



TEAMS

OLDHAM BARROW R

Coach: Steve MOLLOY

Coach: Cameron BELL



Gavin DODD	1	Craig BOWER
Chris IRWIN	2	Jamie MARSHALL
Paul ANDERSON	3	Andy McCLURE
Iain MARSH	4	Paul JONES
Will COWELL	5	Shane IRBOR
Gareth BARBER	6	Stuart DANCER
Neil RODEN	7	Chris ARCHER
Steve MOLLOY	8	Tau LIKU
John HOUGH	9	Andy HENDERSON
Martin McLOUGHLIN	10	Wayne JONES
Lee DORAN	11	Steve JACKSON
Ryan STAZICKER	12	Paul GARDNER
Phil FARRELL	13	Phil ATKINSON
Anthony MURRAY	14	Adam PATE
Simon SVABIC	15	Geoff LUXON
Chris MORLEY	16	Dave CLARK
Darren SHAW	17	James STAINTON

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REFEREE: S. ADDY



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M. HAWKES



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The Roughyeds



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SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2003 KO 3.00PM

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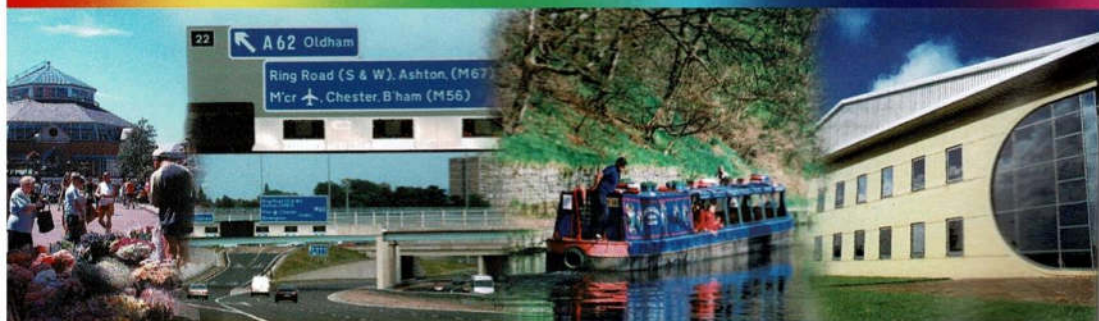
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The Roughyeds

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HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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Herman Hilton 1913-26
Alan Davies 1950-62
Frank Stirrup 1950-62
Bernard Ganley 1950-61
John Etty 1954-59
Derek Turner 1955-59
Bob Irving 1964-74
Martin Murphy 1966-82
Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

IN THE HOT SEAT

Christopher Hamilton

DISAPPOINTED was the best way to describe my feelings after the London Broncos game last weekend in the capital. Firstly I thought we contributed more to the game than the score of 42-12 suggested but we were also let down by the attendance of 1014 - more than 200 less than watched us beat the amateurs of East Hull. It is frustrating to think that East Hull earned more from the game with us than we did from the trip to London.

After all that we also had the additional expense of the teams overnight stay to pay for. Taking all things into account we definitely lost money on the game. A big thank you to all of our supporters who made the long trip down to support the team - it was greatly appreciated.

Those of you who did make the journey will know that it would not have been fair to ask the players to try and be at their best against full time opposition after a 4½ hour journey on a coach.

What the game did show was the benefits of full time training in terms of strength, skills etc. although for most of the second half particularly, we caused London problems. Perhaps the best assessment of our players came from Broncos coach, Tony Rea, who told me that we had caused his team problems and his players were commenting on that after the game.

Whilst it certainly has not been a great start to the season it is time for the players to show the form which is the reason they are at the club. We are aiming for success and winning games brings that and today we must aim to start a run which will give us a chance of qualifying from this group in the Arriva Trains Cup. Our opposition today Barrow Raiders are in somewhat of a transitional mode having seen a big part of last seasons team move on. The one thing about the Barrow club is the honesty and sincerity of the people involved - they all care - and that is something I can relate to. I hope they get the success they deserve.

They will provide stiff resistance today and we must not underestimate them.

Finally many congratulations to Hunslet Hawks for their cup win over my favourite team (not!) Huddersfield. As long as there are results like that the romance of the cup lives on.

Please be as loud as you can today.

Enjoy the game.

Chris



THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS MATCHDAY MAGAZINE DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF OLDHAM RLFC (1997) LTD.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE & RUGBY LEAGUE EXPRESS FOR THE USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

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JOHN WILLIE**



**JOHN WILLIE
TO HIS MATES.**

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Molloy's Message



WELCOME back to Boundary Park everybody.

It was pleasing to see over 2000 supporters against Rochdale considering the conditions let's hope that we can maintain and even better that level of support as the season progresses.

Special welcome to players, officials and fans of Barrow RL Club who have made the long journey and as they've proven this season are a very competitive side, running Salford close in their Challenge Cup tie.

Another factor that should make today's encounter a little more interesting is the fact that we now have three ex Barrow Border Raiders players amongst our ranks, namely Iain Marsh, Martin McLoughlin and Anthony Murray, who I hope will be looking for big games.

Thank you to the die-hards who made the journey to London. Unfortunately I felt the first twenty minutes we gave them too much respect and ultimately conceded early points which hindered our belief that we could actually win the game. The second half performance was much better and physically I thought our pack out muscled theirs which is no mean feat considering they are a Super League side and full time professionals.

As long as we can take positives from these experiences and better ourselves as players which will hopefully stand us in good stead for the long hard season ahead.

Enjoy the game,

Steve

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IN TOWN Today - Barrow



Damien Magee: A former Barrow Island amateur, Damien is a never-say-die gutsy competitor. The versatile player, who has played a lot at hooker, gained valuable experience playing North West Counties rugby.

Steve Jackson: Another pack rookie and a player who will go far in the game. Jackson has already proved himself at this level, a tireless grafter who played a major part in the NFP U21 victory against their more illustrious counterparts from Super League.

