

OLDHAM RLFC

The Roughyeds



KEIGHLEY COUGARS

BOUNDARY PARK SUN 29TH APRIL 2001 KO 5.00PM

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Up Front

... with Christopher Hamilton



TODAY sees the next stage of the drama that is Oldham Rugby League Club. In today's opponents Keighley we are up against a team which was one of the main tips for success this season bearing in mind the strength of the squad that Steve Deakin has assembled. Over the last few games their form has dipped as they have suffered injuries to their main playmakers, Martin Wood and Nathan

Antonik but I am sure they will be equally determined to 'steady the ship' this afternoon against ourselves.

It is, perhaps, indicative of the whole fixture format this season that today sees us staging a home game immediately after the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final and yet other teams have no game. Bearing in mind the fact that we are trying to squeeze games in before vacating Boundary Park if has not helped that one of our 'free' Wednesdays is the night that those clubs who do not play today all have a game.

Anyway, enough doom and gloom, at the end of the day we at Oldham wouldn't know what to do if things went smoothly for us so we are not in any different position to what we have been before. I have spent last week in a series of meetings with various T.V. broadcasters and programme makers in an attempt to find out what chance, if any, we have of obtaining TV coverage for next season and beyond. All of the clubs in the NFP agree that this is potentially the salvation of the clubs in this division as there is effectively no Murdoch money from then, so the outcome of those talks will be crucial to the future.

Keep your fingers crossed that they have been encouraging and, if they have, we have something to build on.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



The Roughyeds

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Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94.

FRONT COVER

John Hough makes another break
from dummy half

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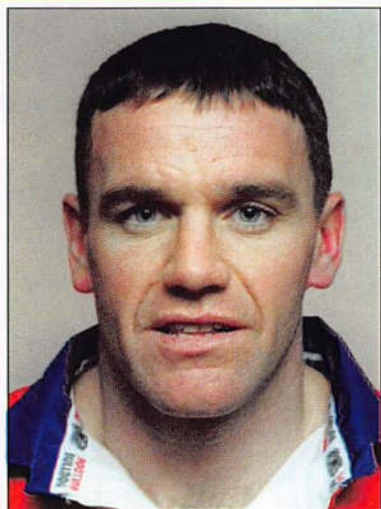
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FORD FOCUS . . . with Mike Ford



THESE notes were written before the game with Doncaster on Wednesday, a match which, if we won it, could have lifted us back into fourth position. If we can win today against Keighley that, too, would do out cause a power of good. The Cougars, like ourselves, have had a few setbacks lately following their terrific start to the season. That said Keighley remain one of the best sides in the competition and, in Steve Deakin, have one of the best coaches in the League. They have ambitions of their own and will be keen to take the points today so we will have to be on our mettle especially given our heavy programme of games.

Last Sunday at Batley I felt we really got back on song with some terrific defence. We were heavily penalised in the second half but rode out the storm and finished the stronger. I felt that without Casey, Hough and Norton we did really well. Keith Brennan was exceptional and Cleggy, Phil Farrell and Ian Sinfield worked themselves to a stand still. Andy Proctor was back to something like his best and Lee Doran made a real impact when he came on. What's more we thought our fans really tried hard for us and their vocal encouragement was great. Today's game is a crucial fixture and we hope you'll give us the same backing. Before Wednesday Joey Hayes was our only injury doubt, so here's hoping everyone came through o.k. against Doncaster.

Enjoy the match.

Mike



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Michael's Match



... from the pen of Michael Turner

TODAY we welcome the players, officials and supporters of the Keighley club to Boundary Park and in so doing recall a match against the West Yorkshire team from our championship winning season of 1956-57.

The match was played on October 27th 1956 and it was celebrations all the way at Watersheddings as the club paraded the Lancashire Cup, which had been won the previous week against St Helens at Station Road, Swinton. This was the first time the "Roughyeds" had secured the trophy since 1933 and before the game the team proudly posed with the cup (see pic). It was then left to two of the "rested" players to carry the cup around the ground. Ironically the task fell to two Yorkshiremen. Hooker, Jack Keith and winger John Etty paraded the cup to the delight of the Oldham supporters.

A crowd of just under thirteen and a half thousand turned up for the game, the majority of whom were no doubt anticipating an Oldham victory. This eventually came to pass but not before Keighley had put up some stout defence. However, this was a time when

Oldham were sweeping all before them and tries from Turner, Pitchford and Cracknell complimented by five goals from Ganley were enough to give Oldham the spoils by nineteen points to five. The Keighley score consisted of a try from Lowe and a goal from Hollindrake. A pointer to the extent of the Keighley endeavours could be that the next visitors to Watersheddings were the 1956 Australian tourists who were whacked 21 - 2. (Three weeks later Oldham travelled to Lawkholme Lane, there to complete the "double" by 32 - 15.)

OLDHAM:

Ganley; Cracknell, Ayres, Davies, O'Grady; Stirrup, Pitchford; Jackson, Carruthers, Vines, Little, Winslade, Turner.

KEIGHLEY:

Black; Hollindrake, Taylor, Hallas, Verrenkamp; Anderson, Brown; Marston, Harden, Bardgett, Grice, Lowe, Crewdson.

Attendance: 13,478

Referee: Mr E Clay (Rothwell)



The Oldham team v Keighley October 27th 1956.

Back Row: J Etty, G Jenkins, D Vines, I Carruthers, K Jackson, D Turner, S Little, C Winslade, J Keith, W Howard.

Middle Row: W.B. Ganley, R Cracknell, F Stirrup, A Davies, T O'Grady.

Front Row: D Ayres, mascot, F Pitchford.

ROGER

ROGER



THE battle for places in the top eight of the Northern Ford Premiership is building up into a fascinating contest in which at least a dozen clubs are in with a shout as the season passes the half-way mark and hits the back

straight.

It's a far cry from last season when, at this stage, only seventh and eighth places were realistically still available for a couple of clubs just outside the cut-off mark.

Another big change this year is the manner in which one club, Leigh Centurions, is racing way ahead several lengths in front of the rest, who jostle for places way behind as they approach each successive hurdle.

It is interesting to recall that, last season, the race to finish top went down to the wire and when the regular 28 match programme was completed Dewsbury had made it to the pinnacle for the second season running with the narrowest of margins over Keighley Cougars.

The Rams finished on 45 points, one more than Keighley and only three more than Doncaster and Leigh, who finished third and fourth respectively.

