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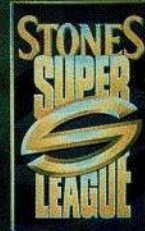
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Oldham Bears

No.		Played	T	G	DG
1	PAUL ATCHESON	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	ADRIAN BELLE	☐	☐	☐	☐
24	ANDREW PATMORE	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	PAUL TOPPING	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	ROB MYLER	☐	☐	☐	☐
6	FRANCIS MALONEY	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	MARTIN CROMPTON	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	IAN GILDART	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	JOHN CLARKE	☐	☐	☐	☐
10	JASON TEMU	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	GARY LORD	☐	☐	☐	☐
25	MATT MUNRO	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	DAVID BRADBURY	☐	☐	☐	☐

SUBS

14	HOWARD HILL	☐	☐	☐	☐
27	PAUL CROOK	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	JOE FAIMALO	☐	☐	☐	☐
18	CHRIS MCKINNEY	☐	☐	☐	☐
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7	LAURENT LUCCHESI	☐	☐	☐
11	PASCAL BOMANTI	☐	☐	☐
15	FREDDIE BANQUET	☐	☐	☐
24	ERIC VERGNIOL	☐	☐	☐
38	DANNY SMITH	☐	☐	☐
16	TODD BROWN	☐	☐	☐
8	PATRICK ENTAT	☐	☐	☐
43	PHIL SHEAD	☐	☐	☐
1	VINCENT WULF	☐	☐	☐
21	JASON SANDS	☐	☐	☐
41	JULES PARRY	☐	☐	☐
34	JACQUES PECH	☐	☐	☐
46	IAN RUSSELL	☐	☐	☐

SUBS

10	FABIEN DEVECHI	☐	☐	☐
12	VEA BLOOMFIELD	☐	☐	☐
13	DARREN ADAMS	☐	☐	☐
23	DIDIER CABESTANY	☐	☐	☐
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Photos courtesy of The Oldham Evening Chronicle
Comments in this programme are not necessarily
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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
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Talking

OLDHAM Bears make a little bit of club history this evening by entertaining, for the first time, the new Super League club based in France, Paris St Germain.

This is a new concept and a new team and the people behind the Paris club are battling against the odds to get their team solidly established in the heart of the Rugby Union Territory.

They face a big task and one wonders if that task would have been easier had the new club been established in the south-west of France where Rugby League is already well established and part of everyday life.

It is interesting to note that there is now talk of Super League applications being received from more traditional League bases such as Bordeaux and Toulouse, not to mention Barcelona and Milan. Super League wings are indeed spreading.

The Paris St Germain club looks to have set the ball rolling across the Channel in Super League's ambitious plans to create a competition that lives up to its name.

Oldham Bears and hundreds of our fans had a thoroughly enjoyable trip to Paris at Easter, where the supporters not only had a great time in the beautiful and cultural French capital but got an early taste of what Super League in the future might be all about.

Six or seven coach loads of supporters made the trip, while others went by plane or car and judging by the feedback we received at the club afterwards everyone voted it a massive hit.

The game ended in a draw, but I know our lads felt they had dropped a point rather than gained one after commanding a substantial lead early in the second half and finally losing that lead only with the last throw of the dice.

To the neutral supporter it must have been a thriller

and we hope both sides put on a spectacular show again this evening when Boundary Park stages its second Super League game.

The Wigan game on the opening weekend of the season was played here and shown live on **SKY SPORTS** and tonight we extend another warm welcome to Eddie Hemmings, Stevo and the entire Sky team.

We have seen some stunning Super League matches on Sky in the past three months and I am confident that more public awareness of our great game will eventually be reflected in increased attendances.

Changes on the scale of those which have so dramatically overtaken Rugby League in the past 12 months will take time to be universally accepted. It will take one or two seasons for the new-look game to become established, but there is no doubt that it will become established and then it will go from strength to strength.

Facilities will be constantly improved, new grounds will be built

and the quality of the football will improve as players and coaches get used to the demands of summer rugby and the great sporting public gets used to having a new game to watch in their summer schedule.

At Oldham, we are hoping our new overseas forward Reece Cleveland Guy will be here by now and that he may be included in the squad for this evening's game.

It is also hoped that we will have a new-look bear mascot on duty for the first time this evening....same body, new kit...and that he will also have a baby bear in attendance.

Enjoy the game.

JIM QUINN





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Reflections



Bienvenu A Paris St. Germain. Nous souhaitons bonne chance a tous les officiels, joueurs et spectateurs de la premiere equipe de France.

After such a bright start to their season it is distressing to see Paris St. Germain struggling. For the future of Super League and the game in Europe it is essential that a reasonably successful French side is established. Unfortunately the demands made on the Paris St. Germain players were always going to make it difficult to sustain any impetus. Many of their players were involved until the end of May in the French Championship play offs and in the Lord Derby Cup. Travelling back and forth for these matches and their Super League games can have done the players no good at all. No sooner are these fixtures completed than along comes the internationals against Wales and England. I noted that the French squad to play England contained only two players not contracted to Paris St. Germain. And did you notice that two days after the Welsh game Paris were expected to play Castleford in a match brought forward for the benefit of Sky TV? How professional athletes are expected to produce top drawer performances under these circumstances is beyond me!

It seems obvious that for the future we must provide the resources, management and coaching skills to build a successful game across the Channel. I for one am entirely in favour of expanding the French presence in Super League

and of admitting French clubs to the English First and/or Second Divisions. Anything which helps to improve standards and provides variety has to be good for the game. Longer term I even look forward to a Super League presence in Barcelona and Casablanca, wouldn't that be different to a wet Saturday in Workington?

Back at home I very much favour fast tracking South Wales into Super League. I'd love to see Newcastle in too. However, I don't like the idea of a merged Humberside club being fast-tracked (although this week's rejection of a merger by Hull FC seems to have put this one on hold). This is because, in my view, existing sides should earn their place on merit. It would be a real slap in the face if Salford Reds, Keighley Cougars (already denied twice by re-organisation) or Widnes were leap frogged by a team below them in the league. Potential support should not be a criteria for promotion. If it were, Wimbledon would not be a Premier League soccer team, yet their performances clearly merit their status. And, anyway, how will we know what Keighley Cougars true Super League potential following is if we never admit them to membership? Keighley is not one of those clubs Maurice Lindsay could throw his famous pocket handkerchief over, whereas the West Lancashire area covering Wigan, St. Helens, Warrington and Widnes is. Any chance of a merger there?

Geoff Cooke

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Oldham

MARTIN CROMPTON

Autograph

Talks...



