



TEAMS



OLDHAM BATLEY

Coach: Steve MOLLOY

Coach: Paul STOREY

Jon GODDARD	1	Craig LINGARD
Nick JOHNSON	2	Matt BRAMALD
Iain MARSH	3	Chris SPURR
Lee DORAN	4	Danny MAUN
Gavin DODD	5	Leon WILLIAMSON
Simon SVABIC	6	Danny THOMAS
Keith BRENNAN	7	Barry EATON
Steve MOLLOY	8	Craig BOOTH
John HOUGH	9	Will CARTLEDGE
Dane MORGAN	10	Steve HILL
Chris MORLEY	11	Danny EVANS
Lee MARSH	12	Mark TOOHEY
Phil FARRELL	13	Ryan HORSLEY
Chris PERCIVAL	14	Gavin SWINSON
Neil RODEN	15	Paul HARRISON
Martin McLOUGHLIN	16	Joe BERRY
Danny GUEST	17	Andy SPINK

TODAY'S OFFICIALS

REFEREE: R. LAUGHTON
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The Roughyeds



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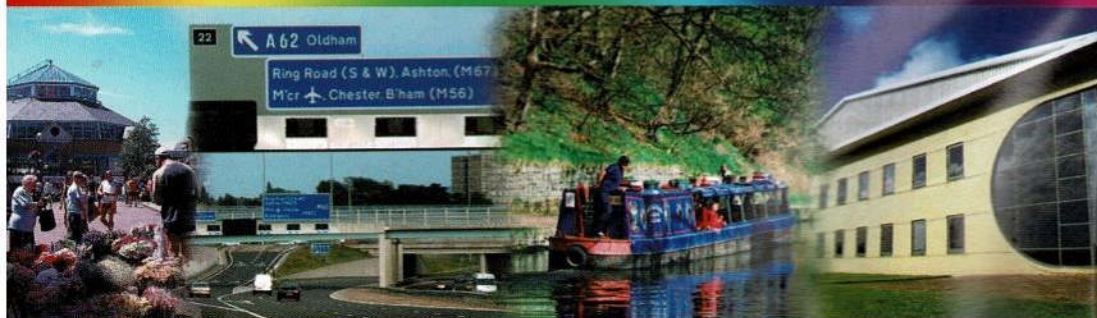
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FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHY BY
PHIL BURDGE AND ALEX MARSHALL

IN THE HOT SEAT

Christopher Hamilton

AFTER four defeats on the trot it looks as though today's game will be our last home game of the season (fingers crossed that we won't be in the relegation play-off).

To say we have underperformed would be putting it mildly. We started the season with big expectations and thought we had a squad capable of challenging for honours this season.

We are all disappointed with that.

Batley come to face us today knowing that a win will take them above us for probably the first time this season.

We cannot afford to underestimate them as they are on a good run of form and whatever happens we MUST make sure we have more desire to win than they do - nothing less will suffice.

A win today gives us a chance of a play-off spot, and we have to make sure we take it.

The fact that the division has been so competitive this season has created many sleepless nights for those in charge of clubs but nobody can say spectators have not had value for money this time around with the games this season being tight and evenly contested.

The Second Division has been the same with seven teams vying for six play-off spots. The National League structure has been a big success this season and we all know if you are not at your best each week you lose - simple as that.

The Oldham club has a good record in the end of season play-off games. We need to dig deep in the next two games and make sure we reach them for the fourth season running.

There is a buzz about the players when they reach that stage of the season but this time for me the play-offs start early.

Your support today could be crucial and I ask you all again to be as loud and supportive as you can be - we all appreciate it.

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.

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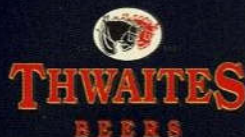
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Molloy's Message



A WARM welcome to all the Batley contingent and a lot of familiar faces who have donned the Oldham shirt and I am sure those players will be looking for big games today.

As ever today is going to be hotly contested with both clubs still in a position to make the six and Batley seem to be finding their form at the crucial part of the season.

As our last home game of the season we must get back to winning ways, especially as we have the unenviable task of going to Post Office Road next week and come back with something.

Again the problem over the last month or so has been our lack of consistency. I feel the Hull KR game was a major slip up on our behalf and up until that game performances at Boundary Park had been acceptable. Up at Whitehaven I feel we showed a lot of commitment and certainly did enough to win the game but as the game progressed I feel we started to force the pass a little bit, and ultimately turned the ball over cheaply. This coupled with the ref not allowing a flowing game tipped the game in their favour.

The Board of Directors and myself identified that with the injury situation and the push for play-off places, we needed to bring in some more personnel and struck quickly in recruiting four new faces. Nick Johnson from Bradford Bulls, Craig McDowell from Huddersfield Giants, Lee Marsh from Salford and, still to make his debut, Chris Percival from Widnes Vikings. I'm hoping that the quality and the competition for places will add a big push in the final six shake up.

Although our Academy didn't get the result we hoped over at Wakefield I feel they must be congratulated on the way they have conducted themselves and the quality of football they've played all season. I feel that if the injury situation hadn't been as it was and we could have fielded a stronger and more experienced squad at Wakefield then they would have gone all the way,

Enjoy the game,

Steve

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IN TOWN Today - Batley



Paul Storey - Head Coach

He was in the running for Coach of the Year during 2001-02. A former fullback at the club who enjoyed a testimonial season as a player and in total made 277 appearances for 'The Bulldogs'.

Gary Thornton - Assistant Coach

Joined Paul's coaching team during season 2000-01 and is now in his third season in the role.

Joe Berry

Powerhouse prop forward signed from Rochdale Hornets in the close season. Formerly with Keighley Cougars.

Craig Booth

Approaching the veteran stage and was signed from Featherstone Rovers pre season. A no nonsense prop forward.

Matt Bramald

Former Dewsbury and Featherstone Rovers threequarter, Matt signed during the close season and with his useful turn of pace he should be pushing for a first team spot.

Will Cartledge

Former Knottingley Rockware second row forward who became a first team regular last season. Career totals stand at 43 appearances plus 21 sub.

