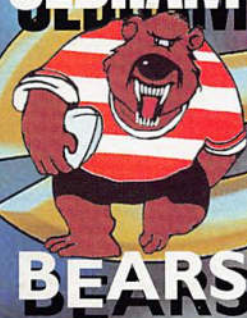


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RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

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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 Rd 4)

67-6 v Liverpool City, April 4th 1959 (League)

RECORD ATTENDANCE

All Time 28,000 v Huddersfield, 4th Feb 1912

Last 20 years 11,254 v Bradford Bulls, 9th March 1997

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

TRIES IN A SEASON

Reg Farrar 49 1921-22

TRIES IN A CAREER

Alan Davies 174 1950-61

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 1950-61

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 1950-61

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

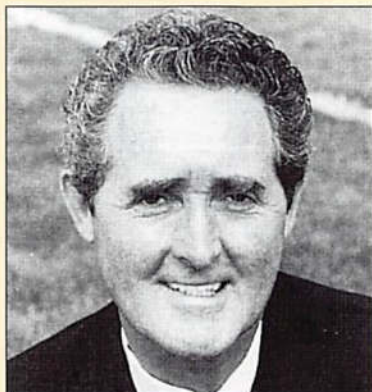
all the above records are relevant to Oldham first class fixtures only

A Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN

JIM QUINN

A big Tameside welcome is extended today to everyone who has come to watch the game at Hyde United. As I am sure most of you know already, we were unable to stage today's game at Boundary Park. Although that was unfortunate, one has to respect that Athletic have to get their ground ready for the start of the football season. We had to look elsewhere and although we considered several venues, including the Spotland ground at Rochdale, we opted to continue our push in Tameside by bringing the game to Ewen Fields.

This will be the first ever Super League game in Tameside, although many of you will know that we have played several 'A' team games at Salford where we are slowly building up



quite an enthusiastic following. Tameside has a population of 200,000 and we are trying to awaken the interest of local people to rugby league so they might get into the habit of making the short journey to Oldham to

watch us in action when we return to Boundary Park. Our next two home games at Boundary Park are special occasions against North Queensland Cowboys on Friday, July 18 and against Adelaide Rams on Friday, July 25, but we are also at Boundary Park against Wigan Warriors on Friday, August 22 and also in the final Super League game at the season against Warrington Wolves on Sunday, August 31.

These are important diary dates, especially if you are new to rugby league and you happen to like what you see. Incidentally, we will be playing on a

magnificent surface today at Ewen Fields, probably the best we will play on all season.

We are hoping to fill the ground and the fact that spectators will be close to the pitch should help to generate an old Watersheddings-type of atmosphere, which should inspire the players to produce a top performance on the field.

On behalf of the Oldham board I would like to express our gratitude to Hyde United for helping us out with the use of their ground. Also, I would like to thank Martin Knowles of the Hyde club for his patience and understanding in our talks and Stephen Howard for introducing us to the possibility of making approaches to Hyde United for the loan of the ground.

It was as a result of our initial talks about staging Alliance team matches here that we began to talk about today's match when it emerged that Boundary Park would not be available. We could have gone to Rochdale, but we would have had to play on Friday night or Monday night, and we took the view that we wished to stick to Sunday, particularly as we go to Castleford next Friday night.

On top of that, the Rochdale people are already aware of the attractions of rugby league and they already have their own club on their doorstep. We wish to make every possible effort to encourage the sporting folk of Tameside to take a look at what we have on offer and we feel quietly confident they will enjoy the occasion. In conclusion, I would like to thank all our regular supporters who have travelled to Hyde today from Oldham and surrounding districts. The club, and its players, appreciate your loyal backing and trust that, in turn, you will appreciate the problem we have to overcome until we get a more permanent home of our own.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

DON YATES

DON YATES LOOKS BACK TO A MATCH FROM YESTERYEAR

So far in their history, Oldham have staged home matches at Watersheddings, Boundary Park, Maine Road and the Willows, Salford. This afternoon the Roughyeds break new ground with a home first team game here at Ewen Field.

Today's visitors, Sheffield Eagles, have, during their 14 year history, staged home matches at no fewer than twelve venues.

They began life at Owlerton Stadium, better known for greyhound, speedway and stock car racing, but now play out of the Don Valley Stadium which is superbly appointed for athletic events. In between times the Eagles have entertained at the Halifax, Wakefield Trinity, Doncaster and Leeds rugby league ground, the Rotherham United, Sheffield Wednesday, Sheffield United, Chesterfield and Barnsley soccer grounds and last June they even staged a home game at the Cardiff rugby union ground some 179 miles from the City of Sheffield.

When Sheffield were promoted in 1989, it was apparent that Owlerton would not be able to cope with the increased attendances that the First Division would bring. The biggest attendance for a Sheffield home game during their opening five seasons came in February 1989 when a crowd of 3,636 saw Oldham beat the Eagles 32-20 in a Silk Cut Challenge Cup-Tie. Eagles' opening match in the First Division was a home game against St. Helens which was switched to Hillsborough and attracted a new record crowd of 6,200. Sheffield then faced five away matches before meeting League Champions Widnes in early October. The Eagles had made an excellent start to the campaign with four wins in their opening six matches including excellent away league wins at Featherstone and Wakefield. Widnes had made an even better start to the season. By

the time the Chemics travelled over the Pennines to Sheffield they had played seven matches and won the lot. Included in those victories were a 27-22 victory over Wigan in the Charity Shield and a memorable 30-18 success over Canberra in the World Club Challenge. Not surprisingly, the Widnes game created tremendous interest in South Yorkshire and so the Eagles arranged for the match to be played at Bramall Lane, home of Sheffield United. It proved a smart move by the Eagles' management for the match attracted the biggest crowd to watch a Sheffield home match - 8,636.

The line-up for that historic match was as follows:

Eagles: David Mycoe; Dave Nelson, Andy Dickinson, Daryll Powell, Mark Gamson; Jeff Hardy, Mark Aston; Paul Broadbent, Mick Cook, Gary van Bellen, Sonny Nickle, Bruce McGuire & Warren Smiles.

Substitutes, Nick Halafihi & Nick Grimoldby.

Widnes: Alan Tait; Brimah Kebbie, Andy Currier, Darren Wright, Martin Offiah; Jonathan Davies, David Hulme; Joe Grima, Phil McKenzie, Derek Pyke, Kurt Sorenson, Paul Hulme & Richie Eyres. Substitutes, Barry Dowd & Paul Moriarty.