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Andy Goodway

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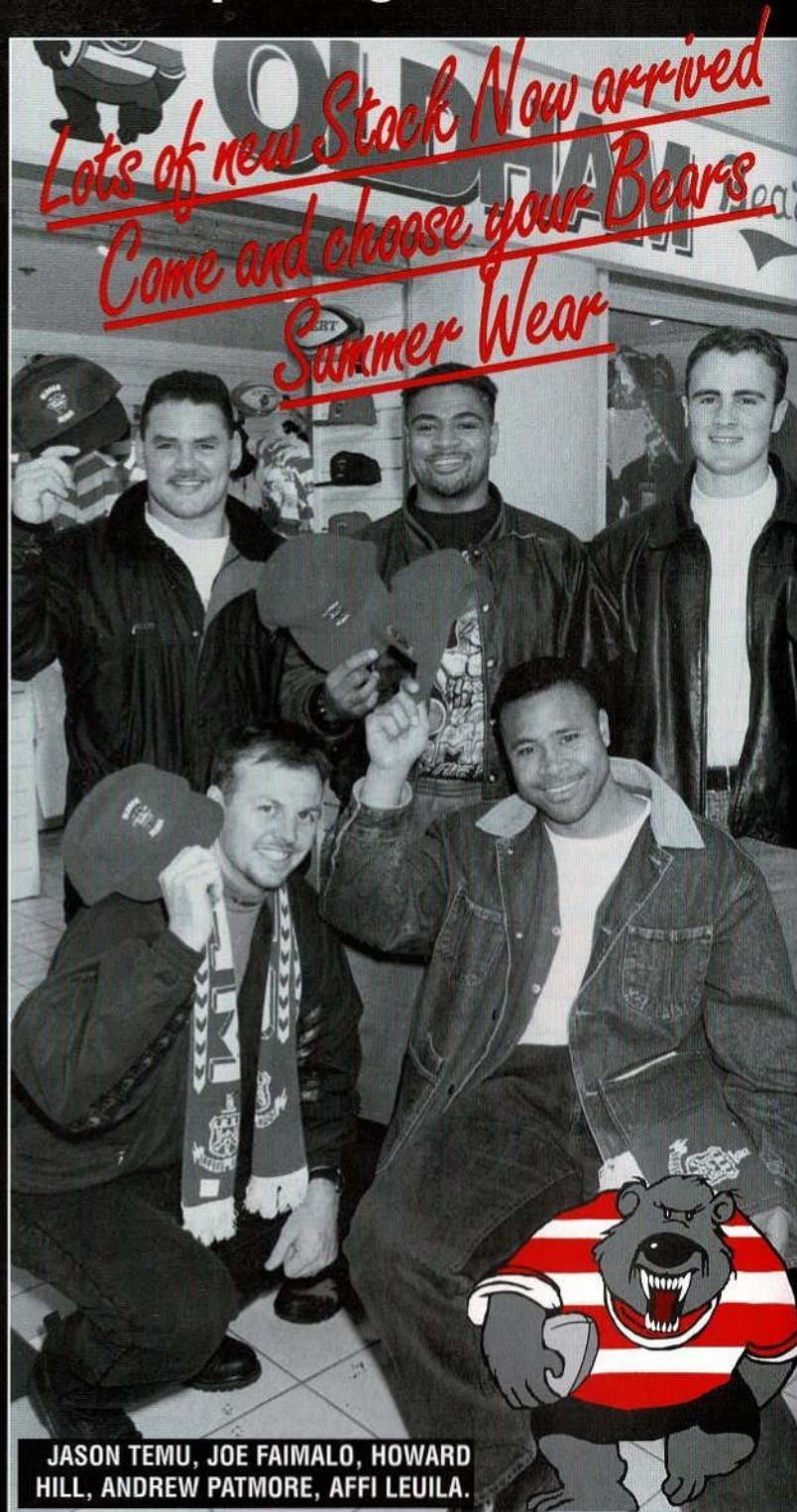
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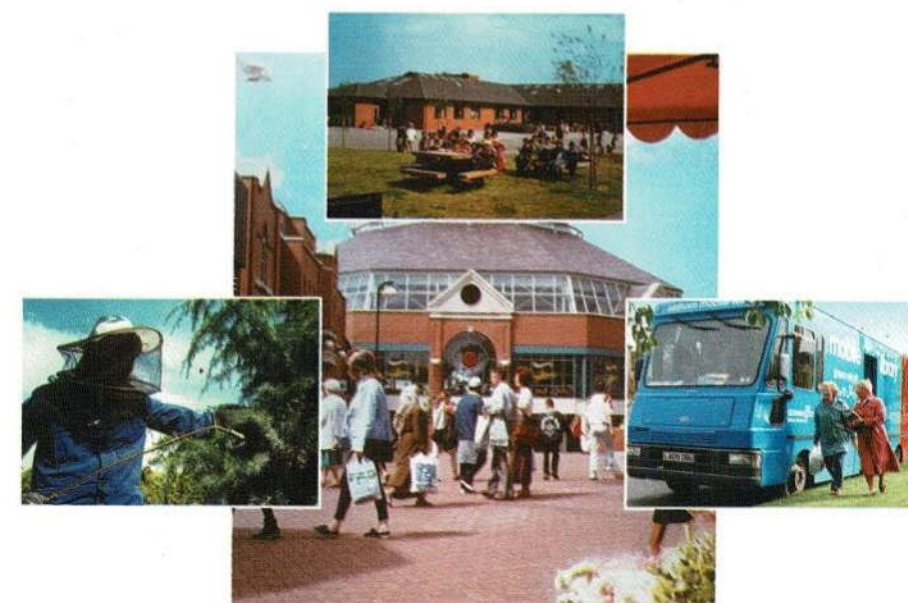
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Bears



Here we are again at Boundary Park, welcome to all you Junior Bears.

Bienvenu aux supporters de Paris RLFC Aimer le jeux et fait le voyage au maison avec soin.

Well, since my last programme notes we have picked up four points from three games. What a win over Warrington at Watersheddings and a good two points picked up at Halifax on Sunday, our first 'double' of the season, let's hope for more to follow. So a 'well done' to our 'big Bears' on the field today. In the last programme I asked the question "Which team did Martin Offiah play for before Wigan? The answer was Widnes. The mascot for today's game is Ryan Carter. Ryan is 10 years old and goes to Holy Family School, Limeside. His favourite player is Joe Faimalo, let's hope Joe has a good game for him. The mascot sponsor this evening is Lyndon Telecom.

Our mascot for the Warrington match was Frankie Byrne. Frankie is 10 years old and he attends St Edwards School, Springhead, his favourite player is also Joe Faimalo. Frankie was sponsored by Nedloh Designs.

A special 'thank you' to both sponsors from the Junior Bears. Letters have been sent out with details of our next meeting, so watch for the post if they haven't arrived on your door mat already.

Well what teaser have I got for you today?

Name the set of twins who are referees? I bet everyone can answer this. I will give you the answer in the next programme. Well what do we sing?

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Memory Lane

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear.

During the 1920's a couple of attempts were made to introduce Rugby League into France by staging exhibition matches involving touring teams from Australasia. In 1922 a match between England and the Australian touring team was cancelled when the proposed ground in Paris became unavailable after the Rugby Union hierarchy brought pressure to bear on the local authorities. Five years later New Zealand were set to meet England, again in Paris, but injuries in the New Zealand camp and rumours of a strike amongst the Kiwi tourists caused that venture to be abandoned. At that time it was thought that the game would never spread across the Channel but the visit of the 1933 Kangaroos and disagreement in Rugby Union circles resurrected hopes. The home Rugby Unions had banned France from the International Championship (The Five Nations tournament) because of the suspected flouting of the amateur rules and allegations of rough play. With French Rugby starved of international competition, the time was considered ripe for the introduction of the Rugby League game onto the Continent.

The Kangaroos were scheduled to meet Wales down at Wembley on Saturday 30th December so arrangements were made for the Kangaroo party to travel over to Paris immediately after the match and meet England at the Stade Pershing the following afternoon.

The Kangaroos had a good day out at Wembley where they beat Wales 51-19, centre Dave Brown leading the way with a try and nine goals. As arranged the Kangaroos then moved on to Paris where 24 hours later they faced an 'England' team which included five

Welshmen. The line-up in Paris was as follows:

England: Jim Sullivan (Wigan); Jack Morley (Wigan, Arthur Atkinson (Castleford), Joe Oliver (Hull), Tommy Thompson (Warrington); Stan Brogden (Huddersfield), Bryn Evans (Swinton); Norman Fender (York), Les White (Hunslet), Nat Silcock (Widnes), Ken Jubb (Leeds), Bill Horton (Wakefield Trinity) and Ted Sadler (Oldham).

Australia: Frank McMillan; Jack Why, Dave Brown, Vic Hey, Cliff Pearce; Fred Doonar, Les Mead; Mick Madsen, Arthur Folwell, Ray Stehr, Jim Gibbs, Joe Pearce and Wally Prigg.

Despite the cold weather, snow and a frozen pitch, a crowd of 5,000 attended the match. It was an opportunity for the Kangaroos to regain a little pride after a 3-0 whitewash which they suffered against Great Britain. They took the opportunity with both hands, led 20-10 at half-time and went on to run in 15 tries as they walloped the English by an amazing 63-13 scoreline. Dave Brown was once again the inspiration with three tries and another nine goals. There was also a hat-trick of tries from Jim Gibbs whilst the other nine tries were shared by Joe Pearce (2), Jack Why (2), Wally Prigg (2), Vic Hey, Les Mead and Ray Stehr.

England's tries came via Bryn Evans, Jack Morley and Ken Jubb with Jim Sullivan landing a couple of goals. The match proved an exciting spectacle for the French who within three months had organised a squad of players to undertake a short tour of England. As a result of those events a little over 32 years ago; the game did spread to France where it has had its ups and downs but where it still maintains a foothold. And long may the game continue on the Continent so that the British domestic game can be brightened up by the visit of the colourful French.

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On this day....

