



Oldham Bears

**STONES
SUPER
LEAGUE**

sky sports



SUNDAY 31st AUGUST 1997

V

WARRINGTON WOLVES

K.O. 3.00pm

**Official
Programme**

£1.50

Club Information



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HONOURS

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 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

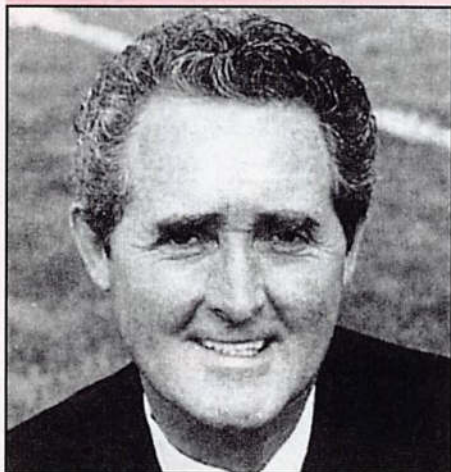
MOST APPEARANCES

Joe Ferguson 628 Sept 1899 - April 1923

MOST CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES

Joe Lawton 134 Sept 1897 - Nov 1902

A Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN



When the final score sounds this afternoon it will bring an end to a traumatic season for everybody at Oldham Bears. All the players, coaching staff, supporters and everybody connected feels the same after the battle for Super League survival finally took its last fatal turn in Paris on Tuesday night.

The 23-12 defeat meant that we were doomed to finish in bottom spot and, unless there is a late, late reprieve by any decision to increase the number of teams in the Super League, today's visit from Warrington Wolves is our last brush with the Super powers at least for the time being. Of course, there is still the Premiership Trophy to come - a trip to play the team finishing fifth at the end of today's matches - but that, I am sure, hardly rates high in most supporters' thoughts just at this moment.

It has been a long, hard struggle not helped by a long string of injuries to key players in an overstretched squad at a crucial time. Many of the big money clubs could easily overcome the loss of four or five leading players because they can afford to have strength in depth. We at Oldham have not got such luxuries.

I think that most supporters will agree that Bob Linder and his players have worked tirelessly to keep the team in Super League. We all know how important it is to be playing among the elite. It gives the town and the club a high profile, it is a status symbol in the world of Rugby League. But as I warned in the Wigan programme, life outside the top flight can be a nightmare without the support and the will to get back among the big guns at the first opportunity. Just look at the rugby towns of Workington Town and Widnes if you think I exaggerate.

So where do we - the Oldham Bears - go from here?

We are a club playing on a rented ground, using rented training facilities and rented offices. But there are four other Super League clubs in exactly the same boat - three of them among the so-called big city clubs of the Super League status.

I know it is hard for any fans to see on the any bright side to look on at this moment but Oldham is a club of more than 100 years tradition and we have been relegated before and bounced back.

If doom and gloom is your style then there isn't much I can say that will change your mind. Super League status may be lost (temporarily) but now is the time to build for the future, Oldham Rugby League has to have a future - we are not quite ready to roll over and die.

Other clubs have come back from seemingly being ready for burial before they were dead - even Wigan spent time in the second division. And how many incarnations have London had?

Finally, thanks to those who have supported the club through what I said has been a traumatic season. In the end injuries, a few points either way, could have made all the difference. Today's visitors Warrington have hit a run of form lately so hopefully we can bring down the curtain with a good performance.

Jim Quinn



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Down Memory Lane

by Don Yates

Don Yates looks back to a match from yesteryear

The years immediately after the Second World War were exceptional for sport in general and rugby league in particular. Huge crowds flocked to see matches with the Warrington team of that era being one of the big crowd pullers. They had a good, young side in those days which went on to dominate the domestic scene in the late 40s and early 50s.

Warrington's dominance began in the 1947-48 season, a season which began for them here in Oldham. It also began with a defeat, Warrington losing a league match at Watersheddings by 14-3. Their final league match of that campaign also involved Oldham although the result was a little different. Warrington won 45-3 with Brian Bevan scoring five of their 11 tries. That result left Warrington second in the Championship table behind Wigan and with a home match against Huddersfield in the Championship semi-final. As expected Warrington beat Huddersfield 17-5 but the other semi-final produced a shock, Bradford Northern won at Wigan 15-3.

The Championship Final was staged at Maine Road, Manchester and drew a crowd of 69,143. Warrington were slight favourites but they were up against a side who had enjoyed a tremendous finish to their season. They had lost only two of their previous 18 matches. The week before they had lost 8-3 at Wembley against Wigan and, significantly, six weeks previously had lost 21-5 at Wilderspool.

The teams for that final were as follows:

Bradford Northern: George Carmichael; Eric Batten, Des Case, Ernie Ward, Alan Edwards; Willie Davies, Donald Ward; Frank Whitcombe, Vic Darlison, Herbert Smith, Trevor Foster, Barry Tyler & Ken Traill. Warrington: Les Jones; Brian Bevan, Bryn Knowelden Albert Pimblett, Stan Powell; Jackie Fleming, Gerry Helme; Billy Derbyshire, Dave Cotton, Bill Riley, Jim Featherstone, Bob Ryan & Harold Palin.

The match had the classic ingredients of a powerful and efficient Warrington outfit taking on Bradford who, critics agreed, had more flair and footballing acumen. Warrington began the better and after ten minutes went in front with a penalty from Harold Palin. Although Warrington were the more workmanlike side they also had a footballing genius in the shape of winger Brian Bevan. When he got going no-one could stop him. After 15 minutes he got going. Five-nil to Warrington. That score remained until half-time although Bradford were unlucky not to trouble the scoreboard attendant on a couple of occasions.

Warrington began the second-half as they had the first, and again they made their pressure count. Stan Powell scored for Harold Palin to convert and leave Northern with a mountain to climb. Undeterred, Bradford hit back and played some sparkling rugby. They were rewarded when centre Des Case sliced through the Warrington defence for a try. Warrington's players claimed that Ernie Ward's conversion attempt went wide but the goal was given and Northern were back to within a score of Warrington. This was the signal for Warrington to tighten up their defence and show their opponents that they too had some talented backs. As a result they got well on top and it was no surprise when Albert Pimblett crossed to put the match beyond Bradford. Harold Palin landed a penalty in the closing minutes to make the final score 15-5 in Warrington's favour.