Naturally Widnes were favourites to win but every half decent rugby league team rises to a challenge and the Eagles that afternoon certainly

rose to the occasion. Superbly led by Mark Aston, Sheffield were magnificent in the first half. During that opening 40 minutes each side scored a try. Phil McKenzie for the Chemics and Jeff Hardy for the Eagles. Two goals by Mark Aston were the difference between the teams as Sheffield turned round 8-4 in front. If the Eagles were superb in the first half, they were out of this World after the break when Bruce McGuire, Nick Grimoldby, Jeff Hardy again, and Sonny Nickle crossed for tries. Mark Aston landed another three goals and a dropped goal whilst the rock solid Eagles' defence restricted Widnes to a solitary penalty from Jonathan Davies. The final score was 31-6 to the Eagles, a remarkable scoreline after what must go down as the best ever Eagles' performance.

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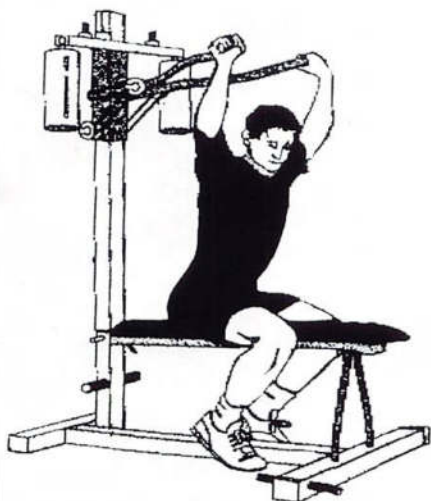
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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

DON YATES

This afternoon's historic match against Sheffield Eagles is the 20th meeting between these two clubs. Oldham have won ten of the previous 19 games, Sheffield eight with one match drawn. Oldham's biggest victories over the Eagles came during the 1987-88 season when the Roughyeds won 44-20 at Watersheddings in October and then by 28-15 when the teams met in Sheffield the following March. Sheffield's biggest wins occurred in January 1992 when Daryll

Powell scored three tries as the Eagles won 44-18 at Watersheddings and then in November 1995 Oldham lost 36-18 at the Don Valley Stadium. Oldham will be aiming to complete their first league double of the season this afternoon after winning at Sheffield in May. Should they be successful, it will be only their second such success since the Super League revolution 15 months ago.



Scott Ranson - scorer of 3 tries against Sheffield last time

DETAILS OF SHEFFIELDS' LAST VISIT TO THE BEARS

Sunday, 25th August 1996

At Watersheddings

Super League (Oldham's last competitive match at Watersheddings)

OLDHAM 34 SHEFFIELD 25

Half time 6-21: Attendance 2515

OLDHAM Tries: Scott Ranson (3), Paul Atcheson (2), Gary Burns & David Bradbury
Goals: Francis Maloney (2) & Paul Crook

SHEFFIELD Tries: Danny McAllister, Jean-Marc Garcia, Johnny Lawless & Keith Senior
Goals: Mark Aston (4)
Drop Goals: Mark Aston

OLDHAM: Rob Myler, Adrian Belle, Paul Atcheson, Mike Neal, Scott Ranson, Francis Maloney, Martin Crompton, Ian Gildart, Gary Burns, Reece Guy, Joe Faimalo, Matt Munro & David Bradbury

Substitutes: Gary Lord, Paul Topping & Paul Crook

SHEFFIELD: Dean Lawford, Lynton Stott, David Mycoe, Keith Senior, Jean-Marc Garcia, Ryan Sheridan, Mark Aston, Paul Broadbent, Johnny Lawless, Paul Dixon, Danny McAllister, Paul Carr & Mick Cook.

Substitutes: Lawrence Taylor, Ian Hughes, Dale Laughton & Darren Turner

Results of

OLDHAM v SHEFFIELD

matches during the past 10 seasons

(League Matches except where stated)

1987	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: 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
	Oldham 26	Sheffield 16
1996	Sheffield 23	Oldham 10
	Oldham 34	Sheffield 25
1997	Sheffield 14	Oldham 18

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*No purchase necessary. You can still enter the draw by sending your name and address on a postcard to:

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Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

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If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by TNL, please tick ☐

AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE ROUND UP

From Dave Hadfield, the Independent's Rugby League Correspondent

Europeans, still licking their wounds from the first batch of games in the World Club Championship, will look at this weekend's resumed Australasian Super League programme in a whole new light.

Players who were just names a few weeks ago are now familiar figures to British audiences and their doings in the competition down under will have all the more significance.

Take Cronulla, for instance. Of all the sides that came to Britain for the first phase, they were the ones who caught the public imagination, with the pace and skills of players like David Peachey, Mat Rogers, Russell Richardson and Paul Green proving a constant delight.

Their coach, John Lang, said that they were going home a more confident and complete team than they were when they arrived, but they have a searching test first-up against Brisbane Broncos, who showed in their victories over London, Wigan and Halifax that they deserve to be the favourites, not just for Super League but for the World Club Championship as well.

Two other sides who thoroughly enjoyed their visit to England meet this weekend when Auckland go to Penrith. Their three weekends over here proved the perfect rehabilitation exercise for Auckland, who came off a long losing streak to win all three matches here in some style.

The question now is whether they can take that revitalised form back to the southern hemisphere with them. Or will it be the case, as Penrith's coach Royce Simmons, puts it, that, "We need the points more than them. We need them to make

the play-offs, whilst their chance has gone?"