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

The Parisienne tour of England continues this evening when the St Germain squad visit Boundary Park. Oldham followers will be hoping that tonight's result is similar to that which involved the French national team when they met Australian side Newcastle on Sunday, 28th June 1981. Winger Tanna scored three of the seven Newcastle tries that afternoon as the French were tanned 29-0. It was on this day in 1989 that Queensland met New South Wales at Lang Park, Brisbane in the third State of Origin match of that season. The Queenslanders had won the first two matches of the series and so were looking for a whitewash. This they achieved with relative ease, registering a 36-16 victory. Centre Dale Shearer led the way with two tries and four goals although man-of-the-match was hooker Kerrod Walters. There was a crowd of 33,268 to watch this match which generates more passion than test matches in Australia. One test match which the Aussies will quickly like to forget took place on this day in 1952, Saturday, 28th June. Brisbane Cricket Ground was

the venue of the second test match between Australia and New Zealand. The Kangaroos were confident of success after winning the first test 25-13 but the Kiwis rocked them by piling up the highest score ever conceded by an Australian test side. Full-back Des White converted eight of the nine Kiwi tries and also landed three penalties in New Zealand's amazing 49-25 victory. That victory boosted New Zealand confidence and they were able to clinch the series with a 19-9 victory at Sydney the following Wednesday. Exactly 28 years previously, on Saturday 28th June 1924, Great Britain met Australia in the second test match at Sydney Cricket Ground before a crowd of 33,842. The Lions had won the first test 22-3 so were looking for a win which would clinch the Ashes. Heavy rain had reduced the pitch to a quagmire which should have suited the two Oldham representatives in the British line-up, winger Syd Rix and second-rower Albert Brough. However, Brisbane winger Cecil Aynsley gave Australia a 3-0 interval lead but Lions skipper and stand-off Jonty Parkin equalised and Jim Sullivan's conversion enabled Britain to retain the Ashes.

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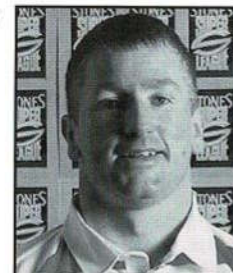
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BEARS Question

Time...

with Martin Crompton

Full Name: Martin Anthony Crompton
Date of Birth: 27/9/69
Birthplace: Billinge Hospital, Wigan.
Height: 5ft 10
Weight: 14st 7lb
Nickname at Club: Crunch, Cromy.
Occupation: Pro Rugby Player
Home: 3 bed semi
Car: Ford Probe
Married: Yes, to Julia.
Children: Joe, 22 mths.
Family: 1 brother David, 1 sister Cath.



What was your ambition as a child?
To play pro rugby and achieve success.
Who was your boyhood hero? Brett Kenny
What has been your biggest disappointment in rugby?
Not achieving the success I feel I've deserved.
What has been your biggest thrill in rugby?
Playing at Wembley and being captain of Oldham Bears.
Which present day player do you admire most? Vaiga Tuigamala
Who is the greatest player there has been? Alex Murphy
What is the best part of your job? Winning and getting paid.
Who is the toughest opponent you have faced? Va'aiga Tuigamala
If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy?
A racehorse and Chris Parr a pair of jeans.
What is your best quality?
Good humour. I like to make people laugh.
What is your worst quality? Forgetful, short tempered.
Apart from your own club, which is your favourite ground?
Headingly
Which is your least favourite ground? Widnes Naughton Park
What other sports & hobbies do you have?
Snooker/Golf/Playing Cards

What is your ideal evening out?

Out with the lads, Chris Parr and Farny.

What is the most dangerous thing you have done?

Drank ale with Paul Davidson and Paul Topping.

What dangerous thing would you most like to attempt?

Shave Paul Davidson's head.

What is your biggest phobia? Flying

What is your most prized possession? My son Joe.

Which famous person would you most like to meet? The Pope

Which world figure do you most admire? Mother Theresa

Away from rugby, what has been your best sporting achievement?

Great Britain Champion at Olympic Wrestling.

What is the funniest moment you have seen on a rugby pitch?

Chris Parr singing after we defeated Wigan.

Do you have an unusual food that improves your game? Pasta

What is the oddest piece of training that you have done? All of it.

Is there a dream you would like to have achieved in a sport other than rugby? Snooker World Champion

Favourite TV programme: Steptoe & Son/Rising Damp

Favourite TV star: Roy 'Chubby' Brown

Favourite film: Kes

Favourite film star: Sly Stallone

Favourite soap opera: Brookside

Favourite soap character: Jimmy Corkhill

Favourite city: London

Favourite pop star: Gary Glitter

Favourite single: 'Ain't Nobody' Chaka Khan

Favourite LP:

Frankie Goes to Hollywood 'Welcome to the Pleasure Dome'

Favourite food: Pasta & Chicken

Favourite drink:

Budweiser, especially when Chris Parr buys them.

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS INJURY UPDATE

Since our last home game against Warrington, things have improved on the injury front. In fact the Treatment Room was the quietest it had been for some while, with only Ian

Sherratt (who picked up a knee injury at Wigan) of the senior squad who won't be in contention for tonight's game. But we were not completely redundant as the Academy boys have hit a bad run of injuries with Julian Mike having a strained medial ligament knee injury being the most serious. JW

RING NOW FOR THE LATEST NEWS 0891 44 00 70

OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

15

League H.Q.



Wigan, champions for the last seven years, closed the gap on Super League table topping St. Helens with their thrilling 35-19 victory at Central Park last week.

Watched by more than 20,000 people, coach Greame West's men took revenge on Saints after their Easter defeat at Knowsley Road to narrow the gap at the top of the Stones Super League table to just one point. England winger Jason Robinson grabbed two tries as Wigan showed that they are not going to give up the inaugural Stones Super League Championship without a real battle.

But victory came at a cost as New Zealand sensation Henry Paul was helped off the field and taken to hospital with damaged ankle ligaments. Paul is expected to be out of the game for three or four weeks. Salford Reds edged nearer promotion with a 32-20 victory over Widnes in the First Division, while Hull KR beat York 58-6 to stay top of the Second Division.

POINTS SCORING RUN

Steve Blakeley of Salford Reds has the longest points scoring run of 32 successive club matches, including all 15 this season. The stand off's scoring run began with eight goals and a try in the 48-20 First Division win at Huddersfield on 17 September 1995. In addition Blakeley has also scored a try in one appearance for England during the sequence.

TRYSCORING RUN

Stuart Spruce of Bradford Bulls has scored at least one try in all five matches since signing from Widnes. The full back's sequence is as

follows: 2-1-1-1-2.

Jon Roper of Warrington has scored at least one try in six successive matches as follows: 1-2-1-1-2-2.

WINNING RUN

Hunslet Hawks have the current longest winning run of 10 matches, all in Division Two. Their last defeat was 31-20 at Hull KR on 8 April. Wigan have the best Super League run of 11 matches without defeat, including one draw against London Broncos. Their last defeat was 41-26 at St. Helens on 5 April.

LONGEST LOSING RUN

Paris St Germain have the longest losing run after being defeated in nine successive Stones Super League matches. Their last victory was 34-12 at home to Workington Town on 13 April.

MILESTONES

Phil Veivers of Huddersfield Giants needs one try for a career century of touchdowns after scoring 98 for St. Helens.

Ray Ashton of Bramley needs one try for a career century of touchdowns including representative matches and spells with Oldham, Leeds and Workington Town.

Graham Steadman of Castleford Tigers needs 10 points for a career total of 2,000 including representative matches, plus spells with York and Featherstone Rovers.

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Lord...

Good idea or not?

Apart from the obvious argument of whether the Sheffield Eagles game with St. Helens was right to be taken to Wales, I wonder whether I was the only one to be confused by the fact that the venue advertised ie Cardiff Arms Park was not the venue used, or was it?

Let me explain, Cardiff Arms Park as we know it, ie the home of Welsh Rugby Union, has now officially changed its name to the National Stadium with the name Cardiff Arms Park being transferred to Cardiff Rugby Union Club (still with me).

My only question is why was this not passed on to all the spectators, so many of whom went

down to the principality expecting to visit the original Arms Park.

I can understand fully the ill feeling and disappointment caused by nothing more than poor public relations. On a more serious note over 6000 watched the game with an estimated 4000 of them local people. The Rugby League will therefore surely call it a success. Both clubs I am also sure will have been financially compensated for any expenses and lost revenue caused by having to play in Wales in the first place but my thoughts are with the Sheffield Eagles fan who apparently purchased a season ticket and up to last weekend had not missed a home game at the Don Valley. To be fair the club offered to refund the ticket price or provide him with a free ticket to the match in Wales, but it was not what the fan wanted, and my real fear is that the guy who had no alternative but to miss the game through personal circumstances will feel bitter and twisted and may not invest in a season ticket in the future and that would be a real tragedy and not just for the supporter.

Malcolm Lord
BBC GMR

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OLDHAM Bears

"A" Team



Since the last Alliance game we have played 3 games, away to Warrington and at home to Wigan and Halifax. With two home wins out of the 3 games I am pleased to say that we are climbing from the foot of the table.

Against Warrington we were always in the game without converting our chances, and giving away too many penalties. After trailing 10-8 at half time we scored first through Jimmy Cowans to go in front. Then 15 minutes into the 2nd half we had Chris Parr sent off and the forwards lost their way, Warrington hit back with 3 tries before Adie Meade scored in the corner to give a respectable 26-18 scoreline in defeat. For the first 30 minutes the ball control was excellent, however, we only had a try and goal from Steve Gartland to show for the pressure. The referee disallowed a good try from Paul Norman which I am sure would have opened the floodgates. Full credit though to a young Wigan side who stuck to their task and shocked us with 2 tries against the run of play before the break to lead 12-8 at half time.