Oldham, in sixth spot, pulled in 39 points and it could have been oh so different when you consider that Dewsbury won only 14-12 in a thriller at Boundary Park and only 16-12 at the Ram stadium where the Roughyeds went 10-down in as many minutes and then gave as good as they got, if not more, for the remaining 70 minutes.

Prior to last weekend's games Rochdale Hornets were in sixth place but, significantly, they were a massive 12 points behind leaders Leigh, who at that stage had won 16 of their 17 games.

Dewsbury, second, had been beaten four times; Keighley, third, had lost five; as had Featherstone. Widnes, Rochdale and Oldham had all lost six.

More importantly, and this is what makes the division so competitive, only four points split Featherstone in fourth place and Batley in 12th spot.

Even Whitehaven, 13th in the league ladder with 17 points, were only three points outside the

top eight and presumably still fancying their chances of qualifying for the end-of-season play-off carnival.

Loss of form on the one hand and loss of players on the other has hit some clubs hard - notably Dewsbury, who not only lost coach Neil Kelly when he took over at Widnes but, soon afterwards, suffered the departure, also to the Auto Quest Stadium, of key men Matthew Long, Sean Richardson and Richard Agar.

A huge injury list, headed by star man Martin Wood, took the edge off Keighley, while Doncaster's financial problems were such that several influential players walked away, not least scrum-half Latham Tawhai and utility man James Bunyan, who signed for Rochdale.

Other clubs, on the other hand, appear to be gambling heavily financially on finishing in a good position in the play-off zone and making a determined bid to win the Grand Final in the hope of earning promotion to Super League.

Heading this list is Widnes, the NFP's big spenders who have the facilities, the stadium and the fan base to put forward a strong case for elevation to the top flight. But what if they don't make it? What then, for Widnes, if they fail to achieve their goal and are left to pick up the pieces, still in the NFP and with no Murdoch money to speak of next year?

Rochdale are not quite in that bracket, but it doesn't take anyone with inside information to know that the Hornets must have spent pretty heavily to put together the Dave Watson inspired team which had won eight games out of nine when it beat Oldham and Sheffield over the Easter holiday.

Sheffield had also been on a roll until they came unstuck at Spotland, while Workington have also put pressure in recent week on the teams hovering in mid table just outside the top eight.

Amazingly, all this is against a background of severe financial hardship, with several of the aforementioned clubs hoisting distress signals, not to mention similar tales of woe from some of the clubs in the division's lower echelons.

Where it will all end is anyone's guess, but the Oldham chairman, Christopher Hamilton, is probably close to the mark when he says that, for several clubs in the NFP, it will finish in tears.

Too many other clubs, he fears, are spending money they haven't got and are heading for a fall.

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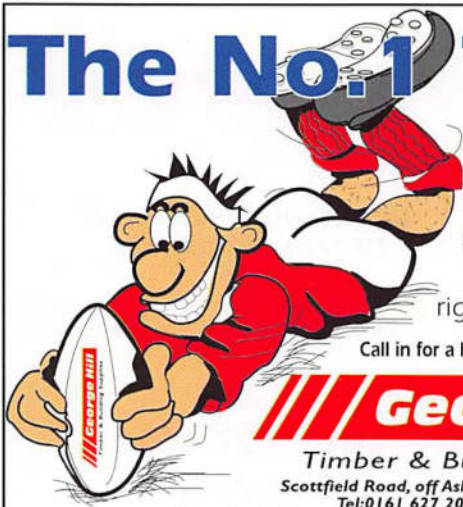
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Fixtures & Tables

ALLIANCE TEAM FIXTURES

Dec					
6	Keighley	A	7.30	L16-36	
21	Rochdale	H	7.30	W24-0	
Jan					
3	Hunslet	A	7.30	W26-10	
10	Leigh	A	7.30	L36-18	
18	Widnes	H	P		
20	Workington	H	2.30	W24-0	
Feb					
3	Whitehaven	H	P		
15	Hunslet	H	7.30	W44-6	
22	Batley	H	7.30	W38-10	
March					
17	Whitehaven	A	2.30	W28-20	
22	Featherstone	H	7.30	L24-30	
29	Doncaster	A	7.30	W56-16	
April					
4	Batley	A	7.30	W21-0	
19	Doncaster	H	7.30	W54-28	
26	Widnes Viking	H	7.30		
May					
3	Featherstone	A	7.30		
10	Keighley	H	7.30		
19	Workington	A	2.30		
24	Rochdale	A	7.30		
31	Leigh	H	7.30		
June					
7	Widnes	A	7.30		
13	Top Five Play Offs				
14	First Division Grand Final				

ALLIANCE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	PTS
Widnes Vikings	12	10	1	1	364	175	189	21
Keighley Cougars	11	9	1	1	317	116	201	19
Oldham	12	9	0	3	381	220	161	18
Leigh Centurions	11	8	1	2	326	147	179	17
Rochdale Hornets	13	7	0	6	261	257	4	14
Featherstone R	11	4	1	6	183	275	-92	9
Doncaster D	13	4	0	9	294	378	-84	8
Whitehaven	10	4	0	6	128	231	-103	8
Batley Bulldogs	10	2	0	8	90	290	-200	4
Workington Town	11	1	0	10	151	264	-113	2
Hunslet Hawks	8	1	0	7	82	224	-142	2

ACADEMY TEAM FIXTURES

April				
23	Featherstone	A	L44-14	
May				
5	BARROW	H		
13	Chorley	A		
19	Dewsbury	A		
26	DONCASTER	H		
June				
3	Gateshead	A		
9	FEATHERSTONE	H		
16	LEIGH	H		
24	York	A		
30	Barrow	A		
July				
7	WORKINGTON	H		
14	Leigh	A		
21	DEWSBURY	H		
28	CHORLEY	H		
August				
4	GATESHEAD	H		
11	Doncaster	A		
18	YORK	H		
25	Workington	A		
September				
8	Play Offs - First Round			
29	Play Offs - Grand Final			

NF PREMIERSHIP (not including Wed 25th result)

