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VAUX

The logo for Stones Super League, featuring the word "STONES" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font at the top. Below it is a large, stylized, metallic-looking letter "S" that serves as a central graphic element. Underneath the "S" is the word "LEAGUE" in the same bold, yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the logo is the "sky sports" logo, with "sky" in white and "sports" in a blue, italicized font.

Oldham

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versus **Sheffield Eagles**

Stones Super League '96

Sunday 25th August 1996 Kick-Off 3.00pm

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
the clubs.

Club Directory

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The Pavilion, Watersheddings, Oldham
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RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1909-10, 1910-11, 1956-57 Runners Up
1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1921-22, 1954-55

FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1904-05

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1897-98, 1900-01, 1907-08, 1909-10, 1921-22, 1956-57, 1957-58

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

1899, 1925, 1927 Runners Up 1907, 1912, 1924, 1926

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1956, 1957, 1958 Runners Up

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

AS we come to the end of the first Super League season, it is appropriate to look back over the course of the past few months and to look ahead to next year and beyond.

This has certainly been an eventful time both for Super League as a whole and the Oldham club in particular. Both at League level and more locally, we have passed through a massive learning curve which can only benefit the game as a whole in 1997. One of the main things we have learned is that supporters require a consistent time-table of venues, kick-off times etc and we will certainly do our best to provide this next year.

I think most people in the game will agree that the standard of Rugby League is higher than ever. The net result of full-time professionalism, superb playing conditions in summer and Super League is the development of a sport that is now soaring to new heights on the field of play.

Anyone who went to Warrington last Friday night for our game at Wilderspool and then watched Sky TV presentation of the London-Wigan and the St Helens v Sheffield matches got a feast of fabulous football and the highest levels of sporting entertainment.

More quality players are needed because Super League is going to go better and better and will ultimately become a very exclusive organisation for the elite of our game both here and in Europe.

I think it will be extremely difficult to get in as the years go by, so for a club like ours it is imperative that we do all in our power to retain our status while we have it.

So far, so good. We were given a slim chance of competing in Super League by many people. A lot of pundits said we would be battling against relegation, but we will finish comfortably outside the danger zone and it is only a few weeks ago since we had a realistic chance of ending up in the top six with an outside chance of taking fourth place.

We completed doubles over Halifax and Leeds - no mean feat - but there were occasions also when we let ourselves down, none more so than in the home defeat by Workington after we had led comfortably at half-time.

The size of our squad was questioned as injuries began to pile up. We have certainly had far more

than our share of injuries and one can only hope we will have better fortune next summer.

The game is going faster and faster, tougher and tougher, but players throughout Super League are enjoying being full-time professionals and this is reflected in the high-quality performances we are seeing week in and week out.

The one disappointing factor of the season has been in attendance figures. Frankly, crowds have been disappointingly low, but perhaps factors other than rugby have had a detrimental effect.

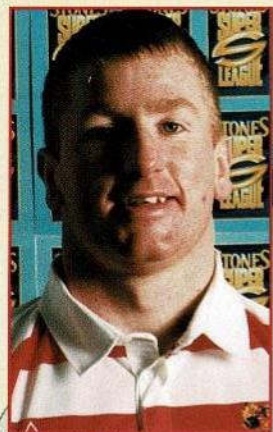
Locally, we have had to battle against uncertainty, particularly concerning the Watersheddings ground, the proposed new stadium and where we will be playing next year, if not here.

We can't predict what the future holds because several parties are involved, but hopefully we will be able to offer better facilities next season and a more consistent time-table of matches and events which, in turn, should help us to pull in better support. What a magnificent achievement it would be for the club, and what a great bonus for this town of ours, if we could establish ourselves as long-term and highly-successful members of Super League, thus projecting the town across the country, across parts of Europe and around the world, via

the Sky TV and News Corporation organisations. The Academy side is coming along nicely and it is already apparent to senior members of our coaching staff that several members of the side have an excellent chance of going a long way in the game. The Alliance side has probably suffered the most from our appalling luck with injuries, but still faces two trips to Humberside, following Friday's game at Salford, and one point should be enough to ensure Alliance Championship safety.

At Super League level, quality is the name of the game. There are fascinating prospects for Super League over the course of the next few years and if we all pull together to take our club forward I see no reason why Oldham Bears cannot be part of it. Thanks for your support during the season. I'm sure we can rely on it during the winter and I look forward to seeing you all again when we start up again with the Silk Cut Challenge Cup in the early part of February.





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Rice 8. F0964 M. Turner 9. C2512 A. Kettleton 10. H1113 I. Evans

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Oldham

GARY LORD

Autograph

Talks...



As this is the last match of the season I would like to thank the players and my fellow coaches for their support during the summer and I must also pay tribute to the support of

The vocal support at Warrington last weekend, from a relatively few supporters, was terrific and I know we can rely on that backing again today and again next season. I hope to see you all again in the early part of 1997 and I can assure you that, after a break of a few weeks, no stone will be left unturned by everyone at the Oldham Bears to make sure we have a side that will do the club proud in the second season of Super League. Have a good break, see you soon.

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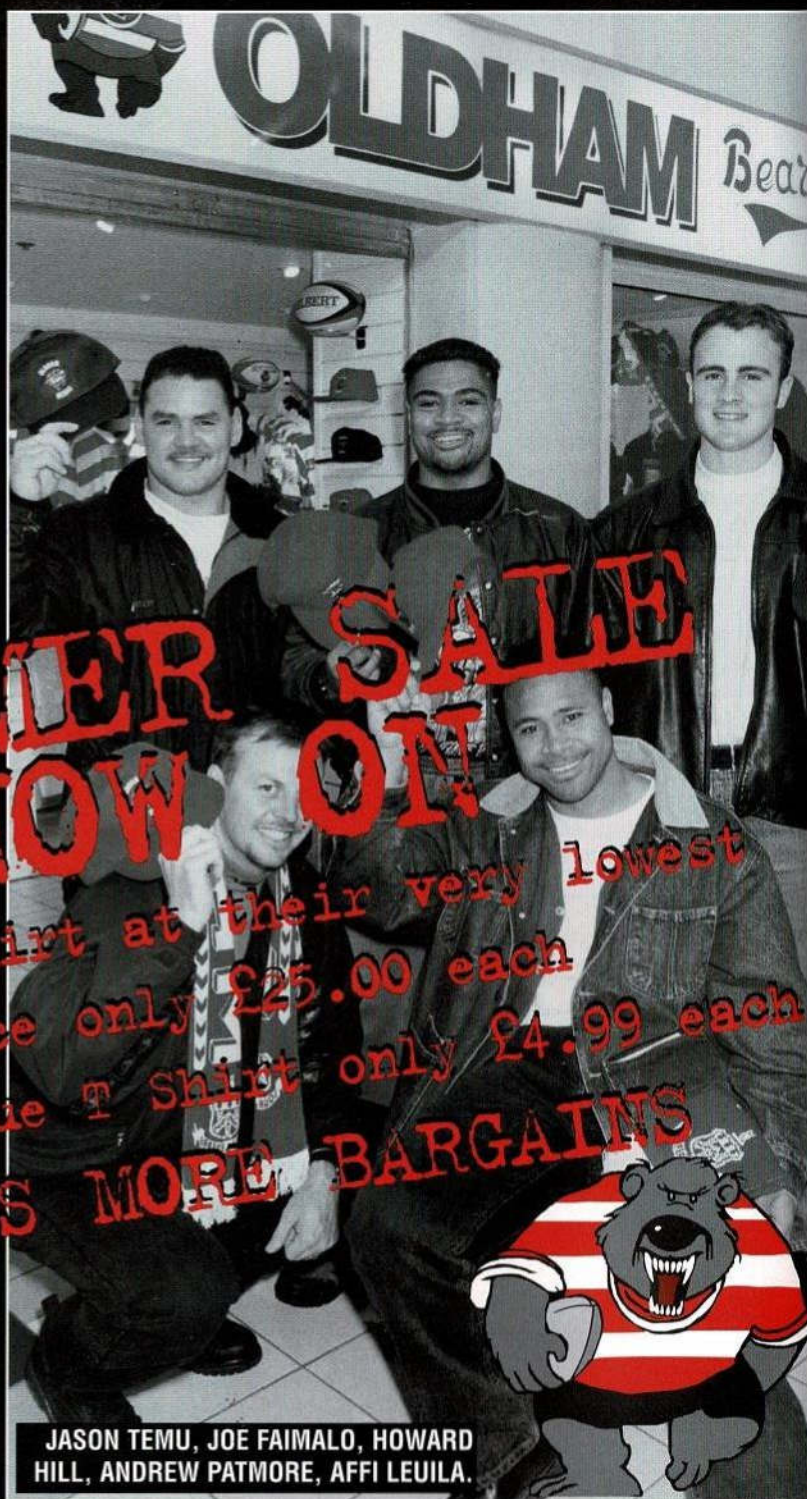
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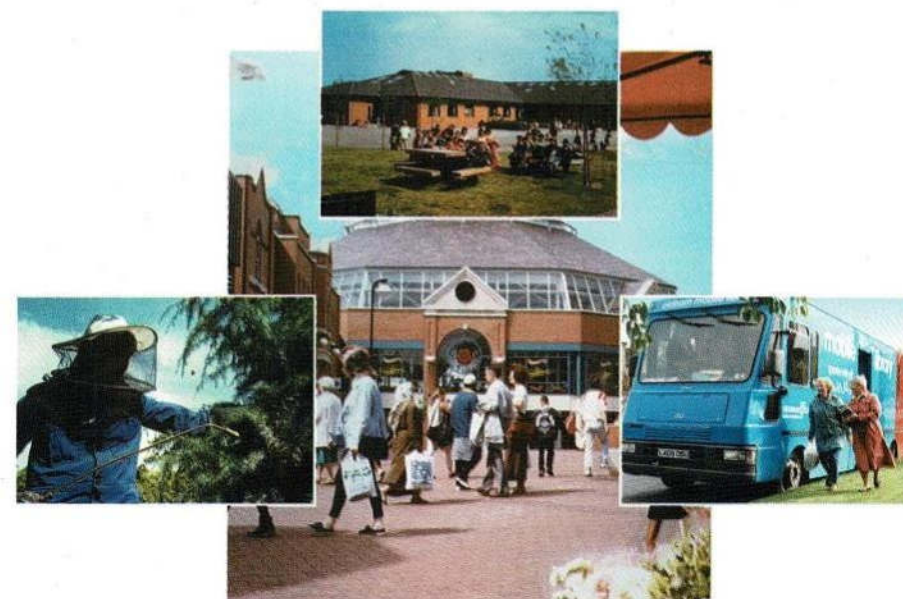
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Bears



"Come on you Bears, come on you Bears" this is the last time we shall be singing that this season.

Yes it's the last game of the first Super League season already, and we welcome the players and supporters of Sheffield Eagles to Watersheddings.

As it's the last game Junior and I shall be going into hibernation for a well earned rest and to recharge ready for next season, enough of that for now, let's get on with business..

The mascot for today's game is Jenna Garvey who is sponsored by The **WEAVERS ARMS** in Huddersfield Road. Jenna is 11 years old and will be attending Counthill school, when the new term begins in September. Her favourite player is the Bears full back Paul Atcheson.

Mascot for the London match was y year old Christopher Collinson. Chris was sponsored by **RICBRAD** Roofing. He attends Holy Rosary School and Chris's favourite player is Francis Maloney.

The Junior Bears would like to thank all Mascot sponsors for their support throughout the season.

