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DEALERS

Welcome to the Mount



IN THE CHAIR

Kevin Nicholas—

Welcome to our friends from Oldham for a true "Battle of the Roses" in what will undoubtedly be the match of the season so far for both clubs.

Thanks to all our magnificent supporters at Featherstone who made a big difference to the team in what was an unbelievable performance and as an achievement is unrivalled since we took over at the club and probably since as long as I can remember. We do not know when we are beat and everyone at the club is on a high never seen before.

Oldham themselves have equalled our achievements in the play offs by beating Hull KR and Rochdale away and I congratulate them and also thank them for winning to give us an unexpected bonus of a home tie when hopefully the people of Batley will turnout in numbers along with plenty of Roughyeds to maybe create an even better atmosphere than the Trans-Pennine final between us. Well done to Steve Molloy and Andy Proctor who took over the coaching reins at a difficult time and have achieved their goal of Division One status.

By now it should have been announced that Paul Storey is nominated for Head Coach of the Year in the NFP and Glen Tomlinson nominated for NFP player of the year. They are there on merit and the club is proud of their achievements. The NFP dream team nominations have not yet been announced but on merit I hope we have a few more players

certainly will never forget. Today is definitely our last home game, so we can say another farewell to Glen and let's not forget Deano, who goes to Widnes with our best wishes. We will watch him in Super League with pride and remember how lucky we have been to have such a class act at the club this year.

Both teams will go into today's game believing they can win and quite rightly so, but regrettably there will be one loser and one set of disappointed players, coaches and supporters. Whoever it is after the game, let all supporters give both teams a reception they deserve and then let's party!!

I don't know about you but I lost the plot at Featherstone, I was so delighted. I could hardly speak, I had headache, I was mentally drained and all I did was watch the game! Hopefully today will be just as enjoyable and I am prepared to lose the plot again if need be. So thank you to everyone for your support, enjoy the game and see you next season.

Kevin

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TALL STOREY'S

A warm welcome to Steve Molloy and the people of Oldham today, Steve looks like he's got his boys really ticking over the last month and pulled out a couple of outstanding results against Hull KR and Rochdale. This is nothing short of what they deserve after the run of bad fortunes they experienced at the start of the season.

We ourselves have had a whirlwind of a month with wins at Doncaster and Featherstone. I can't praise the boys enough for the commitment and effort the boys have put in and the attitude the boys have gone into these games with.

A major buzz for me is to see the expressions on people's faces when the final whistle goes and it is great to be able to be playing a part in bringing so much pleasure to those genuine people who have followed us all year, come rain or shine.

Today's game is going to be another tough game and there will be no room for complacency if we are to take the spoils. Having the home advantage means nothing in these games, as both today's sides have proved in their previous fixtures, so all in all I think today's game will prove to be a classic cup tie.

Enjoy the Game,

Paul Storey

PHYSIO'S REPORT

The only players that are unavailable are long term casualties, Craig Wright and Andy Adamson. There were the usual bumps and bruises after the Featherstone game but nothing of significance.

See you next season,

Gordon Gray-Cowan

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They say that home is where the heart is and that is certainly the case for myself. I was born and bred in Batley, even though I am based in Lancashire, I still class Batley as my home. I still have a close affinity with Batley RLFC for I was brought up in my rugby here and also most of my family played here. I feel clubs like Batley are the bread and butter of our game.

I am hoping the recent success is an inspiration to all. I realise the hard work that is involved behind the scenes in setting up a good foundation for tomorrow. Congratulations must go to everyone involved with this family friendly club, a club that is steeped in the history of the game.

There is so much Rugby playing talent in this area I hope that the structure now in operation is a message that Batley itself could return to former glories if a combined effort by all is made, the back up needs to be there. I do hope the next stage will be a good youth development programme to encourage the youth in this area which has always been a fine RL nursery. It's a nursery that can lay an even more solid foundation to the "Gallant Youths" can re-live it's good name.

Brian Foley is a leading expert in the development of the young. He hails from a strong professional RL background. He has received many honours and awards serving in HM forces and as a Police Officer. He has coached representative sides has coaching experience in South Africa/Australia. Many of today's stars have been under Brian's wing.

