

KEIGHLEY COUGARS V OLDHAM

Sunday 24th June 2001 • 3.00pm



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VIEW FROM THE PREMIERSHIP

MARTYN SADLER, editor of League Express, looks at the prospect of an Origin game for the Northern Ford Premiership.

FEATHERSTONE Rovers coach Peter Roe raised an interesting proposal last week, that the Northern Ford Premiership should look at staging its own "Origin" match next year.

After what was widely regarded as being a successful venture in Super League this year, Roe suggested that a weekend be set aside next season for an Origin double-header, with both Super League and NFP games taking place at the same stadium on the same day.

He also explained that the NFP competition could incorporate Cumbria. That would be a good idea, particularly with the growing strength of Whitehaven and Workington in this season's NFP competition. How a three-way tournament would be formatted has yet to be discussed, but importantly the idea received initial support from APC Chairman Chris Hamilton, who welcomes any form of representative rugby at this level.

It would also be welcomed, surely, by the supporters, clubs and players in the Premiership. It was noticeable at this year's Super League Origin game that a number of Leigh Centurions' supporters made the journey to Headingley to cheer on the only NFP representative Neil Turley, and fans of other clubs would surely be interested to see how their best players fare in a high profile game.

Already people are discussing which of their players could be included in such squads. In recent years, the NFP has been dominated by clubs in Yorkshire, with the Grand Final winners all coming from that side of the Pennines in the shape of Wakefield, Hunslet and Dewsbury. But this year there is a possibility that the top four will be made up entirely of teams from Lancashire.

Representing the Red Rose county could be the likes of Danny Sculthorpe (Rochdale), Simon Baldwin (Leigh), Phil

Farrell (Oldham) and Phil Cantillon (Widnes). And there could be a number of coaches in line to take charge of the squad, such as Oldham's Mike Ford - who was assistant to the senior Lancashire team this year - Mike Gregory of Swinton or Rochdale's Martin Hall.

In the Yorkshire side we could see Featherstone scrum half Jamie Rooney, Barry Eaton (Dewsbury), Richard Goddard (Sheffield) and Martin Wood (Keighley). They would also have plenty of coaches to choose from, including Yorkshire-born Neil Kelly, Mark Aston of Sheffield and Roe himself, who was assistant to Lee Crooks for the senior Yorkshire side.

Then there is the Cumbrian side, which would certainly fancy its chances.

Workington's Carl Sice and Graeme Lewthwaite, Mark Cox and the Purdham brother at Whitehaven, and Darren Holt and Ade Gardner of Barrow are a handful of players who would come into contention. And any of the coaches in charge of the three professional clubs would be worthy candidates for that coaching role.

Sound interesting? If it was marketed and promoted correctly, it could develop into a series that was anticipated with excitement by all fans in the NFP.

If they did set aside weekends, as Roe is proposing, it would also avoid the problems with the last time a representative fixture was scheduled for the competition. In 1999 there was an East versus West match, but because it was played as a curtain raiser to the Grand Final, many of the competition's best players could not be involved. Certainly, anything that can continue to promote this superb competition could only raise its profile.

READY.. STEADY..

COUGAR

A warm welcome today to player, fans and officials of Oldham.

Oldham are enjoying a successful season under the guidance of coach Mike Ford and great credit must also go to their Chairman, Chris Hamilton and his fellow directors for raising the club to this position after several seasons in the wilderness.

There is a strong connection between Oldham and Keighley with a number of former Cougar players in the Lancastrian's ranks and several Oldham lads representing the Cougars - including our coach Steve Deakin. We are particularly pleased to welcome the lads from Oldham St. Anne's ARLFC today. St. Anne's, like our local amateur teams, answered our call for assistance in our hour of need and we will not forget their gesture easily.

We travelled to Oldham after the exodus of most of our first team squad and despite a valiant effort, it proved too big a task. However, it is a game that few of us from Keighley will forget for the passion that it engendered and hopefully, Oldham will find things a little more difficult today.

COMING UP AT COUGARS

Weekend of 30th June

COUGARS ALLIANCE top five play-offs

SUNDAY 1st of July

COUGARS away at Chorley Lynx

Kick-off 3.00PM at Victory Park



Keighley Cougars RLFC
Cougar Park, Royd Ings Avenue
Keighley BD21 3RF
Tel: 01535 213111
Fax: 01535 213100

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Assistant Coach: Michael Slicker
Under 21 Coach: Paul Moses
Trainer: Christopher Deakin
Physiotherapist: Dave Cook
Sports Therapist: Rachel Chapman
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Dr Phil Pue MB CLB MRCP
Kit Man: Lenny Robinson
Groundsman: David Marshall
Ancillary Staff:
Match-day Security: AP Security
Cougar Call: Joe Karkoszka
Match Video: Phil Robinson &
Arthur Smith

Club Photographer:
Trevor Smith
Programme Editors:
The Rugby League Renegades

Honours
Premiership Runners up: 1999/2000
1st Division Runners up: 1995/1996
2nd Division Champions: 1902/1903 &
1994/1995
3rd Division Champions: 1992/1993
2nd Division Premiership Winners:
1994/1995
1st Division Premiership Runners up:
1995/1996
Challenge Cup Runner up: 1936/1937
Yorkshire Cup Runners Up: 1951/1952

International Venue:
Fiji v South Africa 1995
Canada v Italy 2000

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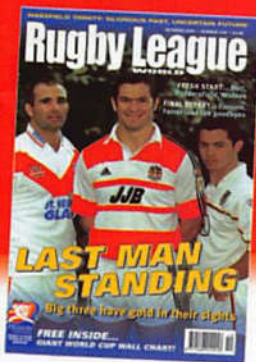
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MAGAZINE

COUGAR CUBS COYOTES Under 14's



COUGAR CUBS COYOTES UNDER 14's

Back Row (L-R):
Adrian Ogden
(coach), Andrew
Lister, Jonny Storton,
Joe Butterick, Oliver
Thornton, Dean
Williamson, Chris
Clough, Andrew
Norton, Jeffrey

Peacock, Antony
Montgomery, Richard
Moore (coach).
Front Row (L-R):
Roman Klysz, James
Ogden, Eddie Hall,
Danny Spencer, Lee
Green, Robert Procter,
Jake Thornton.

The Coyotes have
had an outstanding

season this last year.
They have won all
except one of the
games in their league.
In that game they
drew with the Cougar
Cubs Pumas.
They retained the
Keighley Cup for the
fourth time and in the
Bradford Cup they
were unlucky to lose

to Dudley Hill in the
semi-final. Dudley Hill
scored a try in the last
two minutes to secure
the narrow win.
The Coyotes played
with a lot of great
team spirit and
certainly deserved
their success this year.
Well done lads!