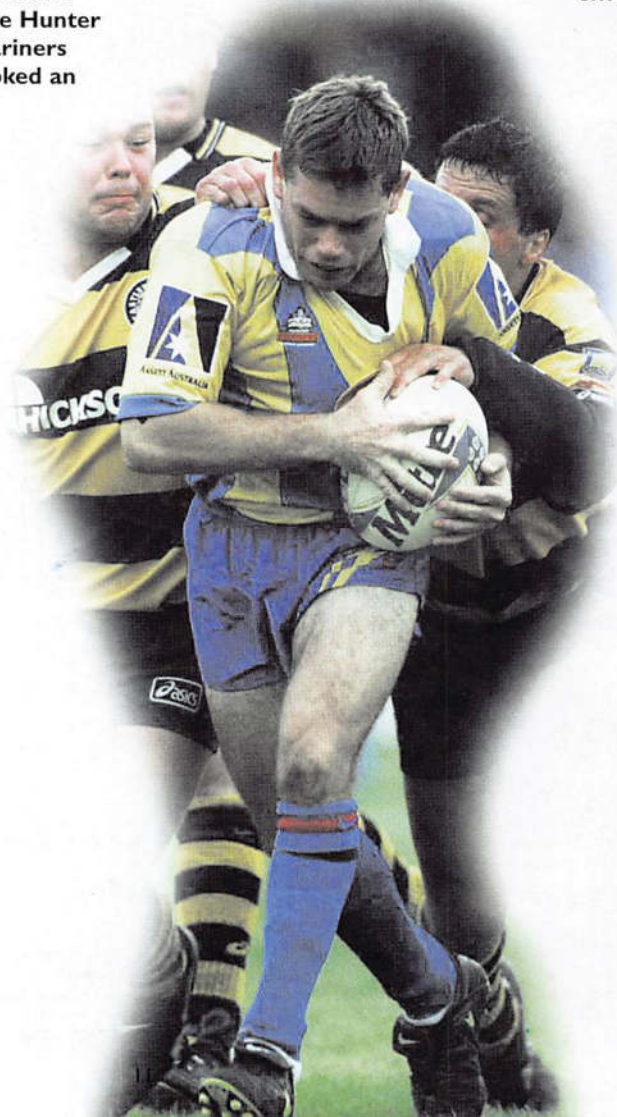
The worst home-coming must have been that of Perth Reds, mortally embarrassed by losses to Sheffield and Paris and their credibility perhaps fatally dented as a result.

The Reds had to prove that Super league - or, as now seems increasingly certain, a merged competition next season - needs a team in Western Australia. Instead, they have managed to make themselves look highly dispensable and they must start recouping some pride at Adelaide this weekend.

The Hunter Mariners looked an

impressive, progressive type of side over here, where they beat Paris, Castleford and Sheffield. With all due respect to that calibre of opposition, they are having to step up just a notch or two this week against the Canberra Raiders - and that's after the long flight home. North Queensland, victorious at home over Leeds, Oldham and Salford, entertain Canterbury, who blotted their record by losing to Wigan. The question there, as here, is who will adapt

back to domestic demands the more smoothly.





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AUSTRALIA

By Ray French, *BBC Rugby League Correspondent*

When former Australian cricket captain Richie Benaud, during his T.V. match commentary from Headingley, reminds the viewers that Darren Gough or Robert Croft is bowling from the Football Stand End the B.B.C. are invariably inundated with calls from irate League devotees. Our friend from the Antipodes is taken to task, mistakenly, by the viewers for not referring to the pride of Headingley as the Rugby League Stand. But the angry letters and Benaud's observations only highlight the many differences between the two countries in the vocabulary surrounding Rugby League. For Rugby League in Australia is Football, while Rugby refers to Rugby Union only. Yes, fans standing close to the trainers bench or sitting next to any visitors from Down Under during the first leg of the World Club Championships have been forced to review their terminology and brush up on their dictionaries as before casting strange looks at their

neighbour's outbursts. And I'm not referring to infantile terminology like 'Hits', 'Busts' and 'Scoots.' (Have you ever heard anything as barmy as 'Scoots' which is to be found in one magazine describing a winger's darting runs!)

In the dressing room, before kick-off, Aussie Test stars Andrew Ettinghausen, Bradley Clyde or Allan Langer take their 'jumper' off the peg, not their jersey and check their 'sprigs,' not their boots, before proceeding onto the 'Paddock,' not the Pitch. Once on the pitch the Locks, (the second rows) and the 'Five Eighth' (stand off) take up their positions in readiness to receive the ball from the kick-off. As does the 'dummy half' acting half back) who will be close at hand to carry out the first movement of the ball from the 'Ruck' (Play the Ball). Sadly, for the purist, even the Australian players, during the recent Anglo/Aussie clashes, were forced to conform to the ludicrous numbering system which now blights

the domestic game in Britain. Canberra Raiders' loose forward Bradley Clyde had the choice of any number 1 to 50, instead of the number 8 jumper, once worn by his predecessors Johnny Raper or Ron Coote in the Australian teams of yesteryear. Yes, you've guessed it, the pack Down Under was once numbered the reverse of the British domestic game.

Away from the terminology, however, the fans, both in Britain and Down Under, have noticed that the biggest difference between the two Hemispheres still lies on the scoreboard where record scores have been posted by a succession of Aussie clubs. And those differences are far more worrying for League in Britain than any confusion in a dictionary.

The decision to ask the game's new Technical Director, Joe Lydon, to lead an inquiry into the state of play in Britain will only be of value if the former Great Britain full-back is given a free hand to carry out his recommendations. If his

AN RULES

report is to be swept under the carpet like all discussion documents of the past and clubs continue to interest themselves in only their little patch of territory then there will never be rugby parity between the two

Hemispheres.

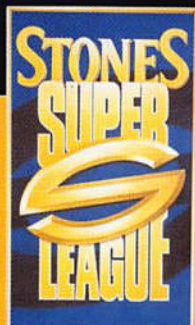
The choice is ours. We can continue to enjoy an inferior brand of rugby at home but we cannot continue with it for much longer if we want to consider ourselves a major sport in the British

Isles.

Whether in Britain or Australia it matters not how you talk about rugby league but, for the future of the sport worldwide, it matters if the differences on the field are allowed to continue.



TOP OF THE LEAGUE



TASTE THE ACTION

ON THIS DAY...

DON YATES

It was on this day in 1966, Wednesday 6th July, that Oldham utility forward Gary Lord was born. Happy 31st Birthday Gary.

Exactly twelve months ago, on Saturday 6th July 1996, Sheffield Eagles travelled down to The Valley, Charlton for a Super League match against London Broncos.

Unfortunately for the Eagles, they found the Broncos in superb form, especially centre Greg Barwick who crossed for a hat trick of tries as the Londoners raced to a 45-8 victory. Prop Paul Broadbent scored the Eagles' try with scrum-half Mark Aston landing a couple of goals. On the same day, Saturday 6th July 1996, Parramatta announced the signing of Bradford Northern coach Brain Smith on a two year contract. He moved down to Sydney the following August. It was on Wednesday, 6th July 1994 that the Parramatta Stadium, Sydney staged the Australia-France test match during the ill-fated French tour of the South Pacific. France won only one of their seven tour games and,

not surprisingly, their heaviest defeat came against the Kangaroos who beat France 58-0. Centre Steve Renouf scored three of the 12 Australian tries. Eagles centre David Fraise was included in the french line-up, as was their current winger Jean-Marc Garcia.