	P	W	D	L	For	Agst	Diff	PTS
Leigh Centurions	18	17	0	1	713	174	539	34
Keighley Cougars	18	12	1	5	599	267	332	25
Dewsbury Rams	17	12	0	5	521	252	269	24
Widnes Vikings	18	11	1	6	501	265	236	23
Featherstone Rovers	18	10	2	6	481	246	235	22
Rochdale Hornets	17	11	0	6	475	264	211	22
Oldham	17	11	0	6	448	265	183	22
Workington Town	17	11	0	6	421	342	79	22
Sheffield Eagles	18	10	0	8	401	316	85	20
Hull KR	18	9	2	7	309	280	29	20
Whitehaven	18	9	1	8	349	242	107	19
Doncaster Dragons	16	9	0	7	302	256	46	18
Batley Bulldogs	18	9	0	9	273	343	-70	18
Barrow Border Raiders	17	7	1	9	335	431	-96	15
Swinton Lions	17	7	0	10	321	379	-58	14
Hunslet Hawks	18	4	1	13	226	623	-397	9
Chorley Lynx	18	2	0	16	261	811	-550	4
York	18	1	1	16	143	851	-708	3
Gateshead Thunder	18	0	0	18	159	631	-472	0

Probing The NFP

MY FORECASTS of last week's games which appeared in Wednesday's Doncaster programme were spot on, with one exception. Having called Rochdale the form team of the moment I went with home advantage to Featherstone at the Lionheart only for the Hornets, who now lie seventh in the table, to prove me wrong by springing yet another sensational victory by 20-18. Highlight of the game was a 90 yard interception try by winger Marlon Billy which restored Hornets lead after Fev had fought back to 18-16 from 16-0 down.

As well as Featherstone another well fancied side to go down, though it was expected, was Dewsbury, who succumbed to Leigh Centurions 32-18, a game in which Neil Turley equalled the all time record of 33 tries in a season for a fullback. Nevertheless Leigh made hard work of it after leading at one stage 22-0.

Meanwhile my 'mad' forecast that Swinton would beat Doncaster was correct, albeit by the narrowest of margins, 19-18, a Jim Lyons drop goal deciding the issue.

And another game decided by a single point was Oldham's win at Batley, 9-8. In this case it was a Gavin Dodd drop goal which separated the sides in a game where the Roughyeds' defensive resilience was tested to the full.



Gavin Dodd

Easy wins were chalked up by the sides facing three of the bottom four clubs. Today's visitors Keighley regained some confidence when they saw off Chorley 60-18. Wingman Gareth Hooson scored a hatrick while Craig Murdock and

Ian Hughes both grabbed two. Jason Ramshaw was the Cougars' outstanding player.

Workington Town also ran up 60 against 10 by York. Left-wing Graeme Lewthwaite ran in 5 tries for Town, but stand-off Tane Manihera dictated the game and slotted over 8 goals.

Town's neighbours Whitehaven overwhelmed Hunslet 50-10 at the Recreation Ground. In this game hooker Aaron Lester had a hattrick, with fullback Paul O'Neil landing seven goals.

And finally, Barrow defeated bottom club Gateshead who put up much the best performance of the bottom four in losing by only 20-12. With the Thunder leading 12-8 on the hour a shock looked on the cards only for Darren Holt to rescue the Border Raiders after Brett McDermott had edged them ahead on 67 minutes, Holts 73rd minute try and goal finally killing off a gallant Gateshead.

This week not all clubs are in action following yesterday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final between Bradford Bulls and St. Helens. The game here at Boundary Park is the hardest one to call with both sides anxious to take the points. It's so close it could even finish as a rare draw. Home advantage should see Dewsbury overcome Workington, but Town have found their feet this season and will look on this as a potential victory.

I think we can expect Featherstone to win at Gateshead and Hull K.R. to defeat Chorley. Similarly, with York in dire straits, Whitehaven ought to prevail at Huntington Stadium, the Cumbrians still keen to gate crash the play-off places.

That leaves Sheffield to entertain Leigh at Don Valley Stadium and it would be a major upset for the Eagles to turn over the Centurions, so don't hold your breath over this one!



KEIGHLEY COUGARS

THERE are fewer penalties in games involving Keighley than any other team and the Cougars are the best disciplined team in the NFP after Barrow Border Raiders. Conclusion: expect our visitors today to play open, flowing football. Problem: that football is not as effective without the presence of the best player in the NFP, Martin Wood. Additionally, influential Australian scrum-half Nathan Antonik has also been absent injured recently with the result that Keighley's results have nose-dived. However, if Oldham underestimate the Cougars in any way today, they will be in for a bloody nose (metaphorically speaking, of course) as our visitors seek to get their season back on track.

23 year old fullback JAMES RUSHFORTH is a former Academy Player of the Year and has progressed to be a reliable last line of defence in Keighley's strong side.

CRAIG HORNE wears no.2 and is a pacy right wing with experience at Bradford Bulls. His centre partner is GARETH HOOSON who arrived at Cougar Park after departing Huddersfield-Sheffield Giants. With Daio Powell looking like he will have to retire following a third broken arm in a year Hooson looks likely to be a regular selection.

Left centre GRAEME HALLAS is a Great Britain international and is team captain. He has experience with Hull K.R., Halifax, Hull, Hunslet and Canterbury Bulldogs. He has also (alas!) appeared with Saracens.

Cougars top try scorer is Welsh international left wing JASON LEE, a class act and a selection in the 2000 NFP 'Dream Team'.

In the absence of Wood, Keighley have brought in CRAIG MURDOCK the clever halfback who appeared for Wigan and Hull. No mean play-maker, the Cougars will hope he has settled in by the time they meet Oldham today.

With Antonik out Keighley have brought back experienced scrum-half CHRIS ROBINSON a wily play-maker who started his career at Halifax and has always been hard to handle.

Up front Oldham born former Waterhead

prop MICHAEL SLICKER will feature. Slicker signed for Halifax Blue Sox before making his name with Keighley.

Similarly, JASON RAMSHAW is also a former Halifax player, albeit some years ago. Now established as one of the best and cleverest hookers in the League, Ramshaw also heads up the Cougars' development programme.

On the blind side ALAN BOOTHROYD has also played for Halifax. Highly experienced, the powerful prop has also done service at Castleford, Bradford, Huddersfield and Dewsbury.

Second-row poses a definite threat, where PAUL HARRISON and JIM LEATHAM form a potentially lethal combination. Harrison, formerly with Hull and Batley, is the brother of former coach Karl and is a big hitter in his own right. Leatham, meanwhile has played at Hull, Hunslet and Hull K.R. and is a former Academy international.

DANNY SEAL at loose-forward completes the Blue Sox connection. An all action utility player, Seal can prise open the best of defences so is definitely one to watch out for.