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STAN THE FAN

Well incredibly we are at the last home game of the season. Where has the last seven months gone? If you like roller coaster rides Cougar Park is certainly the place to be and I just hope that having been at the top of the ride earlier in the season and at the bottom in April we are now on the way up again.

A Bulls fan got a job on a building site and the foreman said to him, "OK Bully, go and get me a wheelbarrow." When Bully came back he was pushing one wheelbarrow with another inside it. "Hey, I only wanted one." The foreman shouted. "I know," said Bully,

"but you didn't expect me to carry it did you?"

Many congratulations to today's visitors Oldham on jointly picking up the Northern Ford Club of the Month award for May. Their incredible rise saw them on April the 22nd in seventh place in the NFP and one week later they had shot to second place. A glance at the NFP table shows that out of the top five, four are Lancashire clubs. That, and the fact that Lancashire won the recent 'Origin' game means it's a lean time for us Yorkies this season. By the way, if all the clubs that supplied the players for Lancashire are actually in Greater Manchester, does that mean we can ask for a replay - this time against Chorley,

the only club truly in Lancashire?

Bully applied for a job one day at a hotel in Bradford. "You've got the job," said the manager, "but first will you fill me in a questionnaire." Bully shot out of the room and beat up the doorman.

Geoff Lee has dropped us a line with the good news that his superb book 'One Winter' has been reprinted. It's a novel about Rugby League and is a "humorous slice of life in the 1960's" with most of the action taking place in the fictitious town of Ashurst. I haven't yet read it myself but a mate of mine tells me it's an outstanding read and just right perhaps for the off-

season and the holidays. The book costs £7.99 and it can be obtained from the club shop or direct from the Parrs Wood Press (cheques made payable to) at FREEPOST, Manchester M15 9PW (postage included).

Bully was stopped on the M62 by the police for speeding. "No officer, I wasn't speeding but I've passed three idiots back there who were."

It's thank-you time now and if I've missed anyone out please forgive me. Thanks mostly to Chris Westwood, Joe King, Alison Smith and Ian Strickland for your excellent pieces. Big thanks to Trevor Smith for his outstanding photographs. Thanks also to Rachel Presley, Ian Barnes, Mark Stott, Dave Lewis, Tim Cooper, John Normington, Jason, Matt, Nathan and John Pitchford for your help. Thanks to the irreplaceable Gary Murgatroyd, Nick Crossland, Gillian Ogden and Jeremy Potter up in the office. Thanks to Dave Thomas and his team at Raiseprint for their brilliant work. Thanks to all the programme sellers and especially YOU for buying the programme, hope you have found something of interest.



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THIS SUPPORTING LIFE

Welcome everyone to today's game, especially if you have travelled all the way from Oldham. We hope you enjoy the game and have a safe journey home. We have got to the end of another league season and this is the last home game. We can hope for a home match in the playoffs or we can do it the hard way! If you are reading this before the game here is an important message: HAVE YOU VOTED FOR YOUR PLAYER OF THE SEASON? Today we are asking Cougar supporter's to vote for their player of the season before the game begins. Once the game has been started we will not be able to accept any more votes so VOTE NOW! Voting forms and the ballot box are situated outside the Supporter's club

but so don't forget. This ballot is more important than voting for Tony Blair! Our players NEED YOUR VOTE!!! The Supporter's club will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday July 12th at 8.30PM. This AGM is open to all Supporters' Club Members. If you are not a member come along anyway and you can join on the night. We are always on the lookout for new committee members and people with fresh ideas, or just come along and see what we have been up to in the last year. Well done to the team for their spectacular win against Doncaster. It seems that Keighley Cougars still have a few surprises left in them.

Who would have imagined 3 or 4 years ago that we would see Leroy Rivett running down the wing for Keighley Cougars. (I don't care if we're babysitting him for Steve's big brother at Sale, he'll do for me!) And we should say welcome back to James Rushforth who has made the brave decision to return to the Cougars after a slight detour at Featherstone. I think you made the right decision James! To be honest James got back just in time as I think there is a dreadful malady hitting some of our ex-players. Shall we call it the "Curse of the Cougars"? Not that any of us would wish ill on any hard working Rugby league player, but have you noticed how a number of

our deserters are now not getting that winning pay they were so anxious about? There's Danny Seal with his broken arm, Hallas and his fractured collar bone and now Jim Leatham is injured in a game for Dewsbury. Perhaps they should have stayed with us. Who will be next???

Don't forget that you can get half time bingo tickets at both entrances to the ground where you can still win £200. We also have a supply of sweets and chocolates and drinks left which are on sale by the Supporter's hut. Remember! this is our last home game. Any sweets left unsold will have to be consumed by the Supporter's club committee, so help us out here!!! Enjoy the game!

A FUTURE FOR RUGBY IN KEIGHLEY?

They say that good always comes out of bad and one of the main things that has come out of Cougars financial crisis recently has been the way the people of Keighley have come to the aid of the club and helped it through. This, in the shape of local businesses and moreover local players have shown that pride, commitment and loyalty to their own town's club can sometimes overcome when odds are stacked against them. As far as the players are concerned it's normally only been in the local cup games that we have seen such commitment and passion. Now these same lads have had a chance to show this for their local team. To view this in the long term it may well have

set the foundations for what I think should be the radical idea of ONE TOWN and ONE CLUB. Here in Keighley we have three amateur teams plus the Cougars Cubs doing their own thing and, it must be said, sometimes actually working against the interests of each other. We must consign this to the past and for the sake of the game of Rugby League both in Keighley and throughout the rest of the country I believe that here in Keighley, always the home of innovation in our sport, this revolutionary idea CAN happen. With a director of coaching and the experience that already exists within the four clubs maybe now is the time to

pool all our resources and pull all these clubs together making just one club - utilising all our facilities i.e. coaches, committees, training and playing facilities and local business's sponsoring one association, developing all our players through one club to represent our town and forcing our leagues as in the National Conference that to play in Northern Ford you must have a youth set up permanently in place. 1st team, (Conference or Alliance), open age, youth teams, and schoolboy teams, continually developing all the way through. The social facilities must also be exploited and could be used both on both Saturdays and