Barry Eaton

Signed in the close season from Widnes Vikings, having given previous service at Dewsbury, Wakefield and Doncaster. Immediately installed as Club Development Officer, goal kicker and chief tactician.

Anthony Gibbons

Formerly with Leeds, Bramley and Oldham, Anthony joined 'The Bulldogs' during the close season.

David Gibbons

Twin brother of Anthony, predominately a stand off half, David has gone down the same professional path as his brother.

Paul Harrison

60 tries from 131 appearances plus 38 sub appearances shows the value that utility player Paul has given to Batley over the years. Originally a centre he has made the transition to back row forward. Formerly with Hull, Huddersfield and Keighley Cougars.

Steve Hill

Former Castleford and York prop, Steve joined 'the Bulldogs' last season and made 21 starts plus 2 sub appearances registering one try in the NFP Elimination Minor Semi Final triumph at Featherstone.

Ryan Horsley

Player of the Year in 2001-02, Ryan has proved to be one of the club's most consistent performers over the last couple of years. Formerly with Featherstone and Wakefield.

Simon Lewis

Recent signing from Wigan having previously been on the books of Bradford Bulls and Castleford. Has pace to burn.

Craig Lingard

Club captain and star fullback. Craig has scored 76 tries in 82 appearances plus 25 sub appearances up to the start of 2002-03. Broke the club's post war try scoring record with 28 and fell just one try short of equalising the all time try record in a season in 2001-02 season and would have beaten it had he not been injured in the early part of the season. Along with Barry Eaton has taken on the joint role of Club Development Officer.

Danny Maun

Star centre, Danny signed 2 years ago from Wigan and immediately made the number three slot his own. Also takes on the additional role of joint Development Officer.

Mark Sibson

Former Bramley, Huddersfield and Oldham utility back who joined during the close season. Leading try scorer, with Oldham for the last 3 seasons.

Andrew Spink

Tough tackling prop or second row, Andy joined the club from Dewsbury at the start of 2001-02 making 25 appearances plus 7 sub appearances scoring 2 tries in the process.

Chris Spurr

Utility back signed for the start of 2002-03 from Featherstone Rovers.

Gavin Swinson

Hooker who joined also from Featherstone Rovers in the close season.

Mark Toohey

Local lad, Mark made the step up to regular first team rugby last season.

Leon Williamson

Former Hunslet, Dewsbury and Gateshead flyer, who made 27 appearances scoring 8 tries in his first season with the club.

Danny Thomas

Signed from Leeds Rhinos mid June, made a very promising start. Great expectations from this young player.

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MEN WELCOME

A Potted History of Batley Bulldogs. by Don Yates

THE FINAL visitors of the season to Boundary Park are Batley, one of the founder members of the Rugby Football League. When the northern clubs split away from the Rugby Football Union in 1895, Batley were one of the leading clubs and during the first six years of professional rugby the Gallant Youths lifted the Challenge Cup on three occasions.

They were the first ever winners of that trophy in 1897 when they beat St.Helens in the final by ten points to three. Batley retained the trophy twelve months later when, after beating Oldham 3-0 in the quarterfinals, they beat Bradford in the final 7-0. In 1901 Batley won the Challenge Cup for a third time when Warrington were the beaten finalists 6-0. The Gallant Youths overcame Oldham in the semi-finals that year, winning 9-2 at Huddersfield. In between those Challenge Cup successes Batley were also Yorkshire Champions in 1899.

That golden era has never quite been repeated by Batley although they lifted the Yorkshire Cup in 1912 and were crowned League Champions for the one and only time in 1924. Under the old top-four play-off system, Oldham travelled over to Mount Pleasant for the semi-final and were soundly beaten 38-0. Remarkably it was Batleys biggest win of the season. They then met Wigan in the final at Broughton where they won 13-7.

Yorkshire Cup Final defeats in 1924 and 1952 were the closest Batley came to lifting further silverware until 1998 when they entertained Oldham in the final of the Trans-Pennine Trophy.

Playing down the notorious Mount Pleasant slope in the first half, Batley built up a 26-6 lead and held on in the second half to register a 28-12 victory. The attendance at that final was a creditable 2,696.

Several players have turned out for both Oldham and Batley, including the current Roughyeds player-coach, Steve Molloy. However, the most popular player to represent both clubs must be centre-cum-winger John Etty, a true gentleman in a tough game but, in the words of his biography, a rugby league winner. Etty made five appearances on trial for Dewsbury before joining Batley in 1944. He became a firm favourite at Mount Pleasant where he gained

Yorkshire County honours and also played for the British Empire. Oldham signed John in 1955 and he became a regular selection in the great Roughyeds side of the late 1950s. Ettys final couple of seasons were with Wakefield Trinity. During his career John Etty won every domestic honour including a County Championship winners medal with Yorkshire. Whilst at Oldham he won a League Championship winners medal, two Lancashire Championship winners medals and three Lancashire Cup winners medals. A Challenge Cup winners medal was won with Wakefield as well as Yorkshire Championship and Cup winners medals.

The two attributes which I remember most about John Etty, were his dependability and his under rated defence. Etty only scored



John Etty

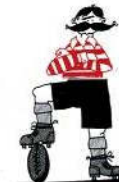
tries when they were needed. He scored twice when Oldham beat Hull 15-14 in the Championship Final but failed to score when Wakefield won the Challenge Cup with a 38-5 victory over Hull. Nevertheless he fully deserved that winners medal for his try haul in the lead up

to the final. In round one he scored twice in a shock 15-10 win at St.Helens, was the try scorer in a 5-2 win at Widnes in round two and again scored twice in the 11-2 semi-final victory over Featherstone Rovers.

None of the top wingers ever scored regularly against Etty who frequently snubbed out any overlap by moving inside to take out the centre. I rate Tom van Vollenhoven as one of the greatest wingers I ever saw but he never scored against Oldham when Etty was in the team. It is no coincidence that the first time Oldham met St.Helens after Ettys departure to Wakefield, Vollenhoven grabbed a brace of tries.

