

game line-up

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OLDHAM SQUAD	Played	KEIGHLEY SQUAD
ANDY BAILEY		ADAM MITCHELL
GARETH BARBER		MATT BRAMALD
MIKE CALLAN		SAM GARDNER
GED CORCORAN		DARREN NIXON
WAYNE CORCORAN		MICHAEL FOGARTY
CRAIG DEAN		ANDREW JACKSON
ANDY GOREY		SCOTT NIXON
DEAN GORTON		BARRY EATON
DANNY GUEST		PHIL STEPHENSON
ALAN HADCROFT		JON WAINHOUSE
GARETH HAYES		TOBIAS WILLIAMS
IAN HODSON		KARL SMITH
CHRIS HOUGH		TOM PALMER
JOHN HOUGH		RICHARD KNIGHTS
JAMES KIRKLAND		MATT FOSTER
CHRIS MAYE		ALEX BROWN
DANNY NANYN		MARCOFERRAZZANO
CHRIS PERCIVAL		SHANE WALTON
MICK REDFORD		GAVIN DUFFY
MARK ROBERTS		JAMES FEATHER
SIMON SVABIC		
ALEX WILKINSON		
LEE WINGFIELD		

KEIGHLEY COUGARS

match officials

REFEREE: D Merrick TOUCH JUDGE: R Stokes & S Williams
4TH OFFICIAL: P Wroe

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SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2006 • K.O. 3.00pm

THE ROUGHYEDS

BOUNDARY PARK

V KEIGHLEY COUGARS

K.O. 3.00pm

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 2006



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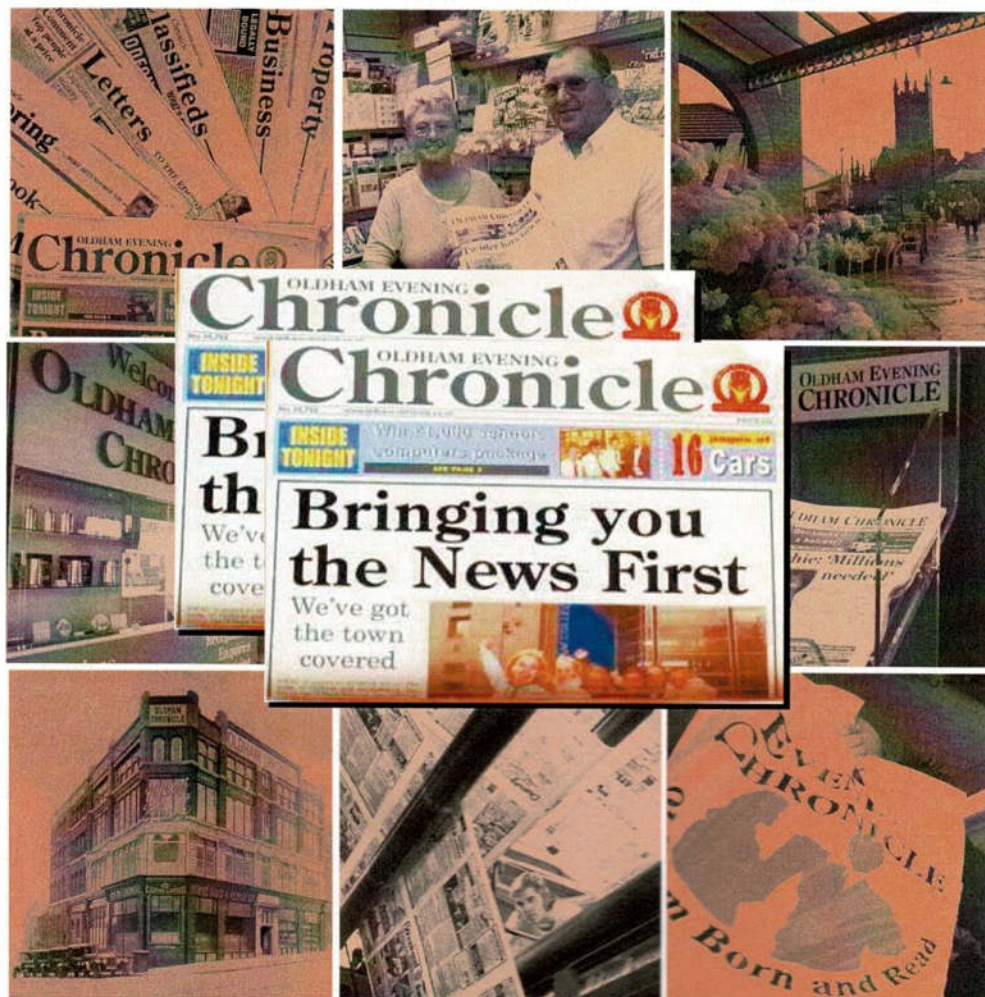
carlotti