Brian Foley

Youth Development Manager

Wigan Warriors

Today's Mascots

There will be four mascots for today's game for this important play-off game. The first mascot is **Thomas Miskell** who is six years old. His hobbies include rugby, swimming and making things! His daddy has been supporting the Bulldogs since he was a little boy and now takes Thomas to all the games. Our second mascot is **Jack Callaghan** who's birthday it is today, Happy Birthday Jack! Jack goes to St Joseph's RC School and goes to the rugby with his mother Elaine. His favourite player is Roger Simpson. Also on mascot duty today is lucky mascot "**little Joe**" Grailey. Joe was our mascot when we started our good run of home results. Finally we have young **Sheridan Tomlinson** as our mascot in what will be his father Glen's final home game in a Batley shirt. So to Jack, Thomas, Joe and Sheridan, enjoy the day!

Jack

Thomas

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"The Mount Scene"

By Club Historian & Programme Editor - Laurence Grailey.

Well we have ended up with another home game after all!

The tremendous victory at Doncaster was followed up with an even better performance at The Lionheart Stadium, Featherstone last Sunday. Hopefully, Rugby League Raw showed more of the match and less of the Featherstone Chairman's pets as was the case for the Doncaster game!

A sizeable Batley following saw our first win at Featherstone since 8th October 1952 (which was a Yorkshire Cup Semi Final 8 - 4 victory incidentally) and the lads fully deserved the win and extended what seems like a never ending season - still as far as I am concerned it can carry on all the way to 12th October and the Grand Final at the Halton Stadium, Widnes. Only 2 more games to go and having a home tie at this stage is a bonus - Go for it lads! The support has been tremendous - What a second half to the season.

Moving onto the current stats position which shows the following :-

Goal Kicking - The leading goal scorer is Dean Lawford with 84 successful attempts from 119 which represents a 71% success rate, Paul Gleadhill 9 from 12 (75%), Craig Stevens 2 from 3 (67%), Chris Hough 9 from 17 (53%), Will Cartledge 2 from 5 (40%) and Richard Gibson with one from 3 (33%). Long term injury victims, Jez Dyson 14 from 20 (70%) and Craig Wright failed with his two attempts at goal.

Try scoring - The leading try scoring position is currently held by Craig Lingard on 25 with Glen Tomlinson on 23, followed by Danny Maun on 19.

Points scoring - Dean Lawford leads the way with 182 points.

Consecutive appearances - The longest run of consecutive appearances is held by Paul Harrison who stands on 18.

Penalty count - For the entire season stands at 263 in Batley's favour and 292 to our combined opponents. Last week at Featherstone Mr Silverwood rather generously awarded 7 to us whilst he felt the need to ignore Featherstone's high tackling and strangely enough gave them 13!

Consecutive games scored in - Dean Lawford has currently scored in the last 5 games.

Enjoy the match !

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In Town Today

Oldham

By Laurence Grailey

How it Stands so far

Batley Wins 30
Oldham Wins 45
Drawn Games 10
Batley points scored 814
Oldham points scored 1,187

This includes all competitive games against Oldham & Oldham Roughyeds.

Earlier this season on 5th May we lost 16 - 40 at Hurst Cross in the Buddies National League Cup but gained revenge in the league fixture on 23rd June by winning 34 - 26.

On 11th August the points were shared 20 - 20 in the league fixture at 'The Mount'. Emergency goal kicker, Will Cartledge landing 2 goals with tries from Craig Lingard, Chris North, Kris Lythes and Paul Harrison. The crowd being 1,013.

Not many players have represented both clubs over the years, here are some of them that have:- Probably the most famous being former Batley 'great', John Etty. Others include scrum half, Mick McCone, centre, Mick Parrish, wingman, Hugh Gumbs, prop forwards, Jason Clegg, and former Batley club captain Gary Lord, hooker John Clarke, second row forward Craig Richards and current Bulldog, Joe Naidole. Incidentally current Oldham coach, Steve Molloy has represented both clubs this season!

14th September 1895 sees Oldham play their first match in the Northern Union against Hunslet and lose 8 - 16.

Season 1899 and Oldham beat Hunslet in the Challenge Cup Final becoming the first Lancashire club to win the trophy. Season 1907 sees Dickie Thomas' team beaten in both the Challenge Cup Final and Championship Final. Oldham, however, win their first Lancashire Cup.

Season 1911 and Joe Ferguson's great team retain the Championship after beating Wigan in consecutive finals. 1922 and Reg Farrar sets a club record of 49 tries in a season.