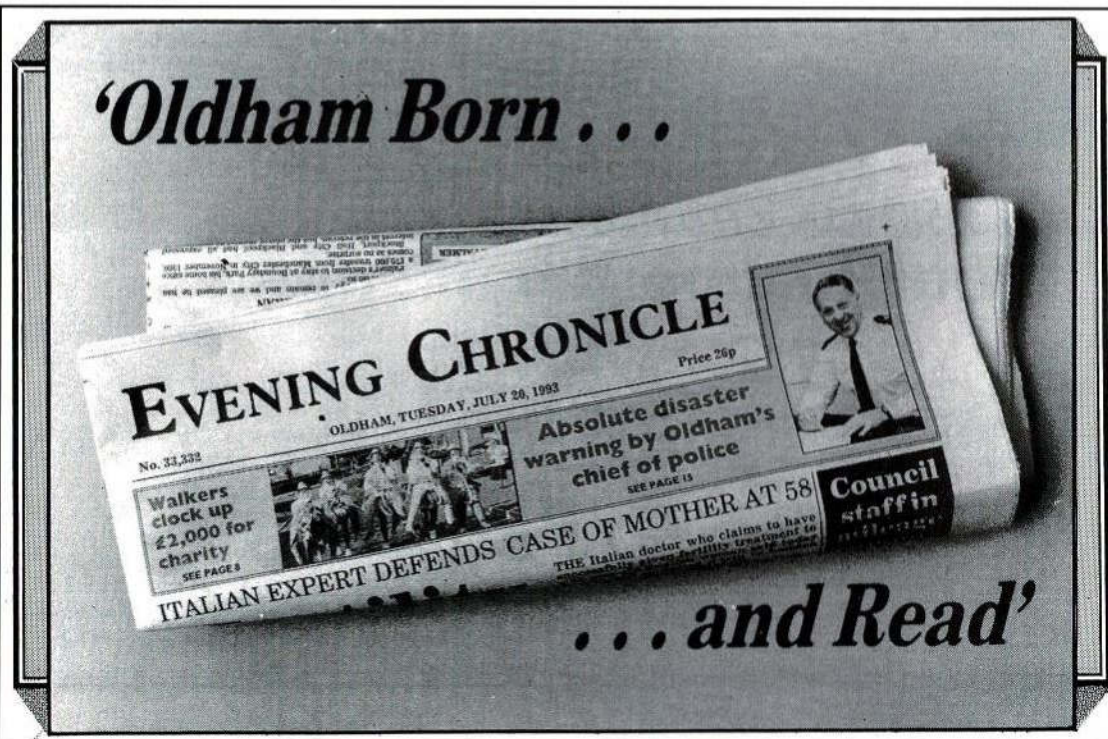
At the break Wigan introduced Nigel Wright back after injury and their forwards started to come back into the game. In an even 2nd half contest two tries by Tony Nuttall and a powerful individual try by Chris Parr were cancelled out by 2 converted tries by Wigan. With 3 minutes remaining and the scores level at 22-22 Steve Gartland kicked a superb 30 yard drop goal to give us the victory which the first half performance deserved.

The visit of Halifax, saw a reshuffling of the team to accommodate the return to action of Jason Temu and Francis Maloney and the debut of Reece Guy from New Zealand. Although looking strong on paper the team struggled to develop any rhythm. We appeared to be over anxious to score when in their half and four golden opportunities were missed by trying to force the play. In the event we were punished with a long range interception try, and a good individual try from winger Damian Munro. Even with the missed chances we scored two tries under the posts from Gartland and Phillip Russell both converted by Gartland.

All even at half time 12-12, the instructions were to be more patient in the 22 metre area, use the full six tacklers, and cut out silly penalties for talking to the referee. During the 2nd half we never looked in trouble and turned our dominance into points, with tries from Jimmy Cowans, Steve Gartland, and Phillip Russell. Halifax scored a late consolation try to give a final score 30-18.

Over the four weeks I've been back at Oldham I've been impressed with the professionalism shown by the coaching staff and players and I think we are now reaping the benefits with results on the field. I've been particularly impressed with forwards Tony Nuttall, Chris Parr and Chris McKinney whilst scrum half Paul Deacon has a big future in the game.

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PATRICK ENTAT

The Backs

Full back **Laurent Luchesse** is one of the growing band of French league players to have tasted English league football. Capped by France at Under 21 level Laurent first came to England along with compatriot Pierre Jammes for the 1993-94 season, both joining the Huddersfield club. Luchesse made seventeen appearances for the "Fartowners", scoring a brace of tries during his debut season. He followed up with seven goals from just two outings in the 1994-95 campaign before joining Sheffield. Laurent, who has represented Tarn Sud and Carcassonne in the French League has been the regular full back for the St. Germain club. His deputy is **Bagdad Yaha**, he made his full debut in the defeat at Warrington in April.

Moldovan winger **Mikhail Piskunov** starred in the autumn Emerging Nations competition and a total of five tries from just two games, including a hat trick against Morocco at Northampton. His only appearance for St. Germain was in the opening game against Sheffield. The likely wingers are **Pascal Bomati** and **Regis Pastre-Courtine**. The latter had a spell with the Batley club where he played under the shortened name of Regis Pastre, he scored an hat trick in the free scoring encounter at Warrington. All the wingers have been able to register tries in the Super League with Bomati scoring in three consecutive games and **Arnaud Cervello** claiming three tries in the opening two games.

Freddie Banquet holds the distinction of scoring the first ever Super League try. The 22 year old has plenty of experience of English conditions after spells with Yorkshire clubs Featherstone Rovers, Sheffield Eagles and Wakefield Trinity. Freddie was the second top scorer for Rovers in their 1994/95 Stones Bitter Championship campaign with 94 points.

He then became one of the many French players to join Sheffield Eagles, in his six outings with the Don Valley club he scored 30 points from 13 goals and 1 try. From Sheffield his English rugby journey continued to Wakefield where, once again he found scoring quite an easy achievement. By this time he was scoring tries at regular intervals with nine touchdowns in seven outings during the Centenary season. Banquet played in both of France's games in the Halifax Centenary World Cup event, kicking a goal against Wales at Ninian Park, Cardiff.

Centre **Pierre Chamorin** was given the honour of captaining the Paris team for their opening Super League encounter against Sheffield Eagles. Formerly with the AS St. Esteve club, where he played alongside brother Stephen, he was a member of St. Esteve's 1994 Regal Trophy side which faced Bradford at Odsal.

Now a regular member of the full French international side he has regularly attracted the attention of the top English clubs. After a 1989 test debut against New Zealand he is now on the verge of his 20th cap. In the recent World Cup he was a try scorer in the encounter with Western Samoa.

The Playmakers

Australian **Todd Brown** occupied the stand off berth in the opening two Super League games. Injured in the game against London he has been replaced by **Fabien Devicchi**. The regular scrum half, **Patrick Entat**, is well known to English fans after periods with the Hull and Leeds clubs. He left Headingley to return to the French club Avignon. A regular international, and captain of his country, Entat was voted player of the series on the 1995 French tour of New Zealand. That was just one of many tours for the player with 33 test caps who can expect to add to that tally in this summer's European Super League Championship.

A member of the French schoolboys tour party to Australia in 1983 he toured Australia in 1990 and 1994 with the full French party. Entat was the French player of the year in 1989 and was a try scorer in the 1990 Perpignan test encounter with the Kangaroos, the last time that the French side could manage a score against the Aussies.

The Engine Room

Huge Polish international rugby union forward **Gregory Kacala** was one of the many unknowns when the St. Germain club made their debut in the

Super League. He has impressed in the televised encounters and forms a formidable looking prop partnership with the pony tailed **Kava Utoikamanu**. He made his first Super League appearance at London and has gained regular selection in front of Australian **Jason Sands** and Kiwi **Vea Bloomfield**. Goalkicking hooker **Patrick Torrelles** comes from a more traditional source, the French club Pia. A member of the French 1995 Halifax Centenary World Cup squad the current French international hooker has been a regular inclusion in touring squads. In 1991 he journeyed to Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, in 1994 to Papua New Guinea, Australia and Fiji, and last year to New Zealand and Canada. Scorer of one of France's three World Cup tries he was a member of Pia's 1995 Championship winning side.