On Tuesday 27 August we are holding an end of season disco for the Junior Bears in the Sheddings Club which also coincides with the Junior Bears 'Player of the Season' presentation. The disco will start at 7.30 with the presentation taking place around 8.30. I hope all Junior Bears will be able to attend, as this will be our last meeting together this year.

The teaser I set you in the London programme was 'Which former

Featherstone player now plays for the Broncos?? The answer was Ikram Butt, not too hard was it.

Details for renewal of memberships and new members will be published in the local press around December/January so keep a look out for that.

As I said earlier I will be going into hibernation soon, but let me say a **BIG** thank you to you all for making the meetings fun to attend and to all the mascots this season, you are, one and all **'VERY SPECIAL JUNIOR BEARS'**.

Keep smiling and be happy!

See you next season

BUSTER

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Memory Lane

After virtually twelve months continuous rugby, both Oldham and Sheffield will be looking forward to a refreshing break after today's final match of the 1996 season. Neither club will be involved in the Premiership play-off although that competition has happy memories for both the Roughyeds and the Eagles.

Indeed these two clubs met at Old Trafford in the Divisional play-off just four years ago. At the end of that 1991-92 season Sheffield lifted the Second Division Championship and with it promotion to the top flight whilst Oldham just missed going up, ending the campaign in third slot.

In the Divisional play-off quarter-finals Sheffield defeated a Keighley side playing their third game in five days by 72-14. Former Oldham favourite Charlie McAllister scored a hat-trick of tries in that game. Oldham defeated Dewsbury 36-18 at that stage whilst the other two quarter-finals ended in controversial fashion. London Crusaders beat Huddersfield 14-4 and then overcame an appeal lodged by the Fartowners who claimed that the Londoners had fielded more than their quota of overseas players. The League ruled that London would never pull a stroke like that!! The big shock of the quarter-finals was Batley's 15-6 win at Leigh. Four players were sent off in that match including Paul Topping. Obviously a case of mistaken identity.

The semi-finals saw Batley almost pull off another surprise before losing 36-22 at Sheffield whilst Oldham beat an Australian XIII - sorry London 22-14. The final at Old Trafford was expected to be a close affair and that proved to be the case. The teams for the final were as follows:

OLDHAM: Duncan Platt; Scott Ranson, Vince Nicklin, Iva Ropati, Sean Tyrer; Richard Russell, Tommy Martyn; Ian Sherratt, Richard Pachniuk, Keith Newton, Chris Joynt, Shane Tupaea & Ged Byrne. Subs: Steve Warburton & Timmy Street.

SHEFFIELD: David Mycoe; Mark Gamson, Charlie McAllister, Daryll Powell, David Plange; Richard Price, Mark Aston; Paul Broadbent, Mick Cook, Hugh Waddell, Dale Laughton, Ian Hughes & Anthony Farrell. Subs: Tim Lumb & Keith Mumby.

Unfortunately for Oldham Daryll Powell was in unstoppable form for the Eagles, especially in the opening 30 minutes. He scored two tries in the first quarter to put the Eagles 12-4 in front, Duncan Platt having scored a try for Oldham. At that point Powell was the victim of a high tackle from Ian Sherratt who was sent off for his part in the incident. Before half-time Powell had scored again to leave Oldham trailing 16-4 at the interval.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, the Roughyeds staged a revival early in the second half, Ged Byrne and Keith Newton scored tries which, converted by Tommy Martyn, put Oldham level at 16-16 on the hour. A David Mycoe try then edged Sheffield in front but a similar effort from Scott Ranson again equalised the scores. Oldham were now feeling the effects of the Sherratt dismissal and late tries by Tim Lumb and Keith Mumby plus three goals from Mark Aston, taking his total to five, made the final scoreline 34-20 in favour of the Eagles.

It had been a spectacular final between two teams who had played open, entertaining rugby to thrill the large Old Trafford crowd. We don't expect such a big crowd at Watersheddings this afternoon but, no doubt, the rugby will be of similar high standard.

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On this day....

This weekend sees the start of the 1996-97 amateur season, a weekend which, in the past has brought both triumph and disaster. In 1990, for instance, Saturday 25th August saw Saddleworth Rangers lose 24-18 over at Leigh Miners whilst down at the Lancaster Club, Failsworth the now defunct British Aerospace squad were enjoying a bright start to the campaign. They defeated Lock Lane 22-12 with tries from Harry Maher (2) and Rick Clarkson plus five goals from the trusty boot of Bill Taylor.

Way back on Saturday, 25th August 1928 Great Britain met New Zealand before a crowd of 21,000 at English Park, Christchurch. The Lions won this third test and therefore the series with a narrow 6-5 victory thanks to tries from Les Fairclough (St Helens) and Tommy Askin (Featherstone). Oldham had one representative on that tour, Bob Sloman, but he was not involved in this match.

Oldham had no players selected for the 1962 Australasian tour which called off for three matches in South Africa on the way home. On Saturday, 25th August 1962 the Lions played South Africa in Durban where they won 39-33. A lengthy injury list

caused British coach Shaun Hutton to turn out as a second half substitute in that match.

On 25th August 1965 Oldham travelled up to the Recreation Grounds to take on Whitehaven in a league match. They returned home with the spoils after beating the Cumbrians 12-0. Full-back John Winton scored a try and three goals whilst centre Stan McLeod crossed for the other try.

It was on Sunday 25th August 1985 that the inaugural Charity Shield was staged at the Douglas Bowl, Isle of Man. Despite heavy rain, there was a crowd of 4,066 to see Wigan defeat Hull KR 34-6

The 25th August 1970 proved to be a successful day for the Barrow and former Welsh rugby union centre Keith Jarrett. He scored two tries and landed 11 goals as the Shipbuilders defeated Doncaster 64-2

Finally, it was on this day in 1993 that Oldham signed utility forward Iyan Green from St Helens on a free transfer. The former Golbourne (Leigh) junior made his debut later that month at Halifax and, to date, has made a total of 38 appearances for Oldham, scoring five tries.

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BEARS Question

Time...

with Ian Sherratt

FULL NAME: Gary Robert Lord
DATE OF BIRTH: 06.07.66
BIRTHPLACE: Wakefield
HEIGHT: 6'2"
WEIGHT: 15.7
NICKNAME AT CLUB: Bond - Screaming
OCCUPATION: Professional RL Player
HOME: 3 bed semi
CAR: Mondeo & Corsa
MARRIED: Yes - Debbie
CHILDREN: (2) Jessica - 4, Megan - 1.
FAMILY: Mum, Dad, Brothers: Paul, Craig
WHAT WAS YOUR AMBITION AS A CHILD? To play Rugby
WHO WAS YOUR BOYHOOD HERO? Kevin Ward
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT IN RUGBY?
Losing Semi Oldham v Wigan 1995
WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST THRILL IN RUGBY?
Winning Wembley. Castleford v Hull KR 1986
WHICH PRESENT DAY PLAYER DO YOU ADMIRE MOST? Karl Harrison
WHO IS THE GREATEST PLAYER THERE HAS BEEN? Wally Lewis
WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Training
WHO IS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT YOU HAVE FACED? Les Boyd
IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD
BUY? Yacht
WHAT IS YOUR BEST QUALITY? Good Looks - charm
WHAT IS YOUR WORST QUALITY? Ask the lads
APART FROM YOUR OWN CLUB, WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE GROUND?
Wembley
WHICH IS YOUR LEAST FAVOURITE GROUND? Derwent Park
WHAT OTHER SPORTS & HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE? Golf, mud-wrestling
WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL EVENING OUT? Good meal with friends



WHAT IS THE MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU HAVE DONE?
Fishing in stormy seas
WHAT DANGEROUS THINGS WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO ATTEMPT?
Rally-Driving
WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PHOBIA? Losing
WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? Wife & Children
WHICH FAMOUS PERSON WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?
Olivia Newton-John
WHICH WORLD FIGURE DO YOU MOST ADMIRE? Screaming Lord Sutch
AWAY FROM RUGBY, WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST SPORTING
ACHIEVEMENT? Pool Tournament
WHAT IS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT YOU HAVE SEEN ON A RUGBY
PITCH? Belle's defence
DO YOU HAVE AN UNUSUAL FOOD THAT IMPROVES YOUR GAME?
Chicken & Pasta
WHAT IS THE ODDEST PIECE OF TRAINING THAT YOU HAVE DONE?
At Castleford - run to Mal Reilly's - dig fish pond & run back to club.
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OTHER THAN RUGBY? Decathlete.
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FAVOURITE CITY: Orlando
FAVOURITE POP STAR: Kim Wilde
FAVOURITE SINGLE: Most
FAVOURITE LP: Abba Gold
FAVOURITE FOOD: Chicken
FAVOURITE DRINK: Guinness

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TREATMENT ROOM NEWS INJURY UPDATE

The list continues to grow at an alarming rate, Gary Lord, Jason Temu, and Darren Abram all being added to a lengthy injury list, as the season draws to a close.

X-rays taken after the London game on Darren Abram's jaw revealed a crack, hopefully surgery won't be required as the damage didn't look too bad. But nevertheless Darren was quite

sore last week. Jason Temu sprung his shoulder in the same match putting him out for the season, however it does enable Jason to have surgery on his long standing knee problem sooner than was planned. Gary Lord picked up a foot injury in training prior to the Workington match and has been struggling ever since. Howard Hill went in a Chorley hospital last week for an operation on his injured shoulder and hopefully will be fully fit for the start of next season. After a couple of nasty knocks to the head Ian Gildart caused some concern but a scan gave the all clear and Ian was in the squad at Warrington last week.

J.W.

Rugby League Game

'Pro Rugby'



Pro Rugby is the first official computer simulated game that pays homage to the game of Rugby League. The game consists of the teams that form the recently established dynamic "Super League" as well as teams from Divisions I and II plus Australian Clubs and International squads. The players in the game consist of many differing caricature figures. Pro Rugby is the first sports game to have such intricate and detailed players. The "Super League" itself has proved immensely popular and is now viewed by millions every week on Sky TV. Pro Rugby has all the features of the authentic game of Rugby and will prove to be just as inspirational and thrilling as watching or playing the real thing. Pro Rugby is the official computer game of the new "Super League" as well as the long established RFL. Full commentary by BSkyB's legendary commentary team Mick "Stevo" Stephenson and Eddie Hemmings. It is the first sports simulation to have two commentators.

You don't need to be a fan of Rugby to enjoy this game, just a fan of stimulating sports computer games. Full squads of all the teams in the "Super League" plus Division I and II, as well as the Australian clubs and International squads. Real crowd noises as well as realistic sound effects for all the in-game action. Manage your own personal squad with individual and varying levels of skill for each player. Pick your favourite team from real life squad members. The players themselves are lifelike caricatures. You are able to select different players with differing abilities needed for the game of rugby including speed, kicking, aggression, strength, stamina etc, etc. The game is due for release in September. If you would like to win one of the Pro Rugby - "Super League" games please answer this simple question and return it to Ray Hill at Watersheddings. Question: Name the current captain of Ireland RL team.

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Lord...

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Well, with the Championship going to the final week-end of the season, the powers that be must be delighted. It was also nice to see at St Helens last weekend that there is still room for a touch of humour.

The first example hit me when I visited the referees dressing room before the game. Pinned to the back of the door was one of those eye test charts that you see in opticians - with the letters magnified.