Other players who could appear today include MATT WALKER, a 22 year old ex-Bradford Bulls prop or second-row; KARL

SMITH a locally developed utility back; PHIL STEPHENSON a destructive prop forward; JAMES WALKER, older brother of Matt, a goal kicker, ex-Hunslet, Doncaster and Hull K.R. and now making an impression after struggling with injury; JAMES SIMEONOVICH an ex-Siddal and Huddersfield second-row; CHRIS ROSS, a newly arrived halfback from Hunslet covering the Cougars' crisis positions; MATT FOSTER a flying wing recruited from Doncaster; and another ex-Dragon returning to Cougar Park prop JOE BERRY.

And, last but not least, the Cougars are, of course, coached by STEVE DEAKIN, ex-Oldham St. Anne's, Keighley assistant, Rochdale Hornets, and now one of the most highly regarded and respected coaches in the NFP. He is sure to want a victory in his home town today.



Jason Lee



Danny Seal

Walkerbout

... with Brian Walker

KICK, RUN AND THINK

WIGAN owner Dave Whelan in a recent Daily Telegraph interview was fiercely critical of rugby league officials "small men with small minds run Rugby League and I don't like it" he is reported as saying.

The story surrounded how unfair the probable reduction in next season's salary cap would be to Wigan, the very same club that not too long ago was in desperate financial trouble, needing to be bailed out by the RFL. On the face of it a stupid statement when the sport is still spending more than its income, but his argument is that his club has to be in a position to pay its star players sufficient to ward off the temptation to move to union, and perhaps the NRL and added the club also needed the ability to attract star players from throughout the rugby playing world. His added threat to move his team over to union was ridiculed from most quarters as too stupid to contemplate. But is it?

The week before Whelan's outburst Leeds leaders, Hetherington and Carrick, proclaimed that Leeds Tykes recent union promotional

tussle at Headingley was more important to Leeds 'rugby club' than the Rhinos Challenge Cup semi-final against St Helens!

This, despite the fact that the current Tykes crowds would fit into the ladies loo, as opposed to two 13,000 home gatherings the Rhinos have attracted already this season! The truth is that next season, playing in union's premier one, and with the right marketing message, crowds will be drummed up for the visits of Saracens, Harlequins, Leicester, Northampton and Bath etc.

Down the road Bradford have also expressed interest in a 'union' venture by forming a complete new club to share the Bulls name, revamped Odsal facilities, and hopefully a good proportion of their large fan base.

Similar noises have been made by Saints and the word on the street is that the association between Warrington and Sale could become a whole lot closer.

It's old news that the kick and run broadsheets have been full of union's intention, both to attempt to strengthen their fragile hold here in the north and to attract to their sport many of league's top players. They really are out to convince their readers that this is not something that just might happen but, rather, how quickly it will happen.

So is there now a realisation and acceptance by some of our top clubs that unions quest will succeed? Is it that they now intend to enter this new arena from a position of strength, rather than later when they could have already lost many of their better players?

The men who make these decisions will all be like minded and at the end of the day the motivation will be profit. There are obvious benefits, cross coding players, year round rugby, and most important, a slice of the union sponsorship cake, but before they jump they should at least give a moment's consideration to league's heritage, including one hundred and six years of bigotry dished out by the RU. They should consider, too, that the first step into a union tie up will also be the first into the eventual formation of a hybrid sport, and the end of league as we now know it.

The irony is that yesterday Twickenham would be packed almost to the rafters in anticipation of a fast, exciting, no quarter given, humdinger club cup football game. Rugby League Football.



Daily Telegraph's announcement of the end of amateurism in the RU code.

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Cook(e)ing up a storm



As indicated in the Rochdale programme I turn today, with slightly over half the season gone, to the question of attendances. Printed below you will find two tables of attendances representing home and away 'gates' in order of size per club. This is largely self explanatory and you can draw your own conclusions and, of course, things could change significantly as the season builds to a climax and the onset of the top 8 play-offs.

HOME ATTENDANCES

CLUB	TOTAL	GAMES	AVERAGE
1. WIDNES	37,494	10	3,749
2. LEIGH	20,438	8	2,555
3. KEIGHLEY	20,569	9	2,285
4. OLDHAM	18,595	9	2,066
5. FEATHERSTONE	19,120	10	1,912
6. HULL K.R.	16,580	9	1,842
7. DEWSBURY	14,442	9	1,605
8. DONCASTER	9,114	6	1,519
9. ROCHDALE	9,810	7	1,401
10. WORKINGTON	10,895	9	1,211
11. SHEFFIELD	10,667	9	1,185
12. WHITEHAVEN	8,745	9	972
13. HUNSLET	7,654	8	957
14. BARROW	7,640	8	955
15. SWINTON	9,007	10	901
16. BATLEY	7,993	9	888
17. GATESHEAD	7,045	9	783
18. YORK	6,312	10	631
19. CHORLEY	4,798	9	533

AWAY ATTENDANCES

1. LEIGH	25,468	10	2,547
2. WIDNES	15,970	8	1,996
3. OLDHAM	14,958	8	1,870
4. HULL K.R.	15,462	9	1,718
5. FEATHERSTONE	13,623	8	1,703
6. SWINTON	11,614	7	1,659
7. KEIGHLEY	14,105	9	1,567
8. DONCASTER	15,108	10	1,511
9. DEWSBURY	11,840	8	1,480
10. WORKINGTON	11,530	8	1,441
11. ROCHDALE	14,069	10	1,407
12. WHITEHAVEN	12,265	9	1,363
13. BATLEY	12,260	9	1,362
14. HUNSLET	12,656	10	1,266
15. SHEFFIELD	10,814	9	1,202
16. BARROW	10,713	9	1,190
17. YORK	9,061	8	1,133
18. GATESHEAD	9,289	9	1,032
19. CHORLEY	8,263	9	918