Kiwi **Darren Adams** has settled in well in the second row. He has also played centre for St. Germain club but appears to be the regular second row partner for international **Didier Cabestany**. The French second row made his international debut in the narrow defeat against Great Britain at Perpignan in 1989. He kept his place for the return fixture at Headingley and played his part in a 25-18 victory. A former player with the well known St. Esteve club he moved to Catalan in 1991 and was a member of their 1994 Championship winning team. A French tourist to New Zealand and Canada in 1995 he was also a member of their Halifax Centenary World Cup squad and scored a try against the Western Samoans at Cardiff.

Loose forward **Jacques Pech** is one of the most versatile players in the Paris St. Germain squad. Jacques can play stand off, hooker or in the back row positions. A member of Pia's 1995 Championship squad Jacques toured Russia with the 1992 French touring party and followed on with selection for the 1995 tour of New Zealand and Canada.

Jacques played in both of France's 1995 European Championship encounters but missed out on the subsequent World Cup competition. He has been a regular in the loose forward role for Paris.

Listed in the original 34 man squad are a number of well known French league players who have still to make an impact in the Stones Super League. Ones to watch out for are:

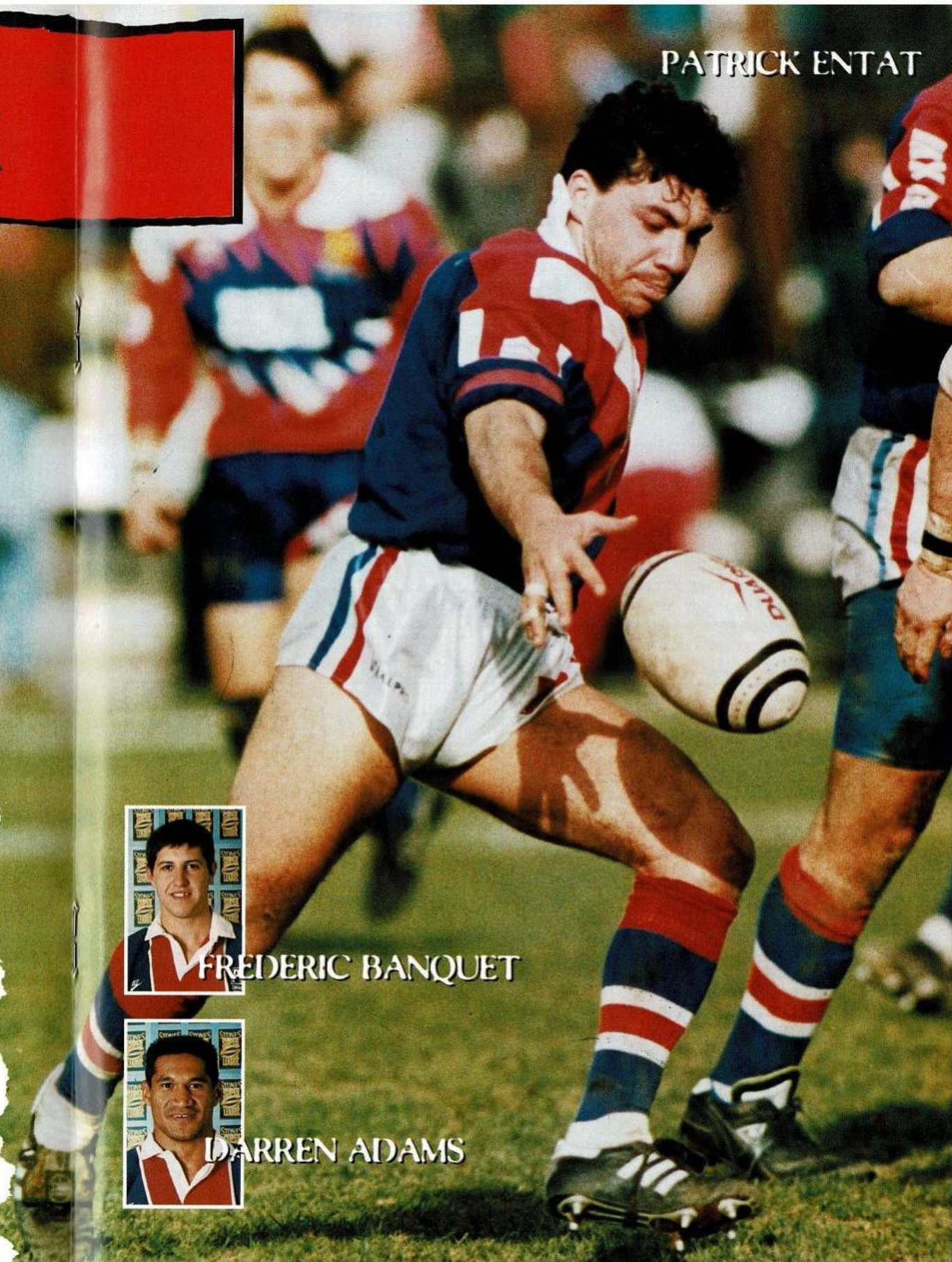
David Despin a stand off or centre who has been marked down as a possible future Test captain. He has made just three test appearances. The most recent against Wales in the 1995 Halifax Centenary World Cup when he played at full back.

Frederic Teixido - The Limoux prop forward is renowned for his endeavours on the rugby field and has been amply rewarded at test level with regular selection since a debut against Wales in 1989. Made his Paris debut in the heavy defeat at Wigan. Frederic gained a 1992 French Division One Championship winners medal with Limoux and featured in both of France's 1995 Halifax Centenary World Cup competition matches.

Pascal Fages - Stand off A player with plenty of international experience Pascal fitted the stand off role for France in both their matches during last year's Halifax Centenary World Cup competition. Pascal toured Papua New Guinea and New Zealand in 1991 but missed the 1995 tour through injury. Has now gained 16 full caps for France.

Lilian Herbert - Forward With eight test appearances behind him Lilian has also enjoyed success in the French domestic competition, picking up a Championship winners medal in 1995. A mobile front or second row forward Lilian has been a member of the French touring teams to Australia in 1994 and New Zealand last year.

Karl Jaavuo - Prop A 1995 test debut against England in Gateshead was the first of four caps for the Pia prop forward, with over five years experience of the French league behind him Karl has already gained a championship winners medal. He can also count on his Australian experience, Karl actually comes from Cairns.



FREDERIC BANQUET



DARREN ADAMS

Academy...

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Our Academy team ran up its highest score of the season with a fine win over Dewsbury by 56 points to 14. Playing some fluent football tries came by order of new recruit Jason Brassington 2, David Milne, Craig Barker, Dale Aldred, Chris Nuttie, Chris Wheeler and Richard Perkins goals were shared by Craig Barker and Paul Lord who also got among the tries. It was pleasing to see Jason scoring two tries on his debut he is a real crowd pleaser when he gets in his stride. That win made it four wins on the trot and we went to Rochdale full of confidence but we certainly came down to earth with a bang losing by 60 points to 23 points to say I was disappointed must be the understatement of the year we have had a real clear the air this week and hopefully go and bring the points home this week from Hull KR. I would just like to thank Monarch Metals this week who have come along to sponsor our academy boys to club tracksuits which is a fine gesture. May I also thank Brenda Rogers who also sponsors our academy and we are very grateful thanks Brenda from all the lads and also Monarch Metals.

OLDHAM BEARS JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIXTURES SEASON 1996

Day	Date	Team	H/A	Kick-Off	Score
Monday	1/4/96	ROCHDALE	H	7.30pm	L 16-34
Friday	5/4/96	HULL K.R.	H	1.00pm CR	W 20-11
Monday	8/4/96	Batley	A	3.30pm	L 23-10
Saturday	13/4/96	SALFORD REDS	H	4.00pm CR	L 10-24
	20/4/96	BLANK WEEKEND			
	29/4/96	JJB SPORTS ACADEMY CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND			
Sunday	5/5/96	Widnes	A	1.00pm CR	L 41-4
Monday	13/5/96	HUDDERSFIELD	H	7.30pm	L18-26
Sunday	19/5/96	Sheffield Eagles	A	4.00pm CR	W42-32
Sunday	26/5/96	KEIGHLEY COUG.	H	1.00pm CR	W16-13
Monday	3/6/96	SWINTON	H	7.30pm	W28-20
Sunday	9/6/96	DEWSBURY	H	4.00pm CR	W56-14
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 @ Radcliffe Borough	3.30pm	
Sunday	18/8/96	Dewsbury	A	3.00pm CR	
Tuesday	27/8/96	SHEFFIELD	H	7.30pm	