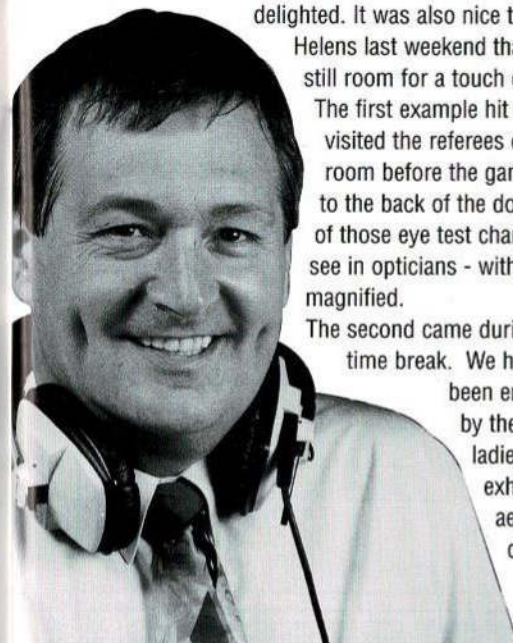
The second came during the half-time break. We had already been entertained by the young ladies giving an exhibition of aerobic dancing, and of course

the madcap antics of the brilliant Neil Holding, when St Bernard the Saints mascot took the ball and dived over the line much to the enjoyment of the crowd. Bernard was ecstatic when the big screen showed a slow motion replay and then followed up by displaying the worded "NO TRY". The crowd loved it and it was splendid entertainment.

On the other hand, I was at The Willows earlier in the day and was one of about 2250 to watch the game with Batley.

It was a game The Reds won by a canter, but for me like so many others the victory was marred by a terrible sound system which was inaudible from my position together with the consistent beating of drums. According to the GMR phone-in, people are actually staying away from The Willows because of this constant banging and the announcer is not exactly the most popular of people with his American style ranting. Please lets go for professionalism rather than the razzmatazz - or we may have to start drumming up support!

MALCOLM LORD BBC, GMR



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"A" Team



The late withdrawal of Paul Norman and Tony Nuttall for 1st team duties again upset the preparations for the important home game against Warrington. A home win against Warrington would have guaranteed survival in the Alliance championship division so their withdrawal was disappointing for myself and for the players. It must be recognised however that 1st team calls take precedence over everything else. In the event the sides named on Wednesday night included 9 Academy players and four trialists.

Prior to the game the non arrival of two trialists again affected preparations and the seventeen man squad had to be boosted with two sixteen year olds, Simon Svabic and Jimmy Bownner coming onto the bench. To their credit the lads put all the chopping and changing behind them to produce a tremendous first half performance. After only 3 minutes David Milne forced his way over after a good angled inside run, and this was followed 5 minutes later with a fine try from the strong running Rob Myler, with both tries converted by Paul Deacon.

With the confidence lifted Oldham settled into a controlled pattern of play and looked to be capable of increasing their lead. Against the run of play Chris North, the trialist centre from Dewsbury, had the ball stolen in a one man tackle just inside his own half. After stealing the ball the Warrington centre turned into an open field to run 40 metres unopposed to the corner. Wire followed this up with a good move direct from a penalty which the full back finished in the corner to bend the scores at 12-12.

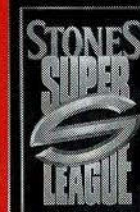
Oldham did not let their heads go down and hit back when Gartland found Mike Prescott running into a large hole in the Wire defence. With minutes remaining of the 1st half Chris North, put Julian Mike in at the corner, again beautifully converted by Deacon to give Oldham a 24-12 1st half lead.

In the 2nd half Oldham competed for 30 minutes with a try direct from the scrum by Rob Myler matching another try by the Warrington full back. For the final 10 minutes Warrington had us under siege with a number of 50/50 decisions going their way. At a time when our young forwards were tiring fast I had no fire power on the bench to boost them, and the possession given to Warrington was made to count. Warrington scored 12 points in the last five minutes including this conversion to win the match from the touchline. When the whistle went as soon as the ball went through the posts the final score was 32-30. All I could feel was disappointment at the lack of reward for the young players for the efforts they had put in, and frustration at knowing it was a game that should have been won.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	Pts
Bradford Bulls	18	15	0	3	525	326	199	30
Halifax Blue Sox	18	10	1	7	471	396	75	21
Salford Reds	18	10	0	8	505	418	87	20
Leeds	18	9	2	7	440	380	60	20
Hull	17	10	0	7	363	375	-12	20
Castleford Tigers	18	8	2	8	410	357	51	18
Wigan	18	9	0	9	499	473	26	18
St Helens	18	8	0	10	441	449	-8	16
Warrington	18	6	0	12	411	516	-105	12
Oldham Bears	17	6	0	11	333	521	-188	12
Hull KR	18	4	1	13	304	489	-185	9

From H.Q.



The inaugural Stones Super League Championship season comes to a sensational and dramatic climax at the week end with St. Helens and Wigan battling it out for title honours. Supporters are unlikely to know the final destiny of the Super League Championship trophy until the hooter sounds to end Saints final League match of the season against Warrington at Knowsley Road on Monday afternoon.

Saints within sight of their first Championship title for 21 years, remain a point clear of arch-rivals Wigan, who take on Workington Town at Central Park on Saturday evening. Hull Kingston Rovers were crowned Second Division Champions after their 60-16 slamming of Leigh Centurions at Craven Park on Sunday.

GOALS

Bobbie Goulding	St. Helens	113 (3)	29	147 (3) (Inc 5 Eng)
John Schuster	Halifax BS	93 (2)	10	103 (2)
Andrew Farrell	Wigan	94	1	95
Steve McNamara	Bradford B	76 (91)	14*	91 (1) (Inc 1 Eng)
Frano Botica	Castleford T	86 (2)	0	86 (2)
Mark Aston	Sheffield E	82	1	83
Graham Holroyd	Leeds	76 (2)	12 (2)	88 (4)
Iestyn Harris	Warrington	65 (2)	4	76 (2) (Inc Wales)
Paul Cook	Bradford B	28 (1)	25	53 (1)
Greg Barwick	London B	46 (2)	0	46 (2)

POINTS

Bobbie Goulding	St. Helens	239	58	311 (Inc 14 Eng)
John Schuster	Halifax BS	216	20	236
Graham Holroyd	Leeds	194	30	224
Andrew Farrell	Wigan	204	10	214
Frano Botica	Castleford	190	0	190

PREVIEW

OLDHAM BEARS V SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Oldham ended a run of four consecutive home defeats at the hands of Sheffield, in January, when Paul Atcheson scored two tries in a 26-16 victory in the final league game of the abbreviated 1995/96 Centenary season. The Eagles have won on four of their previous seven visits to Watersheddings, the most recent being in January 1995 when Paul Carr and Lynton Scott scored tries in a 14-12 success, while Daryl Powell scored three tries in their best ever win at Oldham (44-18) in January 1992. The Eagles defeated Oldham 23-10 at Don Valley in May with Ryan Sheridan scoring a try and a drop goal.

LEADING SCORERS STONES SUPER LEAGUE

TRIES:		SL	CUP	TOTAL
Paul Newlove	St. Helens	26	7	35 (inc 2 Eng)
Danny Arnold	St. Helens	19	6	25
Robbie Paul	Bradford B	18	3	21
Jonathan Scales	Bradford B	12	6	18
Jason Robinson	Wigan	22	1	24 (Inc 1 Eng)
John Bentley	Halifax BS	17	1	18
Martin Offiah	London B	10	5	19** (Inc 4 Eng)
Anthony Sullivan	St. Helens	14	5	19
Richard Henare	Warrington	16	2*	18
Steve Prescott	St. Helens	11	4	18 (Inc 3 Eng)

*For Carlisle

** All but three for Wigan

'Oldham Born...

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SEE PAGE 13

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WELCOME **Sheffield Eagles to**

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PAUL BROADBENT

Signed from Castleford amateur club Lock Lane U19s in 1987 and has made over 200 appearances for the Eagles and is now captaining the team. He made his England debut against France at Gateshead and scored ten tries for the Eagles throughout the season.

MARK GAMSON

The Eagles' second signing, from Leeds Colts, back in the Eagles' formation year, 1984. One of the most versatile players in the squad, only the prop and second row jerseys having eluded him to date. He has played over 300 games for the club, more than any other player and his appearance record includes a then club record run of 76 consecutive appearances between 1989 and 1991. Starred in both the Eagles' Divisional Premiership Finals at Old Trafford and was a try scorer in the Yorkshire Cup final defeat in 1992. He has missed only one game last season and is due to start a well deserved benefit this September.

DAVID MYCOE

Age 24 Height 5.09 Weight 11.07 GB U-21 Caps 3

Signed from Crigglestone ARLFC in 1989 and was immediately thrust into first team duties in the Eagles' first First Division match against St. Helens. Made himself a fixture in the side, making 144 first team appearances up to the end of the 1992-93 season. Sustained a serious leg injury in February 1993, which prevented him from resuming his duties for almost all of that season. Now back to his best form and he was the teams top points scorer last season with 70 goals and 3 tries.

RICHARD PRICE

He has been an ever present player for the last two seasons and was never substituted. He also holds the club record of 79 consecutive games for the Eagles' a remarkable record. Signed from Hull in March 1991, where he gained U-21 two caps against France in 1989. Played for Hull in the 1989 Premiership Final, staged immediately after the Eagles' own win in the Divisional Final. A classy elusive centre or stand off he scored 10 tries last season and has crossed the line 48 times for the Eagles since 1991.

LYNTON STOTT

Signed from Woolston Rangers in Warrington in

December 1992. Regarded as one of the best amateur players after switching to Rugby League in 1989. Previously, Lynton had represented Lancashire schoolboys at Rugby Union and had had trials for England. His pace and ability from full back suggest a very good career in professional Rugby League and he played 63 games for Eagles scoring 27 tries.

RYAN SHERIDAN

Signed from Dewsbury Moor ARLFC in 1991 as an Academy team player. He has represented Great Britain Academy against France and New Zealand and went on this last summers Academy tour to Australia. He is a most promising half back who already has 70 appearances for the first team and he has scored 31 tries to date.

BRIGHT SODJE

Nigerian born winger went to the same London school as Martin Offiah. After a successful Rugby Union career with Blackheath and London Division he changed codes four years ago and joined Hull KR. He scored 23 tries in the 1992-93 season for the Robins and was transfer listed at £120,000 but was swapped instead for David Plange in 1994. Found his form in the second half of last season and ended the season with 10 tries.