Best and worst attendances per club are as follows:-

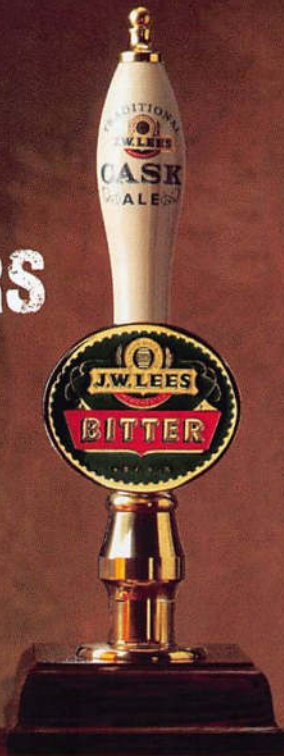
Club	Home Best	Home Worst	Away Best	Away Worst
Barrow	1294 v Oldham	627 v Chorley	2431 v Keighley	838 v Sheffield
Batley	1571 v Dewsbury	518 v Barrow	2619 v Leigh	289 v Chorley
Chorley	1382 v Leigh	254 v York	1501 v Keighley	627 v Barrow
Dewsbury	2608 v Featherstone	725 v Chorley	3126 v Leigh	469 v Gateshead
Doncaster	1970 v Sheffield	1093 v Whitehaven	3209 v Widnes	674 v Swinton
Featherstone	2683 v Leigh	1273 v Chorley	3269 v Keighley	704 v York
Gateshead	2332 v Hull K.R.	387 v Rochdale	2242 v Leigh	356 v Chorley
Hull K.R.	2384 v Featherstone	1385 v Whitehaven	3726 v Widnes	354 v Chorley
Hunslet	1404 v Keighley	612 v York	3253 v Widnes	464 v Gateshead
Keighley	3727 v Leigh	1501 v Chorley	3469 v Widnes	895 v Whitehaven

Continued on page 30.....



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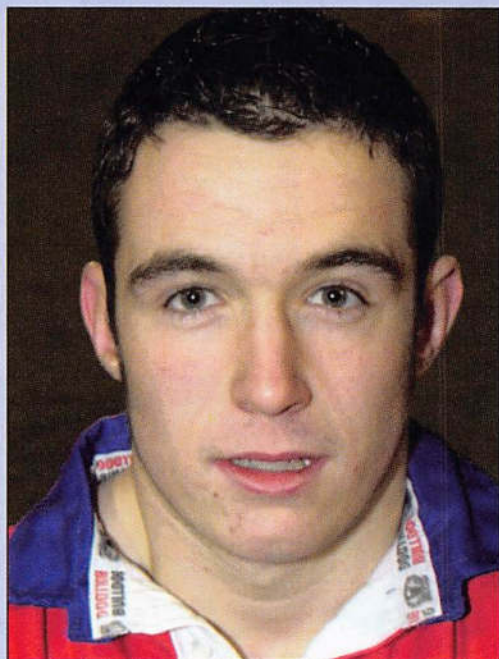
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121



.....Lee Doran

**Q. When did you first start playing rugby league?**

I started playing rugby league when I was about 13 years old at Abraham Guest School in Wigan. I played football and rugby union for a while but really

had to make a decision about which sport to settle with. After playing rugby league for Orell St. James for a while I went to Swinton as an amateur but did not really settle. Then I had a spell at Widnes where Mark Knight was the coach of the 'A' team and it was from there I came to Oldham in February 2000, a red letter day for me as my first professional club.

Q. Where do you think your future lies?

Well, I really think it is early days yet to make big decisions about my future, I am very happy here at Oldham, the club is great, the coach is excellent and the team spirit in the squad is tremendous. So I feel progress is being made, I am building up my skills and fitness levels, and enjoying getting 1st team experience. Also an added bonus is being recommended by Mike Ford for consideration in the under 21's Great Britain squad. That has really chuffed me.

Q. Are there any players you have watched and admired?

I watched Wigan a lot, when I was growing up and consider Ellery Hanley the ultimate player, a dedicated professional in every way. I always thought that the Aussie Gene Miles was an uncompromising player who gave as much as he got and was very skilful, fit and tough.

Q. Do you find anytime to relax at all?

I actually enjoy training and the gym work very much; we have a laugh so it does not seem like hard work. It is hard, but we all feel there is a goal, a personal goal, our own strength and fitness.

I like to watch TV sometimes especially golf, and I sometimes go to body building competitions. These are very interesting and informative.

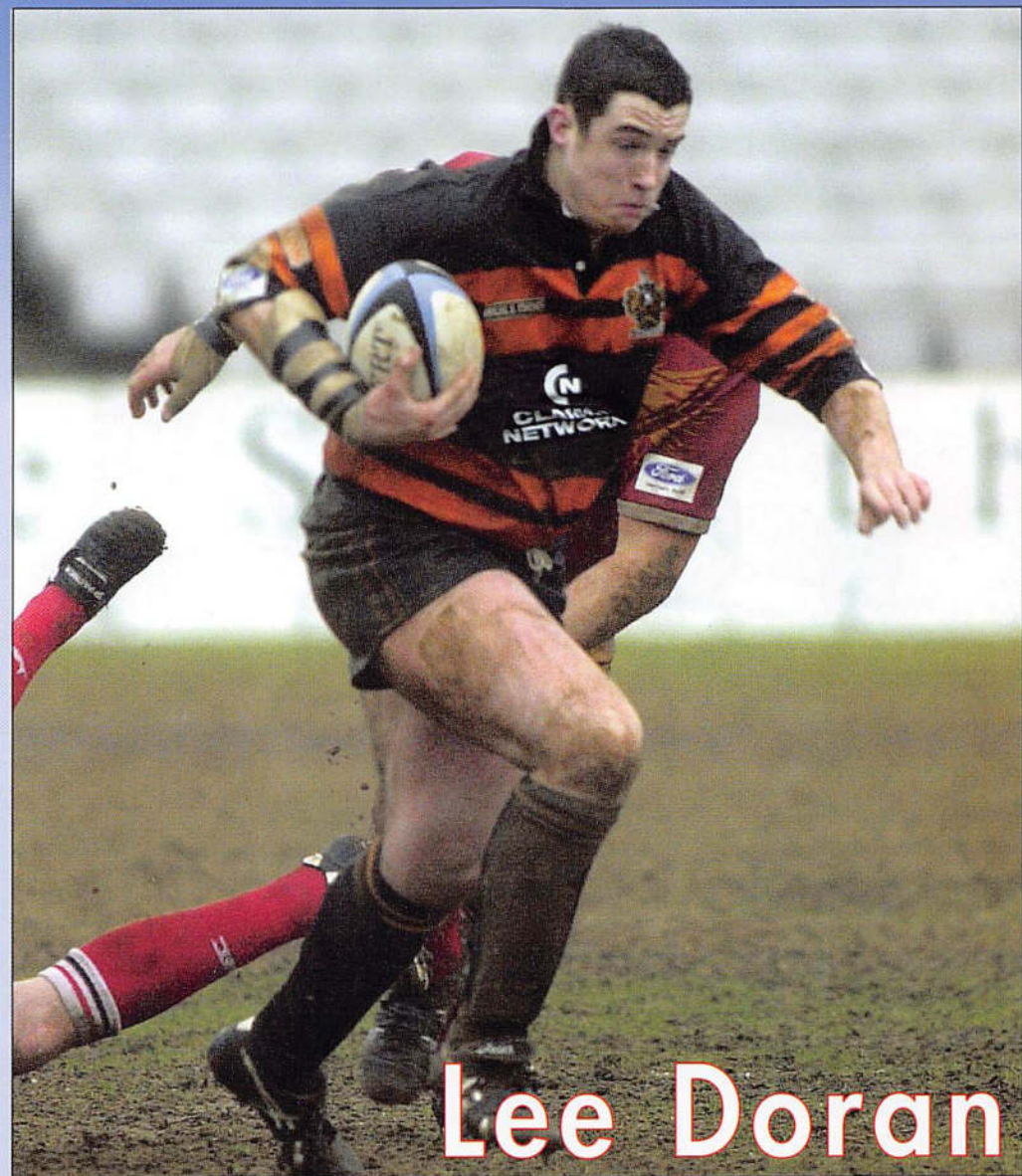
On a more personal note I honestly think my mum and dad have been such a help to me, that without them it might have been harder, I've always made my own decisions but they've backed me all the way in my sporting commitments.