From The Pen Of

. Michael Turner



Of Roughyeds And ... Batley

TODAY we extend a warm welcome to the players, officials and supporters of the Batley club. Proud founder members of the Northern Union and first ever winners of the Rugby League Challenge Cup in 1897. Indeed, the Gallant Youths, as they were nicknamed, retained the famous trophy the following year defeating Oldham on the way in the fourth round by three points to nil. However, it would be the Roughyeds who would take the trophy away from Mount Pleasant after their cup final victory over Hunslet in 1899. The cup saga

between the clubs continued with Batley winning a semi-final tie at Fartown in 1901 by nine points to two on the way to taking the cup for the third time when Warrington were defeated at Headingley.

There is no doubt that our Yorkshire visitors have had the best of the spoils in cup ties over the years. Most recently in the Trans-Pennine Cup final on July 10th 1998, when the resurrected Roughyeds fought their way to the final in the inaugural season for the new Oldham club, only to go down (12 - 28) at Mount Pleasant.

On the other hand the

Roughyeds have had much the better of league fixtures and in the forty year period from November 1950 to 1990, Oldham lost only four of the twenty six fixtures between the clubs. Included in that sequence were two draws and the 22 - 4 victory for the Roughyeds at Watersheddings on October 29th 1989 when a certain Tommy Martyn celebrated his debut, before a four thousand plus crowd, with a try and three goals.



The Oldham team that triumphed at Mount Pleasant on March 7th 1964.

Back Row:

H Major, K Wilson, S Whitehead, J Donovan, C Bott, L McIntyre, G Robinson.

Front Row:

T Simms, G Crowther, G Sims, F Dyson, J Pycroft, P Smethurst.

THOUGHTS of what could have been sweep through my head as I look at the League Table this morning and see Hull KR sitting comfortably in fourth place with 16 points whilst we are now hovering in 7th place, still with 12 points. How different it could have been if.....but as somebody once said "if ifs and butts were pots and pans there'd be plenty of work for the Tinker". It's no good looking back, we must work hard and ensure we win today's game and at Featherstone next week.

The Academy lads unfortunately failed to win at Wakefield. It would appear that in the end they were "out muscled" by a S.L. team, many of whom are full time pros and older than our lads who are all around 18 years of age in a U21 competition. It's a shame the injury situation meant we couldn't field the strongest possible side - but the lads have done great and deserve our congratulations for all the good rugby they have played all season.

We were busy last week completing end of season signings and since the last home game have signed Gavin's younger brother, Nick Johnson from Bradford Bulls, Craig McDowell a back row forward from Huddersfield Giants and Chris Percival a centre from Widnes. Hopefully these new players will help us in the final push to a top 6 spot. It certainly didn't help last week when Chris Morley had to pull out on Sunday morning and Craig had to be phoned at his parents house in Whitehaven to join the squad - even though he hadn't trained with his new team mates. In the circumstance he did

excellently and set up two tries in the last ten minutes.

The Club's trip to Whitehaven was a great success again and I must once again thank the people of Whitehaven for making us so welcome. The loss didn't help the last night, but a noisy bingo session and accompanying alcohol soon allowed us to drown our sorrows and thanks to the efforts of Chris, our Chairman, the trips and all the raffles, quizzes and every other method he could find to get money out of our pockets made £1000 for the club.

As this will probably be the last home game, can I thank all the contributors to this programme who give so generously of their time and expertise to produce what many claim is the best programme in the league.

Also I would like to congratulate Danny Guest who if he plays today will be celebrating his 100th game in an Oldham shirt. To my mind Danny has had his best season yet for us and let's hope this is the start of something big (sic).

On a final note can I say how nice it was to see 'Knocker' at Whitehaven - he promised he'd support us and as ever was true to his word. There will be news soon on a farewell do for Knocker so keep your eyes on the Oldham Chron.

Let's hope we see a lot of you again at the barbeque at the Social Club after the game. Fingers crossed for today and the rest of the season and look forward to seeing you all here at Boundary Park next season.

NM

Walkerbout

with
Brian Walker

ROUGHYEDS

The Story
 By Brian Walker

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JACK READ
 483 matches, 1926/40

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MIKE ELLIOTT
 matches, 1962/79

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FRED ASHWORTH
 436 matches, 1926/38

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NORMAN PUGH
 363 matches, 1934/48

WALKERS CIGARS

BERNARD GANLEY
 341 matches, 1951/61

WALKERS CIGARS

BILLY MITCHELL
 310 matches, 1938/54

WALKERS CIGARS

ALBERT AVERY
 289 matches, 1906/14

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BOB SLOMAN
 268 matches, 1921/29

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ROTHWELL MARLOR
 264 matches, 1914/27

WALKERS CIGARS

GEORGE FRATER
 262 matches, 1896/1905

WALKERS CIGARS

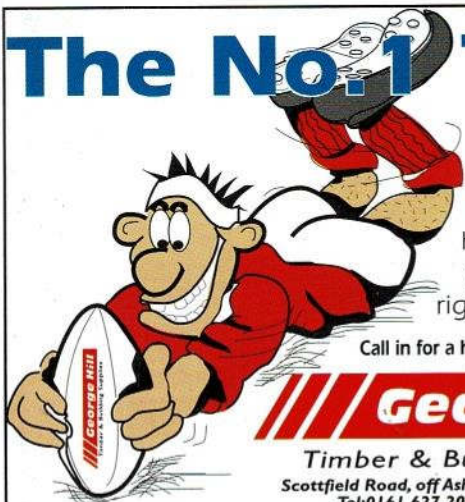
BILLY DIXON
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WALKERS CIGARS

JOHNNY NOON
 255 matches, 1954/64

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Back On The Terraces

..... With Simon Winnard

I FIRMLY believe that the end of season table never lies. Last year a season of unparalleled turmoil saw us scrape into 9th position and claim that all important National League 1 berth. However, analysing the current table clearly shows that we have made little or no progress since and, despite a clear investment in improved playing personnel, we once again find ourselves in the relegation mire.

A record of 5 wins out of 16 games in such a competitive division could well prove not enough for survival when considering the new play off structures. Inconsistent and for the most mediocre displays have been paralleled by some disappointing Boundary Park crowds and, whilst there is undoubtedly a hardcore of the Roughyed faithful who will turn up week in week out, it's clear that the floating majority simply won't put up with mediocrity in a summer time full of alternative attractions.