It was Warrington's first Championship success. They won the title again in 1954, when they beat Oldham, and in 1955 but they have not won it since. Warrington have enjoyed success in other competitions but the Championship remains the big one and everyone at Wilderspool is determined that Championship success will be achieved in the not too distant future.

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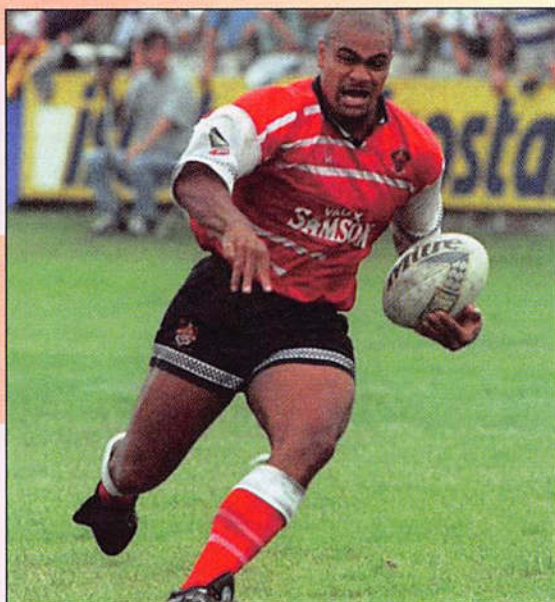
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Stones Media Guide

PLAYER QUESTIONNAIRE

1. **Name** Joe Faimalo
2. **Date of Birth** 28.7.70.
3. **Birthplace** Christchurch, New Zealand
4. **Height** 6ft
5. **Weight** 105kg - 16.5st
6. **Nickname at Club** 'Smokin'
7. **Occupation** Prof. Rugby League Player
8. **Home** Oldham
9. **Car** Nissan Micra
10. **Married** Yes, Alana
11. **Children** Too Young
12. **What was your ambition as a child?**
To be a doctor
13. **Who was your boyhood hero?**
Mal Meninga
14. **What has been your biggest thrill in Rugby?**
Scoring a try in my very first game U11's
15. **Which present day player do you admire most?**
Steve Renouf
16. **Who is the greatest player there has ever been?**
Olsen Philipina
17. **What is the best part of your job?**
Picking up my pay packet.
18. **If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would buy?**
A holiday away from Oldham.

19. **What is your best quality?**
Easy Going.
20. **What is your worst quality?**
Too easy Going.
21. **What other sports and hobbies do you have?**
Guitar, relaxing, water sports, pool
22. **What is your biggest phobia?**
Insects
23. **Which famous person would you most like to meet?**
Michael Jordan or Mike Tyson
24. **What is your most prized possession?**
My wife
25. **Do you have an unusual food that improves your game?**
Coco rice
26. **Favourite TV programme?**
Fresh Prince of Bel Air
27. **Favourite Pop Star?**
Mariah Carey
28. **Favourite Food?**
K.F.C.
29. **Favourite Drink?**
Coke



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'Oldham Born...



...and Read'

Oldham Evening Chronicle

By Roger Halstead, Rugby League Writer

Rugby League clubs, facing a major crisis in the game, meet at Leeds on Wednesday to discuss the way forward. Lots of hard talking will have to be done because, whichever way you look at it, the game faces massive problems.

They were highlighted by recent events at Wigan where the resignation of chairman Jack Robinson and his No. 2 Tom Rathbone, put the spotlight on that famous club's massive financial crisis.

A team of RFL financial experts later arrived at Central Park to investigate the extent of the debt and recommend the way forward.

The crisis at one of the world's most famous rugby league clubs must have set alarm bells ringing throughout Super League and beyond.

If Wigan, of all clubs, have a cash crisis, what about the rest?

As we approach the end of the second Super League season, clubs are coming to terms with the fact that the Murdoch revolution hasn't made the impact many expected of it.

The financial worries at most clubs began many years before Murdoch's intervention, but the media tycoon's injection of £87-million over five years now looks small change if it was intended to restore the bank manager's smile.

Some £35-million will already have been pumped into the game, but most of it must have gone on paying off debts or keeping players happy judging by the number of clubs

now hoisting distress signals.

With the Murdoch millions, of course, came orders from above that Super League clubs had to turn their part-time players into full time professionals and employ all manner of men such as media managers, marketing experts and chief executives.

The revolution, which also included a switch to summer rugby, was intended to pull in the fans like never before. In reality, and with odd exception, it has alienated many traditionalists and failed to attract new fans in sufficient numbers to turn deficits into profits.

A salary cap alone will not provide the solution. If Oldham Bears face an uncertain future, the sport as we know it faces an even bigger one.

Due to copy deadlines, last weekend's Bank Holiday, and the game in Paris on Tuesday, I had to submit these notes before the outcome of the relegation battle was known. Hopefully, Oldham's Super League survival hopes will still be alive as the club goes into its final league game of the season today against Warrington. If that is the case, we should be in for quite an occasion.

Relegated or not, the Bears face a difficult future, not merely because of the sort of financial problems that are currently undermining the sport as a whole, but because they have no home of their own.

I suspect that both for the Bears and the game of rugby league, it will be a traumatic close season which will throw up many questions.

Let's hope the answers are the right ones.