ANDY HAY

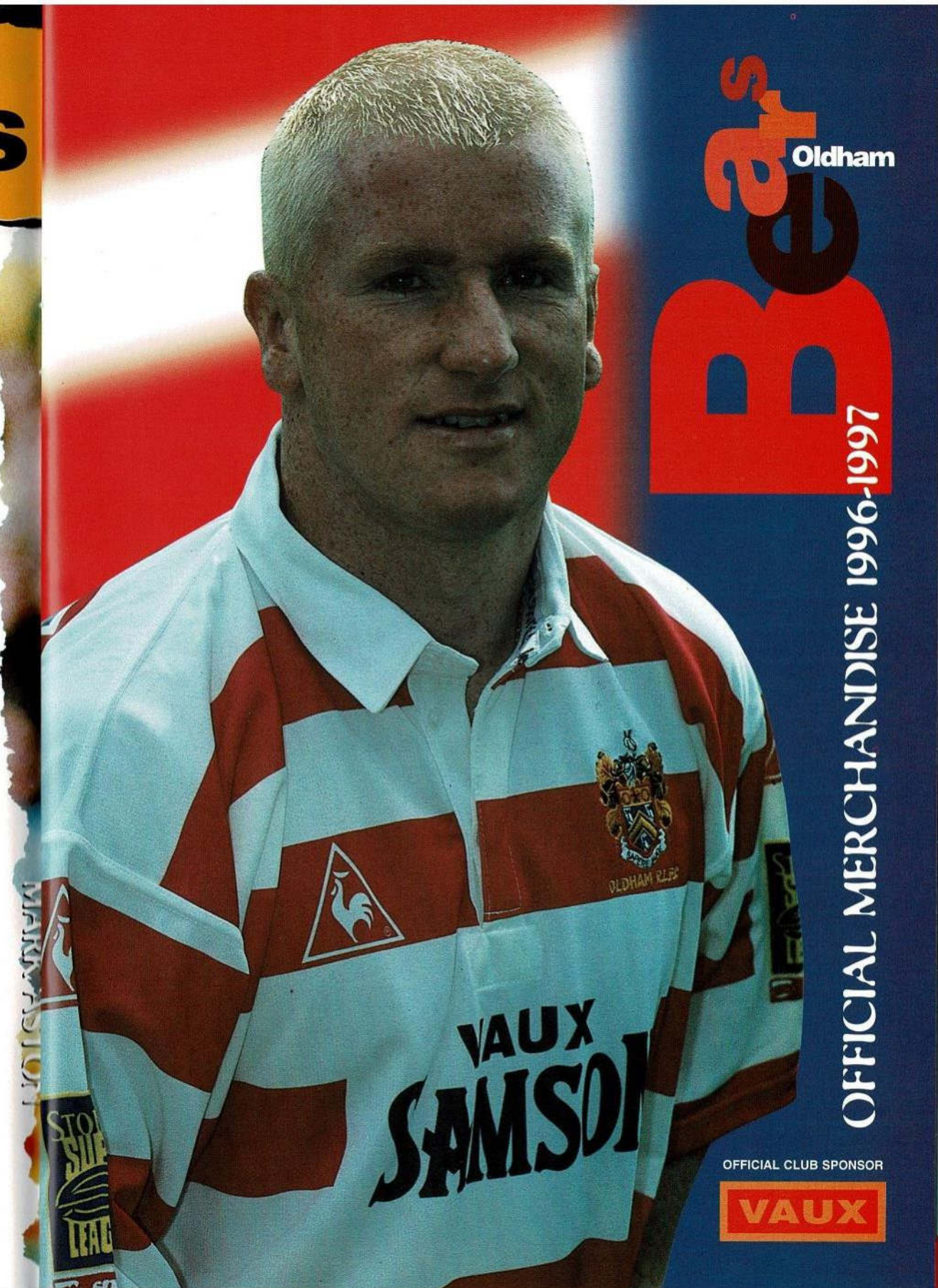
Born in Castleford he played for his home town club for 3 seasons becoming one of the most promising second row forwards in the game. Signed by Eagles in the close season for £70,000 he has represented GB Under 21s.

JOHN LAWLESS

Born Halifax and played for home two club Academy side and made 1st team appearances last season. Close season part exchange for Carl Briggs he is a robust hand tackling hooker whose dynamic play has earned him representative honours with the GB Academy team.

DEAN LAWFORD

Signed for Eagles Academy from Dewsbury Moor ARLFC. He is a scrum half in the Andy Gregory mould who made his first team debut against Leeds in the First match of this season.



Oldham

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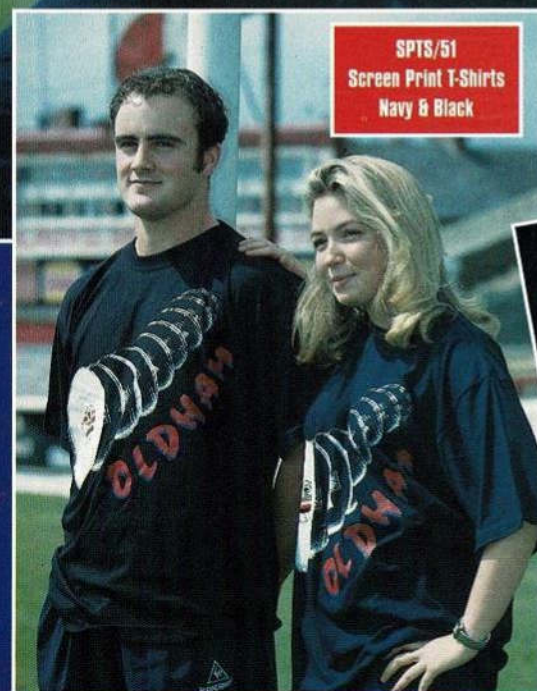
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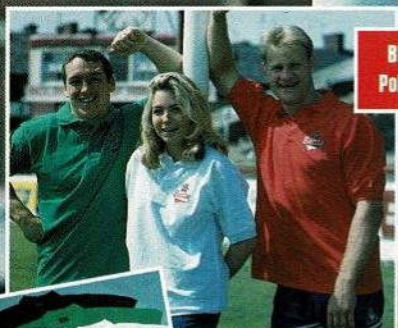
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Navy & Black



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Away Replica Shirt



BPS/20
Polo Shirt



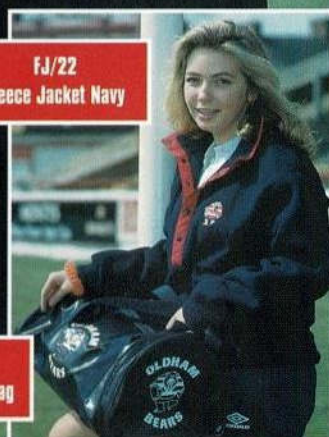
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BCB/14 Bears Baseball Cap
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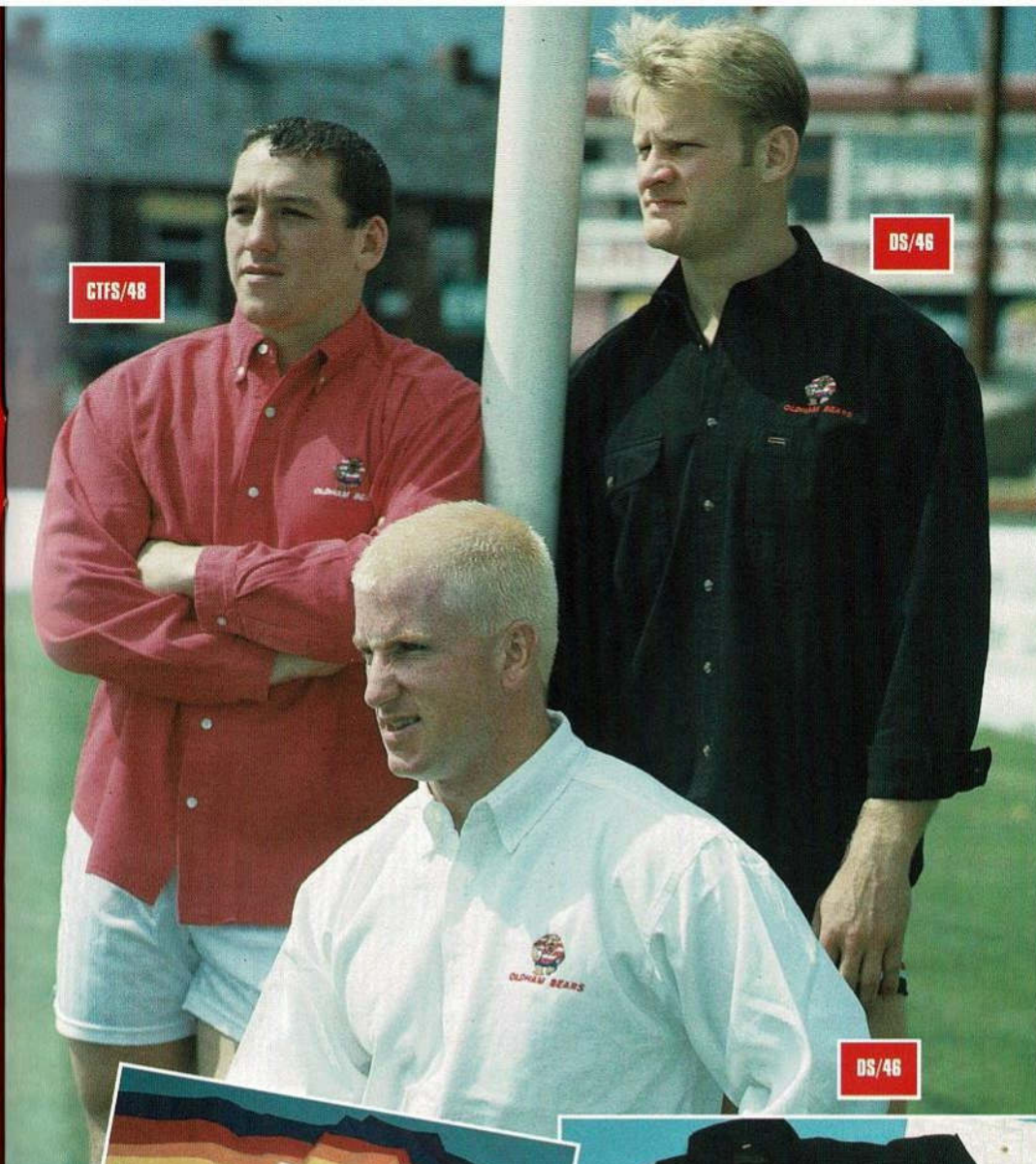
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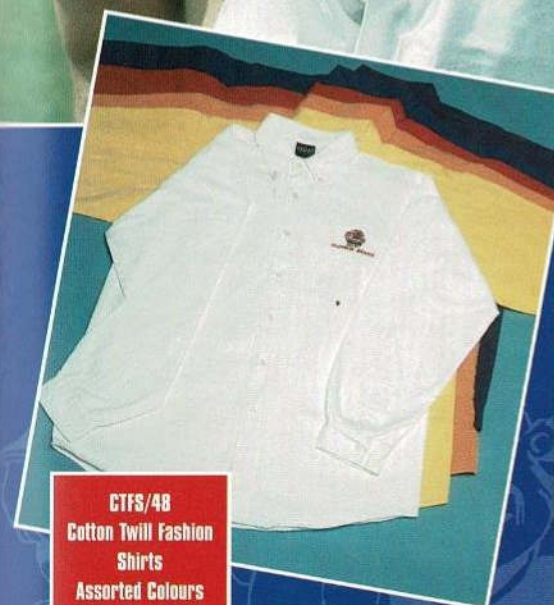
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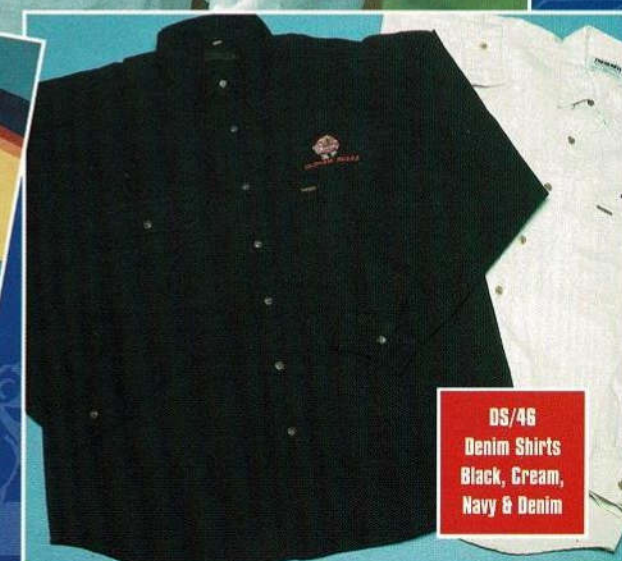
DS/46