Sunday's creating continual revenue twelve months of the year for both after match functions and special events. This is a radical and revolutionary proposal but it is one that MUST be put into place. The alternative is the stagnation and possible extinction of the game of Rugby League that while hitting the amateur game now will in turn reach the professional game in the near future. We must put aside the parochialism that has held back our game in the past and look forward so that we can pass on the 'beautiful game' to our children for them to enjoy and nurture in the future. STAN PEPPER

THE BACK OF MY HEAD

THE CHRIS WESTWOOD COLUMN



We trade a great deal on ideas in Rugby League don't we? Somebody's always having one. They tend to fall into three separate categories; good ones, bad ones, and good ones carried out badly. The good ones are easy; losing the wing forwards, rucks, mauls, line-outs and all the other innovations, which made our game more exiting, skilful and honest than other forms of rugby. Playing the Cup Final at Wembley was a good idea, although I can't help but think what the letters pages of the Rugby Leaguer and League Express would have been like if they had existed then. "Taking the showpiece event of this great game of ours to London, goes against the tradition and heritage of this, er great game of ours. The final should be played at Liversedge". You know the kind of stuff. Bad ones and good ones carried out badly are slightly more contentious. The News Corporation deal: a bad idea? I heard a director of one NFP club say on local radio the other week that it was a bad one and that things were all right the way they were. One can only presume that his club hadn't got huge debts to pay off in '95 and

they have put their Murdock money in a trust fund until they get their opportunity to hand it back to Rupert and tell him to shove it when the sun doesn't shine. What about Paris St. Germain? A failure most certainly. And Gateshead Thunder? Another one. Both of these were arguably good ideas, but not thought through properly and carried out by people not up to the task. What about Mansfield Marksmen? This was unique in being a bad idea carried out badly. Then there's summer football. How many NFP clubs paid lip service to the idea? You know the kind of thing, hire a third rate club turn for the 'pre match entertainment' and turn the tannoy up to 11 a la Spinal Tap, whilst behind the scenes undermining the whole idea. One bad idea however, is so patently and unequivocally bad, that 'they've' brought it back again just to prove it. That's right 'our old mate', as a certain Rugby League columnist would say: changing the rules in mid-season is back with us. Well, towards the end of the season actually, but you catch my drift. You may think that three divisions of ten is the best idea since putting Jeffrey Archer on trial, but to invoke the idea this

season beggars belief. It might not happen of course, going back to a September kick off has been deferred. The people who believed so passionately that Rugby League was a winter game and that playing in summer (which the NFP doesn't really do anyway) discriminates against caravanners seem to have changed their minds, for the time being anyway. So maybe changing the structure of the entire competition this season will get shunted into a siding as well, but you never know. What about that Ronnie Teeman having a go at Sir Rodders? I couldn't disagree with anything he said, but then Ronnie's a barrister and dead

brainy. However, reading his article in League Express reminded of the time I was at a meeting called by an NFP club concerning it's compulsory change from a members club to a limited company. Ronnie was invited by t'committee/board of directors to help explain the finer legal points, which he did out of the goodness of his heart. That goodness was repaid by the members literally howling him down, and ejecting him from the meeting because he wasn't a member! CHRIS WESTWOOD



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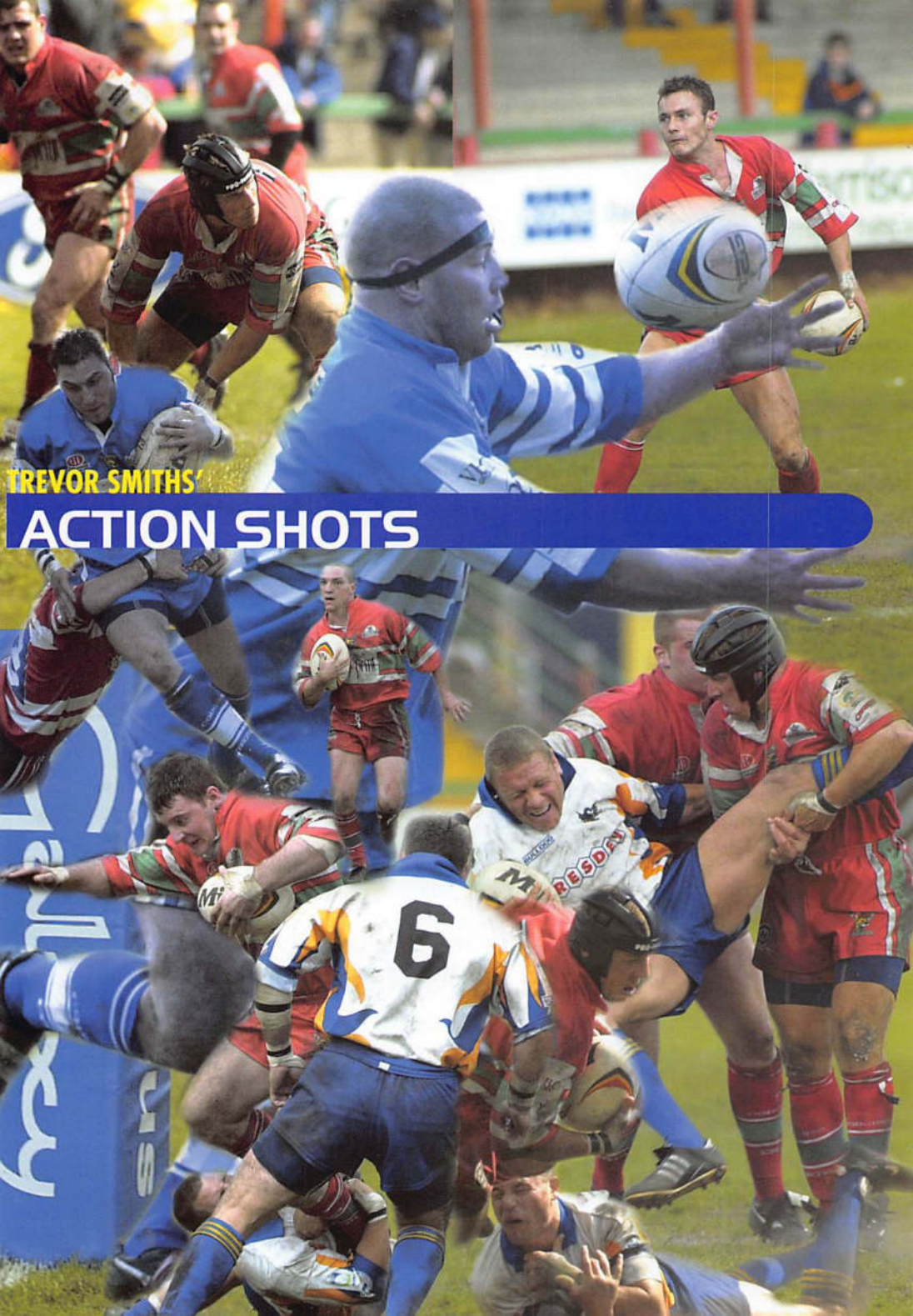


We are pleased to announce that the Cougar Shop at the ground will be open on Saturday's from 10.00AM to 2.00PM throughout the close season selling our popular and wide range of Cougars merchandise. There are some brand new items such as polo shirts and baseball caps as well as the regular items that have been so popular in the past and so it's well worth popping down on a Saturday to have a look and kit yourself out for a Cougar Summer.