Wayne Jones: Recruited from Askam, a hard running, hard tackling forward who has the ability to make the leap into the pro ranks.

Geoff Luxon: Not the biggest of forwards, but extremely quick and really takes some stopping when he hits full pelt. A real lion-hearted performer.

Shane Irabor: The former Walney Cents amateur is another good finisher with a bright future ahead of him in the game.

Jamie Marshall: Certainly has the heart for the job. Can do a job in a number of positions and will always give 100 per cent to the cause.

Phil Atkinson: Signed for Barrow in June 1993, now in his Testimonial Year, the Ulverstonian has been a fantastic servant to the club.

Taualupe Liku: Big likable Tongan prop. Was used to great advantage last season as an impact player off the bench. Formerly with Leigh and Workington.
Simon Lyon: A signing from the successful Academy side of 2001. Prop or second row.

Dave Clark: Vastly experienced hooker, very popular player.

Lee Washington: Demonstrated some very impressive centre play in the Academy.

Daniel Lockhart: Joined Barrow from Walney Central and immediately claimed the full back spot until his injury.

Barry Pugh: Another international, a player who is on the verge of the first team at stand off or loose forward.

Ryan Corbett: A big forward who runs hard at the gaps and who shows a surprisingly adroit side-step for such a big player.

Andrew Henderson: Torquay born 22 year old Aussie who only arrived in the country in May 2001. Went straight into Salford A team where he was appointed captain and awarded 'A Team Player of the Year'. Equally at home at half back, hooker or loose forward, came to the UK from North Sydney Bears.

Paul Jones: 22 year old versatile back very fast, signed from local amateurs Askam last season, scored a 80 yard try for Askam against Barrow in The Challenge Cup two years ago.

Paul Lupton: One of three rugby playing brothers Peter is at Leeds and Graham with local amateurs Askam. Paul, a strong tackling forward, is a former Barla international. Hails from the once famous Millom Club.

Adam Pate: A rugby union signing plays full back or stand off half. Hails from Carlisle and has represented Cumbria at Union, a useful goal kicker.

Paul Gardner: Utility player and older brother of Saints (Ade) and Leeds (Matt) formerly with Warrington as a youngster, strong in attack.

Anthony Horton: Utility player signed from Walney Central.

Chris Archer: Half back signed from London Broncos, where he spent two seasons, a major signing for Barrow. Archer is Barrow born having played junior rugby for Hindpool.

Paul Evans: Half back signed in the close season from local side Millom. A Cumbria County player a sound goal kicker.

Tane Manihera: Half back in his second spell at Barrow after rejoining the club in the close season after two years with Workington. Former junior Kiwi played for Carlisle also.

Andy McClure: Local centre from Roose-Pioneers strong running player played for Cumbria amateurs.

James King: Prop/second row forward new recruit from Australia.

Craig Bower: Centre also from Australia played alongside King and Andy Henderson.



Taualupe Liku

A Potted History of..... Barrow.....by Don Yates

BARROW, from National League Division Two, visit Boundary Park this afternoon in what, for both clubs, is a vital Arriva Trains League Cup qualifier. Oldham, without a win so far, have ground to make up but Barrow are confident of qualifying from the North group after collecting points from both their opening matches. Last season the Shipbuilders reached the quarter-final stage of this competition but were drawn away at Whitehaven where they narrowly lost 23-22. They will be hoping for a better draw this year as they strive to lift their first piece of silverware since 1984.

The Barrow club was founded in the 1870s and joined the Rugby Football League in 1900. For the next 50-odd years Barrow were respected and popular visitors to each and every ground because of their reputation for playing attractive rugby. However, success evaded them throughout those years although they were Lancashire Cup and Wembley finalists during the 1937-38 season.

The 1950s changed all that when the great Barrow team of the Willie Horne, Phil Jackson, Jack Grundy and Dennis Goodwin era enabled the Shipbuilders to win their first trophy. It was Oldham who suffered, beaten 12-2 in the 1954 Lancashire Cup Final. The Barrow try scorers in that final were centre three-quarter Dennis Goodwin and second-row forward Reg Parker with skipper and stand-off Willie Horne landing three goals. Willie Horne is, without doubt, Barrows most famous sporting personality. Not only was he a very talented rugby player and an inspiring leader, he was also the epitome of modesty, generosity and sportsmanship. He became, quite literally, a legend in his own lifetime. He captained Barrow three times at Wembley and also skippered Lancashire, England and Great Britain. Between 1943 and 1959 Horne played in 461 matches for Barrow and scored 1,817 points from 113 tries and 739 goals. The main stand at Craven

Park is named after him as is a street in Barrow and he was also made a Freeman of the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness. Before Horne signed for Barrow he was sought by Oldham. He actually played a couple of matches for the Roughyeds during the 1942-43 season after which he was offered a substantial sum of money to turn professional with Oldham. Instead Horne elected to join his hometown club on terms which were much less than those offered by the Roughyeds. How Oldham must have rued his loyalty to Barrow as he lifted the Lancashire Cup that October afternoon at Swinton. At the end of that 1954-55 season Barrow added the Challenge Cup to their haul after beating Workington Town 21-12 at Wembley. Since then Barrow have lifted three more trophies, Division Two Championships in 1976 and 1984 and the Lancashire Cup in 1983. Barrow also reached Wembley in 1951, 1957 and 1967 and were beaten Regal Trophy finalists in 1981 but recent seasons have been relatively barren.

The last time Barrow won a major trophy was during season 1983-84 when they managed to lift two pieces of silverware. Early in the season they lifted the Lancashire Cup, beating First Division clubs Whitehaven, Salford, Warrington and Widnes in order to claim the trophy. Widnes were enjoying a tremendous run of success in cup competitions around that time and were firm favourites to win the final which was staged at Wigan. Barrow had different ideas and played magnificently to win 12-8. They lost only two matches in the league campaign to win the Second Division Championship a massive fourteen points in front of second placed Workington Town. A prominent member of that Barrow team was second-row forward Steve Herbert who had been signed from Oldham a couple of years earlier. He missed only two matches all season and ended the campaign as the clubs leading try scorer with 25 touchdowns.