DS/46



CTFS/48
Cotton Twill Fashion
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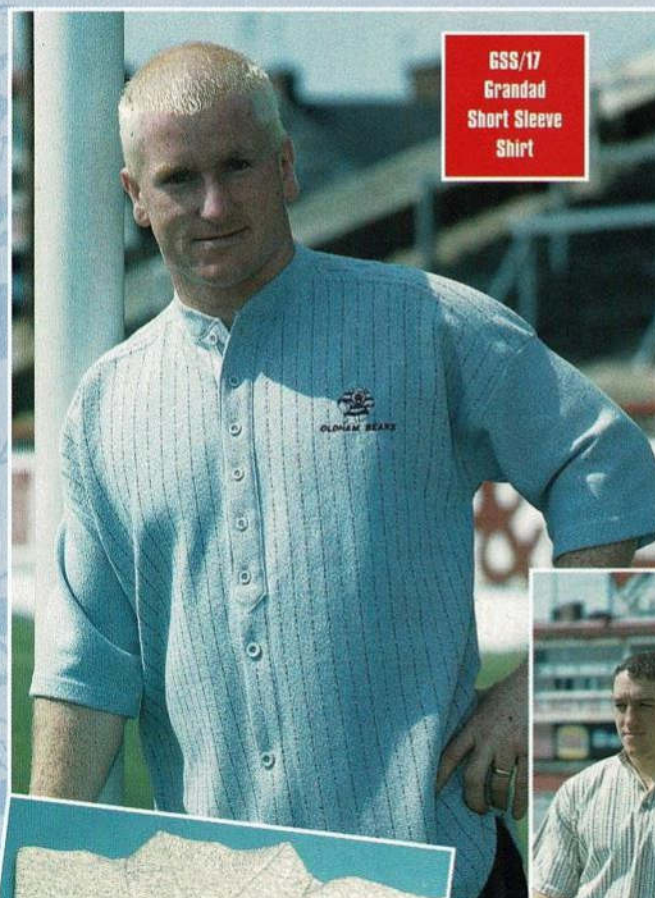
DS/46
Denim Shirts
Black, Cream,
Navy & Denim



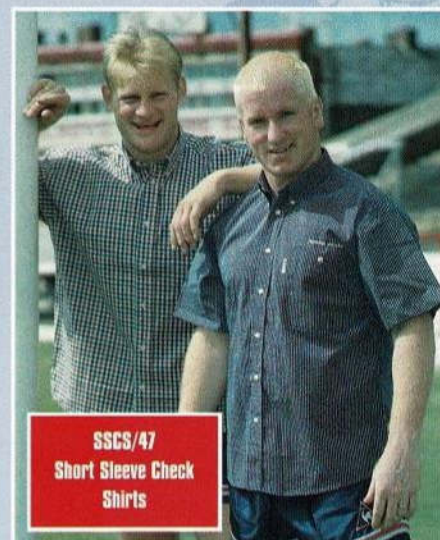
LS/36
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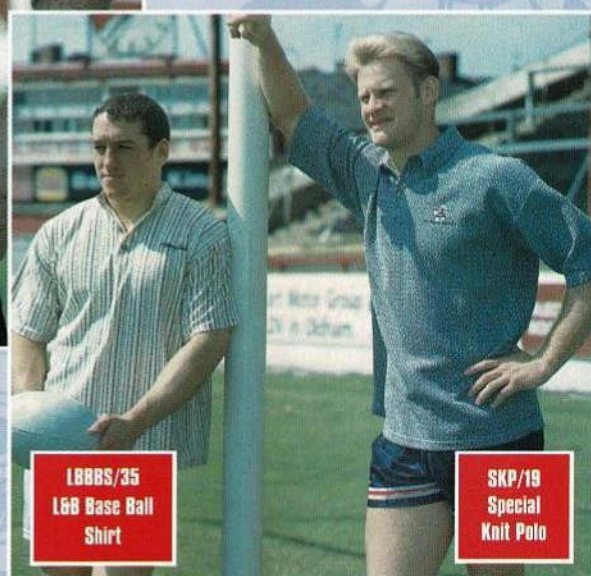
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LBPK/34
Blue Marl Pique



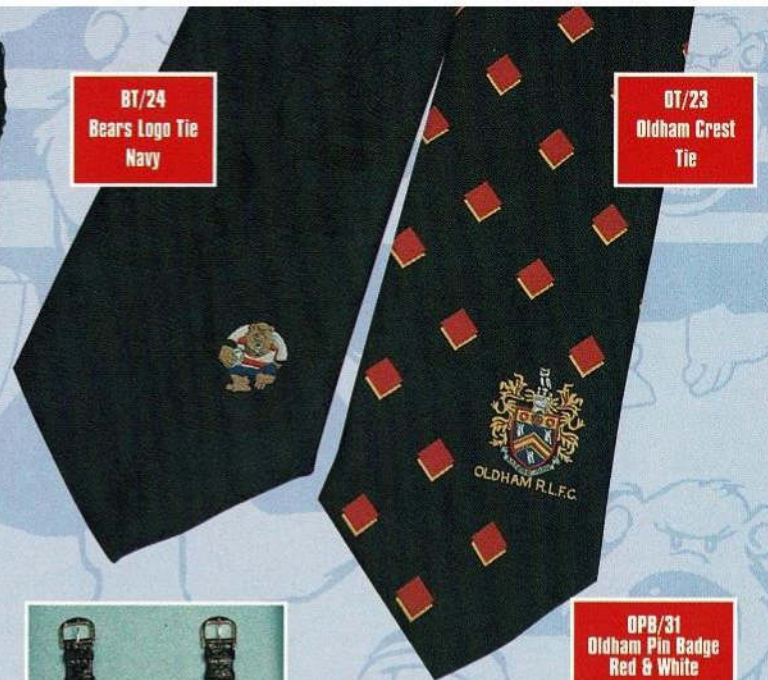
LBBS/35
LB Base Ball
Shirt

SKP/19
Special
Knit Polo



HS/10
Home Scarf
Red

AS/11
Away Scarf
Green



BT/24
Bears Logo Tie
Navy

OT/23
Oldham Crest
Tie



WW/21
Bears Logo
Watch

WOC/53
Oldham
Crest Watch



BPB/30
Bears Pin Badge
Red & White

OPB/31
Oldham Pin Badge
Red & White



LB/29
Leather Belt
Black & Brown



RS/56
Home & Away
Rugby Socks

CLK/33
Oldham Crest
Wall Clock

KR/32
Keyring Leather

MGS/25
Bears Mug



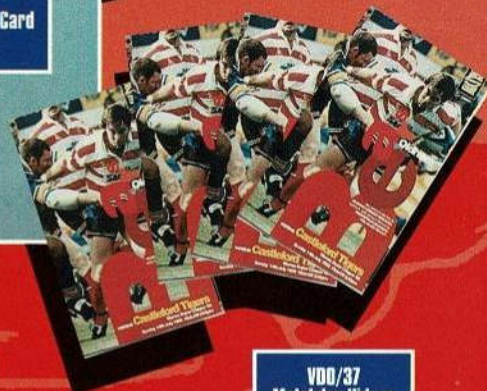
FP/40
Framed Prints



TR/54
Trios Rugby Card
Game

RI/43
12" Ruler
Red & White

LP/55 Leather
Purse



LT/41
Large Teddy Bear

ST/42
Small Teddy Bear

VDO/37
Matchday Videos

RS/28
Rucksack
Red/Navy

BGB/15
Bears Grip Bag



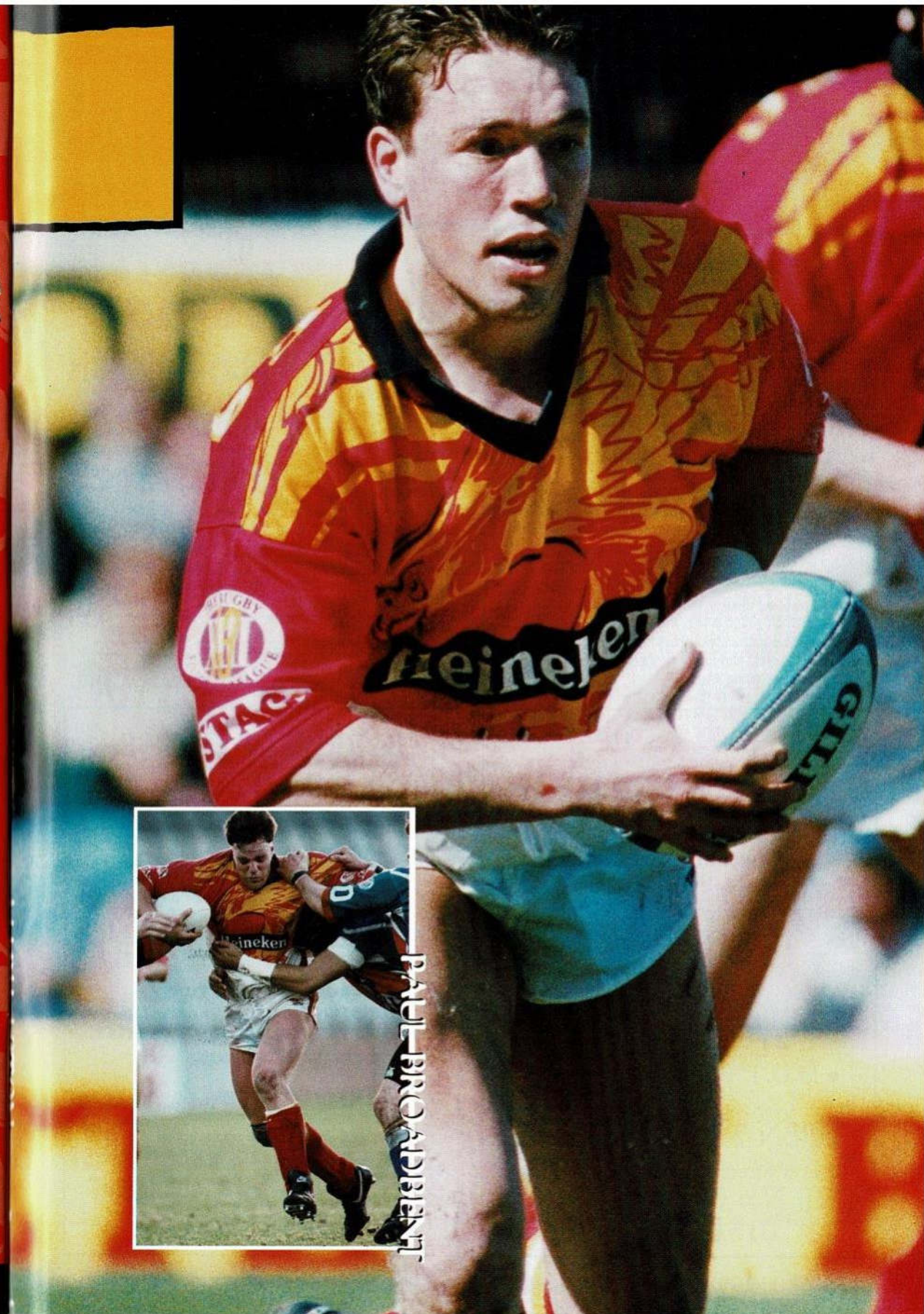
MB/05
Mini Rugby Ball



BB/04
Bears Rugby Ball



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Since my last notes we have had two very good wins both away from home we beat Swinton away and Dewsbury away making it 4 wins out of 5. The game against Swinton was played in very hot weather and our boys played the game red hot. We played some exciting rugby and scored fine tries by Joe McNicholas 2, Simon Svabic 2, one of which was a length of the field effort, Mark Powell scored from the back of the scrum and Paul Lord scored an obstruction try. On a sad note Paul broke bones in his foot scoring his try and will take no further part in the season which is a bad blow for us. The game against Dewsbury was played in hotter conditions than against Swinton but we didn't play as well as I would have liked although at one stage the penalty count was 12-4 against our lads so I can assure you this referee was not my favourite person at Dewsbury. Ward Jones was our Man of the Match taking the tackle count with over 25 tackles, tries by McNicholas, Switzen, Powell, Miles, Mitten 2 goaled by Barker and Svabic, final score 26 points to 15 for the Young Bears. Today's game is our final League game of the season so let's hope we finish on a high with a win against Sheffield. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the people who have supported us all year and to our sponsors Monarch Metals and last but not least Brenda Rogers.