player profile

wayne corcoran

he didn't make a Super League debut at the tender age of 18 for nothing

p18



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Club Records - 1998-2005

Trans-Penine Cup
Finalists - 1998

Northern Ford Premiership
Club of the Year - 2000
Grand Finalists - 2001

MOST APPEARANCES: John Hough, 209 - Jan 1998 - September 2005
CONSECUTIVE APPEARANCES: Phil Farrel, 67 - *April 2nd 2000 - March 15th 2002
*John Hough was on the team for every match February 1st 1999 - April 16th 2001 (82)

TRIES IN A SEASON: Nick Johnson, 25 - 2004

GOALS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 146 - 2000-2001

POINTS IN A SEASON: Pat Rich, 320 - 2000-2001

DROP GOALS IN A SEASON: Neil Roden, 7 - 2001-2002

TRIES IN A CAREER: Mark Sibson, 60 - 1999-2002

GOALS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 254 - 1999-2001

POINTS IN A CAREER: Pat Rich, 576 - 1999-2001

DROP GOALS IN A CAREER: Neil Roden, 18 - 2000-2003

TRIES IN MATCH: Mark Sibson v Wigan St. Judes, 4 - Feb 8th 2000 at Boundary Park
Mark Sibson v Queensbury, 4 - Jan 28th 2001 at Boundary Park
David Gibbons v Chorley Lynx, 4 - Jan 30th 2001 at Boundary Park
James Bunyan v Featherstone Rovers, 4 - Apr 12th 2004 at Boundary Park

GOALS IN A MATCH: Simon Svabic v Swinton Lions, 10 - Apr 6th 2003 at Boundary Park
POINTS IN A MATCH: Gareth Barber v Dewsbury Rams, 26 - Apr 2nd 2002 at Hurst Cross
(7 goals, 3 tries)

DROP GOALS IN A MATCH: Neil Roden v Workington Town, 2 - Dec 17th 2000 at Derwent Park
John Braddish v Hull KR, 2 - Dec 16th 2001 at New Craven Park

HIGHEST SCORE/WINNING MARGIN: v Yorks Wasps, 70-6 - Apr 1st 2001 at Huntington Stadium
v Queensbury (amt), 64-0 - Jan 28th 2001 RLCC 3rd Rnd at Boundary Park

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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Keith Brennan

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Todd Williams

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Nigel Marland

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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Arthur Lees 1891-1907

Joe Ferguson 1899-1923

Herman Hilton 1913-26

Jack Read 1925-40

Fred Ashworth 1926-39

Alex Givvons 1933-42, 1949

Harry Ogden 1940-56

Alan Davies 1950-62

Frank Stirrup 1950-62

Bernard Ganley 1950-61

Sid Little OBE 1951-59

John Etty 1954-59

Derek Turner 1955-59

Kevin Taylor 1962-77

Mike Elliott 1962-79

Bob Irving 1964-74

Martin Murphy 1966-82

Terry Flanagan 1979-89

Andy Goodway 1979-85 & 1993-94

We would like to express our thanks to the Oldham Evening Chronicle, League Publications Ltd, Phil Burdge and all concerned for the use of photographs. (www.digisport.co.uk)

www.roughyeds.co.uk



in the chair

with Chris Hamilton

Welcome back to Boundary Park as we try to get our first competitive win of the season against what will be, primarily, a young but enthusiastic Keighley Cougars side who, as a club, are in the middle of a re-building process.