The new National League structure has meant that there is an increasingly fine line between success and failure, particularly when you consider that 4th position was a possibility just a matter of a couple of weeks ago. However, following consecutive defeats against Salford, Leigh, Hull KR and Whitehaven the Roughyeds have once again been dragged into a relegation dogfight.

Going into this crucial game, only 3 teams have a worse defence, namely today's opponents Batley, Doncaster and Dewsbury. Of those three, Dewsbury have already been relegated and today's opponents Batley now look to have destiny in their own hands. Indeed so vital is today's game that, should the unspeakable happen and the Bulldogs overcome the Roughyeds, there is every chance of Oldham having to play off for the right to remain in the division.

And off our chances? On form alone, Batley will certainly be considered the favourites. Indeed, I for one felt that we were extremely fortunate to come away from Mount Pleasant with a point. Ironically, it could well be the two draws against the Bulldogs and Whitehaven that prove vital to our survival. The recent loan signings will certainly help bolster the depleted ranks, however, let's hope that it's not a case of too

little too late as the Roughyeds clamber to avoid the bottom three.

One thing is for sure, should we be fortunate enough to avoid relegation, there are many difficult questions that will need to be answered in preparation before our next campaign. Nobody is doubting the commitment of everybody involved with the club, but clearly the paying public expect a much better product.

Away from the action, the recent appointment of the Rugby Football League's medical chief, Dr Lisa Phillips, as a non executive director of the National Sports Medicine Institute has prompted RFL chief executive, Richard Lewis to recently boast about the quality of the medical professionals working in Rugby League today.

I'm sure a certain Mr Kieron Cunningham would be delighted to take issue with this claim following his recent positive drugs test during his recovery from a potentially career threatening elbow injury. Unlike Mr Lewis, I refer of course to Mike Sutherland, the unqualified dietician employed by the RFL who administered the banned substance to the St Helens hooker. Having taken the substance in good faith, the Great Britain star's recovery was made all the more traumatic because of the charge hanging over his head through no fault of his own. Sutherland of course has since been dismissed after an RFL investigation revealed irregularities in his professional qualifications. Let's hope that the processes set in place for recognising medical professionals is somewhat more rigorous in the future.

On a final note, commiserations to our Academy lads who were defeated at Wakefield in the end of season play offs. Bucking the trend by investing in youth development, the Roughyeds have had a magnificent season, led ably by Shaun Gartland. I'm sure that Brian would have been extremely proud of his efforts this season and let's only hope that, following a proposed re-structure for next season, Shaun and the lads are rewarded with a championship place so that they can pit their wits against top flight opposition week in week out.

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Iwa Slateloose



A GROUP of Trappist monks who had taken a vow of silence had special dispensation to meet every five years when one of them could speak to the rest. As the five year period came round the Prior assembled his flock in the Chapters House for the meeting. "Now", said the Prior, "has anyone got anything they wish to raise?" Brother Michael put up his hand. "Yes, Brother Michael, my son, what is it?" "Well", said Brother Michael, "I want to complain that the porridge in the morning is too lumpy". "Thank you, my son", said the Prior and the meeting broke up.

Five years pass and the next meeting was due. Once again the Prior assembled his flock in the Chapter House and asked if anyone had anything to say. Brother Thomas put up his hand. "Yes, my son" asked the Prior. "I think the porridge in the morning is just right", said Brother Thomas. "Thank you, my son", said the Prior.

Another five years went by and the next meeting was held. Again the Prior asked if anyone had anything to bring up. Brother John raised his hand. "Yes, my son", said the Prior. "Your holiness, I wish to leave the order", said Brother John. Shock and horror was etched on the faces of the all the monks. "But why would that be?" asked the Prior, "Well", said Brother John "I can't stand all this arguing about the porridge in the morning".

A man wanted to divorce his wife. In court the judge asked him what was wrong between them. The man said, "it's because she keeps goats in the bedroom and I can't stand the smell".

"Couldn't you open the windows, then?" asked the judge.

"What! And let out all my pigeons?"



A building worker lost both his ears in a terrible accident with some machinery. While he was off work being treated in hospital the site foreman called his men together and said, "Look lads, Billy's going to be a bit self conscious when he comes back to work after his accident what with having no ears, so I don't want any of you making any jokes or drawing attention to his situation".

A couple of weeks later Billy returned to work. "By heck", said his mate Tommy, "I see your time off has done wonders for your eyesight", "What do you mean?" said Billy, "Well", said Tommy "you don't need your glasses any more".



The bar door flew open and in rushed a very red faced man. "Does anyone own a big black cat with a white collar?" he asked the surprised customers. No-one said anything. "Does anybody here own a big black cat with a white collar?", said the man again, looking even more agitated than before. Still no one answered.

"In that case" said the man "I've just run over the vicar".



A man goes to see a psychiatrist.

Man: "I've got this problem"

Psychiatrist: "Tell me about it"

Man: "I've got an inferiority complex, but I don't suppose it's very important."

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WELL, it's our last home league game, so let's go out with a bang with our big Danny. Shaz nearly passed out, "A bang with Danny? I can't believe you've just suggested that, Trace!

He's a married man! And this is a family programme!" Trust Shaz to get hold of the wrong end of the touch judge's flag. "Listen," I went on, "Danny would be a welcome Guest at our flat anytime," "Yeh, but he'd have to sit on the blind side end of the settee," she giggled. "Honestly, Shaz you and Iva Slateloose'd make a good pair - you could call yourself Ann de Soaveye!"

Danny and Joe were both with the old 'Bears' Joe was the Amazing Dancing Bear, and Danny's the cuddly bear, and he's dead laid back too. "Yeh, like a lot of 'em who try to tackle him!" she observed, dryly. "Well, Doncaster's programme

summed him up when it described him a juggernaut." That got her! "WHAT" a jug'o what? A jugo'NAUGHT?!" That's bang out of order to call a visiting player a 'nothing' I'll have 'em know our Danny's an irresistible rampaging horse, so I hope he flattens 'em all next time!