As a curtain raiser to the test, Great Britain's academy squad played Australia's under-19s. The Australians won that too - 46-8. Cronulla centre Mat Rogers scored two tries and seven goals for the Kangaroos whilst the British a try scorers were Francis Cummins (Leeds) and Jonathan Roper (Warrington).

It was on this day in 1995, Thursday 6th July, that the BARLA under-18's also suffered defeat. They lost 14-8 to West Coast in Greymouth, New Zealand.

Britain had more to cheer about on Sunday 6th July 1975 when England defeated Papua New Guinea 40-12 before a crowd of 12,000 in Port Moresby. The star for England was a Scot, full-back George Fairbairn, who

was with Wigan at the time. He scored two tries and landed eight goals.

Fifty-one-years ago, on Saturday 6th July 1946, Great Britain pulled off an even better victory when they defeated Australia 14-5 at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground. Halifax winger Arthur Bassett scored a hat trick of tries for the Lion but it was the British pack who forged the way for victory. Included in the pack was Oldham second-rower Doug Philips. On their way home from the 1957 World Cup, won by hosts Australia, Great Britain were involved in five tour matches. On Saturday, 6th July they met France at Carlaw Park, Auckland. France led 12-3 at Half-time but Britain hit back to pull off a 26-12 victory. Oldham second-rower Sid Little was included in the British pack.

Finally, on that same afternoon, Saturday 6th July 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black Wimbledon champion when she defeated Darlene Hard to win the women's singles title.

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Who have travelled to Ewan Field our home for the game against Sheffield Eagles.

We extend a warm 'bears' welcome to the Sheffield Eagles officials, players and any supporters who have managed to come across from Yorkshire for today's match. Having beaten the Eagles on their own ground at the Don Valley Stadium let's hope for our first 'double' of the season.

Have you all received your latest copy of Junior Bear News, I do hope so, for any member who doesn't know we have our next Junior Bears meeting tomorrow evening at the 'Bears Den,' any new members who don't know where that is, it is the Pennine Lounge at Mumps in Oldham.

The players who will be in attendance are the 'Yorkie Boys,' Gary Lord, Francis Maloney, John Clark and David 'Stevo' Stephenson, all fun and games from 7.30pm. If you haven't already done so don't forget that tickets have to be purchased for entry.

Are we going to hear those cheers loud and clear today as we get behind the team this afternoon, get those hands clapping and feet stamping along with

the drums banging, what do we sing...

Come on OLDHAM,

Come on OLDHAM

Answers to the teasers set in the St Helens programme...

- Q. Name the two present Saints players who both played for Oldham
- A. Chris Joynt and Tommy Martyn
- Q. What animal is the Mascot for St Helens
- A. St Bernard dog
- Q. Name the ex-coach of Saints who is now in charge at another Super League club
- A. Eric Hughes at Wigan Warriors

What have we got for this week...

1. Name the last coach at the 'Eagles'
2. Name one of the Sheffield players who now plays for 'Leeds Rhinos'
3. Who was the first coach of Sheffield Eagles

Our Mascot for the game today is

Megan Hartley

Six years old, Megan is in her second season with the Junior Bears.

She attends St Georges School in Shaw

Megan's favourite player is Jason Temu, let's hope he has a game today, as she has had little chance to see him this season through injury. Hobbies for Megan apart from watching the Bears home and away, include swimming and she is also a keen collector of rugby programmes.



Junior Bears birthdays are here again. Who's celebrating in the next two weeks?

July 7th	Mark Lewis
July 12th	Christopher Gould
	Lauren Dillamore
	Daniel Newton
July 13th	Emma Brocklebank
July 15th	Kim Simpson
July 16th	Daniel Hibbert
	Samuel Stott
July 17th	Alison Newton
July 18th	Andrew Hall

and a very special mention for on of the Bears players **Gary Lord** who is ??? today.

Happy Birthday Gary from all the Junior Bears

Our next home match is Friday 19th July against the Aussie team, Queensland Cowboys make sure you come along to Boundary Park to cheer on the Bears, let's see if we can turn the tables on them over here.

Come on, Come on OLDHAM

See you all later...



HERE AND THERE

DON YATES

Last Month's Annual General Meeting of the British Amateur Rugby League Association re-elected Oldham's Nigel Hollingsworth as secretary of the association. Another Oldham League Member, Sid Miller, was appointed as one of the open age representatives on a new streamlined board. Manchester businessman Mike Morrissey was appointed as Chairman. He has been Youth Chairman during the past four years and his first move was to give the green light to the Youth Commission, a body that will include representatives from BARLA and the Rugby Football League in equal partnership. It is hoped that the Youth Commission will build on the work of the Youth Working Party and hammer out a coordinated policy for the youth junior game, to address the fundamental deficiencies highlighted by the World Club Championship Series. The disappointing results of European clubs in the first phase of the competition have been blamed on a number of factors. One factor is the current rift between BARLA and the Rugby Football League. It is a rift which must be healed if the British clubs are to compete with the Australians who, once again, have proved that they are years ahead of the British. Meanwhile, amateur clubs in the Oldham area will soon commence training for the 1997-98 season. Former Oldham second-rower Mick Worrall continues as coach of Saddleworth Rangers in the Premier Division of the National Conference League. Their arch rivals St. Annes have appointed Mark Rowbottom and Gary Ainsworth to take over as coaches of their first team following the resignation of Mark Lord and Mick Swift after four very successful years in the National Conference League. They face a difficult task following in the footsteps of Lord and Swift who twice led Saints to promotion and into the Premier League where they made a determined challenge for the title before falling away in the closing weeks of last season. Mark Lord and Mick Swift have now taken over the coaching duties of the Oldham Amateur Town Team. Last September, Oldham lost to Widnes in the first round of the Inter-LEague Cup Competition. Oldham led 16-0 early in the second-half of that match but they then collapsed and lost 22-16 to the team which went on to reach the final. Oldham have never won this tournament although they have twice reached the final, losing 24-0 to Leeds in 1981 and 11-7 to Heavy Woollen in 1989. Perhaps this season Oldham will progress further although Humberside still remain favourites for this competition. Next Wednesday evening, 9th July, Scotland entertain France at Firhill Park, Glasgow home of the Partick Thistle Football Club. Included in the Scottish squad is Oldham utility player Jimmy Cowans who played in the 26-6 defeat of Ireland at the Same venue last August.