Season's 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927 Oldham reach 4 successive Challenge Cup Finals, winning in 1925 under Herman Hilton and 1927 under Bob Sloman. Also in 1927 the first radio broadcast of a Challenge Cup Final takes place when Oldham meet Swinton at Wigan.

Alex Givvons makes his debut for Oldham in 1933, the start of an association with the club which would last 60 years. Alan Davies makes his debut in 1950 and goes on to score a club record 173 tries. 1956-57 marks a three trophy season, Frank Stirrup captains the team to victory in the Lancashire Cup and League. Bernard Ganley leads them in the 15-14 defeat of Hull in the Championship final. Season 1958 sees Ganley become the first player to kick 200 goals in a season.

1959 and Oldham pay a world record £10,650 to Workington Town for Ike Southward. Oldham come nearest to reaching Wembley in 1964 losing to Hull KR after 2 semi final replays.

Mick Parrish (latterly a Batley player) becomes the only Oldham player to score in every match in a season in 1981-82. Andy Goodway captains Great Britain against France in 1985. James Lomas is the only other Oldham player to lead Great Britain in a test match (1911-12).

1988 and Oldham win both the Second Division Championship and the Second Division Premiership at Old Trafford after a 28-26 victory against Featherstone Rovers. Des Foy wins the Harry Sunderland Trophy as man of the match.

Oldham beat Hull KR 30-29 in the Second Division Premiership Final in 1990, Mike Ford wins the Harry Sunderland Trophy.

19th January 1997 and Oldham beat Swinton 20-16 in the last match to be played at Watersheddings. In the same season Oldham drop out of Super League and go into liquidation and are resurrected as a Second Division team.

Oldham win the inaugural Red Rose Trophy and are beaten finalists against Batley Bulldogs in the Trans Pennine Trophy in 1998. Season 2000 - 01 and Oldham are beaten Grand Finalists against Widnes and miss out on a possible Super League place.

Pen pictures Oldham Roughyeds

STEVE MOLLOY
Head Coach

Recently appointed coach, Steve joined Oldham from the Batley Bulldogs, after previously giving service to Warrington, Leeds, Featherstone and Sheffield. Former captain of England.

GARETH BARBER
Halfback/Centre

Oldham born 24 year old who returned home to Oldham after a spell with Warrington. Played for the NFP U-21's at Widnes in the autumn.

JOHN BRADDISH
Half-back

Signed from St Helens on a long term loan. Top goal kicker in the Alliance championship last season. Returned to St Helens for a brief period this season.

JASON CLEGG
Prop

Former Bradford Northern prop who has had four good seasons with Oldham. A favourite of the Oldham supporters.

WILL COWELL
Utility Back

21 year old, former Warrington player. Played 18 Super League games for Warrington and was recommended to Oldham by Daryl Van de Velde.

PHIL FARRELL
Forward

Brother of Wigan forward Andy Farrell. Phil has spent over two seasons at the club and was signed by former coach, Mike Ford. Another player who played in the NFP U-21's.

ANTHONY GIBBONS
Centre

Formed a reliable centre partnership last season Pat Rich. Hit by injury earlier in the season.

DAVID GIBBONS
Half-back

Anthony's identical twin. Former Leeds and Bramley half-back who was vice captain last season.

DANNY GUEST
Prop

Another Roughyeds's original who returned to the club two season's ago. A big prop he has had a great season.

BRYAN HENARE
Back Row

Former St Helens and Auckland Warriors back rower who originally joined the club on loan from Saints before signing permanently for the 2002 season on a one year contract.

JOHN HOUGH
Hooker

Live wire hooker, who was the first player to sign for the Roughyeds in 1997. Before last season, he had a try scoring rate of a try every three games. A tremendous record for a hooker.

GAVIN JOHNSON
Centre/Wing

Gavin spent two seasons at Odsal in the Bradford Academy side. Gavin is Oldham born and bred.

MARK SIBSON

Another player that Mike Ford signed from Bramley. He is widely regarded as one of the best and most exciting fullbacks in the NFP.

LEE DORAN
Prop

Teenage prop who is just starting to emerge as another possible future first team regular. Played for the first team against Batley where he made an immediate impact with his powerful runs.