From The Pen Of

.....Michael Turner



Of Roughyeds And Barrow

THE first match between Oldham and Barrow in the Rugby League era was on September 8th 1900. This being the season that the "Furness-men" were admitted to the League. The Roughyeds won that encounter by six points to three up at Barrow and completed the double two weeks later with an 8 - 2 victory at Watersheddings.

On January 25th 1947 Oldham made the trip to Barrow for a league game that was designated as a Benefit match for five Barrow players: Cumberbatch, Ayres, Higgins, Little and McKeating. The match ended in a draw, three points each. That same evening saw the beginning of the big freeze and it would be another two months before Oldham played their next league game.

The only final to feature the two clubs

was the 1954 Lancashire Cup final at Station Road, Swinton when Barrow upset the form book to take the trophy for the first time in their history.

One of the most memorable matches took place on September 22nd 1956 when a crowd of just under 19,000 packed Watersheddings to see the Roughyeds turn in a vintage performance to win the match by 45 - 13. Many of our older supporters still remember this game as representing the very best of the talents of the 1950s Oldham side. Dennis Ayres scored four tries and, in the absence of Bernard Ganley, Dick Cracknell took over the goal kicking duties landing five shots to supplement his two tries. All this achieved against a multi-talented Barrow outfit that would go on to finish third in the league

championship table and runners up in the Challenge Cup final, losing narrowly to Leeds at Wembley. Indeed they were one of only five teams to register a league victory over Oldham that season in the return match at Craven Park some two months later.

Since the Roughyeds reformed in 1997. The clubs have met on ten occasion with Oldham successful six times to four for Barrow.



A loose ball attracts the attention of several players in the match at Watersheddings on October 11th 1924. The Oldham players in the foreground are; (left to right) Rod Marlor, Herman Hilton and Bob Sloman. Result: Oldham 27 Barrow 5

Everything else in rugby league pales into insignificance when compared to the sad announcement of the death of 49 year old, rugby marketing guru, Peter Deakin and then last weekend, the shock news of the tragedy in which the two young Wigan Academy players Billy-Joe Edwards, brother of the legendary Shaun, and Craig Johnson, brother of current Wigan star Paul, both died.



Peter Deakin

Many Oldham supporters will recall just a few years ago the young Oldham players killed in a tragic car accident on the M62 just above the town. The grief felt by parents, friends, fellow players and within the rugby club must have been devastating.

There have already been many words written about Peter Deakin, but I would like to add just two; vision and drive. Peter was one of the few to enter the world of commercial club rugby and still manage to hold a crystal clear vision of the direction in which the sport, either code, needed to be heading. This he coupled to his limitless drive, enthusiasm

and ability in persuading people not just to listen but to act.

Let's not forget either that Peter, whilst an Oldham St. Annes man through and through, was also an Oldham player of the late 70's. He played in the same side as the likes of Fred Hall, Geoff Munro, Ian Ogden, Phil Larder, Martin Murphy, Mike Elliot, Roger O'Mahoney, Bob Blackwood and Jim Fiddler before his playing career was cut short due to a severe dislocated elbow.

How Peter Deakin, the marketing man, would have loved the news that Aussies coach Chris Anderson suggests the Kangaroos should play a Test in Moscow as a lead-up to this seasons Ashes Tour! What he would have planned for that match!

During the close season Bob Byrne a popular Oldham threequarter in the late 40's, early 50's passed away aged 78. Bob regularly attended Oldham's home matches and was a stalwart of the ex-players group. A Roughyed to the core.



Bob Byrne

A minutes silence in respect of the recent sad events will be held prior to the commencement of today's match.

BRW

Walkerbout

with
Brian Walker

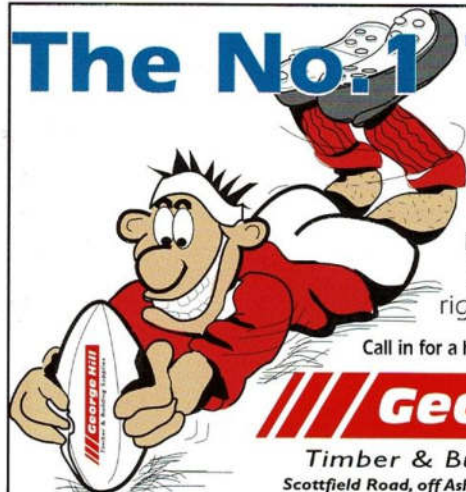


THE RUGBY display units situated in the Rochdale Road reception area of the Civic Centre have recently been revamped. The subjects this time are the George Smith medal (the idea originated from here in Oldham) and awarded to the man of the series in the recent Don't Drink & Drive GB/New Zealand Test series, that 'the Oldham boys are back in town' and also highlighting the number of both kids and adults that either participate in, or watch, rugby league in and around the borough during

most weekends plus, of course, the usual interesting items depicting the club's rich history.

The displays are in the centre of the political area of the Civic Centre situated behind the QE Hall but are available to the public at most times of the day, seven days a week as is the town's collection of silverware and regalia.

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Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

FOLLOWING BARLA's decision to accept proposals to create a unified governing structure for the sport in this country, lets hope that we can now finally see an end to the infighting that has blighted the progress of our beloved game for so long. Commenting on the historic decision by the Amateur games ruling body, RFL Chief Executive, Richard Lewis commented, This decision is a massive step forward for the sport of Rugby League at all levels and everybody involved in the game should be delighted. The new unified structure will govern the game from grass roots to international level and create many benefits for all concerned. It will enable us to develop a unified, cohesive approach to many existing initiatives and strategies which will reap dividends for all sectors of Rugby League and help the sport build further on the excellent progress it has recently made in many areas".