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The Bear Facts Super League '97

Rd	Date	Team	Venue	Time	Score	Att
1	Sun 16th March	Leeds Rhinos	A	3pm	L 22-32	11,516
2	Fri 21st March	Bradford Bulls	H	7.30	L 30-18	5461
3	Fri 28th March	Salford Reds	(A)	3pm	L 35-26	5295
4	Tues 1st April	London Broncos	(H)	7.30pm	L 32-22	3556
5	Sun 6th April	Warrington Wolves	(A)	3pm	L 28-18	5370
6	Sun 13th April	Paris St Germain (BSKYB)	(H)	6.35pm	W 19-18	3396
7	Sun 20th April	Wigan Warriors	(A)	3pm	L 44-10	7885
8	Sun 27th April	Halifax Blue Sox	(H)	3pm	L 30-29	4236
9	Sun 11th May	Sheffield Eagles	(A)	3.15pm	W 18-14	4245
10	Sun 18th May	Leeds Rhinos	(H)	3pm	L 43-26	4500
11	Fri 23rd May	Bradford Bulls	(A)	7.30pm	L 42-28	13,262
12	Mon 26th May	Salford Reds	(H)	3pm	W 10-19	4420
13	Fri 30th May	Castleford	(H)	7.30pm	D 12-12	3667
14	Sun 29th June	St Helens	(H)	3pm		
15	Wed 2nd July	London Broncos	(A)	7.30pm		
16	Sun 6th July	Sheffield Eagles	(H)	3pm		
17	Sun 13th July	Castleford Tigers	(A)	3.30pm		
18	Sat 19th July	Queensland Cowboys	(H)			
19	Sat 26th July	Adelaide Rams	(H)			
20	Sun 10th Aug	St Helens	(A)	6pm		
21	Sun 17th Aug	Halifax Blue Sox	(H)	3pm		
22	Fri 22nd Aug	Wigan Warriors	(H)	7.30pm		
23	Mon 25th Aug	Paris St Germain	(A)			
24	Sun 31st Aug	Warrington Wolves	(H)	3pm		

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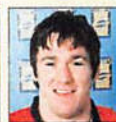
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Number 4
Paul Topping



Number 5
Rob Myler



Number 6
Francis Maloney



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Martin Crompton
Aston Foods



Number 8
Ian Gildart



Number 9
John Clarke



Number 10
Jason Temu
Samantha Brown



Number 11
Gary Lord



Number 12
Joe Faimalo



Number 13
David Bradbury



Number 14
Matt Munro



Number 15
Paul Davidson



Number 16
Howard Hill



Number 17



Number 18
Mike Neal



Number 19
Chris McKinney



Number 20
Afi Leuila



Number 21
Jim Cowan



Number 22
Vince Fawcett



Number 23
Brett Goldspink



Number 24
Nathan Turner



Number 25
Paul Deacon



Number 26
Luke Goodwin



Number 27
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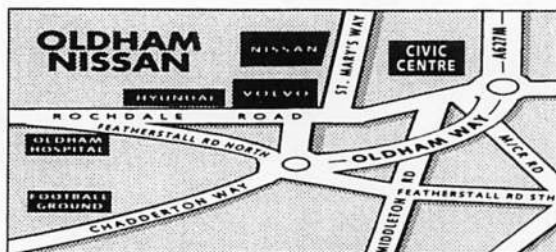
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ACADEMY NEWS

BRIAN GARTLAND

Since my last notes we have had two great wins against Leigh Academy by 34 points to nil and Rochdale academy, whom we beat 36 points to four. The win against Leigh was really pleasing because we lost to them at Hilton Park earlier in the season, but I honestly thought then that we were the better team. Dale Aldred our young loose forward from Leigh was outstanding against his home town club and deservedly was the man of the match, but this

wasn't just a one man show this was a great team effort from one to thirteen. Local rivals Rochdale came looking for revenge from our win in the Hornets nest but again on the day we were too good for them. Ben Simpson, Rhys Orriss and Paul Rushynsky showed up well to say they are all just out of under 16's schools rugby if they are prepared to work hard then I am sure we have got three good youngsters.

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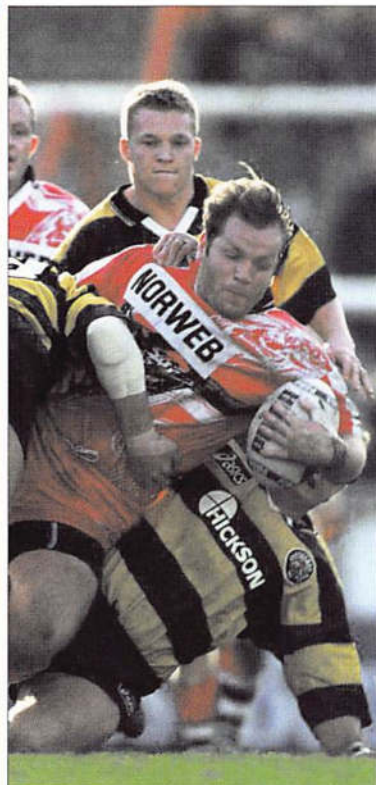
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former Great Britain coach, Phil Larder, in his "Rugby League Coaching Manual" describes the art of tackling as "one of the most important individual skills in the game, and the aim of most tackles should be not merely to stop the other sides progress but to go forward and attempt to gain possession by forcing the ball carrier into handling errors." He further elaborates on the needs for expertise in 'marker defence,' 'sweeper defence,' and 'goal line defence' and then proceeds to take his readers onto an even higher, advanced plain, with detailed analysis of a team's 'wedge defence,' 'umbrella defence,' or even 'channel defence.'

All good reading and first class advice for any aspiring or current player or coach. So why is it then that so few of the modern day Super League players really do relish tackling the opposition? Why is it then that, in the recent World Club Championships, every time the Penrith Panthers, Cronulla Sharks, Brisbane



Terry O'Connor - averages around 24 tackles a match

Helens concede a staggering 158 points in three home matches and Halifax an amazing 204 points in their three games Down Under? The answer surely must lie not with the coaches, who I'm sure conduct the necessary and regular

TACKLING AIMS

Ray French,
*BBC Rugby League
Correspondent*

Broncos, etc. were awarded the head and ball at a scrum in a British team's twenty meters area, the fans had no confidence in the favourites not conceding yet another try?

Why should clubs like St



tackling practices with their squads on a weekly basis, but with the individual players and the way they approach the game.

The modern era, when a front rower like Apollo Perelini, Brian McDermott, and Terry O'Connor will average around 24 tackles per match and a backrower like Paul Sculthorpe, Chris Joynt, or Any Farrell is credited with an average of around 30 tackles per match, must seem strange to the forwards of yesteryear who plied their trade in an age of unlimited tackles.