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By Laurence Grailey

Date of birth	6.1.1976.
Nationality	British.
Place of birth	Wakefield.
Place of residence	Wakefield.
Marital status	Single.
Family details	None.
Height	6 Foot.
Weight	15 Stone.
Nickname	Northy.
Preferred position	Centre.
Previous club	Dewsbury, Oldham & Hunslet.
Honours gained	None.
Senior debut	1993 with Dewsbury.
Career highlight	Winning the Grand Final.
Career low point	Injuries.
Most respected player (current)	All of them.
Most respected player (Past)	Shaun Irwin because of his commitment and professionalism.
Hardest tackler faced	Rob Wilson.
Hardest player to tackle	Rob Wilson.
Greatest influence on career	My Dad & Allan Walker.
Most memorable game and why	Dewsbury V London in Challenge Cup - because we were the underdogs and won.
Favourite ground	Headingley.
Worst ground	Derwent Park.
Favourite other sports	Golf.
Greatest playing strength	With the ball close to the line.
Any other interests	Loads - but too many to mention.
Best coach	All been good coaches.
Favourite drink	Lager.
Favourite food	Chinese.
Favourite type of music	Dance.
Favourite holiday spot	San Antonio (Ibiza).
Favourite actor	Kevin Spacey.
Favourite movie	Usual Suspects.
Favourite TV	They think it's all over.
Greatest dislike	None.
Ambitions within the game	To get as far as I can.
Life after rugby	Socialising.
Any advice for young players	Train hard, play hard and give 100%.

2001 December	2 nd	Rochdale Hornets	A	3:00
	9 th	Leigh Centurions	H	3:00
	16 th	York	A	3:00
	26 th	Dewsbury Rams	H	12:00
	30 th	Chorley Lynx	A	3:00
2002 January	6 th	Workington town	H	3:00
	13 th	Gateshead Thunder	A	3:30
	20 th	Huddersfield Giants	H	3:00
2002 February	3 rd	Doncaster Dragons	A	3:00
	17 th	Sheffield Eagles	H	3:00
2002 March	3 rd	Featherstone Rovers	A	3:00
	10 th	Keighley Cougars	H	3:00
	17 th	Whitehaven	A	3:00
	24 th	Barrow Border Raiders	H	3:00
2002 June	9 th	Hunslet Hawks	A	3:30
	16 th	Swinton Lions	H	3:00
	23 rd	Oldham	A	3:00
	30 th	Hull Kingston Rovers	H	3:00
2002 July	7 th	Keighley Cougars	A	3:00
	14 th	Featherstone Rovers	H	3:00
	21 st	Hunslet Hawks	H	3:00
	28 th	Sheffield Eagles	A	3:15
2002 August	4 th	Whitehaven	H	3:00
	11 th	Oldham	H	3:00
	18 th	Huddersfield Giants	A	3:00
	25 th	Dewsbury Rams	A	3:00
2002 September	1 st	Gateshead Thunder	H	3:00
	8 th	Barrow Border Raiders	A	3:00

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Paul Gledhill



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Glen Tomlinson

Danny Mills



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Chris North



Bulldogs Study
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Will Cartledge



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Appearance & Scorers

Appearances & Scorers Season 2001 - 02							Career Record						
Season 2001 - 02													
Player	Apps	S Apps	Goals	D Goals	Tries	Points	Apps	S Apps	Goals	D Goals	Tries	Points	
D Bates	2	4				0	2	4	0	0	0	0	
S Beard	2	2				0	2	2	0	0	0	0	
C Beaver	1				1	4	4	7	0	0	3	12	
M Bostock	1	4				0	1	4	0	0	0	0	
W Cartledge	21	11	2		4	20	43	20	2	0	7	32	
M Cass	4	29			5	20	167	94	0	7	52	215	
Marvin Cox	1					0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
R Dean		5				0	0	5	0	0	0	0	
J Dyson	8	1	14		1	32	94	10	126	2	17	322	
R Gibson	5	2	1			2	7	3	1	0	0	2	
P Gleadhill	25		9		15	78	129	1	11	0	59	258	
P Harrison	13	22			13	52	131	36	0	0	59	236	
R Hewitt		3				0	5	18	0	0	0	0	
S Hill	19	2			1	4	19	2	0	0	1	4	
G Honor	5					0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
R Horsley	35				14	56	65	0	0	0	19	76	
C Hough	7	5	9	1	3	31	7	5	9	1	3	31	
D Lawford	28		84	6	2	182	28	0	84	6	2	182	
A Leek	10	4			1	4	10	4	0	0	1	4	
C Lingard	24	1			25	100	80	25	0	0	73	292	
K Lythes	19				3	12	19	0	0	0	3	12	
D Maun	34				19	76	55	0	0	0	24	96	
S Molloy	10	1			4	16	10	1	0	0	4	16	
J Naidole	16	13				0	16	13	0	0	0	0	
C North	18	2			7	28	18	3	0	0	8	32	
R Padgett	1					0	7	20	0	0	0	0	
D Rourke	29	2			3	12	29	4	0	0	3	12	
R Simpson	23	1			4	16	146	3	0	0	55	220	
D Smith		6				0	0	6	0	0	0	0	
G Smith	7				1	4	7	0	0	0	1	4	
Y Sozi		5				0	0	5	0	0	0	0	
A Spink	23	7			2	8	23	7	0	0	2	8	
C Stevens	7		2		1	8	9	12	4	0	2	16	
M Toohey	14	13			2	8	14	15	0	0	2	8	
G Tomlinson	33			1	23	93	206	1	0	6	123	498	
L Williamson	25				7	28	25	0	0	0	7	28	
C Wright	12	2			1	4	16	8	0	1	4	17	