Total Fitness

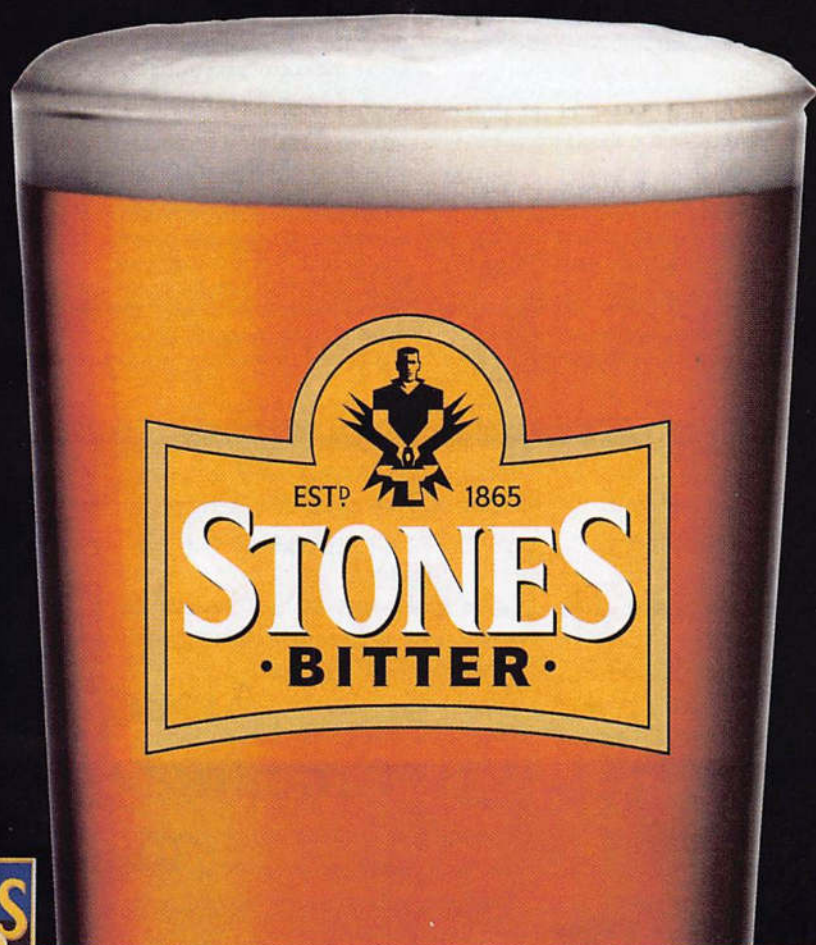


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TOP OF THE LEAGUE



TASTE THE ACTION

Statistically Speaking

Compiled by Don Yates

The final visitors to Boundary Park during this 1997 Super League season are Warrington, one of the founder members of the Rugby Football League. This afternoon they will be meeting Oldham for the 204th time. The Roughyeds have won 84 of the 203 previous matches with Warrington having won 110 and nine matches having ended all square.

Oldham's biggest win in that sequence came way back in November 1898 when winger Martin scored four tries as the Roughyeds won 35-0 at Watersheddings. The best win Oldham achieved at Wilderspool came in April 1910 when Warrington were defeated 32-0. Warrington's best results against Oldham came during a four day spell in September 1948.

First of all Oldham were beaten 55-0 at Wilderspool in the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup and four days later Warrington won 37-0 at Watersheddings. In both those matches legendary winger Brian Bevan scored five tries.

RESULTS OF OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON

MATCHES DURING THE PAST TEN SEASONS

1987-88	Warrington 10 Oldham 14	(Regal Trophy)
	Warrington 17 Oldham 6	(Challenge Cup)
1988-89	Warrington 32 Oldham 30	
	Oldham 14 Warrington 21	(Regal Trophy)
	Oldham 16 Warrington 2	
1989-90	Oldham 16 Warrington 24	(Lancs Cup Final at St.Helens)
	Oldham 6 Warrington 10	(Challenge Cup s-final at Wigan)
1990-91	Oldham 4 Warrington 2	
	Warrington 22 Oldham 14	
1991-92	Oldham 3 Warrington 8	Challenge Cup
1992-93	Oldham 33 Warrington 20	(Lancashire Cup)
1993-94	Oldham 12 Warrington 18	
	Warrington 23 Oldham 6	
1994-95	Warrington 55 Oldham 6	
	Oldham 52 Warrington 22	
1995-96	Warrington 40 Oldham 8	
	Oldham 30 Warrington 9	
1996	Oldham 4 Warrington 26	(Challenge Cup)
	Oldham 35 Warrington 24	
	Warrington 42 Oldham 24	
1997	Warrington 28 Oldham 18	

DETAILS OF WARRINGTON'S LAST VISIT TO OLDHAM

Sunday 9th June 1996 At Watersheddings
Super League

OLDHAM 35 WARRINGTON 24
half-time 26-4
attendance 3,243

Oldham tries: Adrian Belle, Darren Abram, Ian Sherratt, Rob Myler & David Bradbury.
goals: Paul Topping (7), Martin Crompton.
dropped goal: Toa Kohe-Love (2), Jon Roper, Richard Henare & Willie Swann.
Warrington tries: Iestyn Harris (2).
goals: Iestyn Harris (2).

Oldham: Paul Atcheson; Adrian Belle, Darren Abram, Paul Topping, Rob Myler; Paul Crook, Martin Crompton; Ian Sherratt, Jon Clarke, Gary Lord, Matt Munroe, Joe Fairnalo & David Bradbury. Substitutes, Ian Gildart, Howard Hill, Andy Patmore & Paul Davidson.

Warrington: Chris Eckersley; Mark Forster, Toa Kohe-Love, Jon Roper, Richard Henare; Iestyn Harris, Willie Swann; Mark Jones, Andy Bennett, Mark Hilton, Paul Sculthorpe, Paul Cullen & Chris Rudd. Substitutes, Paul Barrow, Kris Watson, Paul Hulme & Ronnie Kettlewell.