The Cougar shop is also open during the week by arrangement. Just ring us on Keighley 213111 and we'll be glad to help you with your Cougar leisurewear needs.



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SUNDAY JULY 1st 2001

V CHORLEY LYNX at Victory Park, Chorley

Kick-off 3.00PM

It's certainly been another difficult season for Lynx and their coach Graham West. Just two wins at home in early march and April is not much to show out of 24 games. Both these wins were at the expense of fellow cellar-dwellers York and Gateshead. After fighting off the threat of expulsion from the NFP their season started with much promise having cut their troublesome links with Preston North End FC, being taken over by a local sporting club and having League legend Graham West appointed as coach. Though their runs of defeats have been long and tortuous in a few games they have shown some promise though could never do quite enough to gain a win. A tenuous link with Wigan was established to help the club out and perhaps this could bear fruit in the future.

LAST YEAR'S GAME

Sunday 1-MAY-2000

LANCASHIRE LYNX 4

KEIGHLEY COUGARS 98

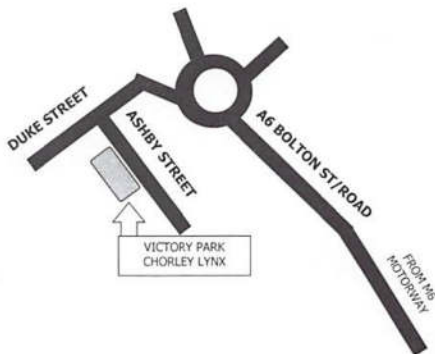
(H.T. 0-54) Att: 707

Cougars Tries: Paul Harrison (2), Steve Pickles, Richard Smith, Nathan Antonik (2), Jason Ramshaw (2), Martin Wood, Phil Stephenson, Danny Seal (4), Jason Lee (2), Dean Hanger

Cougars Goals: Martin Wood (15)

Lynx Try: David Jones

Referee: Ronnie Laughton (Barnsley)



DIRECTIONS TO VICTORY PARK, CHORLEY

Leave the M62 at Junction 15 onto the M61 North. Leave the M61 at Junction 6 (A6027). Follow signs for Chorley A6, past Adlington (Post Office), keep going in 2.7 miles at roundabout take first exit into Duke Street, then turn left into Ashby Street, Lancashire Lynx RL ground is on the right.

TUNE IN

If you're coming away from the game and are looking for the rest of the results you could try Radio Lancashire on 855 AM or 103.9 FM, GMR on 95.1 FM.

COUGAR TRAVEL

Fans wanting to leave their cars at home and join the growing army of supporters using the supporters bus can contact Graham Jarman on Keighley 603195 or mobile 0793 175 6857 for details of times, cost and how to book places.

TODAY'S CURTAIN RAISER



SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



ST. MARY'S RIDDLESDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

STARS OF THE FUTURE UNITE

Whether you call it Harrison & Clough versus Skipton Building Society, Keighley versus Skipton or Jason & Matt versus Nathan Antonik, the game between SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL representing Craven Schools versus RIDDLESDEN ST.MARY'S representing Keighley Schools will be an absolute cracker.

Both teams have earned the right to play before the last home game of the season against Oldham today by winning their representative tournaments. The action will commence at 2PM and promises to be a very entertaining encounter.

All the players will parade around the field at half time of the main game showcasing their silverware so make sure you cheer loudly for the future of Rugby League in the Keighley area.

MATT, JASON and NATHAN

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Ground: Boundary Park
Colours: Red & White
First season: 1895-6 though disbanded and reformed as a new club in 1997.
Biggest victory over Keighley: 5:1-2 (6-APR-1931)
Biggest defeat by Keighley: 20-0 (1-OCT-1978)

KEY MAN
KEITH BRENNAN in a rich vein of form at the moment this lively hooker can cause problems. Scored two tries against us in April.

PLAYER/COACH MIKE FORD Has played with distinction with Wigan, Leigh, Castleford, Warrington, Wakefield & South Queensland Crushers. Toured with Great Britain in 1988. Started coaching at Bramley and them moved to coach and play for his hometown club where he has done great things.

JOE McNICHOLAS a pacy winger who bounced back from injury a couple of seasons ago to success on the right flank. **PAT RICH** started his professional career at Cougars and was shaping up nicely when he moved on to Oldham last season. A reliable and prolific goalkicker. **DARYL LACEY** a close season signing from Wigan Warriors where he starred in their Alliance team. **NEIL RODEN** another Wiganer I his first full season at Boundary Park, joined the Roughyeds in March 2000 and quickly made the Bulls before moving onto JOHN HOUGH the first

player to sign for the new Oldham club in 1997 after having previous experience with Warrington. **DAVID & ANTHONY GIBBONS** The twins come as a pair in Rugby League having played together at Leeds, Keighley, Bramley and now at Oldham where they have been an important part of the Roughyeds success.

FORWARDS **JASON CLEGG** a product of the Littleborough amateur club Jason started his career with Bradford Bulls and signed for the difficulty in breaking into the current Saints squad. **KEVIN MANNION** made his senior debut with Rochdale Hornets when only 16. Played for England and GB students. **IAN SINFIELD** a local lad who has played Superleague with Salford. Joined Oldham in 1998 and had a brief spell in France in 1999. **DANNY GUEST** another product of Cougars Academy set-up Danny only had a few first team games before moving to Oldham where he has impressed. **ANDY PROCTER** formerly with Wakefield and Bramley but started at local amateurs Saddleworth Rangers.