Forth Coming Player Milestones

Glen Tomlinson requires a further 2 points for 500 for the club.

Craig Lingard requires 8 points for 300 points for the club.

Danny Maun requires 4 more points for 100.

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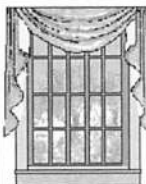
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Batley R.L.F.C. Club Records 1895 to the Present Date

RECORD ATTENDANCE

23,989 V. Leeds (Home) 14.3.25. (Gate receipts
£1,693.11s. 3d).

RECORD SCORE

78-22 V. Leigh (Home) 26.3.95.
64-0 V. Nottingham City (Away) 10.11.91.

GOALS

GAME- Simon Wilson (13) V. Leigh 26.3.95.
SEASON- Simon Wilson (127) Inc 2 Drop Goals -
Season 1994-95.
CAREER- Wharton Peers Davies (458)- 1896-1912.

TRIES

GAME- Joe Oakland (5) V. Bramley (H)
19.12.1908.
Tommy Brannan (5) V. Swinton (H) 17.3.20
J. Wale (5) V. Bramley (H) 4.12.26
J. Wale (5) V. Cottingham (H) R.L.Cup 1st Round
12.2.27.
Tommy Oldroyd (5) V. Highfield (A) 6.3.94.
SEASON- Jack Tindall (29) Season 1912-13.
Darren Moxon (27) Post War Tries In A Season -
(Season 1993-94).
CAREER- Glen Tomlinson (123) - 1991/2 to 1995/
6 and 2000/1 to 2001/2.

POINTS

GAME- Simon Wilson (30) V. Leigh (H) 26.3.95
SEASON- Richard Price (308) Season 1997.
CAREER- Wharton Peers Davies (1288) Season
1896-1912.

APPEARANCES-

SEASON- John Etty (44) Season 1950-51.
CONSECUTIVE - Richard Price (103) From
16.6.1996 to 5.3.2000.
CAREER- Wharton Peers Davies (448) Season 1896-
1912.

INDIVIDUAL CLUB HONOUR - Richard Price
played and scored in every first team game in season
1998. (The only player in the club's history to achieve
this).

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

GREAT BRITAIN-
Frank Gallagher 1922-26, Joe Oliver 1928-9,
Norman Field 1963-4, Carl Gibson 1985-6.

GREAT BRITAIN TOURISTS-
Frank Gallagher 1924, Joe Oliver 1928.

ENGLAND-

Fred Hill 1909, George Davidge 1924, Frank
Gallagher 1923-27, Joe Oliver 1928, George Brown
1945, Bill Hudson 1946-7, John Etty 1946-7 (Reserve
to travel V.France), Bill Riches 1946-7 (Reserve to
travel V.France), George Palmer 1950-1.

ENGLAND UNDER 24'S

Stan Gittins 1969.

WALES-

Will.T. Davies 1909, F.Willis 1921, Bryn Williams
1921-2, Harry Rees 1923-5, Ike.J. Fowler 1926.

OTHER NATIONALITIES-

F.Willis 1921, Bryn Williams 1921, Ike J.Fowler
1926.

BRITISH EMPIRE-

John Etty 1950-51.

ENGLAND UNDER 21'S

Peter Bateson 1953-4, Gary Graham 1953-4.