The days have long gone when the likes of Vince Karalius, Derek Turner, and John Whiteley were forced to withstand a barrage of tackling on their try line for up to twenty minutes at a time. But human beings are still the same, surely. Sadly, in Britain, the players' approach to a game is not.

Modern players are conditioned to defending for a mere five tackles (invariably the opposition kick at the sixth Play the Ball) and the occasion does not assume the importance it once did. Nor do the modern players attack, legally, the opposition with the aggression and ferocity their predecessors once did. Nor do they appear to practice the art of tackling in a real situation as did teams of the Fifties and Sixties who, often on a Tuesday and Thursday evening, would be pitted against the 'A' team without

the ball for fifteen or twenty minutes at a time - real tackling, with a competitive edge and the occasional flare up between mates.

But all profited far more than today's players appear to do from the Tackle Shields, introduced to this country over a decade ago by the Aussies.

Too much hype and adulation is given over to players who indulge in fancy footwork, we must redress the balance and sing the praises of those who can, will, and want to tackle. Or we will never again be able to take on the world.

*Apollo Perelini putting
in a tackle*

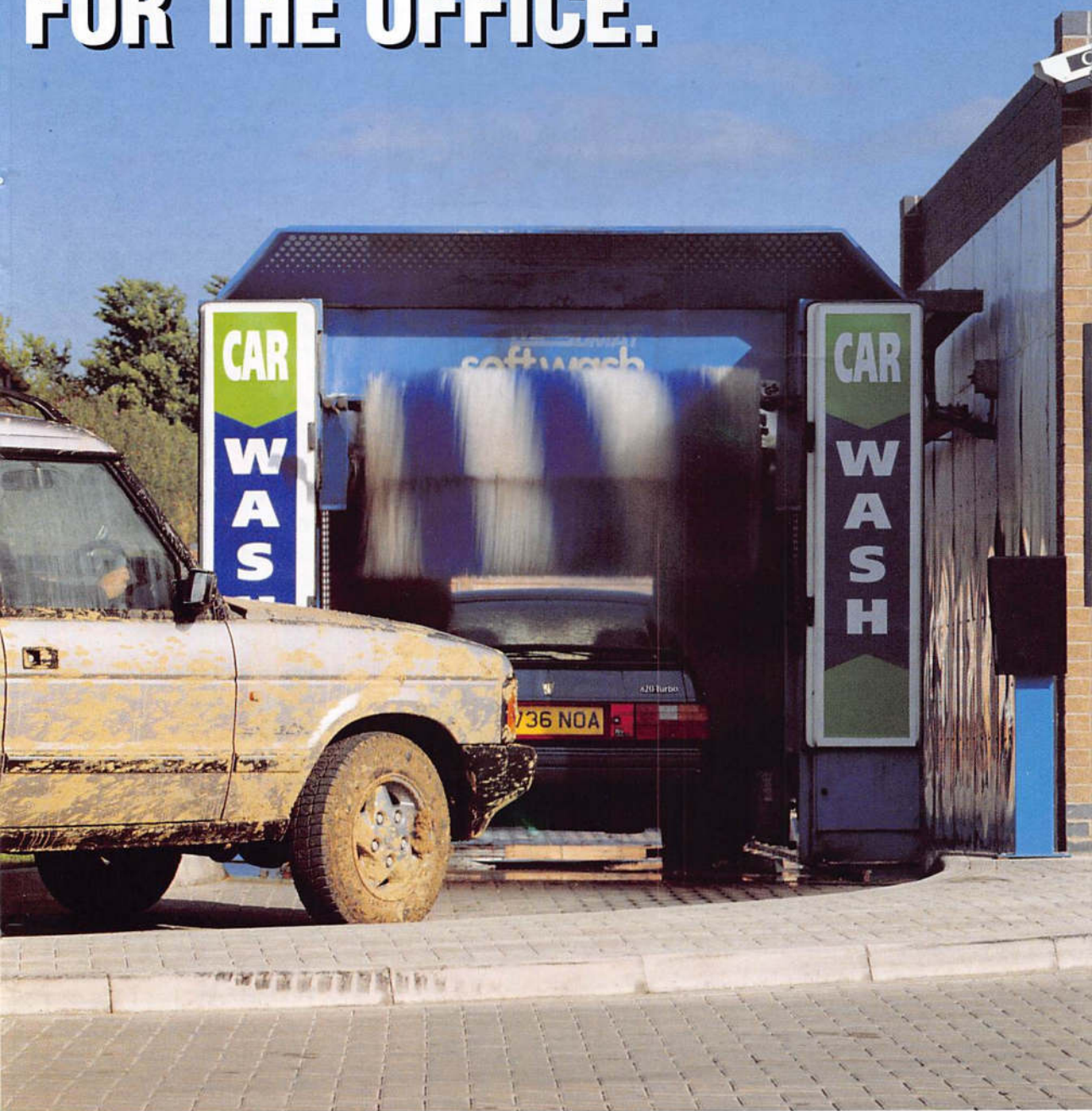


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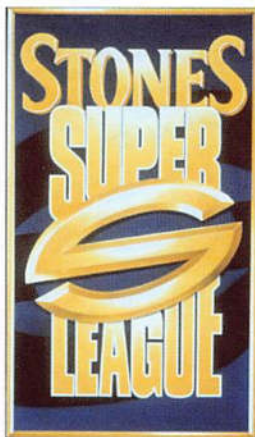


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STAT ATTACK

Raymond Fletcher, Co-author of the Rothmans Rugby League Yearbook

ROBINSON AND NEWLOVE HEAD TRY CHART

Jason Robinson and Paul Newlove begin the second phase of the Stones Super League as the top try scorers since it was launched 15 months ago. Both have totalled 33 tries over the two seasons. St. Helens centre Newlove headed the chart last season with 28 but injury has restricted him to five this time. Robinson scored 24 in 1996 and has added nine this year. The Wigan winger is the only

player to have retained a Top Ten place, being second last year and joint fourth now.

Wigan captain Andrew Farrell heads the other two scoring charts with 168 goals and 370 points, including nine tries and two drop goals. Farrell scored 103 goals and 226 points in 1996 when Bobby Goulding of St. Helens led with 120 and 257.

