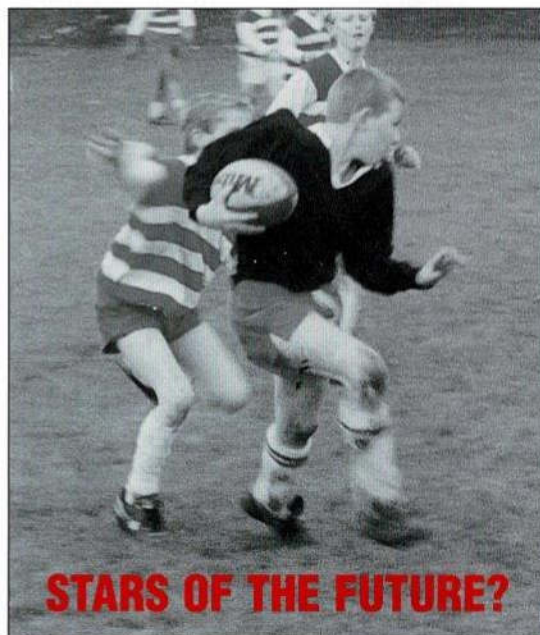
We are progressing well to the Renault Schools Cup finals which are to be played at Watersheddings on the 23 and 25 of April so put those dates in your diary

because I am sure you will witness some really good rugby. Our junior races at half time for the under 8's are a popular thing for the youngsters and it helps to get them acquainted to coming to Watershedding on a regular basis, we will be starting with the

U9's after the next home game so come on all you sprinters get your name down to run for your club and lets see can you get to our grand finals which again will take place before the Sheffield Eagles match our last home game of the season.

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WITH Super League only a fortnight old, Oldham Bears will tonight play their third home game ... and if that doesn't tell you that 11 home games in a season isn't enough nothing will.

On the original fixtures schedule, Bears were listed to play Wigan at Central Park in round one, but the champions agreed to reverse the fixture at Oldhams request.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that after tonight's clash with Leeds, the Bears will have only eight Super League matches from which to draw vital revenue between now and next March.

It always struck me as odd that many of the game's leading players complained of too many matches, yet still did their utmost to land lucrative contracts in Australia during our close season.

And what's happening now? Are the players looking forward to next winter to recharge the batteries after a summer's slog in high temperatures and on hard grounds?

The majority may be, that's true. But many are looking to play rugby all the year round by joining Union clubs during the winter. John Devereux (Sale) and Frano Botica (Orrell) spring to mind, but there are many more. It is all very well talking about quality rather than quantity, but how can any business fund

full-time staff and full-time players for 12 months of the year when it's only guaranteed income ... money through the turnstiles ... is restricted to a five-month period?

In simple terms, it can't. Serious consideration must be given to extending next summer's Super League by two clubs and making sure that the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is retained, possibly with the Regal Trophy as well.

While they are at it, League officials might consider putting back the start of the 1997 Super League programme by at least two weeks.

As things stand now only the top four clubs will still be playing rugby in September, yet many of them have already played two of their 11 home games in conditions that could hardly be described as "summer rugby" and while the soccer and Rugby Union seasons are still in business.

We don't know what the situation will be in Australia 12 months from now. We will doubtless be influenced by what is going on there, yet the fact remains that in cutting it's teeth in 1996, Super League in this country has already thrown up a few talking points worthy of examination before the 1997 programme is finalised.

By Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle.

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