YORKSHIRE APPEARANCES (POST WAR)

Bill Riches 1946-52, Bill Hudson 1946-7, Sam
Hargreaves 1946-7, Don Burnell 1947-8, John Etty
1947-50, Norman Field 1963-4, Phil Doyle 1969-70,
Jim Naylor 1972-3, Carl Gibson 1985-6.

CLUB HONOURS

R.L.CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS- 1896-7, 1897-
8 & 1900-01.

YORKSHIRE CUP WINNERS- 1912-13.

YORKSHIRE CUP RUNNERS UP- 1909-10, 1922-
23, 1924-25 & 1952-53.

YORKSHIRE RUGBY UNION CUP WINNERS-
1884-85.

YORKSHIRE RUGBY UNION CUP RUNNERS UP-
1892-93.

YORKSHIRE SENIOR CUP RUNNERS UP ('A'
TEAM)- 1981-82.

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS-
1923-24.

TRANS PENNINE CUP WINNERS- 1998.

DIVISION 2 PROMOTION - 1998.

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 2
RUNNERS UP- 1994-95.

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE WINNERS- 1898-9 &
1923-4.

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE RUNNERS UP- 1899-
1900, 1908-9, 1921-2 & 1925-6.

ALLIANCE DIVISION 2 EAST CHAMPIONS ('A'
TEAM)- 1991-2.

ALLIANCE DIVISION 2 CUP RUNNERS UP ('A'
TEAM)- 1991-2.

ALLIANCE CUP RUNNERS UP ('A' TEAM)
(26.9.98)- 1998.

ALLIANCE UNDER 21 SPRING CUP RUNNERS
UP ('A' TEAM) (8.5.2002) 2002.

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1971 - 'That was the year that was'

By Club Historian Laurence Grailey.

Main news events of the year.

13th June – The first extracts of the Pentagon Papers were published in the 'New York Times' after a court ruling.

Idi Amin seizes control of Uganda.

The top selling singles of the year were:- 'Baby Jump' by Mungo Jerry, 'Double Barrel' by Dave and Ansil Collins and 'Hey girl don't bother me' by the Tams.

Films of the year were:- 'The French Connection' which won a best actor Oscar for Gene Hackman. 'Klute' which won a best actress Oscar for Jane Fonda and 'Sunday Bloody Sunday' which won best actor BAFTA's for Peter Finch and actress, Glenda Jackson.

FA Cup and First Division Champions were Arsenal, Rugby League Challenge Cup winners were Leigh and County Cricket Champions were Surrey.

Meanwhile what was happening at the Mount?

Batley finished 28th out of a 30 team Rugby Football League.

Leading goal kickers were Keith Toohey on 18 and Dave Secker on 17.

Leading try scorer was Urek Piwinski on 7 followed by Geoff Marsh and George Standidge on 5 each and Alan Watts on 4.

Main appearance makers were Phil Holmes, David Brooke, Alan Edwards, Phil Doyle, John Fox, Jack Thomas and Ernest Hepworth.

Coach was Dave Cox (for the third and final time!) and captain was Phil Holmes.

Highlights were the 13 – 4 home win against Whitehaven, the 7 – 7 draw with the Dewsbury, the 12 – 12 draw at Workington Town, the 17 – 12 win over Doncaster, the 9 – 8 triumph at Hunslet and the 15 – 5 win at Halifax.

Batley Bulldogs fully supports the 'LETS TACKLE RACISM IN RUGBY LEAGUE' campaign and welcomes all players and supporters, irrespective of their racial or ethnic origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Please allow EVERYONE to enjoy the game

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Season Review

A Personal view of a long season, strange season, but great season.

Today's game could be the last of the season, but also the same could have been said of the recent Doncaster and Featherstone games.

Tough start but a creditable performance at Rochdale, robbed against Leigh at home, a big game (at that stage) at Chorley – and victory secured in the snow ! Tremendous home win over Workington and the show continued rolling at Gateshead. Next up were Huddersfield, we were hit by injuries and it looked like the wheels were coming off.

This seemed to be the case when heavy defeats at Doncaster, home to London (in the cup), home to Sheffield and at Featherstone occurred. Still next in town were everybody's favorites Keighley Cougars and a record 56 – 4 win. Whitehaven slammed us the following game and it looked like back to square one!