Anyway, I calmed her down again by telling he must be posh, 'cos he lives in Standish like the illustrious Maurice. "Hey, well then," she said "you know why Posh and Backs called their first one "Brooklyn"? What if Danny and his wife lived in Whelley! (Who are you calling an old boot, Shaz?)

Well people just in case this turns out to be the last time at home this season thanks to all for supporting the programme, hope we haven't lowered the tone too much.

We might have lost more than we've won but that's not problematic, 'cos after all is said and done, it still beats watching t'Latrics!

Love,
Shaz & Trace



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Profile of . . . Danny Guest



- Signed for Oldham Bears in 1997 from Keighley Cougar's Academy side at the age of 19 and made his Super League debut from the subs bench in the very last match of that season against Leeds Rhinos at Headingley in the Premiership play-offs.
- This game proved to be the Bears last ever match as the club later went into voluntary liquidation although Danny was cleared of most of the blame!!
- Rejoined the Cougars after the Bears shut down but the Wigan born juggernaut prop only managed one first team game scoring a try in the 66-16 win in the 1998 Challenge Cup against Saddleworth Rangers.
- Arrived back at Oldham during the 1999 season and last Sunday's match at Whitehaven was his 100th first team appearance scoring just three tries all beauties!

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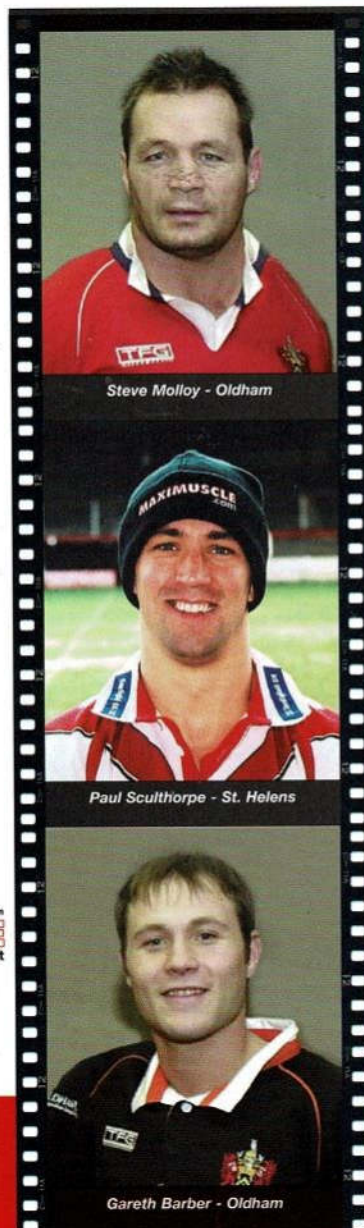
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Steve Molloy - Oldham

Paul Sculthorpe - St. Helens

Gareth Barber - Oldham

Does the kit fit?

Danny Guest



I GET UP at 6.30am and have
breakfast at 8.00am usually cereal and
beans on toast, at about 11.00am I like to
top up with pasta. What do you do
between 6.30 and 8.00 before you eat
your breakfast I asked, Danny just smiled.

To away games if Cleggie is in the
squad I will sit with him, we like to test the
durability of the coach seat and the
quality of the suspension.

I was given my nickname (Chesty) by
that little sod Joey Hayes, he said it was
hard to discern between my chest and
belly.

When we get in the changing room I
like to be the first to get a programme and
disappear into the little boys private
cubicles for a good long hard read.

WORST AND BEST Advice

Best advice from all the coaches I've
worked under - for some reason they all
said "Loose some weight".

The worst advice was - some day
you're going to make a terrific
winger.

Team Talk

The best team and
worst team talk - again it's
the Fordy and Harbin show.

Changing Rooms

Best: Boundary Park -
very spacious

Worst: Whitehaven and
Salford - too small

Playing Surface

Best: Headingley

Worst: Hurst Cross (when
wet)

Food

Best: Hull KR & Whitehaven

Worst: Hurst Cross - bucket
Swinton - Slop

Player

Best player - Jon Goddard
has my vote. He's been
superb this season, a true

100% per center in everything he does.
But only on the pitch as far as I know.

Do you think you look like or have
you been mistaken for anyone famous?

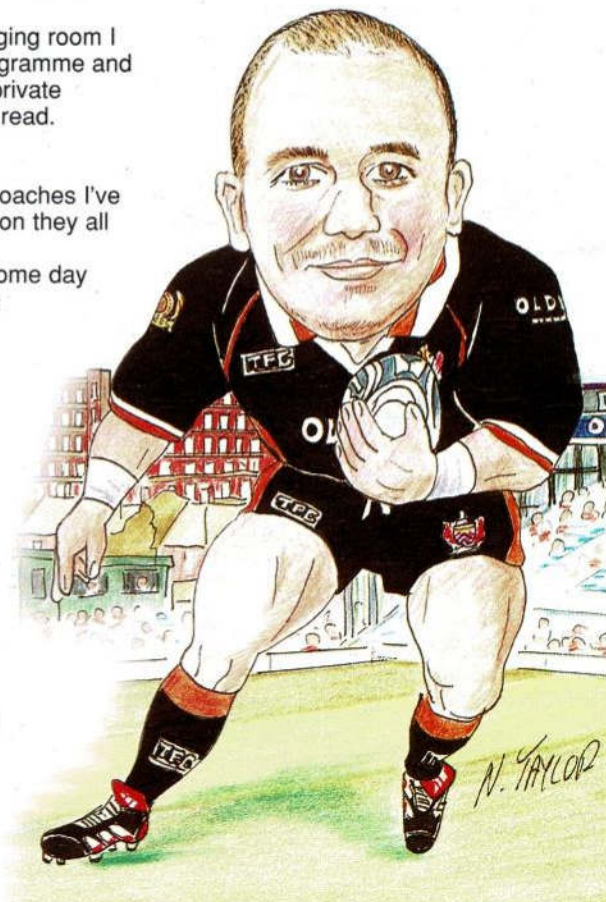
Behave Mitch, how can anybody cut
such a dashing figure as I.