Yours in Sport.

ACADEMY LEAGUE TABLE JJB SPORTS ACADEMY FIRST DIVISION

	Games				Pts		PTS
	P	W	D	L	FOR	AGAINST	
Salford Reds	19	17	0	2	614	263	34
Huddersfield Giants	18	13	0	5	436	317	26
Keighley Cougars	18	10	0	8	488	296	20
Rochdale Hornets	17	10	0	7	488	332	20
Widnes	18	9	1	8	411	279	19
Swinton Lions	18	9	0	9	418	454	18
Hull Kingston	18	7	2	9	315	441	16
Oldham Bears	18	8	0	10	368	513	16
Batley Bulldogs	17	5	1	11	244	479	11
Sheffield Eagles	18	4	0	14	368	483	8
Dewsbury	15	3	0	12	236	529	6

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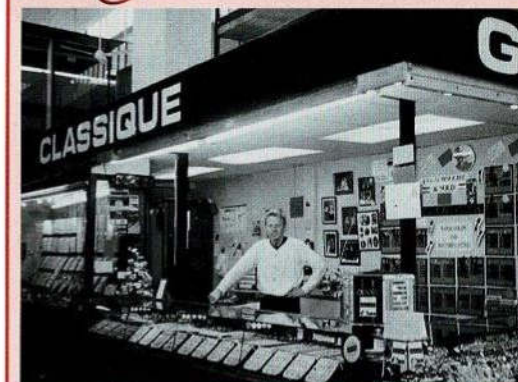


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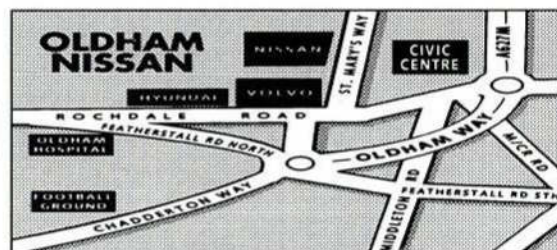
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WHAT'S New

Today Don...

WINTER ENTERTAINMENT

Today's match marks the end of professional rugby league in Oldham until next spring when the second Super League season begins shortly after the commencement of the 1997 Silk Cut Challenge Cup. For those fans who enjoy rugby during the winter months there is still plenty of entertainment to be had from the local amateur scene. Fixtures for Saddleworth Rangers and Saint Annes in the Premier Division of the National Conference League are as follows:

Saturday, 31st August	Saddleworth v Egremont Rangers
Saturday, 7th September	St Annes v Woolston Rovers
Saturday, 14th September	Saddleworth v West Hull
Saturday, 21st September	St Annes v Heworth
Saturday, 28th September	Saddleworth v Mayfield
Saturday, 5th October	Lancashire Cup
Saturday, 12th October	Saddleworth v Leigh Miners
Saturday, 19th October	Lancashire Cup
Saturday, 26th October	St Annes v Egremont Rangers
Saturday, 2nd November	Lancashire Cup
Saturday, 9th November	Saddleworth v Dudley Hill
Saturday, 16th November	St Annes v West Hull
Saturday, 23rd November	Saddleworth v Lock Lane
Saturday, 30th November	Saddleworth v St Annes
Saturday, 7th December	Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Saturday, 14th December	St Annes v Leigh Miners
Saturday, 21st December	Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Saturday, 4th January	Saddleworth v St Patricks
Saturday, 11th January	St Annes v Dudley Hill
Saturday, 18th January	Saddleworth v Beverley
Saturday, 25th January	St Annes v Lock Lane
Saturday, 1st February	St Annes v Mayfield
Saturday, 8th February	National Cup
Saturday, 15th February	Saddleworth v Woolston Rovers
Saturday, 22nd February	National Cup
Saturday, 1st March	St Annes v St Patricks
Saturday, 8th March	National Cup
Saturday, 15th March	Saddleworth v Heworth
Saturday, 22nd March	National Cup
Saturday, 29th March	St Annes v Beverley

Another big date on the local amateur calendar is the National Inter-League Cup competition in which Oldham have been drawn at home to Widnes. The match is likely to be played under the Saddleworth floodlights at Shaw Hall Bank Road on Wednesday evening, 4th September. Confirmation of this fixture can be received in the amateur notes which appear each Thursday night in the Oldham Chronicle. The coverage of local amateur rugby in the Chron is superb and all our local amateurs are grateful to sports editor Roger Halstead and his staff for the service they provide.

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Thoughts from the Terraces...

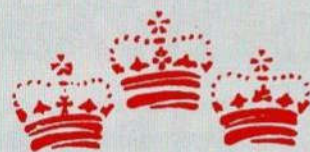
As we reach the end of the first Super League season, it is perhaps appropriate to look both backwards and forwards. Back, at what has been achieved. And forward, to what the future might hold.

Although there have obviously been disappointments, the predominant feeling must surely be one of genuine achievement on the pitch. With a small squad, and pitiful gate receipts, we have held our own in the rarified atmosphere of Super League. In the farcical Centenary season, we won eight games out of twenty, including 5 out of the last 6, to finish eighth in the table, equal on points with Bradford, and above both Warrington and London. We were also one of only two teams, (Leeds were the other!) to defeat Wigan. And then, in Super League itself, we have won eight and drawn one out of 21 today, and will finish no worse than 9th in the table. We have been stuffed only by the top three sides, twice each, and have doubles over Halifax and Leeds to our credit. First round defeats in both the Regal Trophy and the Challenge Cup were obviously very disappointing, in terms of revenue as well as on the field, but we must surely count our blessings, and thank the Goodway-led coaching staff for what has been achieved. Certainly, in comparison with the current situation in Cumbria and on Humberside, or at Featherstone, Leigh, Wakefield and Widnes, we have an awful lot to be thankful for.

When it comes to individuals, we all have our own views. The two half-backs have clearly been crucial in our successes, and

have worked incredibly hard, as has Paul Atcheson, who thoroughly deserves his inclusion in the GB shadow squad. Belle, for his unstinting effort, and Topping for his durability, also deserve honourable mentions. But for me, it is the grafters in the pack who cannot be praised too highly. Gildart, Temu, Clarke, Munro, Lord and Bradbury have all been remarkably consistent, and missed only a handful of games each, but I would have to regard Joe Faimalo as top man during the Super League season. There can't be many forwards throughout the league who have not missed a game, and his willingness to take on the opposition in both offense and defence, whatever the state of the game, has been inspirational.

Turning to the future, Mr. Lindsay's depressing failure to provide clear leadership means that no-one really seems to know where the game is going. But as far as we are concerned, the objective should be fairly clear. On the field, a bit of sensible team strengthening, and then hopefully a realistic stab at the top half of the table in 1997. Off the field, though, a major marketing effort is absolutely crucial. If we are to have a chance of sustaining a Super League place, we simply have to get the ground position sorted out, and produce crowds averaging at least 5,000, quickly, I would have thought. That presumably would mean a carefully structured and professional strategic plan, put together as soon as this season ends, and implemented with real commitment. See you in '97!



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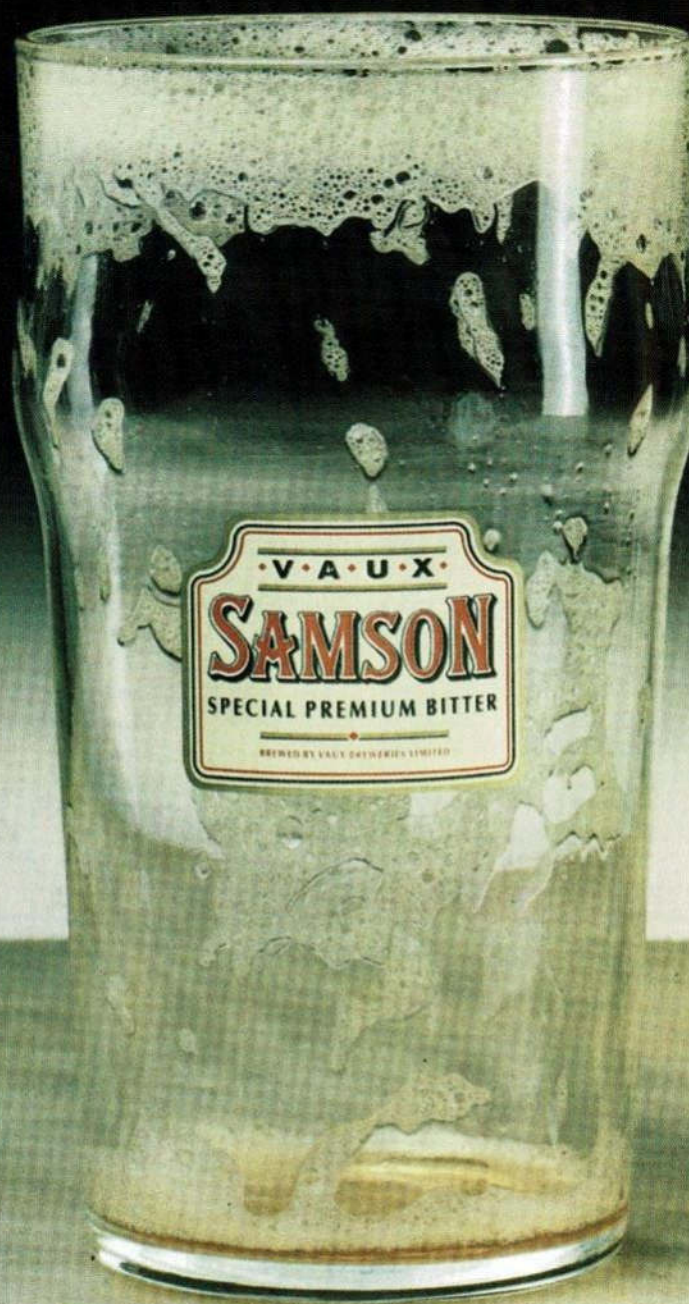
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This afternoon's meeting between Oldham and the Eagles is the 18th match between these clubs. Of previous 17 matches, each club has won eight with one match drawn so today's game is something of a decider. Oldham's biggest victories over Sheffield came during the 1987-88 season when the Roughyeds won at home 44-20 in the October and then by 28-15 in Sheffield the following March. Sheffield's biggest wins occurred in January 1992 when Daryll Powell scored three tries when the Eagles won 44-18 at Watersheddings and in November 1995 when the Roughyeds lost 36-18 at the Don Valley Stadium.