Of course, like most decisions made in the modern game, this was made largely on a financial basis. Unification means funding from agencies such as Sport England and UK Sport and, now that Rugby League will take its rightful piece of the pie, lets hope that we finally see the real investment in the grass roots of the game something that has been sadly missing for all too long.

It was perhaps always going to be difficult to live up to the pre-season hype and the pre-season euphoria generated has perhaps stuttered a little in sync with the Roughyeds performances to date. Its very early doors of course but at Leigh we under performed, particularly defensively, and against the Hornets we looked good in spells but poor in others. I'm sure that the coaching team will be working overtime to tighten up our marker defence and promote a more direct approach from our outside half play.

Indeed, always the harshest of critics, many in the crowd were frustrated with the Rochdale performance. Not because it was particularly poor because it wasn't, but more because they have seen clear glimpses of what this side is capable of. We have an extremely young squad and, make no mistakes, there is plenty more football in this side and that's perhaps why the faithful are getting a little frustrated. In all honesty I myself came away from that game feeling a little disappointed at blowing a relatively comfortable lead.

However, lets not forget that the really important stuff doesn't even start until the 18 April when we entertain the Hornets once again (hopefully in better weather!). Of course winning the National League Cup will count for absolutely nothing if we are struggling in NL1 come the summer something I don't believe for a second will be the case. We have a young and mobile side that will undoubtedly perform better on the harder grounds and, with so many new faces,

when they gel together they will surely be a force to reckon with and must be considered as odds on for a play off spot. From there of course who knows what could happen!

Today we welcome Barrow to Boundary Park for a game that should prove an intriguing encounter. It will of course be of particular interest to Iain Marsh and Martin McLoughlin who played for our visitors during the last campaign. Whilst it's early days for our two new recruits, their departure from Cumbria was viewed with disappointment by the Border Raiders fans who held both in high esteem. Barrow have performed well so far this season and will undoubtedly prove tough opposition today. Indeed, there was perhaps far more to gauge from their performance in last weekends Challenge Cup than ours. However, lets hope our new boys live up to their potential today and help the Roughyeds seal their first Arriva Trains Cup victory at Boundary Park.

The marketing efforts made by the club this season have been excellent. I'm pleased that the Oldham Chronicle is supporting both the town's professional sporting clubs this season with the promotion of free admission for children proving a real success. I've long held the belief that children should be allowed free admittance to matches as long as accompanied by a paying adult. These are of course our supporters of tomorrow and once you get them hooked - they will keep coming back for more. Realistically we are competing with many other distractions for kids, particularly during the summer months, and to offer a 'free' alternative is an excellent way of doing so. Who wants to see an empty Boundary Park when we could have added a thousand onto the attendance, all shouting the Roughyeds on to victory. Of course there are the merchandising benefits that spin off from this - any youngster that becomes a regular will of course want to buy a shirt, scarf or programme etc.

In addition, the new lottery has been a great success by all accounts and overall it's clear that the club have made great strides on the commercial front this year. By building a close knit relationship with it's community, the club will profit in the longer term and will have then actually achieved it's goal of finally returning home.

Whilst on the marketing front, it would be remiss of me not to mention the sad passing of one of Oldham's sons, Peter Deakin. Peter was of course a stalwart of the St Annes club and will be remembered by most in RL circles as the man solely responsible for the creation of 'Bull mania'. I, like many, had hoped that Peter would one day return home and weave his marketing magic for the Roughyeds. However, that wasn't meant to be and we all extend our sympathies to his family and friends for theirs and Rugbys sad loss.

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PLEASED TO BE PART OF THE TEAM

Iva Slateloose



GOING DOWN Chadderton Way to the Rochdale Hornets game the traffic looked pretty dense. Good: there'll be a good gate today. Except half the traffic carried straight on at the lights. So that's half the crowd for D.F.S. versus C.S.L. a contest started on T.V. on Boxing Day which has continued ever since. (Just how many sofas can one person buy?) After turning right another two thirds of the traffic goes right onto B & Q I don't know, but it must be a hell of a game to be better than Roughyeds v Hairnets. Anyway, I decided to find out and after extensive research here's B & Q's team:-

1. STANLEY KNIFE

Has the ability to cut through the best of defences. Very sharp and can slice an opening out of nothing. Always able to inflict pain on the unwary.

2. DOOR HANDLE

Can open up in either direction. A tricky customer at times but can be the key to success.

3. DULUX ONE COAT

Covers the whole area thoroughly and without fuss. Only needs one chance to shine once applied provides lots of colour.

4. SHELF BRACKET

Good in any backs to the wall situation. Strong in support and willing to bear any load.

5. LIGHT FITTING

Can be a bit on and off. However, when on shines brightly and illuminates the scene splendidly.

6. TILING GROUT

Prods and pokes into those tight nooks and crannies which defeat the heavy weight. Once set takes some shifting.

7. WALL BAROMETER

Mercurial. An up and down performer. Responds well to pressure. Always likely to record a high score.

8. BRICK outhouse

Really powerful and in your face. Not easy to tackle. Provides plenty of solidity whether in the open or close to.

9. WASHING LINE

An outstanding hooker, always hanging round the fringes. Often pegs back the opposition and able to offer support to the line.

10. IRONMONGERY

Hard as nails. Will hammer into any opposition and screws up their defence. Can be well drilled and offer plenty of bite.

11. TOILET SEAT

Has plumbed the depths but has also been flushed with success. Takes on the heaviest of loads at times but can be uplifting.

12. KITCHEN CUPBOARD

Takes everything in and is rarely found wanting. Wonderful capacity for keeping a lid on things. Occasionally adds spice to the proceedings.

13. FIRESIDE RUG

Very versatile. Can be used in a variety of positions and handles well. Sometimes a bit lightweight but covers a lot of holes.