I just want to do well at Oldham and get as high as possible in the league. Please give our supporters a big hand for being there when the lads need them.



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Lee Doran

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DEALERS

Iwa Slateloose



A page for Junior Roughyeds and Junior Cougars (and anyone else who likes daft jokes).

Once upon a time there was a family of polar bears – Daddy Bear, Mummy Bear and Baby Bear.

Baby Bear said, 'Mummy, what do baby polar bears look like?'

Mummy Bear, 'Well, they have thick white fur, black claws and dark eyes'.

So Baby Bear went to Daddy Bear and said, 'Daddy, what do polar bears look like?'

Daddy Bear replied, 'Well, they have thick white fur, black claws and dark eyes. Why do you ask?'

And Baby Bear said, 'Because I'm blinkin freezing'.

*

A man wanted a divorce so the Judge asked what was the problem.

The man said, 'the wife keeps goats in the bedroom'.

So the Judge said, 'couldn't you open a window?'

And the man said, 'what, and let out all my pigeons?'

*

It's a pity about the fire in the White House library. I heard that both George W. Bush's books were burned. And one of them he hadn't finished colouring!

*

Why did Eve go to New York?

She fell for the Big Apple.

*

What did the snake say to his girlfriend?

Let's hiss and make up.

*

What do you get if you give a cat a lemon?

A sour puss?

*

Why did the clock get sick?

It was run down!

*

What do you call a donkey with three legs?

A wonkey.

*

Blow your mind – smoke gunpowder.

*

How do you make a small fortune on the stock market?

Start with a big one.

*

What gets nearer the bottom the higher it gets?

A woman's stocking.

*

A man goes to see a psychiatrist.

Man, 'I've got this problem'.

Psychiatrist, 'Tell me about it'.

Man, 'I've got an inferiority complex. But I don't suppose it's a very big one'.

*

Who designed Noah's Ark?

An ark-itect!

*

What did the earwig say as it fell off the ladder?

Ear-we-go.

*

What do you get if you cross a giraffe, an elephant and a cod?

A g-ele-fish!

*

What do you get if you cross a cow and a pig?

A cig!

*

What do you get if you cross a donkey and a cashew?

A do-nut!

*

What do you call a nice bank manager?

Hitler!

What do you call a nasty bank manager?

Sir!

Junior Roughyeds



sponsored by **Oldham Advertiser**

HI TO ALL THE JUNIOR ROUGHYEDS

WE WOULD like to welcome to Boundary Park for this evening's match the officials and supporters of Keighley Cougars.

The Oldham mascot for tonight's match is SEAN CASEY. Sean is 8 years old and his favourite player is his dad, Leo. Sean enjoys many sports especially rugby, swimming and gymnastics. Have a great match.



Sean Casey

The mascot for the Batley Bulldogs game was 11 year old MARIA HOLMES. Maria attends Watersheddings Primary School and her favourite player is Mark Sibson.



Debra Rafferty

Maria Holmes

Some jokes for the Juniors.

J: What's a vampire's favourite sport?

A: Batminton

J: What do vampires cross the sea in?

A: Blood vessels

J: What do vampires have at eleven

o'clock every day?

A: A coffin break

J: Why did the vampire baby stop having baby food?

A: He wanted something to get his teeth into.



At the last Junior Roughyeds meeting held on Friday 13th April each Junior Roughyed was presented with an Easter Egg to enjoy during the match. The eggs were donated and distributed to each child and the four players in attendance by **STUART GOUGH of CELEBRATE CATERERS**. Many thanks Stuart.

Behind the Scenes . . . with Dave Roberts

BACKROOM STAFF – LEANNE MONCHUK

Age: 16

Nickname: Q-T

School

Hulme Grammar School 6th Form, I am doing A level in Human Biology, German, Food & Nutrition, ICT, General Studies and Key Skills.

Job at Club

I work in the Club Shop on Saturday and in the main office on matchdays. My jobs include checking the turnstiles for the official attendance, sorting out the Golden Gamble, and printing out the team sheets.

What are your other interests?

Going out, F1 Motor Racing, Hockey (I played for Greater Manchester Counties), eating chocolate pudding in Walkabout (with custard).



Favourite player?

Mike Ford

Least favourite player?

Fata Sini

Favourite ground?

McAlpine Stadium

Least favourite ground?

Barrow Border Raiders

Least favourite team?

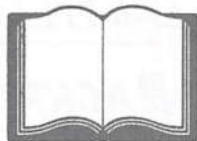
Leigh

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Amateur Album



.....WITH DON YATES

THE Rugby Football League, together with BARLA and with huge funding from the National Lottery, have set into motion a programme designed for developing young talent in the game. As part of this development programme young players from the age of 13 are being invited to join development camps where they can receive expert coaching from the game's top youth coaches.

Young players at under 13, under 14 and under 15 levels at present, but, hopefully right up to under 18 level during the next three years, are nominated, usually by their local service area, to take part in a four day regional development camp during the Easter holiday period. The four regions covered are the North, the North West, the North East and the South and Wales. From those four regions, players are then nominated for a week long National Camp which is held in August.