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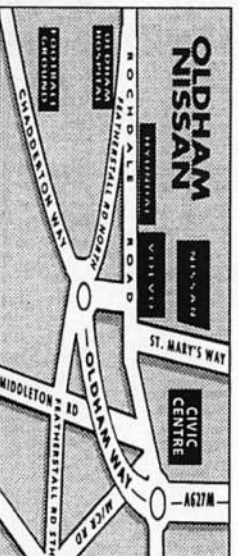
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Academy News

We had a lovely trip through the lakes last Saturday for our last away league fixture of the season to Whitehaven who we beat quite convincingly a month ago at home. We were in good spirits on the way up the weather was scorching but we were making good time and stoppeed for breakfast at Tebay with plenty of time to spare but what a difference a few miles makes, we hit a traffic jam and didn't get to the ground till 20 minutes before the kick-off.

Whitehaven caught us still asleep and were 10 points up in as many minutes but our lads showed great character to claw their way back into the game and led by 12 - 10 at half time scoring twice through scrum half Wilkes and a goal through Svabic we held out till threequarter time and then a bad mistake by our winger let them in for the matchwinner but our lads showed plenty of character to come back and take the lead and that pleased me. **Brian Gartland**

Alliance Report

The troubles of the first team decimated the Alliance squad for the away game to Wigan of all places, it was a case of ringing around and chasing volunteers to play due to the call up of Jimmy Cowans, Tony Nuttall, Rob Myler, Afi Leuila and Chris McKinney for first team duty. Add to this a county call up at Academy level for Paul Deacon and injuries to Gary Burns, Danny Guest, Paul Norman and Karl Switzner you can appreciate the difficulty in fielding 17 players.

In the event we went to Wigan with a team consisting mainly of Academy and amateur players, looking particularly weak in the pack. In the event Wigan took an early lead and having pushed into third spot in the Alliance championship I expected them to run riot against clearly inferior opposition on paper.

To their great credit, the Oldham team showed tremendous character and team spirit and hit back with a Svabic try under the posts.

With Wiganers Prescott and Meade leading from the front we played ourselves into the game with Craig Barker having an outstanding game in attack, up front Hugh Gumbs, Craig Sutcliffe from Shaw, and David Milne rose to the challenge leading to another Prescott try before half-time. In the circumstances we went 20 - 10 down and I was certainly the happiest of the two coaches.

For the first twenty minutes of the second half we matched Wigan try for try with two from Joe McNicholas and one from Hugh Gumbs.

Unfortunately Svabic hit the posts twice with conversion attempts from the touchline which reduced the pressure on Wigan.

With ten minutes remaining the score was 30-22 before Wigan scored two tries to finish up 40-22 victors. In the final analysis to score five tries at Wigan with a team almost thrown together was

quite an achievement.

Overall this season I have been pleased with the progress made at Alliance level. Despite the problems at first team level we have achieved a mid table place and reached the senior final of the Alliance Cup, losing only 3-2 to the eventual winners of the trophy, Wigan.

From being relegated and then reprieved at the end of last season we have shown a significant improvement.

During the season we have beaten all the teams in the top six and if the same players had been available for games against weaker sides such as Salford, Featherstone, Halifax and Warrington, I am sure we were capable of pushing Leeds for the title.

Paddy Kirwan

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

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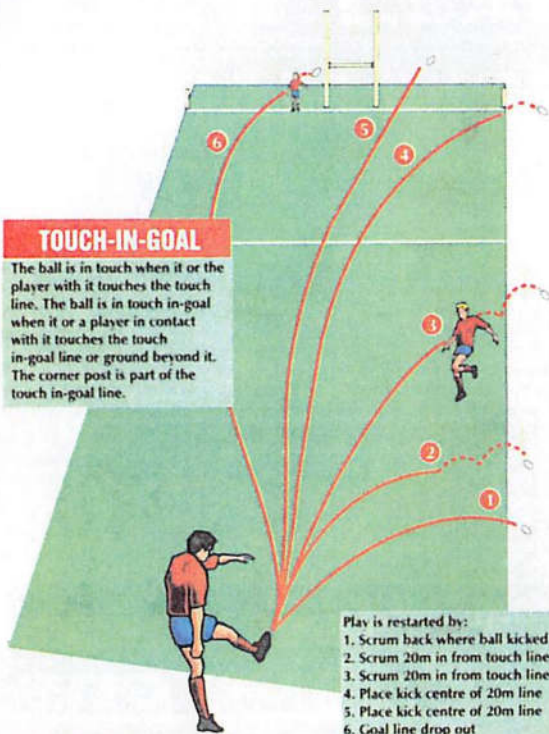
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HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

TOUCH-IN-GOAL

The ball is in touch when it or the player with it touches the touch line. The ball is in touch in-goal when it or a player in contact with it touches the touch in-goal line or ground beyond it. The corner post is part of the touch in-goal line.



Play is restarted by:

1. Scrum back where ball kicked
2. Scrum 20m in from touch line
3. Scrum 20m in from touch line
4. Place kick centre of 20m line
5. Place kick centre of 20m line
6. Goal line drop out

REFEREE'S SIGNALS



interlock



SCRUM POSITIONS

- Full back
- Right wing
- Right centre
- Left centre
- Left wing
- Five eight
- Scrum half
- Front row prop forward
- Hooker
- Front row forward
- Second row forward
- Second row forward
- Lock

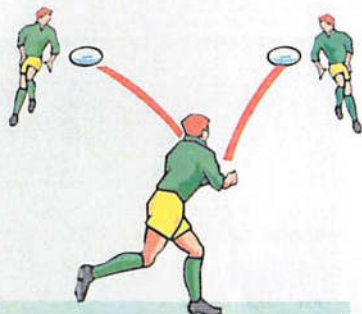
THE SCRUM

The forward pack forms the scrum and all other players must stand behind the scrum. The halfback of the not guilty side then feeds the ball into the scrum except the half who stands next to the scrum.

A scrum is formed after a knock-on, an unintentional forward pass or after the ball goes over the side line from general play.

FORWARD PASS OR KNOCK-ON

A pass is legal provided it goes backwards to a team mate. If the ball is accidentally propelled forward with a player's arm or hand, it's called a knock-on. If the opposition takes possession of the ball, it then controls play. However, if the attacking side retrieves the ball, the referee will call for a scrum.



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On This Day . . .

Don Yates recalls this day in history.