All in all not a bad team but it's till not the same as the real thing. However, if we want to increase our gates perhaps Roughyeds v B & Q is the way to go.

Cheers,

Iva

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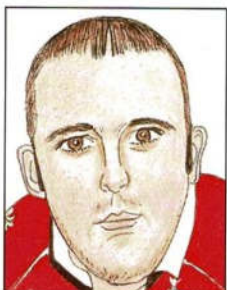
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Tracey's Tittle Tattle



'HEY' said Shaz, 'Faz (Shaz and Faz - Good, innit?' She said) is he captain now! I said, 'Too right, and if he's come

from Wigan to Oldham, he's obviously a man of good taste.' 'What does he taste of?' she asked, wittily. 'Pies' I said, predictably 'Yea', she said, 'but strawberry or something, not a stodgy meat and potato.'

Then she said she got a bit concerned when she reads in Match Report that 'he slipped a cross ball out in the tackle.' 'Honestly' she said 'you'd think he'd have better fitting undies to stop that happening - specially when he's playing rugby. I mean it could have serious

consequences for him - 'specially if it's a good one. And anyway' -she carried on, indignantly - 'I don't think they should tell us things like that - it must be embarrassing for him if everybody knows.'

I said he usually played in the second row, but Shaz said that no he didn't, because she sat in the third row, and she never saw him there.

He should have been playing on the field like all the others, she reckoned. 'Well, he's going to be a loose forward this season.' I told her. 'Oh, no, does that mean he'll still have baggy undies again?' she asked, despairingly.

**Love & Kisses,
Tracey**








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Profile of Phil Farrell

Phil Farrell



At 22 years of age Phil is one of the youngest club captains in the game

Signed March 2000 from Wigan, where brother Andy is also club captain

Made his Roughyed's debut at Featherstone along with Neil Roden March 26th 2000. It was the start of a phenomenal unbroken run of 67 matches, an almost impossible feat in modern day rugby league

Gained the reputation as a workaholic forward scoring just 6 tries in 75 matches, but this season after being given a more roving role at loose forward has scored 5 tries in 5 matches, including the Law Cup match

Played for the U21 NFP side against U21 Super League representative side in 2001

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Does the kit fit?



Phil Farrell

FAZ normally gets up for breakfast on
matchdays about 8.00am & has cereal &
toast to start, at about 11.00am he has
beans and scrambled eggs. His travelling
buddies to away matches are Cleggy,
Knocker, Rat, Lee Doran and One or two
others who wish to remain nameless, we're
just a bunch of idiots he said. I'm not
superstitious he said, touch wood, putting
his hands on his team mates heads.

The best team prep talk I've had
came from Fordy (Mike Ford) just before
the Grand Final. He talked of friendship,
family, loyalty and more personal stuff,
he and the lads had tears in their eyes.
The one prep I didn't and still don't
understand was remember if you
learn to dance, learn to tap dance!
Eh what's that all about. Just
before leaving the changing
room I like to take a
moments silence.

Best/Worst Changing Room
Best Boundary Park
Worst Chorley
Best/Worst Playing Surface
Best Boundary Park
Worst HKR

Best/Worst Food
I never eat after a match I just
drink plenty of water (infused
with malt & hops no doubt-Mitch
comment)

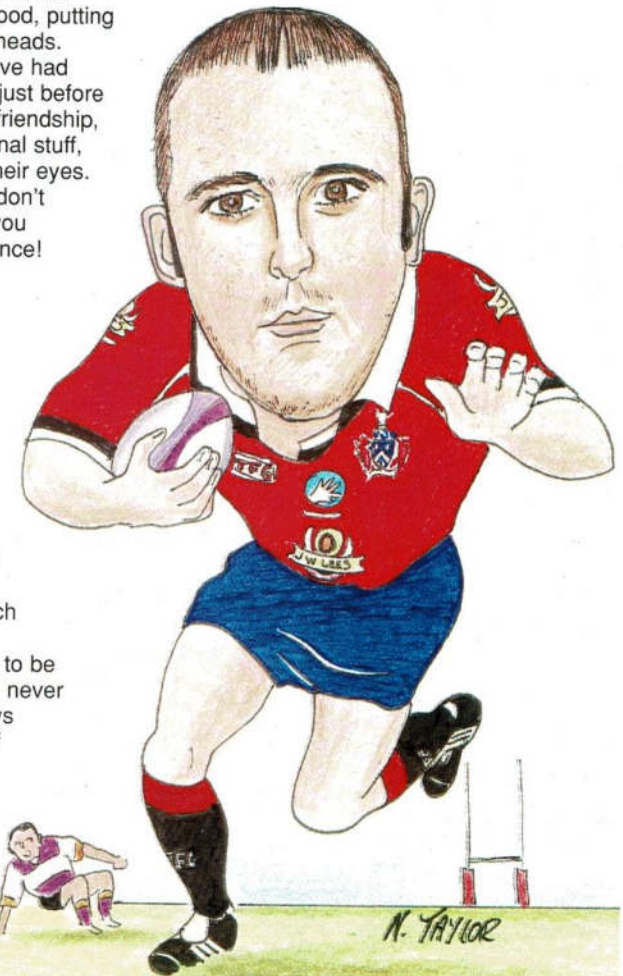
After Molly the best coach has to be
Fordy, he taught me so much I never
stopped learning he was always
challenging us in all aspects of
the game.

Being made captain
was a fantastic event in
my career, it's a
challenge but I'm
sure I will do a first
rate job, I did ask
my father for some
advice about being
made captain but it
was during Home &

Away so I'm still waiting.

When asked if he was ever mistaken
for anyone famous he replied I went to the
cinema they were showing The Wizard of
Oz one little kid thought I was the Cowardly
Lion (strange child).