Last month I had the pleasure of attending the under 15 North West camp which was staged at Rossall School, Fleetwood. Fifty-five young players were nominated for the camp and they were split into three teams, two of 18 players and the team to which I was allocated which contained 19 players. Each team has one head coach, two assistant coaches and a support staff assistant. I was the support staff assistant which basically means that I do all the odd jobs and also keep an eye on the boys once the coaching sessions are over for the day which is usually after 8pm. Each evening the boys fill in a personal diary and another of my tasks is to assist the boys with their paperwork. At the end of the camp an 11 page report is prepared on each player. I enter player details, results of tests and assessments of player strengths and weaknesses into a computer for this report. As you can imagine, the camp is every bit as exhausting for the support staff assistant as it is for the player. Fortunately it is also just as interesting. During the camp players attend various lectures on subjects such as lifestyle management, sports physiology, nutrition, weight training and a talk by a match official. The players also had the opportunity to meet several legendary

characters from the game such as Bev Risman and Ray French, they had a talk from John Kear, were treated to a coaching session from Dean Bell and enjoyed a video presentation from National Coaching Director and Great Britain coach David Waite.



Rugby League camp for U15s at Rossall School: The teams hone their passing skills.

Every skill is covered during the course of the week - passing, catching, tackling, play-the-ball and grubber kicking together with defence systems and attacking manoeuvres with players 'running angles' in support of the player in possession. Every player should leave the camp with his skills enhanced and his knowledge of the game improved.

It is a tremendous experience for any youngster who is lucky enough to be invited into this development system. There were ten local players involved in last months under 15 camp including scrum-half Andy Gorey (Royton Tigers) and second row forward Matthew Bottom (Saddleworth Rangers) who were both included in the same group to which I was allocated. Both were a pleasure to work with and both look like having a future in the game. I look forward to meeting them, and other talented teenagers like them, in future years.



FUND raising for next July's North West Counties under 16 Oceanic Tour continues next Saturday 5th May, with an all star concert at the Weavers Arms, Huddersfield Road. Top of the bill are 'Minted' with the entertainment commencing at 8pm. Landlord Tony Finan promises a great night so get along, support the tour and enjoy an excellent nights entertainment.

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AWAY

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HOME

SUNDAY 6TH MAY 2001

v BARROW BORDER RAIDERS

KICK-OFF 3.00PM

HOME

WEDNESDAY 9TH MAY 2001

v SWINTON LIONS

KICK-OFF 7.45PM

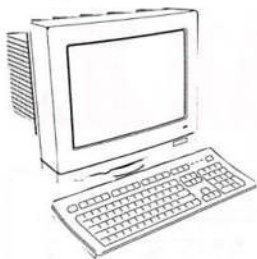
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Sunday and it was great to
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the lads as the business end
of the season begins to
unfold.

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2nd/3rd to coincide with our
game against Gateshead
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morning taking in the Metro
Centre, then having an evening
at leisure in Newcastle and
then on Sunday taking in the
game

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WINNARDS

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... with Simon Winnard

ORIGINATING from an official NFP website, this notification was recently posted on message boards; it states that, English, French and Russian clubs may compete in an elite European tournament next season. Three Northern Ford Premiership sides and a team from Moscow will play against the top four French clubs. The competition has been planned at the instigation of the French, spearheaded by Toulouse and Villeneuve two clubs who have been keen to revive the concept of the Treize Tournoi of 1998.

It will be the first to involve a Russian club playing alongside English and French opposition.

Of the three NFP clubs invited to compete, two have already agreed to take part, although their identity will not be revealed until the official launch of the competition in April. The top four French teams in the present Championship (expected to be Villeneuve, St Gaudens, Union Treiziste Catalane and Toulouse) will take part. If Pia finish in the top four, they will join forces with their neighbours UTC.

Each team in the Anglo-Russian group will play each team in the French group once, giving four matches per team. The top team in each group will contest the final, while the teams which finish second will play off for the plate on the eve of the final. The tournament is believed to be backed by a blue-chip sponsor who has guaranteed the travel and accommodation costs, while a further eight associate sponsors are also said to have signed up.

We want to make this tournament the pinnacle of the season," said Paul Faires, whose World Rugby Ltd public relations and marketing company has organised the competition on behalf of the French clubs.

The same company already handles perimeter advertising for the French Elite 1 clubs and was involved in the organisation of the Treize Tournoi final. Well get a full house for the final, which is scheduled for the same venue in Toulouse where PNG played South Africa in the World Cup," Faires added.

The timing of the competition will depend ultimately on the dates of the NFP season, which is currently being debated. "Ideally we would like to play two matches in September prior to the start of the NFP season and the remaining two matches at the end of their season, with the final on June 1st," said Faires, "but we will fit in accordingly."

The concept seems like an interesting idea and will certainly help to promote the game across Europe something that Super League Europe Ltd has so far failed to do. It could also break up the lengthy closed season should the NFP maintain its current calendar. However, whether the Roughyeds will be involved should the idea be followed through will only come to light as and when the official announcement is made in the near future.

We entertain the Keighley Cougars in this evening's game following on from a midweek home clash against the Doncaster Dragons. Playing three tough games in eight days is hardly ideal. However it is the harsh reality for the remainder of the season due to the annual pitch problems here at Boundary Park. This gruelling run in will undoubtedly test the strength of character of the set of players that Fordy has assembled around him. However, I just have a feeling that, in the face of adversity, they can show the resolve that is needed to give the season one or two twists and turns just yet.



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'THE DON'



ON THIS DAY . . .

Don Yates looks back to April 29th yesteryear

NO doubt several Oldham supporters here today will have enjoyed yesterday's Challenge Cup Final at Twickenham. But 102 years ago, on Saturday 29th April 1899, Oldham supporters in the 15,762 crowd at Fallowfield, Manchester would have enjoyed that final much more. The reason being that Oldham won the trophy that day, beating Hunslet 19-9 after an exciting tussle. The south Leeds' outfit led 9-5 at half-time but the Roughyeds were the better side on the day and fully deserved their success. They crossed for five tries scored by winger Sam Williams (2), centre Sam Lees and forwards Joe Lees and Jim Moffatt. Conversions by Sam Lees and full-back Dickie Thomas completed the scoring and sparked off mass celebrations throughout the town.

Although Oldham won the Challenge Cup on another couple of occasions, the Roughyeds never made it to Wembley although several local lads did play for other clubs beneath the twin towers. On Saturday 29th April 1989 two former Oldham juniors, one from Saddleworth Rangers and one from arch rivals St. Annes, were on opposite sides when bitter rivals St Helens and Wigan met at Wembley. Wigan won that final 27-0 with St. Helens unable to cope with the superb Wigan defence. A prominent member of the Wigan pack was hooker Nicky Kiss, ex-Saddleworth, whilst substitute for Saints that day was Darren Bloor although when he was introduced into the match, midway through the second-half, the game was already decided.