JOKE

At a pop concert a female streaker ran
down the aisle.

She was grabbed by the bouncers and
thrown out.

Mitch.



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Senior Academy

with Shaun Gartland



Senior Academy Under 21



Adam Clayton

SO THE curtain was brought down on an entertaining Academy season the the youngsters went down 42-12 to an older and more experienced Wakefield Wildcats Championship side in the promotion/relegation battle at Belle Vue. Some of the Wildcat's boys were full time and at that age it makes a big difference. Congratulations go to everyone for the 100% effort and especially to two try left centre Gareth Baxendale and Adam Clayton the Roughyeds matchstar at loose forward.

The boys will parade the First Division Grand Final Trophy won when they beat Doncaster Dragons 45-4 during the half time interval of todays first team match against Batley Bulldogs.

NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE GRAND FINAL PLAY OFF FORMAT

Weekend 1 (14th September)

3rd v 6th

4th v 5th

Weekend 2 (21st September)

Winners 3rd v 6th v Winners 4th v 5th

Weekend 3 (28th September)

Loser 1st v 2nd v Winner of the other game from Weekend 2
(Winner to Grand Final)

Weekend 4 (4th October)

National League One Grand Final
(Halton Stadium, Widnes as part of a double header with the
National League Two Grand Final)

RELEGATION/PROMOTION ISSUE

7th in National League One stays up

10th In National League One (Dewsbury Rams) relegated
Winner of National League Two Grand Final promoted.

21st September

National League One 8th v 9th
(Winners stays up)

11th October

Loser 8th v 9th National League One v Loser of National Two Grand Final
*(If the National League Two side wins then they are promoted
otherwise the National League One side stays up.)*

Words of Wilson

... by Ian Wilson

THREE games to go as I write this (before the Bank Holiday weekend) and we are in sixth place in National League One, with twelve points from fifteen games. If all three final games are won we would probably finish in fourth place with the advantage of a home tie in the first promotion play-off game; but if we finish with three losses, a final total of twelve points could easily leave us in a relegation play-off nail-biter. This surely demonstrates how successful the Rugby League's introduction of the National League system has been - at least, on the field, and in terms of the vibrancy of the competition, if not in marketing. Because the battle for promotion from NL2 also still involves 7 clubs, with very even betting on who will eventually emerge; and NL3 has been nothing if not incredible with Teesside and St. Albans both finishing in the top four, and indeed, Teesside already through to their Grand Final.

I recall my programme notes for the first week in February, in which I suggested that, on 2002 stats, we were favourites for 10th place in the league table, and that 'success' in 2003 would be a top 6 place. I see no reason to change that view!

In case this turns out to be the final match of the season, perhaps I can be allowed the indulgence of a few retrospective thoughts. What gains have we made as a club this season, as we begin to turn our thoughts to how we can best make further progress in 2004 and beyond?

First, to me, is the continuing development of several of 'our' young players, in what has been a tougher standard of rugby league. Messrs. Barber,

Dodd, Doran, Farrell, Goddard, Guest, Roden & Stazicker all seem to me, to be better players now than they were at the start of the season; wouldn't it be great to see them all developing further under Steve Molloy here next season.

Second, I would count what has already been done with the future in mind - Chris Hamilton's drive to get the Social Club up and running, and the progress made on the field at Academy level. Both are crucial areas, if we are to move significantly forward in the longer term.

Third was what we learned about the nature of the club when, in the middle of a very disappointing run of results, and with relegation apparently a real threat; the Chairman gave his full backing to the coach. No one ever agrees with every decision a coach makes, and all coaches have good and bad times. I must admit that even my faith was tested severely at Doncaster! But there could not have been a better way of demonstrating that we are back, with a long term plan, building on solid foundations. If only more than the hard-core 1200 or so fans would take the same view.

Finally, a word of sadness, and of thanks. Houghy, of course is the true Mr new Oldham Rugby, and thank goodness he keeps going. But, in the relatively short time he has been with us, Knocker Norton, has also epitomised to me the 100% effort, whatever the situation, which has been the basis of our successes since he arrived. I can't believe we would have conceded an average of 30 points a game this season if he had played, at full fitness, throughout the season. So it is very sad to see him go in the way he has now been forced to; and thanks for his contribution.

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Express

Trading Places

By GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

ANOTHER round of fixtures, another week of changing permutations in the National Leagues.

As the two competitions enter the final two weeks of league action, teams continue to change places, as the play-off spots become clearer.

In National League One, Dewsbury's relegation is now confirmed following their heavy defeat at Leigh. The Rams are set to stick by coach Andy Fisher and hand him the opportunity to rebuild a club that won the old Division One Grand Final in 2000.

At the other end of the table, the top three teams are decided, though today's mouth-watering clash at the Willows could decide whether Salford or Leigh take out the Minor Premiership. Third placed Rochdale Hornets are ruled out of the equation after a big loss at the City Reds last Sunday - a defeat they will have to recover from quickly ahead of the play-offs.

The most intriguing battle in NL1 at the moment though, is the race for the top six. With the top three assured of their places, and Hull KR all but mathematically certain, the remaining five teams (Featherstone, Whitehaven, Oldham, Batley and Doncaster) are all involved in the mix.

This weekend Oldham entertain Batley - with the loser effectively out of the race, depending on results elsewhere. In addition, Whitehaven take on Doncaster at Belle Vue in another "four-pointer".

Those that miss out on the top six could then end up in a relegation battle. In the much-criticised additional play-off, eighth place will play ninth, with the loser taking on the defeated side from the NL2 Grand Final for a place in NL1 next year.

Leigh coach Paul Terzis is one who cannot understand the system.

'All this will do is create an anti-climax to the season - we're just creating a game for the sake of it and that's wrong,' Terzis wrote in his monthly column for Rugby League World magazine.