Mitch



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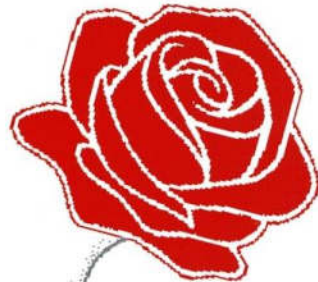


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Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

THE issue of promotion and relegation is one that we in RL have been grappling with for many years, but it is also one which other sports find equally controversial. At Oldham we haven't been quite so directly affected as, for example, Keighley, Dewsbury or Hunslet in recent years, maybe - though we did cease to exist on relegation from Super League, of course! And we were the archetypal yo-yo side in the previous era. So perhaps we do know something about it. Now that we have a uniformed spokesman for the game - thank goodness - and at least the beginnings, or the prospects, of some sort of pyramid structure throughout the game, perhaps it is worth another look at the issue.

It has always been the accepted view in the UK that, whatever 'foreigners' may choose to do (or USA American football, or Aussie RL), a recognised system of promotion and relegation is an integral part of the attraction of professional sport here; that 'doing a Wimbledon' ought to be possible, and a vital incentive for every club; and that standards follow this pattern, at whatever level, with this at the forefront of their minds, as a major attraction.

Soccer is the example always quoted, especially now that there is automatic promotion and relegation between the Football League and the Conference - after many, many years of re-election of the bottom side in the bottom division, it is often comically ignored, was the norm. [It is interesting to see currently Chester, Halifax Town, Doncaster Rovers, Hereford United, Scarborough and Southport in the top nine of the Nationwide Conference, as well as Aldershot and Accrington Stanley at the top of their leagues one notch further down the pyramid. Barrow, Bradford P.A., Gateshead and Workington, also once Football League clubs, languish further down the hierarchy.]

Cricket, on the other hand, had never had such a system until recently and their 3-up, 3-down shake up is already under fire from many. Rugby Union, too, is in the midst of a major debate on the subject, with a healthy bit of scandal thrown in, accusations of the current elite in effect bribing last season's potentially-promoted

side, Rotherham, to accept non-promotion quickly.

The man with the money behind the Newcastle club recently put the case against promotion and relegation very effectively. No doubt Martyn Sadler editor of League Express, would have great sympathy with his case, too - though I have never seen any serious agreement with Martyn's rather strange views that there should be promotion but no relegation! The argument is that the quality of the top level of the game requires stability, especially financial stability, if it is to be maintained and enhanced and that the threat of relegation makes this impossible. As a result, teams take short term action (e.g. import of overseas stars to try to give a quick fix) - or, indeed, do an Oldham Bears - and this goes against the long term health of the competition, and the game as a whole, including the quality of the international representative side.

This is not a case which should be dismissed lightly, it has a lot of validity. However, it is surely a question of priorities. For the benefits of having a franchise type system, with elevation to the Super League of the sport being based on criteria other than straight playing success, including the agreement of the existing member clubs, outweigh the incentive benefits of promotion and relegation.

For myself, I think we have it just about right. I think a self perpetuating closed shop is utterly wrong, guaranteed to lead to conservatism, and disunity within the game as a whole, and spectators discomfort - at least, in the UK. On the other hand, I see nothing wrong with criteria **in addition** to playing success or failure being used - **provided** they are set and policed by the game as a whole, and known in advance, by the clubs involved. So, it was quite right that Widnes replaced Huddersfield, and then Huddersfield replaced Salford; but it was equally right, sadly, that Hunslet and Dewsbury were denied Super League entry, on financial grounds.

It would be interesting to know the view of others.

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Hawks get their reward..

Express

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

AND who said the Challenge Cup had lost its lustre?

If you were having similar thoughts at the start of the year, no doubt you will have changed your mind around about 5 o'clock last Sunday.

Nobody can overestimate the achievement of Hunslet Hawks in beating Super League side Huddersfield Giants last week to earn a money-spinning afternoon against Bradford Bulls in two week's time.

And the Powergen Challenge Cup fifth round draw has done the clubs outside Super League a great service in throwing up two all-National League ties that stand high among the most attractive games of the weekend.

Salford City Reds - who are of course keen to emulate the Giants of 2002 and bounce straight back into Super League - have a daunting task at Hull KR, who proved they are one of the form teams with a comfortable win at Rochdale in the last round. After Huddersfield's ejection at the South Leeds Stadium, the Reds are unlikely to be complacent, but Craven Park is never an easy place to win at.

Featherstone's tie away to Swinton is also a compelling prospect. Lions' coach Peter Roe would love to put one over on one of his more recent former clubs, and his side are leagues away from the bottom-of-the-table outfit he inherited in the close season. National One Rovers will have to be on their best fettle to come away with a win.

The prospect of a place in the last eight should draw in a bumper crowd to Moss Lane, which will provide a great atmosphere on the day.

And what of the chances of the other NL clubs? Well, Batley Bulldogs will enjoy a lucrative trip to St Helens but a win is almost unthinkable. No doubt they'll go down with a fight.

Sheffield Eagles will host their biggest crowd

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since their re-formation when Hull visit the Don Valley Stadium. While a win for the Eagles is not impossible, they'll be long odds against.

Likewise Doncaster Dragons, who should attract another bumper crowd when the Cup holders Wigan come to town.

It's hard to see any club eclipsing the glorious Hunslet win of last week, and whatever the twists and turns that emerge in the weeks ahead, the 2003 Powergen Challenge Cup will be remembered for the giant-killing Hunslet Hawks.

Meanwhile, today it's back to the Arriva Trains Cup, with some great games to enjoy, with Leigh - reeling from their Cup-exit at Featherstone last week - getting an early crack at Salford; an always-passionate South Yorkshire derby at Sheffield; and Gateshead-Chorley in the north-east where the Thunder will be hoping to get their first win of the season.

Whatever the outcome, you can keep up with all the Powergen Challenge Cup, Arriva Cup and National League news in Rugby Leaguer & League Express, every Monday.