STONES SUPER LEAGUE TOP CAREER TRIES

1	Paul Newlove (St. Helens)	33
	Jason Robinson (Wigan Warriors)	33
3	Danny Arnold (St. Helens)	26
4	Robbie Paul (Bradford Bulls)	25
5	Richard Henare (Warrington Wolves)	24
	Anthony Sullivan (St. Helens)	24

STONES SUPER LEAGUE TOP CAREER GOALS (Including drop goals)

1	Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	168
2	Bobbie Goulding (St. Helens)	164
3	Steve McNamara (Bradford Bulls)	139
4	Mark Aston (Sheffield Eagles)	134
5	John Schuster (Halifax Blue Sox)	120

SUPER TRIO OF EVER PRESENTS

Only three players have been in the starting line-up for each round since the Stones Super League was launched in March 1996 - and they are all forwards! A big hand then for Bradford Bulls hooker James Lowes plus Wigan Warriors pack stars Andrew Farrell and Mick Cassidy. They have each begun all 35 Super League matches for their club. Including substitute appearances, just two other players have appeared in every round. And again they are forwards - Sheffield Eagles prop Paul Broadbent, who has made one sub appearance, and Wigan second row Simon Haughton (eight sub appearances).

QUIZ

1. Who played for Wigan, Widnes and St. Helens this season?
2. Kicked record 29 one-point drop goals in a season?
3. Hunter Mariners brothers who played for Wigan?
4. Has coached Batley, Doncaster and Rochdale?
5. Last club to beat Bradford Bulls in Super League?
6. Has current longest run of ten Tests for Britain?
7. Winger who has played for Yorkshire and Wales?
8. Warrington's Irish international this season?
9. Started every Oldham match this season?
10. Last player to score 60 tries in a season?

STERLING INVESTS IN TRIES

Leeds Rhinos winger Paul Sterling goes into this weekend's match against Bradford Bulls seeking a try that will bring him a new Stones Super League record of touching down in ten successive matches. He shares the record at the moment with Paul Newlove, who scored at least one try in

nine successive matches for St. Helens last year. The record try-scoring run in the old Division One covered 11 matches and was shared by Gary Prohm (Hull Kingston Rovers) in 1984-86 and Martin Offiah (Wigan) in the Centenary Championship season of 1995-96.



Paul Sterling

Rogers on top of the World

Mat Rogers finished as the top pointscorer after the first stage of the Visa World Club Championship with 58. The Cronulla Sharks winger ran in five tries and kicked 19 goals to emerge from the shadows of his father and former Test centre Steve Rogers. Canberra Raiders players topped the other scoring charts with Ken Nagas grabbing eight tries and David Furner banging over 26 goals.

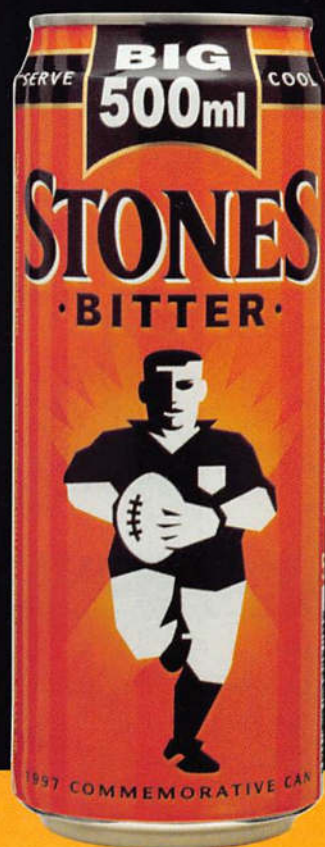
ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Sean Long
2. Lyn Hallett (Cardiff City) 1983-84
3. Kevin and Tony Iro
4. Peter Regan
5. Halifax Blue Sox
6. Andrew Farrell
7. Anthony Sullivan
8. Mark Forster
9. Martin Crompton
10. Martin Offiah in 1988-89

SUPER LEAGUE LEADING SCORERS

TRIES	GOALS (inc drop goals)	POINTS	
Nigel Vagana (Warrington)	14	Andrew Farrell (Wigan)	144
Paul Sterling (Leeds)	12	Steve McNamara (Bradford B.)	137
Alan Hunte (St Helens)	10	Martin Pearson (Halifax BS)	110
Gary Connolly (Wigan)	9	Mark Aston (Sheffield Eagles)	106
Simon Haughton (Wigan)	9	Bobbie Goulding (St Helens)	95
Phil Bergman (Paris)	9	Iestyn Harris (Leeds)	91
Jason Robinson (Wigan)	9	Steve Blakeley (Salford Reds)	89
Jean-Marc Garcia (Sheffield)	9	Francis Maloney (Oldham B.)	70
Francis Cummins (Leeds)	9	Greg Barwick (London B.)	62
Tony Smith (Wigan)	9	Lee Briers (Warrington)	60
		Terry Matterson (London B.)	60

IN CANNES AND PARIS



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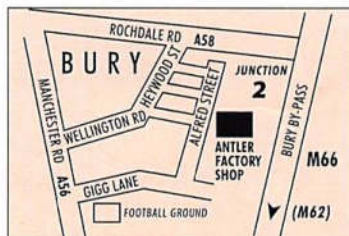
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ALLIANCE NEWS

PADDY KIRWAN

The Alliance team produced a massive improvement in their attitude and commitment away at St Helens last week. The Bears opened the scoring in the first five minutes when a half break by Chris McKinney was well supported by David Milne who drew the full back and sent Paul Deacon over for a try which he converted from under the posts.

Good defence forced several errors from St Helens which led to Carl Switzer finding Simon Svabic with an inside pass to break the St Helens line. From 20 metres out Svabic skipped around the St Helens full-back to score wide on the left. Further pressure on the St Helens line resulted in a drop out and then Chris McKinney scooted under the posts from acting half-back to make the score 16-0.

Within 25 minutes Paul Deacon

had added a penalty and a drop goal, before we had a 15 minute relaxation period. As errors crept in the tackling slackened and a game that was won began to slip. Saints hit back to score three tries on our left hand side through Paul Anderson and Joey Hayes (2) to go in at half time trailing Oldham 19-14.

We started the second half as we had in the first. Good approach play by Paul Deacon, (who had a fine game) sent in David Milne to stretch the lead to 23-14 Deacon followed this up with a fine break into the Saint Helens half. From the quick play the ball Craig Barker threw a long, wide pass to Aidie Meade who ran strongly through the Saints defence, beat the full-back, to score under the posts from 50 metres out. Paul Deacon converted.

At 29-14 we had the game sewn up, but again a ten minute lapse

allowed Saints to capitalise on missed tackles, and score four tries and two conversions without reply. At 34-29 we went behind for the first time with eight minutes remaining.