Maybe the Buddies Cup saved our season – Not that we did well in it but once it finished we embarked on one of the most enjoyable 4 months I have witnessed in my 35 years of watching Batley. See what I mean with the following:- beating Dewsbury in a thriller, winning at Oldham 34 – 26 when all seemed lost with 15 minutes left, hammering Hull KR, doing the double over Keighley, record score and Tommo's hatrick against Featherstone. Could it get better?

Then the down side being the last minute loss at Sheffield followed by a great home win over Whitehaven (remember Danny's try), a spirited fight back against today's visitors Oldham to earn a draw plus I almost forgot we beat Dewsbury 24 – 20, Tommo only equaling the try record against Gateshead despite going over the line countless times, forget Barrow away (other than to mark Tommo breaking the try record), a great performance at Doncaster and our first win at Featherstone in almost 50 years! Phew !

Those are my memories, everyone will have their own recollections, but people are returning slowly but surely to watch a quality product, even my mate Paul Harrington has been converted.

The players, coaching staff, directors, match day officials and supporters have all played their part in a great season for Batley Bulldogs Rugby League Club and I am sure I speak for many when I say thanks for the combined effort that has made this a season to remember. Incidentally what about reaching the Grand Final?

See you next season.

Laurie.



TWO GREAT RUGBY LEAGUE READS...

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Rugby League World MAGAZINE

GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS looks into some fascinating play-off clashes

LEIGH coach Paul Terzis remarked after his side's defeat at Huddersfield that the only result he predicted incorrectly at the weekend was the Centurions', as Batley and Oldham continued their remarkable runs on a weekend of upsets.

The only game that went as league positions suggested it would, was at the McAlpine Stadium, where the Giants continued their seemingly unstoppable march towards Super League with a 36-10 win over the Centurions.

Admittedly, Leigh were severely disrupted by suspensions to key pair Adam Bristow and Vila Matautia, and lost halfback pairing Bobbie Goulding and John Duffy to injury in the opening 25 minutes. But the Giants still looked formidable, even more so following coach Tony Smith's after-match comment that they "played OK".

But the weekend's real stories in the NFP play-offs came with Batley's and Oldham's wins at Featherstone and Rochdale respectively.

Both the Bulldogs and the Roughyeds has recorded tremendous away wins on the previous weekend, and to back those up with consecutive wins on the road was some feat.

At Spotland Oldham topped their great local rivals Rochdale Hornets, who had finished six places above them in the league and beaten them fourtimes this sea-

son. That counted for nothing on Sunday though as Steve Molloy's side completely outplayed their opponents to win 20-6, eliminating Hornets for the second consecutive year.

Meanwhile at Featherstone Batley were extending their remarkable season by another week as influential scrum-half Dean Lawford inspired the Bulldogs to a 32-30 win at Lionheart Stadium.

The Bulldogs now entertain Oldham at Mount Pleasant this weekend, with the winners travelling to Leigh the following weekend for the right to face Huddersfield in the Grand Final. It promises to be a fascinating tie.

And let's not forget the National League One Qualifying Series, which stages two games of its own at the weekend. Dewsbury Rams entertain a Workington Town side reportedly struggling to get a team onto the park, following contracts being "re-aligned". The winners of that clash go straight into the Grand Final, which will act as a curtain raiser to the Premiership's showpiece event at Widnes on October 12.

The losers get a second bite of the cherry at home to the winner of Saturday's Sheffield versus Barrow game at the Don Valley Stadium.

So plenty to hold the interest of Premiership supporters everywhere then. With television coverage in place and crowds rising for most clubs, this is an exciting time to be involved with the NFP.

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- 1 Craig Lingard
- 2 Chris North
- 3 Roger Simpson
- 4 Danny Maun
- 5 Leon Williamson
- 6 Glen Tomlinson
- 7 Dean Lawford
- 8 Dave Bates
- 9 Kris Lythe
- 10 Steve Hill
- 11 Dave Rourke
- 12 Andy Spink
- 13 Ryan Horsley
- 14 Mark Cass
- 15 paul harrison
- 16 Mark Toohey
- 17 Joe Naidole

OLDHAM

Head Coach: Steve Molloy

- 1 Gavin Dodd
- 2 Mark Sibson
- 3 Anthony Gibbons
- 4 Jon Goddard
- 5 Joe McNicholas
- 6 Gareth Barber
- 7 Neil Roden
- 8 Steve Molloy
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- 10 Jason Clegg
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- 13 Dave Gibbons
- 14 Keith Brennan
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