RESULTS OF ROUGHYEDS V EAGLES MATCHES DURING THE PAST TEN SEASONS

1987-88	Oldham 44 Sheffield 20	
	Sheffield 15 Oldham 28	
1988-89	Sheffield 20 Oldham 32	(Challenge Cup)
1989-90	Did not meet	
1990-91	Sheffield 14 Oldham 24	
	Oldham 27 Sheffield 20	
1991-92	Sheffield 16 Oldham 16	
	Oldham 12 Sheffield 38	
	Oldham 18 Sheffield 44	
	Sheffield 10 Oldham 14	
	Oldham 20 Sheffield 34	(Divisional play-off at Old Trafford)
1992-93	Did not meet	
1993-94	Oldham 15 Sheffield 22	
	Sheffield 28 Oldham 14	
1994-95	Oldham 12 Sheffield 14	
	Sheffield 12 Oldham 17	
1995-96	Sheffield 36 Oldham 18	

1996 Oldham 26 Sheffield 16
Sheffield 23 Oldham 10

DETAILS OF SHEFFIELD'S LAST VISIT TO

WATERSHEDDINGS

Sunday, 21st January 1996
Stones Centenary Championship

OLDHAM 26 SHEFFIELD 16

Half-time 8-4

Attendance 3,391

Oldham tries: Paul Atcheson (2), Afi Leuila, Darren Abram & Shaun Irwin.

Goals: Francis Maloney (3)

Sheffield tries: Jean-Marc Garcia, Keith Senior & Ian Hughes

Goals: Dean Lawford

OLDHAM: Paul Atcheson; Afi Leuila, Paul Topping, Darren Abram, Adrian Belle; Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton; Craig Richards, Gary Burns, Ian Sherratt, Gary Lord, Ian Gildart & David Bradbury. Subs: Wally Gibson, Chris McKinney, Paul Crook & Shaun Irwin.

SHEFFIELD: Wassile Socatabua; Joe Dakuitoga, Richard Price, Jean-Marc Garcia, Bright Sodje; Matt Crowther, Dean Lawford; Mala Yassa, Mick Cook, Dale Laughton, Keith Senior, Ian Hughes & Danny McAllister. Subs: Mark Gamson, Richard Chapman, Andy Young & Paul Broadbent.

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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.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	
1	Sat 30 March	WIGAN	H BSKYB	6.00pm	16-56	7,709	●		T	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●									●	●							
2	Fri 5 April	HALIFAX	H	3.00pm	32-22	3,932	T	●	12		T	●	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					T	●							
3	Mon 8 April	Paris	A	3.00pm	24-24	6,327	●		T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●				T	●							
4	Sat 13 April	LEEDS	H BSKYB	6.00pm	25-16	3,350	T		●	●	●	●	●	29	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●	●		●	●	●	●					
5	Sat 20 April	Castleford	A	6.00pm	20-24	4,396	15	●	T	●	●	16	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●		●	●			●	●							
6	Sun 5 May	St Helens	A	3.00pm	18-66	10,181	●		T	●	●	16	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			T		●			●	●	●	●				●		
7	Fri 10 May	BRADFORD BULLS	H	7.30pm	10-30	4,228	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●				●	T			●		●		
8	Sun 19 May	Sheffield Eagles	A	5.30pm	10-23	3,200	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●				●	T	●						
9	Sun 26 May	WORKINGTON	H	3.00pm	27-29	2,228	T		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	20				●	●	●						
10	Sun 2 June	London Broncos	A	6.00pm	28-22	4,629	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		T		●				●	●	●						
11	Sun 9 June	WARRINGTON	H	6.00pm	35-24	3,243	●		T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	T	●			●	●	●	●	●					
12	Sun 16 June	Wigan	A	6.30pm	16-44	7,226	17	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●				●	●	●	●					
13	Sun 23 June	Halifax	A	6.00pm	14-20	4,591	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								●	●	●	●					
14	Sun 30 June	PARIS	H	6.00pm	6-24	2,548	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●					●	●	●	●			●		
15	Sun 7 July	Leeds	A	3.00pm	28-26	6,754	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								●	●	●	●			●		
16	Sun 14 July	CASTLEFORD	H	6.00pm	20-31	3,480	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●				●	●	●	●				●	
17	Sun 19 July	ST HELENS	H	7.30pm	18-54	4,354	T		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								●	●	●	●					
18	Sun 28 July	Bradford Bulls	A	6.00pm	0-56	9,849	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				T				●	●	●	●				●	
19	Sun 4 Aug	Workington	A	3.00pm	30-24	1,759	T		T	●	●	19	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●				●	●	●			●		●	
20	Sun 11 Aug	LONDON BRONCOSH	A	3.00pm	14-22	2,327	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				T	●			●	●	●	●				●	
21	Fri 16 Aug	Warrington	A	7.30pm	42-24	3,800	●	●		●	●	26	T	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		T		●	●			●	●	●	●				●	
22	Sun 25 Aug	SHEFFIELD EAGLES	H	3.00pm																				●		T	21		●	●	●		6					

A BIG THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in helping to produce this programme.

There is a lot of hard work involved in making this programme an excellent read (Special mention to Don Yates)

Ray Hill Programme Editor

Anyone wanting to help with the programme next season please do not hesitate to contact me

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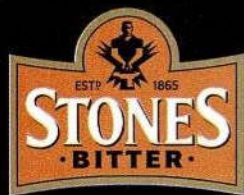
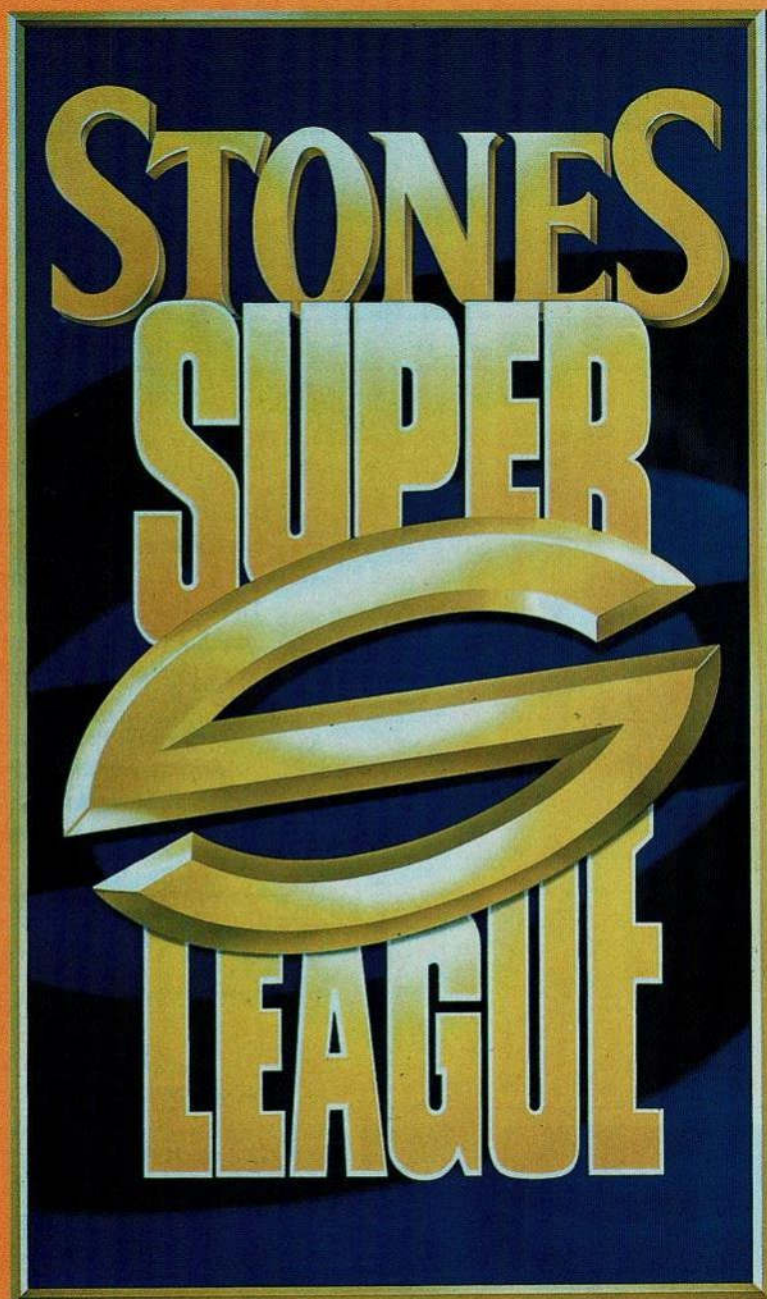


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CHRIS PARR
Irene Calow



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PAUL CROOK
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the **ACTION**

NEWS From

Down Under...

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PANTHERS PULL OFF UPSET

Penrith 18 Manly-Warringah 14 at Penrith Football Stadium

The Panthers pulled off one of the great upsets of the season when they beat the competition front-runners Manly yesterday.

Bookmakers had quoted Penrith as 20-1 outsiders before the game. And why not? Manly had 12 internationals in the line-up, while Penrith's squad was made up mainly of unknown kids. Names like Fred Petersen, Andrew Hinson, Craig Gower, Brad Drew, Ned Catic and Gordon Falcon. The fans are now wanting to know just who they are. Manly players already do. Although the Sea Eagles scored three tries to two, they rarely looked like a side on top, with flat and uninspiring play. Penrith surprised to lead by six points at the break. The Panthers had taken advantage of a spell by Matthew Ridge in the sin-bin for back-chatting to score their only try of the half. And goal-kicking Ryan Firdler had been deadly accurate. But everyone thought Manly would step up a gear after the break. They did, to score two tries and take the lead 14-12. But three minutes before the full-time siren, Catic scored the winning try and leave the Sea Eagles in shell-shock.

BENNETT BLASTS LACKLUSTRE BRONCOS

South Sydney 18 Brisbane 20 at Sydney Football Stadium

Broncos coach Wayne Bennett publicly blasted his players after a disgraceful performance against Souths on Saturday night.

Brisbane won the match - but only after a late try from Steve Renouf (his 100th

in first-grade) saved them from complete embarrassment.

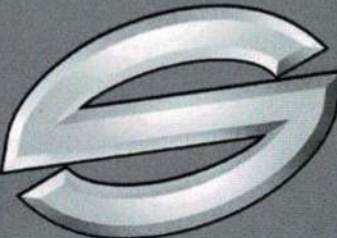
"I'm tired of making excuses for them," Bennett exploded. "They think it will be easy and someone else will do the job for them."

"They should have had an easy night but it didn't turn out that way because of their attitude," Bennett wasn't exaggerating. The Broncos were disgraceful. Big Souths' prop Craig Salvatori, who will retire at the end of the season, showed up some woeful defence with solid charges through the rucks. And stand-off Jason Bell who is switching to Parramatta next year made some exciting breaks, scoring a try after regathering his own kick midway through the second half. Captain Allan Langer was one of the few Broncos players not to blot his copybook.