A good strong drive from Jimmy Cowans (who had another tremendous game in the second row) set up position for Craig Barker to feed Chris McKinney. McKinney spun out of a tackle into space and headed for the line for a try which Paul Deacon failed to convert.

With minutes to go losing 34-33 Craig Barker was hit off the tackle. Good work by the linesman meant a penalty was awarded in the same position as where Paul Deacon had failed to convert the McKinney try. This time he kept his cool and slotted the penalty home for a well deserved win.

ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

1997

JULY

THURSDAY 3rd	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS (A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 10th	CASTLEFORD TIGERS (H) 7.30pm
FRIDAY 18th	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS (A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 31st	HULL (H) 8.00pm

AUGUST

THURSDAY 7th	St HELENS (H) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 14th	HALIFAX BLUE SOX (H) 7.30pm
WEDNESDAY 20th	WIGAN WARRIORS (A) 7.30pm
THURSDAY 28th	WARRINGTON WOLVES (A) 7.30pm

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Castleford Tigers

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OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

ROGER HALSTEAD

The Oldham Bears are doing a spot of "missionary" work today by playing the Super League game against Sheffield Eagles at Hyde United.

Missionaries like to spread the gospel and the Bears appear to be determined to win over a few converts in soccer-mad Tameside.

They have already played several Alliance team fixtures at Stalybridge Celtic's Bower Fold ground and, having watched most of the games, I have to say that those fans who travel from Oldham appear to have grown increasingly appreciative of the facilities on offer. Whether the run of Alliance games attracted much interest locally is difficult to assess, but if you accept the concept of sporting organisations going out to market their product - as indeed they must in 1997 - you must surely accept that Tameside is an area that the Bears marketing team must try to "crack". Geographically, it borders the Oldham metropolitan borough and it has a population of some 200,000 people without a professional rugby league club, let alone a Super League club, within its boundaries.

There is clearly some interest in the game in the locality thanks to the presence of Tameside Borough, a successful Pennine League club which flies the rugby flag thanks to the dedication of a hard-



working group of officials who include my old pal Peter Wilson, a leading official of the rugby League Writers' Association. Peter and his Tameside Borough colleagues are doing a great job for rugby league in this part of the world and I'm sure it must be encouraging for everyone at the amateur club to see their nearest Super League club actively pushing the sport in an area which is not exactly a hotbed of the game.

The Bears of course, are not the first club to go walk-about in a bid to spread the game. In Australia they do it big style - and long before new clubs were formed in Perth and Adelaide, the old Winfield

Cup clubs from Sydney would think nothing of transporting one of their home games several thousands of miles to other leading cities of Australia.

Even today, the Aussies think nothing of staging big games like Tests or State of Origin battles outside the traditional areas and moving them to places like Melbourne, still a hotbed of Aussie Rules in the southern hemisphere winter. Nearer home, we've had Sheffield taking a game against St. Helens to Cardiff and Saints staging a game against Castleford at Anfield on Merseyside, plus the staging of several International games in the North-East at Gateshead, where there is a thriving youth development programme. Had the Bears not been forced to find a new venue for today's game due to Boundary Park repair work, they would almost certainly have been content this season to restrict their Tameside adventure to the staging of Alliance matches.

But when they needed to look around for alternative accommodation they had no hesitation in bringing Super League rugby to Hyde.

The missionaries of old didn't expect to work miracles, and nor must the Bears. But it will be fascinating to see if they maintain their Tameside interests in the long term and, if so, how much support they will generate from the area.



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OLDHAM BEARS v

SUNDAY 6th JULY



SCRUMS

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

PENALTIES

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

OLDHAM BEARS

	Team	T	G	DG
1	Paul Atcheson	☐	☐	☐
2	Scott Ranson	☐	☐	☐
3	Darren Abram	☐	☐	☐
4	Paul Topping	☐	☐	☐
6	Francis Maloney	☐	☐	☐
7	Martin Crompton	☐	☐	☐
9	John Clarke	☐	☐	☐
11	Gary Lord	☐	☐	☐
12	Joe Faimalo	☐	☐	☐
5	Rob Myler	☐	☐	☐
16	Howard Hill	☐	☐	☐
20	Afi Leuila	☐	☐	☐
23	Brett Goldspink	☐	☐	☐
26	Luke Goodwin	☐	☐	☐
27	David Stephenson	☐	☐	☐
28	David Jones	☐	☐	☐
29	Tony Nuttall	☐	☐	☐



1997 KICK-OFF 3pm



SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Team	T	G	DG
------	---	---	----

1	Waisale Souatabua	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	Lynton Stott	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	Keith Senior	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	Jean Marc Garcia	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	Mark Aston	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	Paul Broadbent	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	Johnny Lawless	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	Paul Carr	☐	☐	☐	☐
14	David Mycoe	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Darren Turner	☐	☐	☐	☐
19	Rod Doyle	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	Steve Edmed	☐	☐	☐	☐
22	Whetu Taewa	☐	☐	☐	☐
23	Nick Pinkney	☐	☐	☐	☐
24	Martin Wood	☐	☐	☐	☐
31	Ricky Wright	☐	☐	☐	☐
32	Marcus Vassilakopoulos	☐	☐	☐	☐

SCRUMS

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13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

OFFICIALS

REFeree

Colin Morris

TOUCH JUDGES

Dave Redfearn

Phil Brooks

IN GOAL

Dave Mitchell

Steve Wright

RESERVE

Dave Anfell

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SHEFFIELD EAGLES RLFC

6TH JULY 1997

KICK OFF 3PM

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TO
GROUND**

PRICE

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£4.00

TICKET No. 0704

Directions to Hyde United F.C.

From Oldham Town Centre:

Follow the signs to Ashton (A627) for approx 4 miles. At large R.A.B. Take 1st exit to left (A635). At next large R.A.B. take 4th exit sign posted Hyde (B6170) Follow this road for approx 3 miles to end to T Junction.

Turn right at the traffic lights onto Mottram Rd. Turn left at the next traffic lights (sign posted Tameside Leisure Centre). Turn Left at next giveway sign. Leisure Centre on left. Take next left after the Leisure Centre to ground.

From Sheffield:

Follow A57 to M67 R.A.B. (Ashton/Hyde). Take 2nd exit at R.A.B. towards Hyde. Approx 3 miles follow signs to Hyde/Tameside Leisure Centre. Ground Situated on left after Leisure Centre.



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