It was on this day in 1957, Saturday 31st August, that full-back Frank Dyson enjoyed a field day in Huddersfield's 68-19 home victory over Batley in a Yorkshire Cup-tie. He landed 13 goals and still found time to cross for a couple of tries for a total of 32 points. Winger Mick Sullivan also enjoyed himself that day, scoring six tries.

Six years later, on Saturday 31st August 1963, Dyson had moved on to Oldham as player-coach and he landed seven goals that day as the Roughyeds beat Batley 44-7 in a Second Division match at Watersheddings. Winger Trevor Simms scored a hatrick of tries in that match.

Another high scoring match took place on Saturday 31st August 1935 down in Sydney, Australia where Western Suburbs defeated Canterbury 65-11 with half-back Les Mead scoring a try and 12 goals. Five years after suffering that disappointing defeat Canterbury suffered further disappointment on Saturday 31st August 1940 when they lost 24-14 to Eastern Suburbs in the Australian Premiership Final. The Roosters pack, which included Ray Stehr and Joe Pearce, proved too much for Canterbury before a crowd of 24,167 at Sydney Cricket Ground. Back to Britain where, on Wednesday 31st August 1960, Yorkshire met Lancashire before a crowd of 15,045 at Belle Vue, Wakefield. The Tykes led 17-8 at half-time but Lancashire hit back to win 21-20. Both Oldham and Warrington were well represented in that match. Oldham stand-off Alan Kellett scored a try for

Yorkshire and centre Alan Davies two tries for Lancashire. Warrington had four players in the Lancashire line-up, full-back Eric Fraser (two goals), winger Bobby Greenhough (try), centre Jim Challinor and second-row forward Laurie Giffedder (goal). In addition, Warrington whistler Charlie Appleton was in charge of the match.

On Tuesday 31st August 1965, Oldham entertained the New Zealand tourists. It was a dour encounter which the Kiwis won 5-2. Full-back John Winton landed a penalty for Oldham whilst Kevin Dixon scored the Kiwi try which was converted by Jack Fagan. Making his debut for Oldham that evening was scrum-half Tommy Canning who had been signed from the Vulcan RUFC.

Ten years later, on Sunday 31st August 1975, Rochdale Hornets lost 22-10 at home to Workington Town in a Lancashire Cup-tie. Making his debut for Hornets that day was second-row forward Wally Jones who had been signed from Warrington for £500 earlier that month. Jones later moved on to Oldham where he gave good service to the Roughyeds.

Finally, it was on this day in 1969, Sunday 31st August, that the undefeated former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Rocky Marciano was killed in a plane crash.

A nice thought 24 hours before I fly home from Australia.

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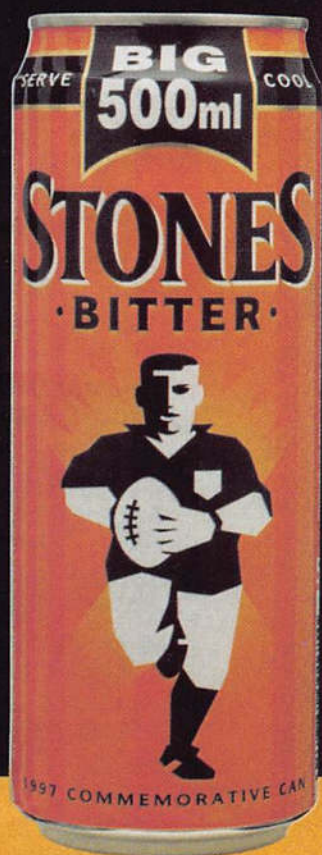


Caught

Ball watching!



IN CANNES AND PARIS



TASTE THE ACTION

Here and There

With Don Yates

Last Saturday the National Conference League season began and it continues now with a full programme of matches throughout the winter. Next Saturday's fixtures include top Lancashire side Woolston Rovers at home to Egremont Rangers in the Premier Division whilst the other Warrington based club, Crofields, travel away to York where they play

New Earswick All Blacks in a Second Division fixture. Those two clubs are at home on alternate Saturdays during most of the season thereby providing excellent fare for Warrington fans throughout the winter months.

Here in Oldham we are fortunate enough to have a Conference League Premier Division match in the town each Saturday throughout the season. Saddleworth Rangers play at Shaw Hall Bank Road, Greenfield and St.Annes play at Higginshaw Road, Oldham Edge. Matches at Saddleworth kick-off at 2.30pm throughout the season because Rangers' ground is equipped with floodlights. Saints' matches also kick-off at 2.30pm although during the dark months the kick-offs are brought forward to 2pm. There is excellent coverage of the local amateur game in the Oldham Chronicle with Roger Halstead not only covering Conference matches but every amateur club in the Oldham area including junior and schoolboy teams.

The standard of rugby produced by the Conference clubs is first class so any fan wishing to continue with his weekly 'fix' of rugby should go along to the following matches throughout the winter.

Saturday, 6th September
Saddleworth Rangers v. Dudley Hill

Saturday, 13th September
St.Annes v. St.Patricks

Saturday, 20th September
Saddleworth Rangers v. St.Annes

Saturday, 27th September
St.Annes v. Woolston Rovers

Saturday, 4th October
Saddleworth Rangers v. Beverley

Saturday, 11th October
St.Annes v. Egremont Rangers

Saturday, 18th October
Saddleworth Rangers v. Heworth

Saturday, 25th October
St.Annes v. Lock Lane

Saturday, 1st November
no match, first test at Wembley

Saturday, 8th November
Saddleworth Rangers v. Askam

Saturday, 15th November
St.Annes v. Beverley

Saturday, 22nd November
St.Annes v. Walney Central

Saturday, 29th November
Saddleworth Rangers v. Egremont Rangers

Saturday, 6th December
Challenge Cup (1)
Both Saints & Rangers will be at home

Saturday, 13th December
St.Annes v. Leigh Miners

Saturday, 20th December
Challenge Cup (2)

Saturday, 3rd January
St.Annes v. Saddleworth Rangers

Saturday, 10th January
Challenge Cup (3)

Saturday, 17th January
Saddleworth Rangers v. Mayfield

Saturday, 24th January
St.Annes v. West Hull

Saturday, 31st January
Saddleworth Rangers v. Walney Central

Saturday, 7th February
St.Annes v. Dudley Hill

Saturday, 14th February
Saddleworth v. St.Patricks
St.Annes v. Askam

Saturday, 21st February
Saddleworth Rangers v. Lock Lane

Saturday, 28th February
Saddleworth Rangers v. Leigh miners

Saturday, 7th March
St. Annes v. Mayfield

Saturday, 14th March
Saddleworth Rangers v. Woolston Rovers

Junior Bears Page

Well the time has finally arrived, yes it's our very last Super League match of the season.