Chris Morley - League Express
Man of the Match v London

CLUB CALL CLUB CASH

CONGRATULATIONS to winners of weeks 9 & 10, details listed below. Thank you to Sav who would have held week 9 draw at **Levers Chippy**, but due to our move to new premises we were unable to attend. We will be doing a draw on the 21st February see you there. The draw for week 9 was made in the office on the Saturday by a lovely customer Karen Crosby of Keswick Ave., she was accompanied by her 11 year old daughter Emily, thank you ladies.

Week 10's draw was held at OMC Ford, courtesy of Peter Wilding. Thanks to new members who joined on the day, I was unable to get round to all the departments, fortunately I have been invited back at a later date.

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G. Lloyd, Diggle	£100	A2710
David Begca, Lees	£10	A3736
Yvonne Wilson, Coldhurst	£10	A5377
R. Smith, Lees	£10	A8073
William Dickinson, Delph	£10	B4352
Karen Jarvis, Heyside	£10	B0672

Jackpot Accumulator

10 - 5 - 13 - 28

No Winner -

Next Week **£500**

Lottery Winners Week 10

Harold Kay, Chadderton	£300	A7278
M. Blackburn, Oldham	£100	B7061
Brian Hamilton, Oldham	£10	A8675
A. Wheldrick, Royton	£10	C7744
Barbara Parkinson, Springhead	£10	B4697
Stan Wright, Waterhead	£10	C9433
Alec Prescott, Waterhead	£10	C6210

Jackpot Accumulator

25 - 26 - 10 - 2

No Winner -

Next Week **£550**

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In Yer Face

Great Britain v New Zealand at Blackburn: attendance 16,000 plus. Russia v U.S.A in Kazan, Tartarstan: attendance 16,000 plus.

Lancashire v Yorkshire at J.J.B. Stadium, Wigan: attendance 8,000 plus. Or Yorkshire v Lancashire at Headingley: attendance around 10,000. Lebanon v France in Beirut: attendance 10,000.

Batley v Hunslet - local derby - at Mount Pleasant: attendance 801. London Skolars v Dewsbury at New River Stadium, Tottenham: attendance 820.

Meanwhile Rochdale attract (?) 778 for the visit of Workington.

107 years of rugby league development and investment throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire and fewer than 1000 paying spectators at all too many matches. If that doesn't make you think it should.

With the population drift in this country being inexorably to the south-east the timing in of the introduction of NL3 by the RFL could not be better. I don't want to see a single existing club go out of existence and would gladly welcome back a revived Bramley. But long term I can't help feeling the future might just lie with Coventry or Cheltenham, Crawley or Hemel Hempstead. To take but one example. Before about 1970 Swinton and Pendlebury was a maze of terraced houses whose occupants worked in the coal pits, steel works, chemical works or power stations that filled Irwell Valley and Agecroft. Both houses and employment are long gone together with the wonderful Station Road ground and some magnificent Swinton teams. With the best will in the world there will be no revival in the near future. Extend the analogy. Barrow are no longer the shipbuilders, Featherstone no longer the colliers. Batley and Dewsbury are no longer the heavy woollen district nor Oldham and Rochdale the textile capital of the world. Although this has an element of doom-mongering it is not intended to undermine the efforts of their forefathers. But we need to be realistic: for rugby league - the greatest game - the future is clear: expand or die. Nationally or internationally the product is fantastic, so for everyone's sake let's take the game to the world. If 10,000 in Beirut or 16,000 in Kazan are interested what have we got to lose?



The concept of 'summer' rugby was put to the test again a fortnight ago against Rochdale Hornets. As a friend of mine commented about the Arriva Trains Cup: 'some great fixtures, a great competition, wrong time of year!' Will we ever learn?



Hunslet Hawks 18 Huddersfield Giants 14. What a fantastic result for the NL2 side! Many congratulations: it could hardly happen to anyone more deserving. 'We've swept the seas before boys and so we shall again.' Does anyone know anymore of the words or, indeed, the tune to Hunslet's famous old song?



Working Saturday makes life difficult when the Powergen Challenge Cup has televised games. Try as I might I could not find out which game was to be televised. Ceefax, Teletext - no good. The week's papers, including League Express, did not say. So pursuing what I thought to be logic I set my video for the best tie of the round, Warrington v Bradford. Wrong...! Imagine my chagrin to discover after buying my Daily Mirror on the way to work that the T.V. game was Wakefield v Castleford and, worse, the kick off was 1.15pm. Now it could be said that all that was my own fault - which indeed it is. But I didn't see a single preview of the game or competition - unlike Six Nations which is constantly rammed down your throat. If a committed rugby league follower doesn't know what's going on what chance the neutral or casual viewer? Marketing: what's that?



Hull F.C. v Halifax. Attendance 15,210 at the new Kingston Communications Stadium. Fantastic. Now let's hope Hull can put onto the park a team good enough to break the monopoly of St. Helens, Bradford and Wigan. A return to winning ways for 'old faithful' would spice up Super League no end. The more the honours get shared around the better for Rugby League. Who knows one or two Hull players might even get selected for Great Britain.

ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates

FEB
16



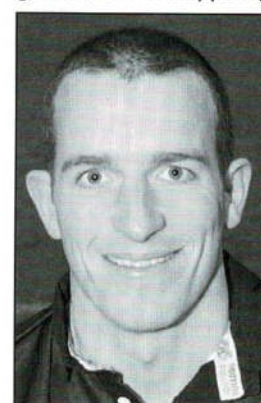
IT WAS on this day in 1974, Saturday 16th February, that a player who has given excellent service to both Oldham and Barrow made his senior professional debut. That player is Eddie Barton who appeared on the wing for Oldham in a home First Division match against Wakefield Trinity. It was a winning start for Barton with the Roughyeds defeating their visitors 9-2. Barton's introduction to rugby league was quite unusual. He was a colleague of Oldham centre Phil Larder who took him along to Watersheddings in order to receive some physiotherapy treatment. After the treatment Barton would test out his injury progress by joining in some of the training drills. Once it was established that Barton could play a bit, he was signed on and he went on to make 110 appearances for Oldham and score 21 tries. In December 1977 Barton was transferred to Barrow. He made 32 appearances for the Shipbuilders and scored three tries before moving on to Huddersfield in January 1980.