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HEAD TO HEAD	PL	W	D	L	F	A
AT KEIGHLEY	32	15	0	17	336	385
OLDHAM	31	7	2	22	289	633

LAST TIME AT COUGAR PARK

9-MAY-1999

COUGARS 32 OLDHAM 28 (H.T. 26-14) Att: 1,842
 Cougars Tries: Matt Foster (2), Jason Ramshaw, Keith Dixon,
 Jason Lee, Mark Campbell
 Cougars Goals: Martin Wood (4)
 Roughyed's Tries: Joe McNicholas (2), Daniel Brown, John
 Hough, Mick Farrell
 Roughyed's Goals: Daniel Brown (3), Danny Wood (1)
 Referee: Peter Lee (Leigh)

EARLIER THIS SEASON

29-APR-2001

OLDHAM 38 COUGARS 4 (H.T. 14-4) Att: 1,815
 Cougars Try: Gareth Davies
 Roughyed's Tries: Keith Brennan (2), Gavin Dodd, Anthony
 Gibbons (2), Kevin Mannion
 Roughyed's Goals: Pat Rich (7)
 Referee: Colin Morris (Huddersfield)

OLDHAM'S LAST NFP GAME

WHITEHAVEN 15 OLDHAM 16 (H.T. 14-12) Att: 1,027
 Roughyeds Tries: Mark Sibson, Keith Brennan, Anthony
 Gibbons
 Roughyeds Goals: Pat Rich (2)

TOP PERFORMERS

TRIES: Neil Roden (11)

GOALS: Pat Rich (117)

FORM

HOME PL14 Won 11 Drawn 0 Lost 3

AWAY PL 12 Won 9 Drawn 0 Lost 3

LEAGUE POSITION

HIGHEST 2nd (17-JUNE-2001)

LOWEST 7th (11-MAR-2001)

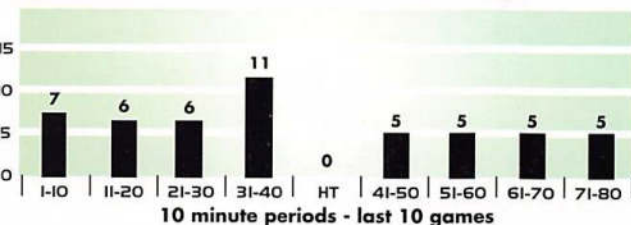
SCORES

BIGGEST WIN 70-6 V York (1st April)

BIGGEST DEFEAT 10-38 V Rochdale Hornets (16-April)

OLDHAM

TRY SCORING PATTERN



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ANORAK POINTS

Former Cougar coach Phil Larder was a player with Oldham in the 1970's as well as Terry Ramshaw, father of Jason. I believe young Jason was club mascot!



In the game between Oldham and Leigh in January 1983 the referee abandoned the game after 59 minutes because of persistent fighting by both teams. He refused to restart the game or even come out of the dressing room!

Oldham were the first Lancashire side to win the Northern Union Challenge Cup in 1899 and were finalists on four successive occasions between 1924 and 1927.

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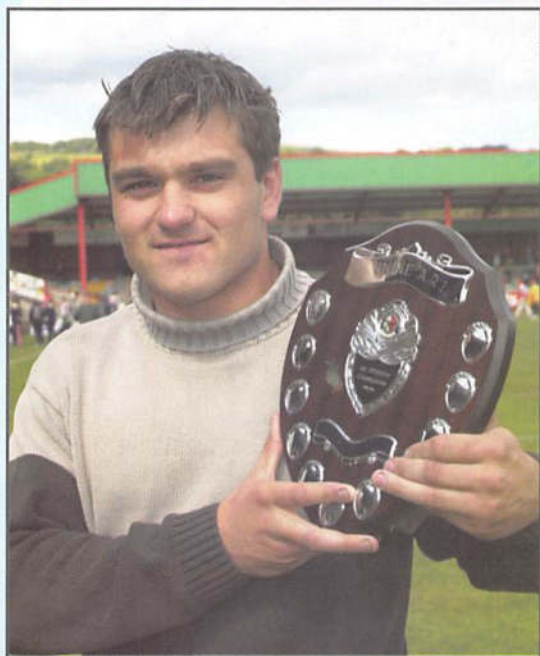
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KEIGHLEY'S AMATEUR SCENE

SILSDEN PARK RANGERS have had a tremendous campaign in Pennine's division four. They dropped down from division two the previous season and were clearly a class above as they led for practically the whole year but were overtaken by Stainland Stags in March. With games in hand on the Stags they were, however, in the driving seat in the Championship race and regained the lead and the championship by two points with the

final game of the season in May with a fine 45-10 win over mid-table Liversedge. Key in the Rangers success has no doubt been the organisational skills of Matt Horne, the kicking of John Williams and the pace on the wings of Danny Horne and Phil Lane. Pictured is Phil Lane with the fourth division Championship shield, which was presented to him at the last Cougars home game.



COUGAR SONGS WANTED

MONDAY 11th JUNE

OLDHAM ALLIANCE 56 COUGARS ALLIANCE 12

Cougars Tries: Danny Horne, Carlos Sanchez

Cougars Goal: Mark Holker.

Roughyeds Tries: Gavin Dodd (3), Ian Sinfield (2), Gareth Barber (2), Chris Hough, Danny Naylor, Steve Crowther, Chris Farrell.

Roughyeds Goals: Gareth Barber (6)

THURSDAY 14th JUNE

WIDNES VIKINGS ALLIANCE 64 COUGARS ALLIANCE 0

Vikings Tries: Paul Wood (2), Eddie Kilgannon (2), Andy O'Neil, Anthony Hollins, Gareth Haggerty, Mark Flanagan, Lee Connolly, Ashley Whatmore, Mike Briggs, Jamie Winrow.

Vikings Goals: Jamie Winrow (8)

Remaining fixture: Saturday 23rd JUNE Leigh Centurions Alliance V Cougars Alliance.

TOP FIVE PLAY OFFS

Weekend of 30th June

Qualifying Play Off Match B: second place team v third place team.

Elimination Play Off Match A: fourth place team v fifth place team (loser eliminated)

Weekend of 7th July

Match D: first place team v winner of match B (winner qualifies for Grand Final)

Match C Elimination Semi-final: loser of match B v winner match A (loser eliminated)

Weekend of 14th July

Final eliminator match E: loser of match D v winner match C (loser eliminated, winner qualifies for Grand Final)

Weekend of 21st July

Grand Final.