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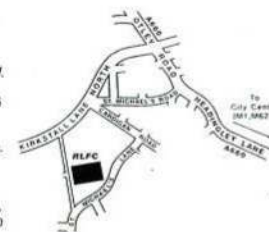
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Match day information: As above **Office address:** As above **Office tel No.:** As above
Ticket information phone no.: As above **Capacity:** 27,500
Number of seats: 5,713 **Advance ticket availability:** Contact club as above
Price reductions for: Children: Yes Age: Under 16 Pensioners: Yes
Unemployed: No **Students:** No **Disabled:** Yes
Disabled supporters: Facilities: Area for 25 wheelchairs. Parking (on season ticket basis) Wheelchair access: Viewing area. Bars accessible. Disabled toilets: Yes
The blind: 12 seats wired to pick up match commentary. Headphones provided.
Club Shop: Address: As above Telephone: As above
Opening hours: Week days 9.00am to 7.00pm. Saturday 9.00 to 12 noon.
Match days: 10.00 to 5.15pm
Supporters Club: Address: Mrs A Wood, 46, New Adel Lane, Adel, Leeds LS16 6AN. Telephone: 0113-261-1656
Food and drink: In the ground: Kiosks - hot and cold food. Bars: South stand and Len Hutton Bar Main stand. Supporters Social Club, South Stand Car Park.
Transport: Car parking: Limited parking within ground. Street parking available.
Public transport: Information: 0113-245-7676 Nearest BR station: Headingley
Information: 0113-244-8133 Buses: 56 & 57 from city centre bus station. 74, 76 & 77 from Infirmary Street.
General Facilities: Conference and banqueting facilities within pavilion.
Parties from 25 to 250. On match days: Radio Headingley on 1413 AM.
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Tel: 0113-2478301/2 **Fax:** 0113-2478036
Directions by Road: From south, east: M1 junction 47, then M621 junction 2 A643 towards city centre. Join A58(M) and follow signs for A660 (Otley, Skipton). Join A660, which becomes Headingley Lane. Turn left into Kirkstall Lane North, and ground is on left. From west: M62 junction 27 take M621 to junction 2, then as above.



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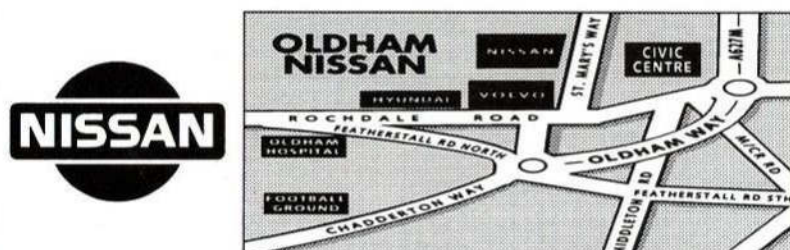
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THE 1996 STUDENT WORLD CUP COMPETITION.....ENGLAND 17-31 AUGUST

Dates and venues have been decided for the 1996 Students World Cup which is to be staged next August throughout England. The standard of play in these matches is very high and supporters are urged to get along to a match if at all possible. We think that you will be surprised at the skill on view. Full details of the draw are as follows:

Pool A - Australia, Russia, South Africa & Wales

Sun, 18th Aug.	Russia v South Africa	Featherstone 3pm
	Australia v Wales	Leigh 3pm
Thur, 22nd Aug.	Australia v South Africa	Keighley 7.30pm
	Russia v Wales	Bradford 7.30pm
Sun, 25th Aug.	Australia v Russia	Charlton FC 3pm
	South Africa v Wales	Cheltenham 5.30pm

Pool B - Ireland, New Zealand, United States & Western Samoa

Sat, 17th August	New Zealand v W. Samoa	Halifax 6.30pm
Sun, 18th August	Ireland v USA	Northampton FC 6pm
Wed, 21st Aug.	New Zealand v USA	Wakefield 7pm
	Ireland v Western Samoa	York 7.30pm

Sat, 24th Aug.	USA v W. Samoa	Hull KR 2.30pm
	Ireland v New Zealand	Hull FC 6.30pm

Pool C - England, France, Japan & Scotland

Sat, 17th Aug.	England v France	Warrington 3pm
	Japan v Scotland	Warrington 5.30pm
Tue, 20th Aug.	England v Scotland	Gateshead 7pm
	France v Japan	Hull FC 7pm
Sat, 24th Aug.	Scotland v France	Castleford 5.30pm
Sun, 25th Aug.	England v Japan	Sale RUFC 5.30pm

World Cup semi-finals Warrington Tuesday, 27th August 6pm & 8pm

Play-offs for the minor placings will be staged on Friday, 30th August
at Hunslet 5.30pm & 8pm
at Keighley 4.30pm & 7.30pm

World Championship Finals will be staged at the Willows, Salford on
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2pm play-off for 3rd/4th place
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Thoughts from the Terraces...

It is no particular comfort, I know, but it is becoming increasingly evident that our crowd problems are by no means unique. Wigan, Leeds and Workington in Super League are the latest to hit the headlines, with many other smaller clubs suffering too. I am afraid that it is the switch to summer mainly at fault. Regular sport's spectators are mostly creatures of habit, and when habits are forced to be broken, as they have been, you cannot assume that new ones will replace them instantly. Summer Saturday evenings will never be acceptable to RL fans - and someone should chop that idea from the schedules straightaway (or, at least, as soon as the Sky contract allows us to). Away matches on Sunday nights are not really attractive propositions to all but the most dedicated, either. And then people get out of the habit of going to away matches altogether. Even at Halifax, our closest derby match, the number of Oldham supporters I could spot was the lowest I can remember. And I had to chuckle to hear Mr Lindsay expressing regrets that the first summer season coincided with Euro '96; did he not know it was due? And the Olympics are still to come, Maurice. Not to mention the July and August holidays. No, it has to be said that, at this stage, summer rugby, at least in terms of attendances at matches, has been a failure.

However, I don't think it is all gloom. Certainly Bradford have shown what might be possible, as well as London and, to a lesser extent, Sheffield. And all three have gone in for at least a credible pre-match entertainment programme. I think Jim Quinn's comments at last week's A.G.M. were very sensible. We will sadly miss the Sunday afternoon

habit in the winter months ahead, I have no doubt, and it may well be that, by spring 1997, new habits may be ready to be established. I am not so sure about Friday nights as he is; what about those away trips to Castleford and Saints, never mind Workington, London, Paris (!) and Cardiff (??) But there may certainly be more chance next year than this, with the farcical Centenary season by then faded far enough into the memory, the chaos in Australia hopefully over, with the knock-on effects for the opportunities for our top four (I am really looking forward to getting Manly up to Watersheddings), and Mr Lindsay's casual musings about who might be unsuitable and who might be forcibly merged or fast-tracked hopefully knocked on the head. We need a period of stability, with clear rules of the game, and the maximum effort of all focused on both retaining/regaining traditional support and earning new. On the field, what a superb performance at Halifax. Warrington was good, both in the first half quality and the second half fight-back. Wigan was nothing like as bad as the score suggested. But Fax was superb. The defensive commitment was top-notch - we held out for six consecutive sets of six at one stage. And to hit them as we did just before and just after half-time was Wigan-style at its best. Hats off to the cracking job done in Francis Maloney's absence by Paul Crook - I thought his passing was particularly impressive against the Wire. And, with Gildart and Lord stand-out men at Thrum Hall, we now seem to have around a dozen who can do a good job in the pack. Wins tonight and in the next two games are not unrealistic targets - and would surely see us into the top half of the table. Dizzy heights indeed!



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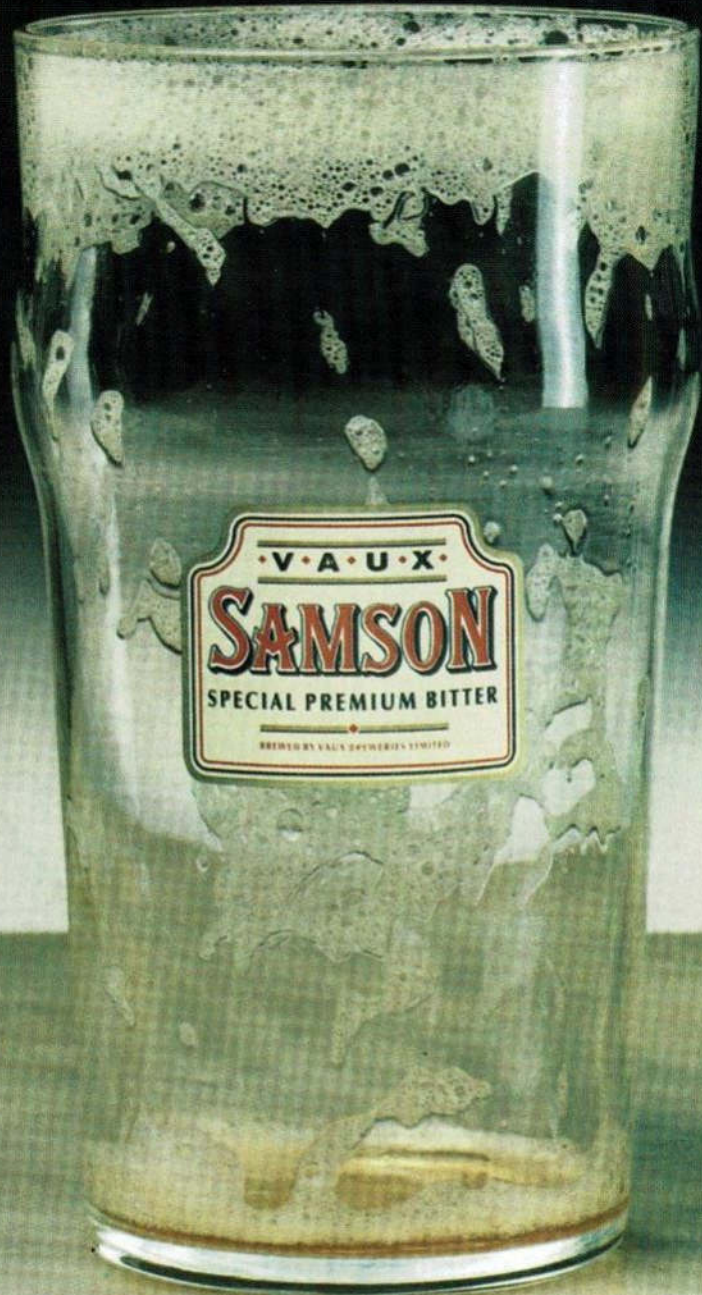
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Record