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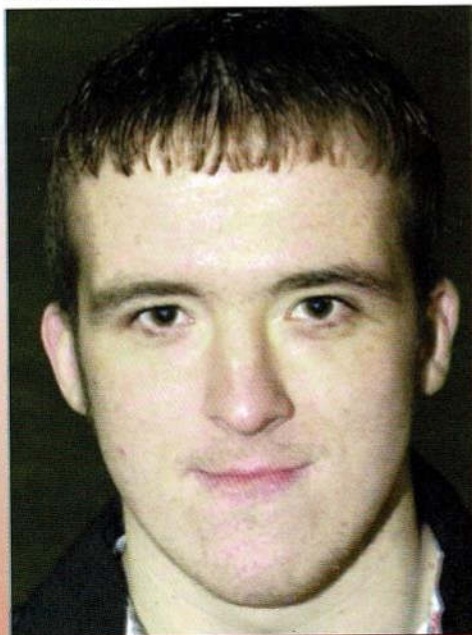
One thing the game does do though is present a second opportunity for successful sides in NL2 - a competition that continues to fascinate.

Chorley now hold pole position but they are likely to lose it if they are defeated at York today. Sheffield and Keighley can still finish top, but are relying on the Lynx to slip up.

Behind them, two more contenders - Barrow and Hunslet - clash at Craven Park today.

If Barrow win that one, and Swinton beat Keighley at home, the Raiders and the Lions will have a last-day showdown for the final top six place at Moor Lane next Sunday.

It all adds up to some more tremendous Rugby League action this weekend. With the venue for the National Leagues Grand Final double header being confirmed as Widnes' Halton Stadium on Sunday October 5, the seasons are boiling up nicely to a superb finale.



Phil Farrell *League Express*
Man of the Match v Whitehaven

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In Yer Face

REPORTS that Dewsbury Rams and Halifax will stand by their respective Coaches Andy Fisher and Tony Anderson despite relegation are highly encouraging. Hopefully it is a sign of a new realism on the part of club Directors for in each case here are two good coaches both of whom have helped implement sound academy schemes which should bear fruit in seasons to come. As Oldham know from their recent visit to Ram Stadium Dewsbury were a very competitive side who gave the Roughyeds a good run for their money. I will forecast here and now that Dewsbury will be favourites to bounce back to National League One at the first attempt because, even if Frank Watene their outstanding Kiwi prop departs for pastures new, they have a strong, well-balanced squad which will play for the coach.

Halifax, on the other hand, are a different proposition. As soon as the club lost their outstanding halfback combination of Andrew Dunneman and Gavin Clinch they were always going to be in trouble. Slowly but surely the more experienced and higher paid players have followed in the course of the season. Quite how the club with the lowest wage bill in Super League broke the salary cap is a mystery to me. Now, according to Tony Anderson, the vultures are circling over the remains of his squad which includes some outstanding young talent such as Andrew Brocklehurst, Jaymes Chapman, Sean Penkywicz and Oldham born Ryan Clayton. If illegal approaches have been made to any of Halifax's young stars the clubs concerned should be hammered with heavy fines. Remember that it was Halifax who broke

the mould of four club Super League dominance when finishing third under John Pendlebury's brilliant coaching. Thereafter Wigan were quick to poach Gavin Clinch and Chris Chester both of whom they then discarded. Subsequently Wigan also signed David Hodgson and Danny Tickle, each of whom is good enough for the top flight. Add to these the departure, among others, of the likes of Shayne McMenemy, Brett Goldspink, Jamie Bloem (all well known to Oldham followers), Paul Rowley, Simon Baldwin, Jim Gannon and Darryl Cardiss and it is not difficult to see how the club lost its way. It all comes back to inadequate financial backing of course and is a lesson to all that poor revenue streams spell failure.

And what is the relevance of all this? Well, next season the clubs in National League One are not likely to be confronted by a relegated side boasting well paid, full-time professional players. Halifax are not likely to dominate the competition in the way that Huddersfield and Salford have. Ideally Salford will win this season's Grand Final and get promoted back to Super League: this then opens the door to every other club to aim for top spot in 2004 and a place at the Super League table. It would undoubtedly provide great possibilities for the likes of Leigh, Rochdale and Oldham (as long as Boundary Park remains our home) who have the facilities acceptable in the elite competition. You can be sure that the Oldham management team are well aware of this always supposing this season's grand Final hopes are not realised.

GC

And to finish the year always a good talking point: my team of the season based on performance against the Roughyeds.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Paul Owen (Rochdale) | 8. Frank Watene (Dewsbury) |
| 2. Damien Munro (Leigh) | 9. Malcolm Alker (Salford) |
| 3. Jon Roper (Rochdale) | 10. Paul Hicks (Dewsbury) |
| 4. Howard Hill (Whitehaven) | 11. Simon Baldwin (Salford) |
| 5. Alan Hunte (Salford) | 12. Paul Smith (Rochdale) |
| 6. Cliff Beverley (Salford) | 13. Anthony Seibold (Hull KR) |
| 7. Gavin Clinch (Salford) | |

ON THIS DAY

... with Don Yates

AUGUST
31



TODAYS final league match of the 2003 season takes place exactly forty years after Batley came to town for a Second Division match against Oldham which was staged on the old Watersheddings ground. The Roughyeds won that match on Saturday 31st August 1963 by 44 points to seven. They ran in ten tries with winger Trevor



Frank Dyson

Simms leading the way with a hat-trick of touchdowns. Other try scorers were second-row forward Johnny Rae (2), hooker Len McIntyre (2), loose-forward Dave Parker and centres Johnny Noon and Brian Lord. Skipper and full-back Frank Dyson completed the scoring with seven goals. Centre Malcolm Shuttleworth scored the Batley try with prop Jim Ety, brother of John, adding a couple of goals.

On Saturday 31st August 1996 Australia won the Student World Cup when they defeated Western Samoa 38-16 in the final at Salford. The 3rd/4th-place match was staged as a curtain raiser to that final and was won by New Zealand who defeated France 22-20. A French substitute in that match was Laurent Minut who joined the Roughyeds three years later. Incidentally the tournament director of that competition was Abe Kerr, commercial manager at Oldham in the mid-1990s and a player who made the odd appearance in the Oldham A-team.

International rugby came to Watersheddings on Tuesday 31st August 1965 when the New Zealand tourists played Oldham. The Kiwis won a close match 5-2 with Rhodesian full-back John Winton landing a penalty for the Roughyeds. Making his debut for Oldham in that match was stand-off Tommy Canning who had been signed from the Vulcan RUFC.