ALLIANCE FIXTURES 2000-2001

DEC	06	OLDHAM	H	36-16
	14	ROCHDALE	H	43-13
	20	HUNSLET	H	40-0
JAN	11	Featherstone	A	12-12
	24	WIDNES	H	34-14
	31	Batley	H	26-6
FEB	10	WORKINGTON	H	Postponed
	24	Whitehaven	A	6-3
MAR	10	Workington	A	18-10
	14	BATLEY	H	40-4
	28	LEIGH	H	18-20
APR	11	DONCASTER	H	7-30
MAY	16	Rochdale	A	16-40
	26	WORKINGTON	H	30-18
	31	FEATHERSTONE	H	18-16
JUN	02	WHITEHAVEN	H	58-6
	07	Doncaster	A	27-24
	11	Oldham	A	12-56
	14	Widnes	A	0-64
	23	Leigh	A	2-30
	30	Top 5 play-off		

NFP ROUND-UP

NFP ROUND-UP

TODAY'S OTHER NFP GAMES (Form in brackets for last five games)

DEWSBURY RAMS v CHORLEY LYNX
(last season - Rams 72 - Lynx 13)
(RAMS LWLWW - LYNX LLLL) Remaining games:
DEWSBURY v Doncaster (A), Swinton (H)
CHORLEY v Keighley Cougars (H)

BATLEY BULLDOGS v BARROW BORDER RAIDERS
(last season - did not play)
(BULLDOGS WLLWW - RAIDERS WLLWW)
Remaining games:
BATLEY v Rochdale (A)

BARROW v Sheffield (H)
DONCASTER DRAGONS v ROCHDALE HORNETS
(last season - did not play)
(DRAGONS WWLLL - HORNETS WWWW)
Remaining games:
DONCASTER v Dewsbury (H), Workington (A)
ROCHDALE v Batley (A)

FEATHERSTONE ROVERS v LEIGH CENTURIONS
(last season - did not play)
(ROVERS - CENTURIONS)
Remaining games:
FEATHERSTONE v Whitehaven (H)
LEIGH v York (H)

SWINTON LIONS v HUNSLET HAWKS
(last season - Lions 24 -

Hawks 31)
(LIONS LLLL - HAWKS LLWLW) Remaining games:
SWINTON v Dewsbury (A)
HUNSLET v Widnes (H)

SHEFFIELD EAGLES v WORKINGTON TOWN
(last season - Eagles 18 - Town 20)
EAGLES WLWLW - TOWN LLWLW
Remaining games:
SHEFFIELD v Barrow (A)
WORKINGTON v Doncaster (H)

WHITEHEAVEN v GATESHEAD THUNDER
(last season - did not play)
(HAVEN LWLL - THUNDER WLLL)

ASK THE ANORAK



Q. There have been a lot of changes at Cougars this season but is there any player who has played in every game this year?
D. WATSON (Silsden)

A. A good question to round the season off Mr Watson. This season, not surprisingly, we have no players who have been 'ever presents'. Most notably though two players, Jason Ramshaw and Phil Stephenson have each missed only two games out of the whole campaign. Jason has played in every league game and has just missed the two Challenge Cup matches against Rochdale Mayfield and Hull FC. Phil has just missed the Mayfield game and the recent game at Dewsbury while suffering from his broken toe. It's worth noting that Jason hasn't missed a league game since 21st of April last year.
Jason has scored just six tries this year and Phil has scored one, which was in the last home game against Doncaster. It's worth noting that Jason is just three tries off his hundredth for his Cougars career.
Of their current Cougars players Craig Horne is top try scorer with 13, which he topped up before being injured in March. James Rushforth and Nathan Antonik are both on

NFP TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Dif	Pts
Leigh Centurions	26	24	0	2	561	252	309	48
Oldham	26	20	0	6	750	376	374	40
Widnes Vikings	26	19	1	6	853	362	491	39
Featherstone Rovers	26	17	2	7	788	339	449	36
Rochdale Hornets	25	18	0	7	767	391	376	36
Dewsbury Rams	25	16	0	9	722	374	348	32
Hull KR	27	15	2	10	531	446	85	32
Keighley Cougars	26	15	1	10	734	462	272	31
Workington Town	26	15	0	11	621	518	103	30
Doncaster Dragons	25	14	0	11	572	451	121	28
Whitehaven	26	13	1	12	532	377	155	27
Sheffield Eagles	26	13	0	13	589	479	110	26
Batley Bulldogs	26	13	0	13	430	542	-112	26
Barrow Brdr Rdrs	25	10	1	14	533	621	-88	21
Swinton Lions	26	8	0	18	466	675	-209	16
Hunslet Hawks	26	6	1	19	356	887	-531	13
Gateshead Thunder	27	2	0	25	324	938	-614	4
Chorley Lynx	26	2	0	24	375	1251	-876	4
York	26	1	1	24	181	1349	-1168	3

Remaining game:
WHITEHAVEN v Featherstone (A)

WIDNES VIKINGS v YORK
(last season - did not play)
(VIKINGS WWWW - YORK LLLL)

Remaining games:
WIDNES v Hunslet (A)
YORK v Leigh (A)

BYE HULL KR
Remaining game:
HULL KR v Oldham (H)