Oldham's only previous match against the Paris St Germain side was last Easter's 24-24 draw. It is the only drawn match involving the St Germain side who began this season brightly but who have struggled somewhat since that tremendous 30-24 victory over Sheffield last March which heralded in the Super League concept. The only other Paris victory this season was their 34-12 defeat of Workington Town which is their biggest victory to date. Unfortunately the Paris outfit have suffered several heavy defeats. Their biggest home defeat saw Castleford win 54-22 at the Stade Charlety whilst away from home they suffered a predictable 76-8 hammering at Wigan. They have yet to win away so let us hope that history is not made this evening.

RESULTS OF PREVIOUS FRENCH VISITS TO OLDHAM

Season		
1934-35	Oldham 26	Villeneuve 25
1956-57	G.Britain A 2	France A 8
1965-66	G.Britain u 24's 12	France u 24's 5
1979-80	G.Britain Colts 31	France Colts 2
1981-82	Oldham 11	France 15
1982-83	G.Britain u 24's postponed (snow)	France u 24's
1983-84	G.Britain u 24's 48	France u 24's 1
	BARLA 8	France 21
1991-92	BARLA 16	France 'B' 52
1993-94	BARLA Presidents under-18's 0	
	France under-18's 44	

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At the Stade Charlety, Paris

PARIS ST GERMAIN 24
OLDHAM 24
Half time 4-14
Attendance 6,327
Paris tries: Laurent Lucchese, Didier Cabestany, Patrick Entat and Pascal Bomati.
goals: Patrick Torreilles (4)
Oldham tries: Matt Munro, Darren Abram, Andy Patmore and Francis Maloney
goals: Francis Maloney (4)
Paris: Laurent Lucchese; Pascal Bomati, Pierre Chamorin, Darren Adams, Lean-Luc Romandou; Fabien de Vecchi, Patrick Entat; Jason Sands, Patrick Torreilles, Greg Kacala, Vea Bloomfield, Didier Cabastany and Jacques Pech. Substitutes: Regis Pastre-Courtine, Kava Utoikamanu, Mikail Piskunov and Vincent Wulf.
Oldham: Paul Atcheson; Afi Leuila, Andy Patmore, Darren Abram, Adrian Belle; Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton; Ian Gildart, John Clarke, Jason Temu, Gary Lord, Matt Munro and Howard Hill.
Substitutes: Joe Faimalo, David Bradbury, Paul Topping and Paul Davidson.

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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	25-16	3,350																														
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396																														
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181																														
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm	10-30	4,228																														
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	5.30pm	10-23	3,200																														
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm	27-29	2,228																														
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm	28-22	4,629																														
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm	35-24	3,243																														
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm	16-44	7,226																														
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm	14-20	4,591																														
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 BRONCOSH	H	6.00pm																																
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm																																
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	6.00pm																																

RUGBY RECALL OLDHAM V WARRINGTON

- Which full back did Oldham sign from Wigan in December 1991?
- In December 91, Castleford offered Martin Ketteridge and Graeme Bradley, in exchange for which Oldham player?
- Which British heavyweight boxer had trials with London Crusaders in January 1992?
- In the same month, which boxer signed a 16 month contract with Halifax R.L.F.C.?
- In February 1992, which England Rugby Union Forward turned down an approach from Trafford Borough?
- Name two of the three players who went to Swinton in exchange for Scott Ranson?
- Which half back banned sine die 16 months earlier was selected to play for Great Britain Under 21's, against France in February 1992?
- In March 1992, St. Helens captain Shane Cooper was fined £400 and given a 4 match suspended ban, what was the unusual reason?
- Which Australian International forward was sacked as coach of Hull F.C. in April 92, with only two games of the season left?
- Which team clinched the first ever third Division title in April 92?

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10. Huddersfield. (Bramley were runners up).
Donohue (Leigh). 8. Williford introducing a second ball into play. 9. Noel Cheal.
Dooley. 6. Simon Longstaff, Richard Irvine and Tony Barrow (Jnr). 7. Jason Wade.

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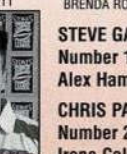
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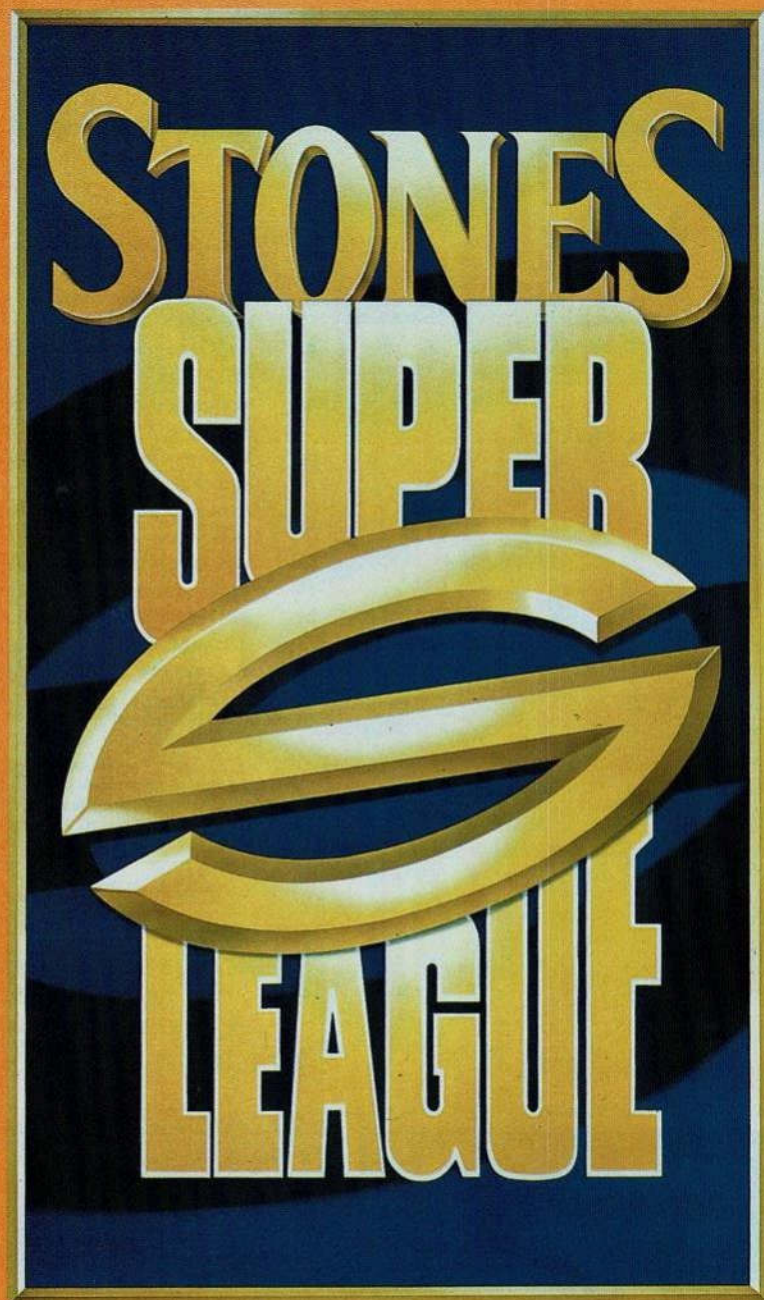


Number 22
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Irene Calow



Number 26
BUSTER BEAR
Ian Clarkson

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NEWS From

Down Under...