Buster Bear welcomes all you Junior Bears to Boundary Park today,

We also extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of Warrington Wolves who are our opponents today.

These notes have been written very early so that they make publication so I am not sure of how our results have gone over Wigan and Paris, however they have gone lets make today something special.

Oldham Bears this season have completed something no other team has done and that is the Junior Bears have seen that a mascot has represented them at every Super League ground this season. Can I thank those children who have achieved this feat you all deserve one big pat on the back, you have shown that there is still support for the club and that our Junior section is one of the very best. A thank you should also go to the clubs where we have travelled, without their support this could not have been achieved.

All the children who have been mascots this season will form a guard of honour when the team leave the tunnel this afternoon in a special thank you to the team Finally but by no means least a very big thanks to Martin Crompton our team captain, Martin has taken time to meet each mascot and have their picture taken with him before each match which has provided a special moment for the mascots all season.

Thanks Martin.....

Come on OLDHAM, Come on OLDHAM.

The Junior Bears took on Junior Latics last Sunday in a special event organised by the Royal Mail. Watch out in the press for how things went, who won the Junior Supporters Club Challenge and how much the children raised for the charity of their choice. All the proceeds will benefit the children's ward at the Royal Oldham Hospital, their slogan for the day was 'kids for kids'. Well done to all those who took part.

Did you get those teasers answered correctly, lets see.....

Q. Which other Super League team did Eric Hughes formally coach. A. St. Helens

Q. Which Wigan player is also known as 'Billy Wiz'

A. Jason Robinson

That's the last set of teasers this season, how did you score.....

Mascot for the match this last match is Carl Clare

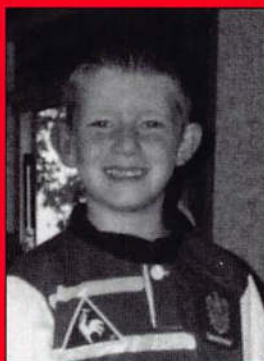
Carl is six years old attends Alt Primary School in Oldham.

Carl is one of two boys and he has a younger brother is called Cameron and is a year old.

Favourite player for Carl this season has been Afi Leuila .

Carl enjoys playing both Rugby and football.

That's all from the mascot corner this season, take care Kids.....



**Junior Bears
MASCOT**

As it is the last programme notes I have to write the birthdays will go on until next season and I don't have all that space, what I do wish is

Happy Birthday

to all the Junior Bears who haven't appeared in the programme and keep a watch on the post for that special card on your special day....

Buster Bear!!!!

Don't forget tomorrow evening..... Have you forgot already. It's our Player of the Season presentation. Presentations will be made to both First team and 'A' team player of the season. The first team player has been chosen by you so I hope you all voted and the 'A' team player was chosen on behalf of the Junior bears by Roger Halstead from the Oldham Chronicle. Admission is free to Junior Bears and 50p for the adults. Don't forget to bring your membership pass with you. See you all there at 7.00pm in the Bears Den (Pennine Lounge)

That it from me for this season, all that is left for me to write is thanks for being good fun kids, do well at school and take care..enjoy the game and hope to see you all after hibernation next season.....

Come on OLDHAM, Come on OLDHAM.

LUV BUSTER.....

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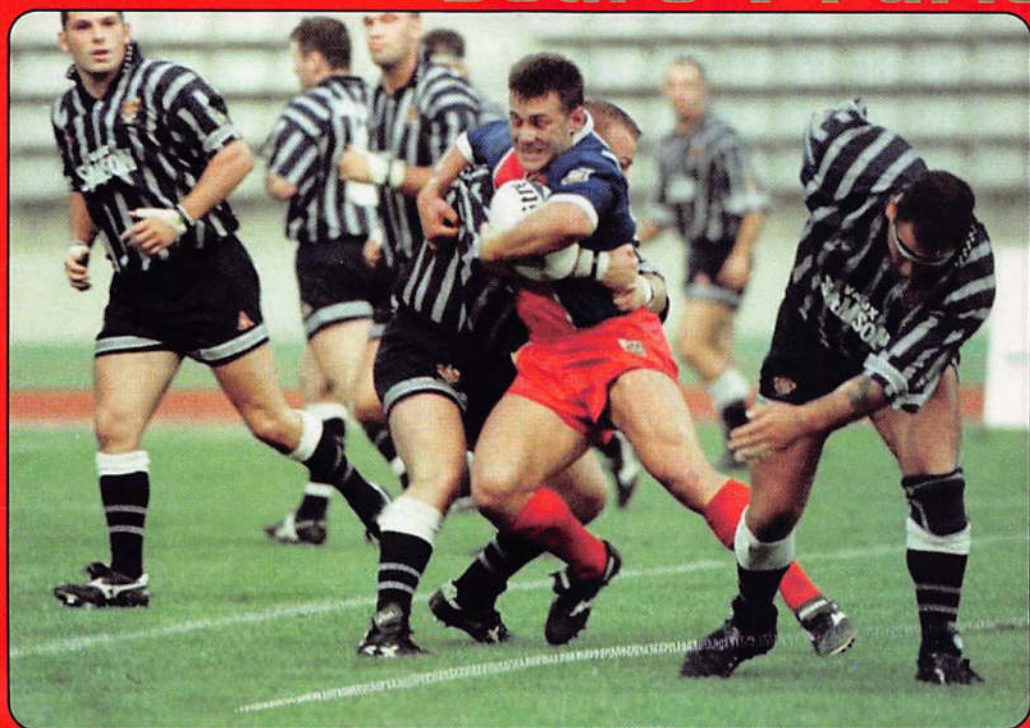
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Bears v Paris