Mitre >



Caught ball watching

Date	Opponents	Venue	Score	Att	Try	Goal
DECEMBER						
3	Hunslet Hawks	A	44-12	1,404	Lee(3), Seal(2), Lord, Leatham, Carter	Wood(6)
10	DEWSBURY	H	32-6	2,511	Hughes, Rushforth(2), Seal, Horne, Antonik	Wood(4)
17	York Wasps	A	48-14	943	Lee(2), Wood, Horne, Rushforth, Harrison, Seal, M. Walker	Wood(6), Lee(2)
24	Gateshead	A	52-0	1052	Lee(3), Carter(2), Ramshaw, Harrison, Seal, Antonik, Horne	Wood(6)
JANUARY						
1	HULL KR	H	24-8	2150	Lee, Harrison, Rushforth, Carter	Wood(4)
7	Sheffield Eagles	A	52-16	1642	Horne(2), Seal(2), Lee(2), Harrison, Antonik, Carter	Wood(8)
14	FEATHERSTONE	H	22-22	3269	Ramshaw, Lee, Rushforth, Seal	Wood(3)
28	ROCHDALE MAYFIELD	H	76-0	1764	M.Walker(4), Horne(2), Tomlinson(2), Leatham, Hooson, Piddes, Antonik, Wood, Seal	Wood(9), Antonik
30	Doncaster	A	23-17	1691	Horne(2), Lee, Rushforth	Hallas(2), Wood, Ramshaw(DG)
FEBRUARY						
11	HULL FC (SC-4)	H	20-34	4401	Lee(2), Harrison, Horne	Wood(2)
25	BATLEY BLDGS	H	66-12	1728	Seal(3), Antonik(3), Rushforth(2), Boothroyd, Hallas, Hughes	Wood(11)
MARCH						
4	ROCHDALE	H	20-23	1533	Antonik, Wood, Lee, Hughes	Wood(2)
11	Workington T	A	34-2	1099	Rushforth(2), Hughes, Seal, Hallas, Lee	Wood(4)
18	BARROW	H	60-20	2431	Horne(3), Wood, Hallas, Harrison, Ramshaw, Seal, Antonik, Rushforth	Wood(10)
25	Widnes Vikings	A	22-19	3469	Harrison(2), Ramshaw, Antonik	Wood(2), Hallas(2)
APRIL						
1	LEIGH CENT	H	6-16	3727	Seal	Hallas
8	Whitehaven	A	4-17	895	Seal	
13	SWINTON LIONS	H	22-26	1719	Lee, Robinson, Hallas, Leatham	Lee(3)
16	Hull KR	A	10-17	1910	Antonik, Harrison	Lee
22	CHORLEY LYNX	H	60-18	1501	Hooson(3), Murdock(2), Hughes(2), Rushforth, Harrison	J.Walker(5), Lee(3)
29	Oldham	A	4-38	1815	Davies	
MAY						
6	HUNSLET HAWKS	H	26-24	1465	Hooson(2), Ramshaw, Ashton, Smith	Holker(2), Ashton
9	WHITEHAVEN	H	4-30	1208	Hooson	
13	Dewsbury	A	9-19	1052	Holker	Holker, Holker(DG)
27	SHEFFIELD EAG	H	26-14	1471	Hogg(2), Sanchez, Tomlinson	Ashton(5)
30	LEIGH (Trans Pennine) H		0-36	2626		
JUNE						
3	Featherstone	A	0-42	1735		
10	DONCASTER	H	52-12	1637	Smith, Antonik, Ramshaw, Hooson, Ashton(2), Stevenson,	Ashton(8)
17	Barley Bulldogs	A	14-16	1002	Tomlinson, Wilkies, Ashton	Ashton
24	OLDHAM	H				
JULY						
1	Chorley Lynx	A				

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KOP THAT!

Dear Mr. King, I showed your page in the programme to our sociology teacher, Ms Shipton. She said that she thought that although it was a good idea to give the opportunity to write to less able members of society she thought that the constant theme of philistineism, violence and heavy drinking is a bad example to young people and brings rugby league into disrepute. Do you agree?

*Fiona Gerrity (14)
Addingham,
West Yorkshire.*

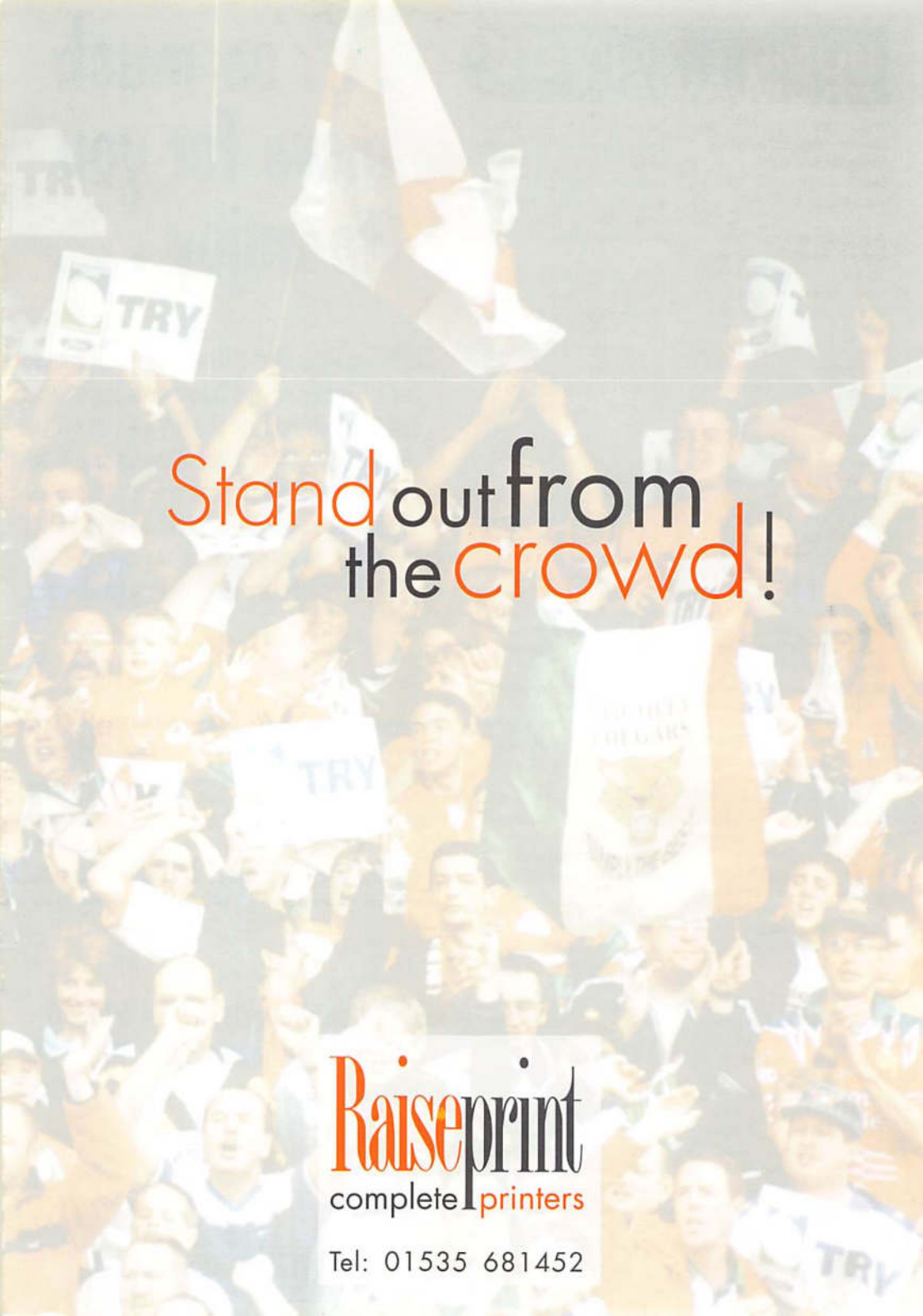
Well, I can't agree or disagree 'cos I haven't a clue what she's on about. (Like most teachers most of the time, as