Exactly forty years ago, on Saturday 29th April 1961, Keighley visited Oldham for a league match although, of course, in those days the crowds would flock to Watersheddings instead of drifting down here to Boundary Park as they do today. Oldham, as expected, won that match 23-11, diminutive winger Bill Patterson scoring

a hatrick of tries. The other try scorers were other winger Vinny Nestor and centre Alan Davies whilst full-back Geoff Sims landed four goals. The try which Alan Davies scored proved to be the final touchdown he made for the Roughyeds. Later that year he was transferred to Wigan but the 174 tries which Davies scored for Oldham constitute a club record which certainly will not be bettered in the foreseeable future. The Keighley scorers in that match, incidentally, were stand-off Roy Sabine, winger Mike Smith and prop-forward Syd Phillips who all scored tries and hooker Malcolm Waring who landed a goal.



Alan Davies

It was on this day three years ago, Wednesday 29th April 1998, that Bramley met Lancashire Lynx in a vital top-of-the-table Division Two match at Headingley. Lynx, who later that season went on to win the Second Division title and reach the Treize Tournoi Final, recovered from a 10-0 deficit to win 19-14. Despite the importance of the match, only 453 spectators were in attendance. At stand-off for Bramley that evening was current Oldham utility back David Gibbons although twin brother Anthony was absent working off a term of suspension.

One hundred years ago, on Monday 29th April 1901, Leigh won the South West Lancashire and Border Towns' Cup Final without scoring a point. They drew 0-0 with Warrington at Wigan that evening and when Warrington failed to arrive for the replay at Widnes the following night, the trophy was awarded to Leigh.

Fixtures

Date Opponent Result Att

DECEMBER F - A

3 Barrow 28 - 16 1,294

17 Workington 22 - 6 1,295

24 Rochdale 10 - 6 3,402

JANUARY

1 WIDNES 20 - 12 3,471

7

14 LEIGH 18 - 44 4,747

28 QUEENSBURY (SCCC R3) 64 - 0 1,559

30 CHORLEY 56 - 2 1,210

FEBRUARY

11 HULL KR (SCCC R4) 17 - 6 2,008

18 GATESHEAD 52 - 6 1,451

25 WAKEFIELD (SCCC R5) 6 - 26 3,071

MARCH

11 Dewsbury 13 - 18 1,453

18 SHEFFIELD 24 - 16 1,503

25 Featherstone 22 - 8 1,966

28 HUNSLET 58 - 4 1,038

APRIL

1 York 70 - 6 514

8 BATLEY 26 - 8 1,598

13 ROCHDALE 10 - 38 2,398

16 Widnes 16 - 34 4,072

22 Batley 9 - 8 962

25 DONCASTER H

29 KEIGHLEY H

MAY

2 Swinton A

6 BARROW H

9 SWINTON H

13 Chorley A

20 WORKINGTON H

JUNE

3 Gateshead A

17 Whitehaven A

24 Keighley A

JULY

1 Hull KR A

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TECHNIQUE LABELS

Best and worst attendances per club are as follows:- (...continued from page 16)

Club	Home Best	Home Worst	Away Best	Away Worst
Leigh	4914 v Widnes	2088 v Barrow	6644 v Widnes	428 v York
Oldham	4747 v Leigh	1210 v Chorley	4072 v Widnes	514 v York
Rochdale	3402 v Oldham	762 v York	2568 v Leigh	387 v Gateshead
Sheffield	1642 v Keighley	753 v Gateshead	2359 v Featherstone	455 v York
Swinton	1892 v Leigh	630 v Workington	3004 v Widnes	666 v Hunslet
Whitehaven	1795 v Workington	638 v Chorley	3864 v Widnes	295 v Chorley
Widnes	6644 v Leigh	2941 v York	4914 v Leigh	517 v Gateshead
Workington	2460 v Whitehaven	674 v Chorley	3312 v Widnes	395 v York
York	1251 v Doncaster	395 v Workington	2941 v Widnes	254 v Chorley

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—B.D.S., V.U. Manc—

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Oldham Broadway Business Park

Oldham – a leading player at the heart of the North West

Take a look around the Oldham of the 21st century and you won't fail to be impressed with what's been achieved. There are now huge efforts taking place to ensure that the Borough remains in its rightful place at the hub of the North West region.

Two hundred million pounds and more has been invested in turning the town centre into a modern and vibrant place to shop and work. Money has also been spent regenerating and renewing areas like Westwood, Glodwick, Fitton Hill and Hathershaw, and building 23 new schools in just 20 years. An exciting new town centre Cultural Quarter is taking shape; new industry, new investment and more tourists are coming to the Borough and a state-of-the-art Business Management School is now open.

Oldham is already at the heart of the motorway network and now also benefits from the new M60 orbital route. Metrolink is also coming to the town, and the brand new £3.4 million central bus station has opened this year.



The M60 Motorway



Town Centre Shopping

There are many other reasons which make Oldham a desirable place to live, work and visit – its reputation for hard work, commitment and down to earth friendliness are just some of them.

Put them all together and they make Oldham a leading player at the heart of the North West.

Enquiries about projects being undertaken by the Council, or any of its policies, to the Marketing and Communications Unit, PO Box 160, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG,

telephone 0161 911 4708, fax 0161 911 4936,
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OLDHAM 
Metropolitan Borough 



TODAY'S TEAMS



OLDHAM

Coach: Mike FORD

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

Coach: Steve DEAKIN

Gavin DODD	1	James RUSHFORTH
Joey HAYES	2	Gareth HOOSON
Anthony GIBBONS	3	Karl SMITH
Pat RICH	4	Graeme HALLAS
Daryl LACEY	5	Jason LEE
Neil RODEN	6	Matt WALKER
Mike FORD	7	Craig MURDOCK
Andy PROCTOR	8	Mick SLICKER
Keith BRENNAN	9	Jason RAMSHAW
Jason CLEGG	10	Alan BOOTHROYD
Phil FARRELL	11	Paul HARRISON
Ian SINFIELD	12	Ian HUGHES
David GIBBONS	13	Jim LEATHAM
Lee DORAN	14	Danny SEAL
Kevin MANNION	15	David BEST
Chris FARRELL	16	Phil STEPHENSON
Danny GUEST	17	James WALKER

TODAY'S

DAVID LOWE 

PHIL SMITH 

STEVE ADDY  **4th**

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REFEREE:

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