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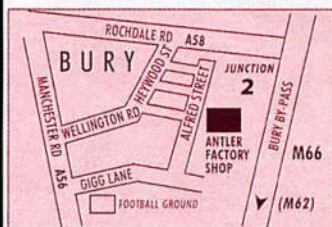
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Our Visitors Today

WARRINGTON WOLVES

PAUL HULME Age 30. Joined Warrington in June 1996 from Widnes, a club he served with distinction for 12 years, earning Great Britain honours along the way. Began his career as a scrum half, but has played a lot of his rugby in the back row and is more than an able hooker. A tremendous tackling forward with a huge heart and appetite for the game. He is a role model for the younger players to follow.

CHRIS RUDD Age 27. Centre. Joined Warrington along with Gary Chambers from Kells ARLC in Cumbria in February 1988. A Cumbrian County player who can play in several positions, he has to date made over 140 appearances for Warrington, scored 17 tries and kicked 100 goals.

TONY TAPUPU Age 27. Second row forward who signed for Warrington in November 1996 from Auckland Warriors. A strong running forward with a reputation for winning matches, much is expected from him over the coming months at Wilderspool.

PAUL SCULTHORPE Age 19 and already a seasoned International second row forward. A tremendous talent in the modern game, Paul signed for Warrington in September 1994 and quickly established himself as a regular first team player. Toured with Great Britain last year and was one of the team's outstanding successes. Paul has already made 60 first team appearances and has scored 16 tries.

WARREN STEVENS Age 18. Signed professional from Orrell St. James ARLC in October 1995 and has already impressed in his early first team appearances. A powerful running forward who will obviously get better as he matures, he too is a name for the future.

SALESI FINAU Age 23. Full name Salei Manu O Pangai Peni Finau, Tongan by birth and represented his country in the 1995 Rugby League World Cup where he impressed sufficiently for Warrington to sign him on professional forms in November of that year. Signed as a centre/wing three quarter he has now progressed to the front row and has made 25 first team appearances to date.

PAUL DARBYSHIRE Age 27. Now in his second spell at Wilderspool whom he first signed for in May 1988 as a centre from Wigan St. Patricks ARLC. Played in the Challenge Cup Semi Final when 19 and then went to seek his fortune in Australia. Returned in December 1996 and was immediately re-signed by Warrington and now plays in the second row. Has just celebrated his century of first team appearances.

LEE PENNY Joined Warrington in September 1994 from Orrell St. James ARLC. A strong running attacking full back, has already earned Under 21 International honours and has scored almost 50 tries in 125 first team appearances.

MARK FORESTER Age 32. One of the rare band of players who have played for only one professional club. Mark joined Warrington in November 1981 and has played in over 360 games, scoring 150 tries for the club. A former Great Britain International wing-three quarter, he celebrated a well earned benefit season in 1992.

TOA KOHE-LOVE Age 20. Signed for Warrington from New Zealand side Parramata Panthers in February 1996. A former junior Kiwi centre, he quickly established himself in the Warrington first team and has made 30 appearances to date, scoring 10 tries. A player with a natural talent from whom much is expected at Wilderspool.

JONATHAN ROPER Age 20. Signed from his home town Cumbrian club in May 1993. Jonathan is the grandson of ex-Whitehaven 'legend' Sol Roper. He earned selection from the Great Britain Tourists to Fiji, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand but was forced to return home with a knee injury. Now back to full fitness he has taken over the clubs goalkicking mantle and has made over 50 first team appearances for Warrington scoring 28 tries.

NIGEL VAGANA Age 20. Only joined Warrington in December 1996 from Auckland Warriors, and has become an instant hit at Wilderspool with his regular try scoring feats, crossing for

nine tries in his first ten games. Centre is his preferred position, but can play equally well at full back or at stand off.

RICHARD HENARE Age 28. Born in New Zealand. A talented wingman who joined Warrington in March 1996 from Carlisle and became an instant hit with his try scoring feats. Has averaged a try a match in his 27 appearances to date for the club.

KELLY SHELFORD Age 30. Former New Zealand International, he joined Warrington in August 1991 from Whitehaven. Signed as a loose forward, but has played much of his rugby for Warrington as a stand off. A clever ball player he has been the inspiration of many fine Warrington performances. Has made 160 appearances for the club and has scored 40 tries.

GARY CHAMBERS Age 27. Joined Warrington from Kells ARLC (Cumbria) in February 1988. A true on hundred per center who has suffered from more than his fair share of injuries over the years. He has still managed 130 appearances for Warrington and has represented his native Cumbria.

MARK HILTON Age 22. Affectionately known as "The Beast", Mark is a formidable prop forward who is surely destined for future honours. Joined Warrington from Orrell St. James ARLC in March 1992 and quickly progressed via the Academy and Alliance side to become the club's first choice open side prop forward. He possesses an incredible work rate and has to date made 82 first team appearances.

IAN KNOTT Centre/second row. Born in Oldham, he joined Warrington from Wigan St. Jude's in October 1993 and has proved to be a regular points scorer. Age 20, he has already made over 25 first team appearances. Former English schools International.

SHAUN GERITAS Age 19. Back row forward. Joined Warrington from Woolston ARLC in May 1995. Played in 20 Academy games last season and is now a regular member of the Alliance side. A skillful ball handler, he too is a name for the future.