Optus Cup Round 12

Illawarra Steelers 14 Brisbane Broncos 6

At Steelers Stadium

The round of upsets continued yesterday when Illawarra held on to beat Premiership heavyweights Brisbane 14-6 at Steelers Stadium. The loss was Brisbane's third on the trot.

The Broncos got off to a great start after only three minutes when Michael Hancock raced 49 metres to score after an Illawarra fumble. The extras were added by Willie Carne.

But Rod Wishart put the Steelers on the board with a penalty goal and soon after hit the lead when a Glen Air bomb found the hands of David Riolo. Wishart's conversion made it 8-6.

The try of the match came in the 28th minute when an Allan Langer kick was fielded by Riolo 20 metres out from his own line. The Illawarra fullback passed it to Wishart who stepped inside Hancock and Renouf on a 60 metre run down the sideline. With the Broncos defence converging, Wishart threw the ball back inside to Brett Rodwell who fed Air to pass inside to flying Brendan Reeves to score under the posts. Wishart's conversion finished off the scoring.

The Broncos threw everything at Illawarra only to be met by determined defence. Brisbane's worries continued when star winger Wendall Sailor was taken to hospital with a suspected broken arm after a mid air collision with his counterpart Paul Carige.

Parramatta Eels 50 Canberra Raiders 10

At Parramatta Stadium

John Lomax's immediate career is in doubt after being sent off for yet another head high tackle. The Canberra prop was sent from the field after going high on his opposite Adam Ritson after only two minutes. There is no doubt that he will be out for the rest of the season.

Lomax has just returned from suspension two weeks ago for the same offence. His departure cost his side dearly as the Eels ran riot to win 50-10. Canberra's biggest loss since they lost 54-3 to the same team in their inaugural year in 1982.

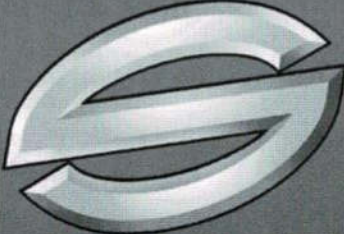
Despite being a man down, the Raiders scored first after five minutes when a Laurie Daley piece of brilliance saw Noa Nadruku score in the corner.

But a Brett Mullins fumble at the play the ball allowed Parramatta's Jason Smith to pick up the ball and sprint 20 minutes to score. Chris Lawler put the Eels in front 6-4 with the conversion.

Two tries in four minutes by Parramatta prior to half time ended any hope the Raiders had. First, Matthew Spence split the defence before sending David Wos to the tryline and Peter Johnston barged over soon after. The home side ran riot in the second half scoring a further five tries.

The win was more memorable because of the absence from injury of Eels' captain Dean Pay and playmaker Jim Dymock. Jarrod McCracken, who was the stand in skipper, had his best game to date since joining the club.

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OLDHAM BEARS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

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

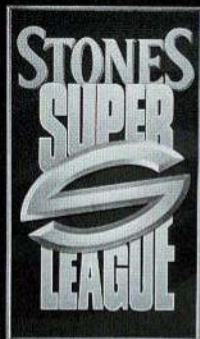
Oldham Bears



Main Picture: Francis Maloney making his return after injury against the Blue Sox.
Inset top left: In-form David Bradbury charging through the Halifax defence for a great try.
Inset top right: Paul Atcheson scoring a try against his old club Wigan.
Inset bottom left: Darren Abram streaking clear of the Warrington defence.
Inset bottom right: Adrian Belle on the rampage.



WHAT THE FANS SAY...



Helen Storrs (Sheffield Eagles)



"I'm a complete Stones Super League fanatic".

The Stones Super League is now well and truly underway, there has been some tremendous action and achievements. Stones Bitter sponsors to the Stones Super League dedicate this page to the supporters of the game in order for them to have their say...

Joe Nelhams (Warrington)



"The Stones Super League is a great step forward for rugby league".

Simon Davis (Bradford Bulls) - "It should be part of the Olympics".

John White (London Broncos) - "Spectator support for the game is definitely improving".

Gemma Pantlin (Oldham) - "It's a game we can all enjoy, for once the kids sit still".

Francois Verdier (Paris) - "Tres bien".

Bobby Butler (St. Helens) - "Stones Super League Champions, enough said".

Steve Gill (Workington Town) - "Not very super for us!"

Oliver Richards (Castleford) - "It was tragic to lose Kemp to Leeds".

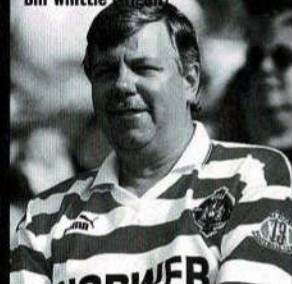
Tina Waddle (Leeds)



"I'm a new rugby league supporter, it's excellent fun and I love it - although we don't seem to be on top form".



Bill Whittle (Wigan)



"I support both Sheffield Eagles and Wigan, the electric atmosphere has us on the edge of our seats".

Chris Hayes (Halifax) - "After a bad start our players are now performing at true Stones Super League standard".

Read all about the Stones Super League in The Times' Monday sport section, *Times Sport* with up to 18 pages of sport coverage - more than any other national newspaper.

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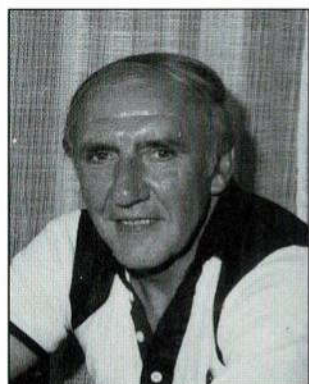
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News



In my last notes I told you that we were holding trials for the Manchester Youth Games held in Manchester on the 15th and 16th of this month, well the trials were held and the games were a resounding success. The teams that were involved, as far as the Rugby League side of the tournament, we had under 9's, under 10's,

under 12's and also an under 15's girls competition, the under 9's won the gold medal, under 10's took silver, under 12's gold and to round it all off the girls also won gold. This is an excellent achievement for the Oldham Rugby Development which as you must all know is backed by our Leisure Services in the town and besides the coaches and team managers being proud of their teams I was also over the moon with the standard of Rugby that was played, besides outstanding individual performances, but let's not mention individuals when our sport is a team game and

everyone who took part played well.

Thanks must also go to Mrs Wilkes who put in a tremendous amount of work for the Rugby side of the Youth Games. If my ideas come to fruition you will be able to see all the Rugby teams who took part in the Youth Games proudly showing their medals at half time today, so give them a special cheer.

Yours in sport
Brian Gartland



Two more signings for the Academy Brian Gartland with Jason Brassington (Left) and Paul Rustchynsky.
Photograph courtesy of Evening Chronicle, Oldham.

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Roger...

by Roger Halstead of the Oldham Evening Chronicle

The importance, to a club like Oldham Bears, of staying in Super League is best underlined by the experience of several clubs which easily recall the great days of yesteryear while looking enviously at Super League in 1996.

One thinks of Hull KR, in division two, and of Salford, Hull, Widnes and perhaps Featherstone Rovers in division one, good clubs which were a power in the game not all that long ago.

Going further back in time it is a tragedy for those old enough to remember the great days of clubs like Barrow, Swinton, Leigh, Wakefield and Huddersfield to see them now in the lower divisions.

Credit all of them with the guts and determination to keep the flag flying while striving at all times to reach their goals, whether their objectives be promotion to Super League on the one hand or mere survival on the other.

If Super League is the aim they are battling against enormous odds. Of the division one clubs, only Salford look to have realistic hopes of winning and retaining Super League status, while the plight of the once mighty Chemics was underlined recently when they had to release the Hulme brothers due to financial difficulties.

It is reasonable to predict that the gap between Super League and division one will grow wider by the year, and that before the current five year Super League contract has run its course we will see new clubs leapfrogging the also rans to join the elite.

Where does all this leave the Bears? Well, while they are in Super League and while progress is being made on the proposed new stadium there are realistic grounds for optimism far beyond the expectations of those clubs currently on the outside and looking in.

Possession is nine tenths of the law in the game's corridors of power just as it is in the coaching manual, but I do wonder sometimes if a town with great rugby league traditions and one of the strongest schoolboy and amateur games in the

country has fully appreciated what the club has achieved in the past few years.

Oldham's presence in Super League is akin to Oldham Athletic being in the Premiership. Short of winning it, or appearing in the play off, the Bears cannot advance up the league ladder.

They are up there with the elite. They are in Super League by right, and many a club would give anything to swap shops with them.

Roger Halstead

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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