THE RUN HOME

MANLY SEA EAGLES (32pts) Wests (h), Souths (h)
BRISBANE BRONCOS (30pts) Gold Coast (h), Auckland (a)
SYDNEY CITY ROOSTERS (29pts) Cronulla (h), Tigers (a)
NORTHS SYDNEY BEARS (28pts) Wests (a)*, Souths (h), Gold Coast (h)
CRONULLA SHARKS (26pts) Roosters (a), Newcastle (h)
ST GEORGE DRAGONS (25pts) Cowboys (h), Reds (a)
CANBERRA RAIDERS (23pts) Auckland (h), Crushers (a)
AUCKLAND WARRIORS (22pts) Canberra (a), Brisbane (h)
PARRAMATTA EELS (21pts) Tigers (h), Penrith (a)
NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS (21pts) Reds (a), Cronulla (a)
WESTERN SUBURBS MAGPIES (21pts) Norths (h)*, Manly (a), Illawarra (h)
SYDNEY TIGERS (20pts) Parramatta (a), Roosters (h)

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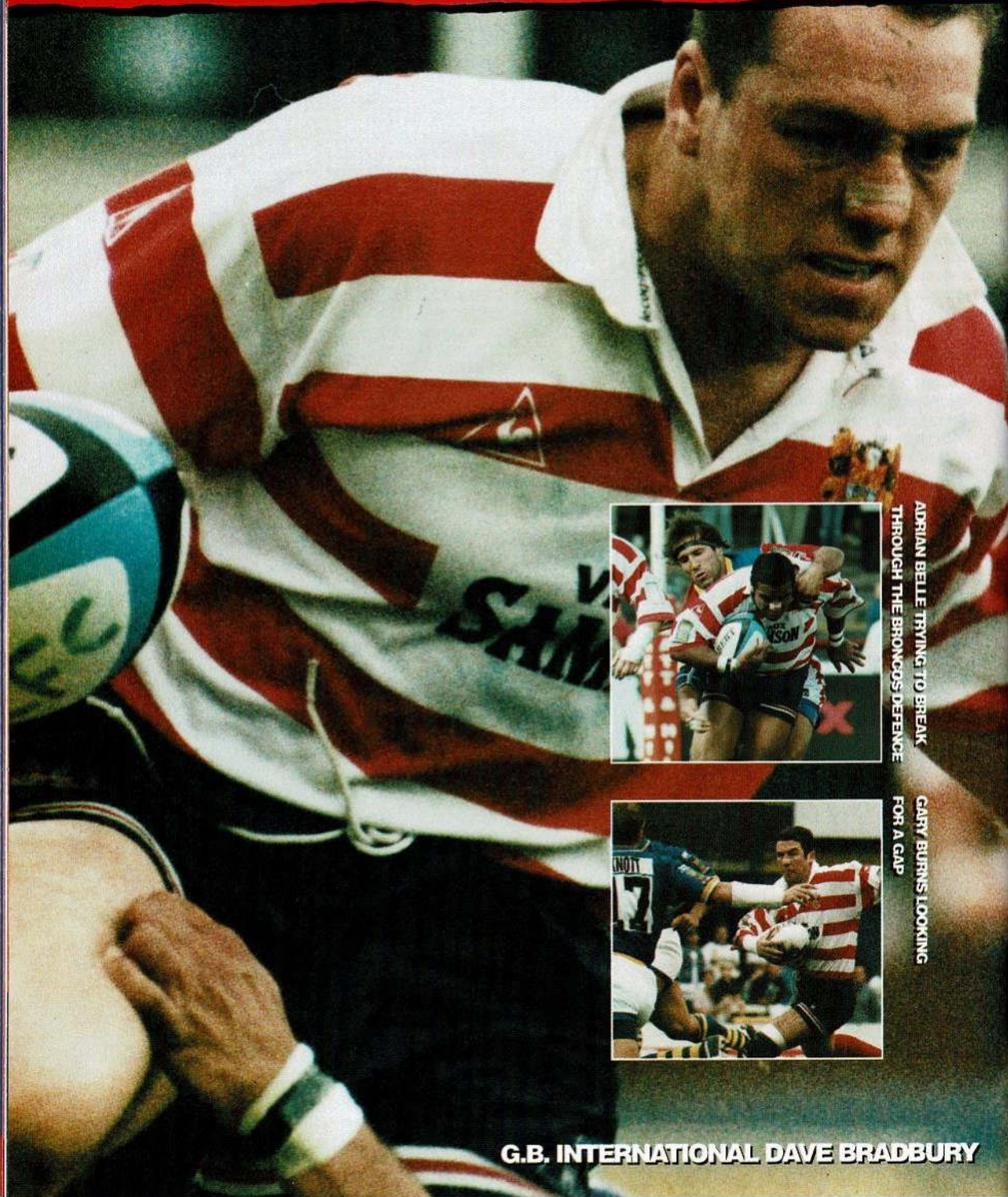
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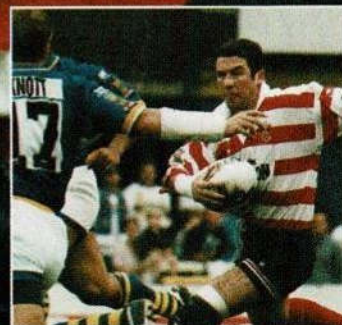
33

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

Oldham Bears

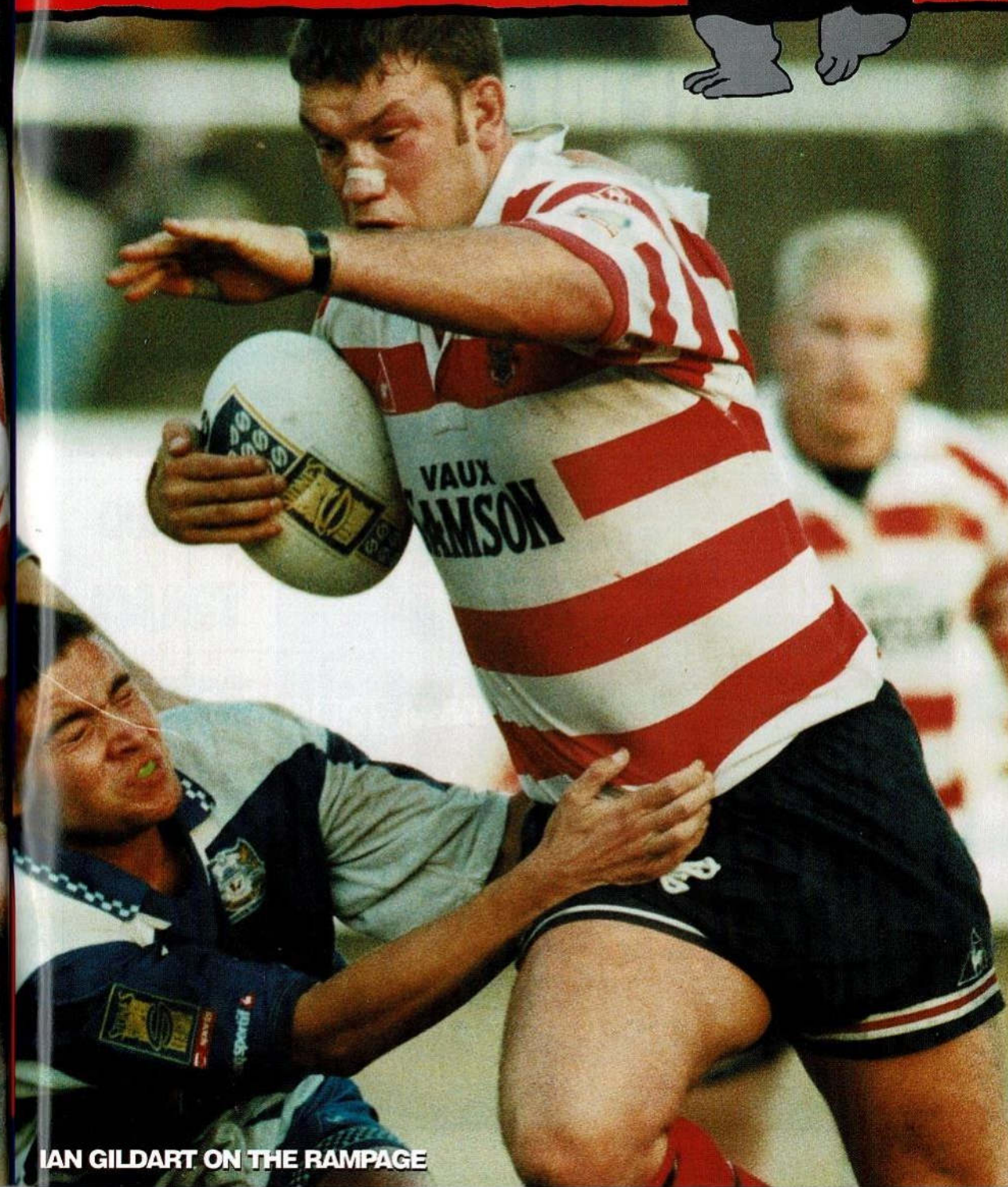


ADRIAN BELLE TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH THE BRONCOS DEFENCE



GARY BURNS LOOKING FOR A GAP

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IAN GILDART ON THE RAMPAGE

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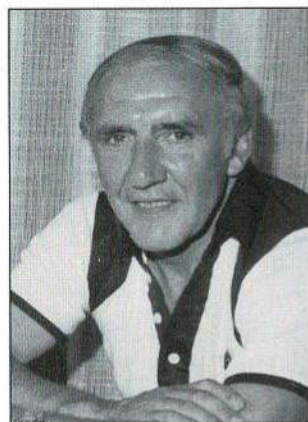
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Gold, Silver and Bronze courses have been taking place at different venues in Oldham and although the numbers have not been very big I am sure all the boys who have took part

have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The one course that stood out was the kicking clinic, it was pouring down with rain but Paul Topping, Francis Maloney and Paul Atcheson stayed out for 2 1/2

hours with the lads and although they got soaked through I am sure they enjoyed every minute. I would like to say to Paul, Francis and Paul Atcheson thanks very much the lesson was excellent. A week last Friday we had a disco and potato pie supper for the schools who had done so well representing Oldham last year at the Birch Hall Lees, everyone who went seemed to enjoy themselves, so once again lets look forward to this year and put the same effort in. Today's match against Sheffield should see the finals of our races that we have held throughout the year good luck to everyone who takes part, may the best man win or girl!



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working together

What a magnificent end to the first Super League season.

Fans who attended the Warrington v Oldham game at Wilderspool last Friday and then watched the London v Wigan game on TV on the Saturday and the Saints v Sheffield clash at Knowsley Road on Sunday must have been impressed.

Here were three first-class games of Rugby League football which helped to set up this weekends magnificent finale.

Warrington's victory over Andy Goodway's men saw them leapfrog the Broncos into fourth position, courtesy of Wigan's win at The Valley. Fourth spot now hinges on this weekends games which pair London with Castleford at The Valley and Warrington with Saints at Knowsley Road on Bank Holiday Monday tomorrow. Fourth spot is wide open but, more importantly, so is the first Super League championship. It seems almost certain now that Saints will have to beat Warrington on Sky TV tomorrow afternoon to take the title back to Knowsley Road for the first time in 21 years.

What a super game that should be ... and what a

brilliant end to what has been a superb first Super League season.

There have been a lot of teething troubles and a lot of poor attendances, but the product on the field has been first class and, for that, congratulations are due to all players and all coaches for a magnificent effort.

Given an appalling injury list, Oldham Bears have done well to finish safely just below mid-table. One wonders how much higher up they would have finished had a small squad not been ripped apart by injury during the course of the summer.

The backs have been particularly hard hit when considering that Afi Leuila and Rob Myler missed most of the campaign and that Andrew Patmore was forced to quit in June with groin trouble.

The club must now look forward to 1997. It is no secret that outside backs are high on the list of priorities for team strengthening, but I hope the club has not totally abandoned the need to add a little bit more football and finesse to a big, hard-working pack.

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