Canning went on to make 138 appearances for the Roughyeds and scored 27 tries and four goals during his five years at Watersheddings.

It was on this day in 1946, Saturday 31st August that second-row forward Les Thomas made his debut for the club. Unfortunately Thomas did not make the best of starts in red & white for, not only did he suffer an injury which kept him out for almost four months, but Oldham were beaten 5-0 at Liverpool Stanley. Thomas had been signed from Llanelli RUFC earlier in the month and he went on to represent both Wales and Great Britain during his short stay in Oldham. He made 58 appearances and scored 19 tries and 17 goals before transferring to Leeds two years later. The deal which took Thomas to Leeds saw Bob Batten and wing three-quarter Les Tate move in the opposite direction. Tate made his debut on Tuesday 31st August 1948 when Oldham gained revenge over Liverpool Stanley by beating them 19-0 at Watersheddings. He scored a try in that match but Tate was not the most prolific winger in the history of the club. He scored four tries and five goals from 26 appearances during his one season with the club. Incidentally the terms under which Tate agreed to sign for Oldham were £7.10s (£7.50p) for a win and £4 for a defeat. Home draw, losing pay, away draw, winning pay and no play, no pay. And those terms were about as good as any in the game!!

Sadly, it was on this day twelve months ago, Saturday 31st August 2002, that the former Oldham second-row forward Tommy Leyland died aged 80 years. Tommy joined the Roughyeds in 1948 from St. Helens and made 111 appearances over the following six years. He scored 15 tries and a couple of goals. His son, Tommy junior, also played for Oldham, during the late 1960s-early 1970s, and he is currently involved on the coaching staff with National Amateur Cup holders St. Annes.

STATS AND FACTS

APPEARANCES & SCORERS SEASON 2003

POSSIBLE MATCHES PLAYED 21 (SIMON SVABIC'S SUBSTITUTE TOTAL INCLUDING ONE NOT USED)

PLAYER	APP	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	D/G	PTS
Gavin Dodd	27	0	14	0	0	56
Iain Marsh	21	1	3	0	0	12
Jon Goddard	21	1	6	0	0	24
Paul Anderson	15	7	8	0	0	32
Joe McNicholas	8	1	2	0	0	8
Simon Svabic	17	11	3	69	2	152
Neil Roden	20	5	5	0	3	23
Steve Molloy	24	2	2	0	0	8
John Hough	23	2	4	0	0	16
Martin McLoughlin	5	13	1	0	0	4
Lee Doran	28	0	14	0	0	56
Chris Morley	21	4	4	0	0	16
Phil Farrell	22	0	8	0	0	32
Gareth Barber	11	12	12	31	0	110
Gavin Johnson	2	4	0	0	0	0
Ryan Stazicker	13	5	4	0	0	16
Danny Guest	2	16	0	0	0	0
Chris Campbell	9	0	5	0	0	20
Anthony Murray	4	1	1	0	0	4
Chris Irwin	12	0	4	0	0	16
Will Cowell	11	1	1	0	0	4
Darren Shaw	10	3	0	0	0	0
Keith Brennan	8	10	4	0	0	16
Dane Morgan	14	8	5	0	0	20
Adam Sharples	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jason Clegg	0	3	0	0	0	0
Paul Norton	9	1	1	0	0	4
Dan Potter	4	0	2	0	0	8
Nicky Johnson	1	0	1	0	0	4
Lee Marsh	2	0	0	0	0	0
Craig McDowell	0	1	0	0	0	0

Roughyeds Kids



HI ROUGHYED KIDS!

Hope you've all enjoyed your summer holiday and are ready for school!

Today is our last home match of the season and we need lots of you shouting for the lads to win.

Our mascot for today is **Jessica**

Bowers who is 11 years old and her favourite player is Gavin Dodd.

The next junior meeting is on Thursday 4th September at Oldham Rugby League Football Club at approximately 6.45pm.

Once again thanks to all our sponsors, **Saddleworth Sports, F. R. Elswood Limited, Third Axis Limited, A1 Upholstery and The Oldham Advertiser.**

See you soon.

Carole & Janet



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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
23	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	24-16 923
MARCH			
02	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C W	50-11 1,280
09	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	4-62 2,839
16	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL C L	26-31 1,945
CC QF			
23	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL C L	25-34 1,314
30	BARROW RAIDERS	NL C W	23-16 781
APRIL			
06	SWINTON LIONS	NL C W	68-14 1,032
13	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL C L	12-54 2,162
17	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 L	28-33 1,754
MAY			
04	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 W	41-21 1,198
10	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 L	12-44 1,657
18	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 L	24-52 880
25	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 W	12-10 1,691
JUNE			
01	HULL KINGSTON ROVERS	NL 1 L	10-23 1,300
08		NL C SF	
15	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 D	22-22 1,096
22	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 D	20-20 821
29	ROCHDALE HORNETS	NL 1 L	14-58 1,425
JULY			
06		NL C FINAL	
13	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 W	35-24 1,235
20	DONCASTER DRAGONS	NL 1 W	31-20 1,254
27	DEWSBURY RAMS	NL 1 W	32-26 1,098
AUGUST			
03	SALFORD CITY REDS	NL 1 L	22-32 1,765
10	LEIGH CENTURIONS	NL 1 L	2-38 2,287
17	HULL KR	NL 1 L	24-29 1,414
24	WHITEHAVEN	NL 1 L	20-24 1,132
31	BATLEY BULLDOGS	NL 1 H	
SEPTEMBER			
07	FEATHERSTONE R.	NL 1 A	

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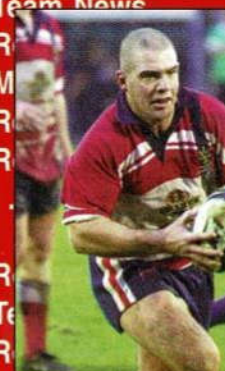
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.. Match Report
Roughyheds Round
Team News S
Roger Halstead . .
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.. Match Reports Team News Score on Monday

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