it happens). One thing I am sure about though is the bit about giving a bad example and bringing rugby league into disrepute. What I do is have a drink and shout for my team. That's what my Dad did and his Dad did probably. (Actually my old man was never sure who his real Dad was but you get the drift.) That's what people have done for a hundred years and it never did rugby league any harm. If your teacher wants to talk about bringing the game into disrepute she wants to find them who run competitions with no promotion and relegation, she wants to find them who decide that a team can be bottom three seasons running and still stay up, she wants to find

the players who come to England to take double wages for half-effort, she wants to find out who decided you can't watch the game on telly if you don't have SKY. And what about whoever said the World Cup was a failure because it rained (which seemed to surprise them in November) and then forced Russia and South African and Samoese leagues to disband 'cos they didn't give them the share of the so-called profits they promised. She should find out who decided it was better for out top clubs to play at soccer grounds, like lodgers, and then get all exited because rugby union types allow us to play finals at their grounds. She wants to find out why they change

the rules every time it looks like Cougars will win something. Then get an answer for why a club can get £1M to merge and then go back to how it was without paying it back. She should track down which smart aleck decided it would be a better game if all pretended to talk like Aussies with field goals and minor premierships and such.

And when she's found this lot then she'll know it's them lot that's bringing this game down not some poor fan like me with a pencil in one hand and a pint in the other.



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HOME THOUGHTS FROM AWAY

THE forgotten man of Rugby League reappeared at Cougar Park in the Doncaster game, in the shape of Leroy Rivett.

A surprise inclusion after reportedly signing for the York Wasps earlier in the week, Rivett made an immediate impact coming off the bench to score two tries in the Cougars mightily impressive win against one of their nearest rivals for a play off spot.

In Rivett, the Cougars have signed a player who is currently steeped in the game's history. It is only two years ago in 1999 since he was representing his hometown club, the Leeds Rhinos, in the last Challenge Cup final to be played at Wembley. Playing in the game is an honour itself; however, Rivett went further, becoming the first player to score four tries in the game, and also walking off with the Lance Todd trophy, which is awarded to the man of the match. It was Leeds first victory in the competition for twenty one years, a fact that made their emphatic victory against the London Broncos, and Leroy's achievement, all the more sweeter. He was also present in the Leeds side that narrowly lost to Wigan in the Super League's first ever top five play off final at Old Trafford in 1998.

During his time in the blue and amber Leroy benefited greatly from the guidance that he received from the Rhinos former coach Graham Murray which culminated in him being called up to Great Britain training squad. Although appearing in the 2000 Challenge Cup final at Murrayfield where the Rhinos were defeated by the Bulls, he never really featured in Dean Lance, Murray's successor at Leeds, plans.

Subsequently this led to him being loaned out last season to the Huddersfield Giants, and when this move didn't work out, he was released by the Rhinos when his contract expired.

From seemingly having the world at his feet a couple of years ago, he found himself not being attached to a club at the beginning of the Super League season. This must have been a far cry from the grandeur of 1999.

Warrington Wolves have until recently had Rivett on trial, and their loss could turn out to be the Cougar's gain. Although only signed until the end of the season, Keighley have got themselves a real crowd pleaser who has few equals in his position in the competition. Together with the enthusiasm and commitment being shown by the players in recent weeks this may be just the edge that they need to make an impact in the play off's.

It may also give Leroy the chance to kick start his career again, as he definitely has age and experience on his side.

INTERESTINGLY another familiar face has also reappeared in the NFP in recent weeks, in the guise of former Cougar Jason Critchley. Released from his Rugby Union contract with the French club Dax, he has signed for the resurgent Whitehaven with the specific aim of helping them push for a top eight place. Another incentive for Critchley will no doubt be the forthcoming home internationals for which he will be eligible to play for Wales.

IAN STRICKLAND

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A LOOK AT RUGBY LEAGUE IN THE MEDIA

IT SAYS HERE

Last weekend alone in the broadsheet Sunday's, Jason Robinson must have received more national press attention than in his entire career as a Rugby League player. There were at least two three-quarter page 'in depth' pieces about him, full of the usual stuff about him 'mastering the technicalities', whatever they are. A pox on 'em, national press sports editors that is. I don't know

whether you buy 'Rugby Leaguer' or 'League Express', but both are worth buying for the opinion pieces of Ray French and Martyn Sadler alone. Both come from academic backgrounds, although only Ray as far as I know has played the game professionally. There is something of the yin and yang about both these excellent writers. You would think that Ray would be ultra conservatively

traditionalist (whatever 'traditionalist' is), but apart from the problem he has with Super League squad numbers, he is all for innovation and expansion. Sadler on the other hand has a strong emotional bond with the game's heritage, whereas you might think he's all for going forward without looking back and you'd think wrongly. However both have different styles. Ray

comes across all up front and emotional, whilst Martyn has a more analytical way of writing, but both sing from remarkably similar hymn sheets. Other good reasons for reading the RL comics are of course William Boot and Steve Fox columns: 'sideways glance' type pieces, and always good stuff. Strangely both blokes are Widnes fans! CHRIS WESTWOOD



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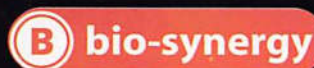
TRY	GOAL	FD GOAL				TRY	GOAL	FD GOAL
			1) Chris Hogg	Gooseye Developments		1) Mark Sibson		
			2) Leroy Rivett	Colonnade Insurance		2) Joe McNicholas		
			3) Karl Smith	Phoenix Trophies		3) Anthony Gibbons		
			4) Mat Foster	VBC		4) Pat Rich		
			5) Max Tomlinson	Grize Brothers		5) Daryl Lacey		
			6) Paul Ashton	MCC		6) Dave Gibbons		
			7) Nathan Antonik	In Memory of Bill Watson		7) Niel Roden		
			8) Phil Stephenson	Information Techniques		8) Loe Casey		
			9) Jason Ramshaw	Speedline Taxis		9) Keith Brennan		
			10) Craig Morphet	Jarman Fencing		10) Paul Norton		
			11) Andy Rice	Chris Bealey Fencing		11) Paul Farrell		
			12) Graeme Shaw	MFI		12) Bryan Henare		
			13) Robert Roberts	Information Techniques		13) Kevin Mannion		
			14) Adam Hayes	Cougar Supporters Club		14) Mike Ford		
			15) Oliver Wilkes	Bethel Rhodes		15) Jason Clegg		
			16) James Rushforth	MCC Autocentres		16) Chris Farrell		
			17) Gareth Hooson	MFI		17) Danny Guest		

PROGRESSIVE SCORE				

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

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
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

PROGRESSIVE SCORE				



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