The Bear Facts Super League '97

Rd	Date	Team	Venue	Time	Score	Att
1	Sun 16th March	Leeds Rhinos	A	3pm	L 32-22	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 19-10	4254
13	Fri 30th May	Castleford	(H)	7.30pm	D 12-12	3667
14	Sun 29th June	St Helens	(H)	3pm	L 30-34	
15	Sun 6th July	Sheffield Eagles	(H)	3pm	L 20-21	2168
16	Fri 11th July	Castleford Tigers	(A)	7.30pm	L 20-25	5048
17	Fri 18th July	Queensland Cowboys	(H)	7.30pm	W 20-16	2961
18	Fri 25th July	Adelaide Rams	(H)	7.30pm	L 2-18	3513
19	Tue 5th Aug	London Broncos	(A)	7.30pm	L 34-26	
20	Sun 10th Aug	St Helens	(A)	6pm	L 36-26	
21	Sun 17th Aug	Halifax Blue Sox	(A)	3pm	L 40-12	4124
22	Fri 22nd Aug	Wigan Warriors	(H)	7.30pm	L 32-26	
23	Tues 26th Aug	Paris St Germain	(A)			
24	Sun 31st Aug	Warrington Wolves	(H)	3pm		

OLDHAM BEARS RLFC SUPER LEAGUE SQUAD



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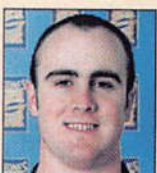
Number 6
Francis Maloney



Number 7
Martin Crompton
Ashton Foods



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

Today's Teams

Oldham Bears v Warrington Wolves

NO	PLAYER	NO	PLAYER
1	PAUL ATCHESON	1	LEE PENNY
2	SCOTT RANSON	19	SALESI FINAU
3	DARREN ABRAM	4	JONATHON ROPER
4	PAUL TOPPING	6	NIGAL VAGUNA
6	FRANCIS MALONEY	2	MARK FORSTER
7	MARTIN CROMPTON	16	KELLY SHELFORD
9	JOHN CLARKE	37	LEE BRIERS
11	GARY LORD	10	GARY CHAMBERS
12	JOE FAIMALO	7	WILLIE SWANN
5	ROB MYLER	18	GEORGE MANN
16	HOWARD HILL	12	TONY TOLUPU
20	AFI LEUILA	21	IAN KNOTT
23	BRETT GOLDSPIK	13	PAUL SCULTHORPE
26	LUKE GOODWIN	SUBS	
27	DAVID STEPHENSON	46	DAVID MURRAY
28	DAVID JONES	20	MICHAEL WAINWRIGHT
29	TONY NUTTALL	42	RICHIE EYRES
		23	WARREN STEVENS

REFEREE

To be arranged

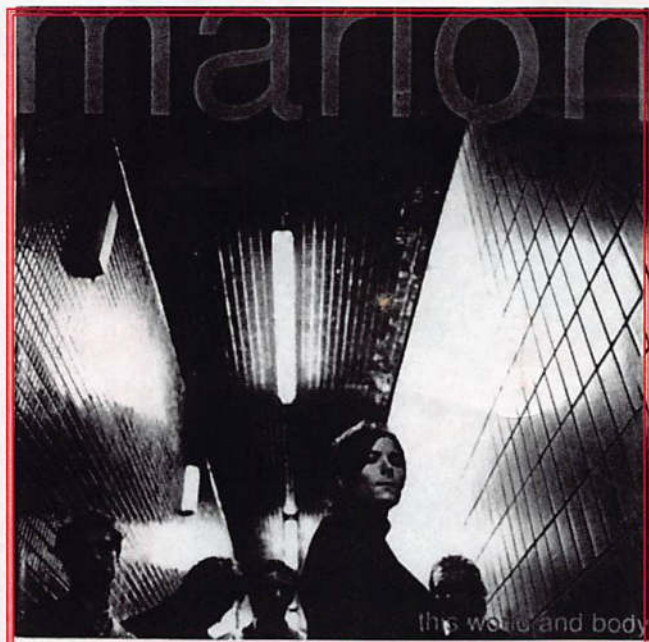
TOUCH JUDGES

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IN GOAL JUDGES

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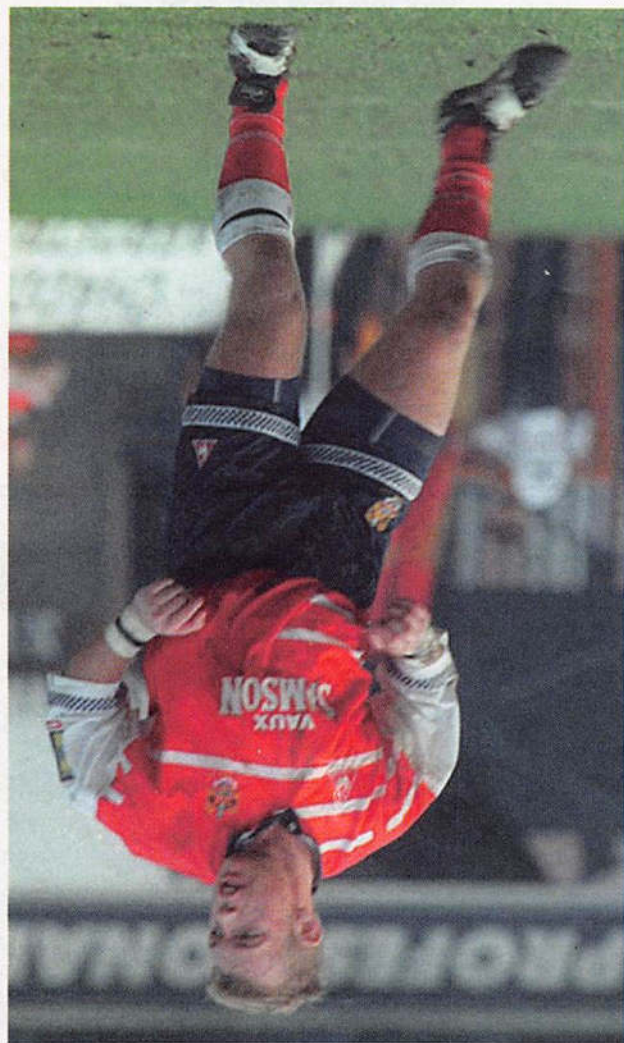
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