On Saturday 16th February 1991 Barrow appointed Paul Kavanagh as coach. He chose former player Geoff Worrall as his assistant. Worrall, a full-back, spent some time with Oldham in the early 1970s although he made only one first team appearance for the Roughyeds. It came in March 1973 when he landed a couple of goals in a 37-6 victory over Barrow at Watersheddings. When Kavanagh stepped down as coach, Worrall took over and was in control at Craven Park from July 1992 to April 1993.

Exactly five years ago, on Monday 16th February 1998, the current Roughyeds player-coach, Steve Molloy, was transferred from Featherstone Rovers to Sheffield Eagles. Molloy played 99 matches for the Eagles, including matches for the amalgamated Huddersfield-Sheffield Eagles club. He scored seven tries during those matches but became increasingly disillusioned with life at the McAlpine Stadium. As a result Molloy had a spell on loan with Oldham

during June and July 2001 before joining Batley in December of that year. Since then, of course, he has returned to Oldham where he leads the club, as ever, from the front.

Tuesday 16th February 1988 was a significant date in the career of Dean Marwood, the talented goal-kicking halfback. He turned professional that day when he joined Barrow from the productive Barrow Island junior club. He became a big crowd favourite at Craven Park before moving up the coast to Workington Town in December 1991. Marwood returned to Barrow six years later to play out the final couple of years of his playing career. During his two spells with Barrow he made 142 appearances and scored 21 tries, 342 goals and 14 dropped goals.



Paul Norton

Six years ago, on Sunday 16th February 1997, Barrow were involved in the Silk Cut Plate, the competition for clubs eliminated from the third round of the Challenge Cup. They visited Deepdale that day to take on a Lancashire Lynx side which included current Oldham prop

Paul Norton in their line-up. Lynx won 19-4 before a disappointing crowd of only 307. Stand-off Phil Atkinson scored the Barrow points with a couple of first half penalties. In the following round Lynx were beaten by the eventual winners of the competition, Hull Kingston Rovers. Interest in the competition was at best lukewarm so it was decided that this inaugural Plate competition would also be the last.

STATS AND FACTS

APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	4	0	3	0	0	12
Iain Marsh	2	1	0	0	0	0
Jon Goddard	3	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Anderson	4	0	1	0	0	4
Joe McNicholas	2	0	1	0	0	4
Simon Svabic	1	3	0	4	0	8
Neil Roden	4	0	1	0	0	4
Steve Molloy	4	0	0	0	0	0
John Hough	2	2	0	0	0	0
Martin McLoughlin	3	1	0	0	0	0
Lee Doran	4	0	1	0	0	4
Chris Morley	2	2	1	0	0	4
Phil Farrell	4	0	3	0	0	12
Gareth Barber	3	1	1	6	0	16
Gavin Johnson	0	1	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	2	1	1	0	0	4
Danny Guest	1	1	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	1	0	2	0	0	8
Anthony Murray	2	1	0	0	0	0
Chris Irwin	2	0	0	0	0	0
Will Cowell	2	0	0	0	0	0
Darren Shaw	1	1	0	0	0	0

ARRIVA TRAINS NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP - WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	PTS
Leigh Centurions	2	2	0	0	46	24	22	4
Rochdale Hornets	2	1	1	0	54	30	24	3
Salford City Reds	1	1	0	0	58	6	52	2
Oldham	2	0	1	1	36	44	-8	1
Swinton Lions	2	0	0	2	16	82	-66	0



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Fixtures

DATE	OPPONENT	RSLT	ATT
DECEMBER 2002			
28	ROCHDALE HORNETS	LAW C W	28-22 2,141
JANUARY 2003			
19	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL C L	14-22 3,070
26	EAST HULL	CC R3 W	32-6 1,270
FEBRUARY			
02	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C D	22-22 2,050
09	LONDON BRONCOS	CC R4 L	12-42 1,014
16	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C H	
23	SWINTON LIONS	NL C A	
MARCH			
02		CC R5	
09	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C H	
16	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL C H	
		CC QF	
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C A	
30	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C A	
APRIL			
06	SWINTON LIONS	NL C H	
13	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C A	
		CC SF	
18	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 H	
21	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 A	
26		CC FINAL	
MAY			
04	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 H	
11	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 A	
18		NL C QF	
25	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 H	
JUNE			
01	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	NL 1 A	
08		NL C SF	
15	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 H	
22	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 A	
29	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 A	
JULY			
06		NL C FINAL	
13	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 H	
20	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 H	
27	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 A	
AUGUST			
03	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 H	
10	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 A	
17	HULL KR	NL 1 H	
24	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 A	
31	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 H	
07	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 A	

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ALLOW EVERYONE TO ENJOY THE GAME.

Monday Roughyheds Round-Up Roger Halstead Match
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Rough
Team News
Score on Monday Roughyheds Round-Up
Match Reports Team News Score on
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.. Roughyheds
.. Team News ..
.. Roger Halstead ..
on Monday
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Roughyheds

**DETERMINED TO FOLLOW EVERY
TACKLE, PENALTY AND TRY OF
THE ROUGHYEDS SEASON.**

Monday Roug
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Round-Up Ro
.. Score on Monda
.. Match Report
Roughyheds Round
Team News S
Roger Halstead . .
Monday Roug
Reports Team
Round-Up Roger Halstead Match Re
.. Score on Monday Roughyheds Round
.. Match Reports Team News Score on Monday

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.. Match Reports Team News Score on Monday