Neil Spencer and his Co-Director Colin Farrar are in a very similar position to myself and Sean in so much as there are only two of them and they are desperately trying to work within a strict budget. We can certainly empathise with their position and obviously wish them well in their efforts as they continue to fly the flag for the game.

Following last week's games we have already seen how no matter what work you do in pre season, your plans, hopes and goals can all be blown apart through no fault of your own simply due to the injuries sustained as a result of the physical nature of the game. We have already seen serious injuries to Ged Corcoran and Alan Hadcroft with other less severe injuries to Simon Svabic, Chris Hough, Wayne Corcoran, Chris Maye and Alex Wilkinson.

With other clubs seemingly suffering also it could well mean that the outcome of some of this year's fixtures could well be decided not by what happens on the pitch in a game but maybe by what happens the week before!

A classic example is Warrington Wolves, who were tipped to go well this season by most pundits, but after two games they have no points but an alarming injury list with almost a full team unavailable already.

Lets hope for a change in fortune soon.

Everybody in the town will no doubt have been talking this week about the Powergen Challenge Cup tie with Saddleworth Rangers on 12 March.

Given that it was seventy years ago since the last tie was played between the professional club and an Oldham amateur club there should be enormous interest in the game which we obviously hope results in a big crowd to benefit both clubs.

Back to today and hopefully we can get that first win which will be so beneficial to the team and as ever you can play your part in that by getting behind the team from the kick off to the last minute.

Enjoy the game

Chris



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direct from the dug out

with John Pendlebury



I am not the sort of person to look for excuses for defeats believing that success or defeat is in your own hands, however, there is no doubt that having to play 2 games in four days with limited training opportunities took its toll. At the

end of the Halifax game five of my 23 man squad were sidelined -Ged Corcoran, Chris Maye, Simon Svabic, Chris Hough and Alan Hadfield with both Wayne Corcoran and Jimmy Kirkland carrying injuries for most of the Halifax game. The worst of the injuries is Alan's dislocated shoulder, which will mean we will be without our captain for at least six weeks. On the positive side I hope to have Chris Hough at least available for today's game.

Losing players to injury also means a severe disruption to the game plan in the game they are injured. Because of the set up of our bench on Sunday each injury meant not only a replacement but also a reorganisation of players' positions in the game. Losing two three-quarters meant that Ian Hodson spent some time at out half, Gareth Barber went from left side to right side to full back and Craig Dean from full back to left side half back. In the modern game familiarity with your partners in both attacking and defensive formations is now a vital part of the game and this was seriously disrupted in the Halifax match and showed itself in lapses we do not expect.

This also, I think, shows the adaptability of the modern rugby league player with Lee Wingfield, Gareth Barber, Ian Hodson, Alan Hadcroft and Craig Dean all changing roles and having to change skills. Be it running with the ball, hard defensive graft, organising defence and creating chances going forward. This not only shows the squad's adaptability but also their spirit. Last Sunday players were carrying on despite injuries and hands were going up on the bench from injured players to give it a go to help their team mates.

With a seven-day recovery period before today's game we can hopefully return to winning ways. We will have looked at the eight tries we conceded and the manner of some of those tries was alarming which can be put down not only to tiredness but also technical deficiencies, tackling technique at times was suspect, and this will have to be ironed out. A big positive to come out of the Halifax game was the team's reaction to adversity, they showed great spirit, head's didn't fall and we came back at Halifax strongly at times. I am confident that with some continuity in the side we will start putting our defence and positive play together.

We welcome Keighley today who are in a similar position to us with a new team with a sprinkling of experienced players like Barry Eaton, Phil Stephenson and Matt Foster amongst raw, enthusiastic youngsters who are willing to put their neck on the line for their club. They showed up well against Halifax and we will certainly be treating them with respect.

Finally a comment on the Challenge Cup draw: A match between ourselves and Saddleworth Rangers is surely great for the entire rugby league community in Oldham. It will be a tough encounter enjoyed by all.

Enjoy the game.

John



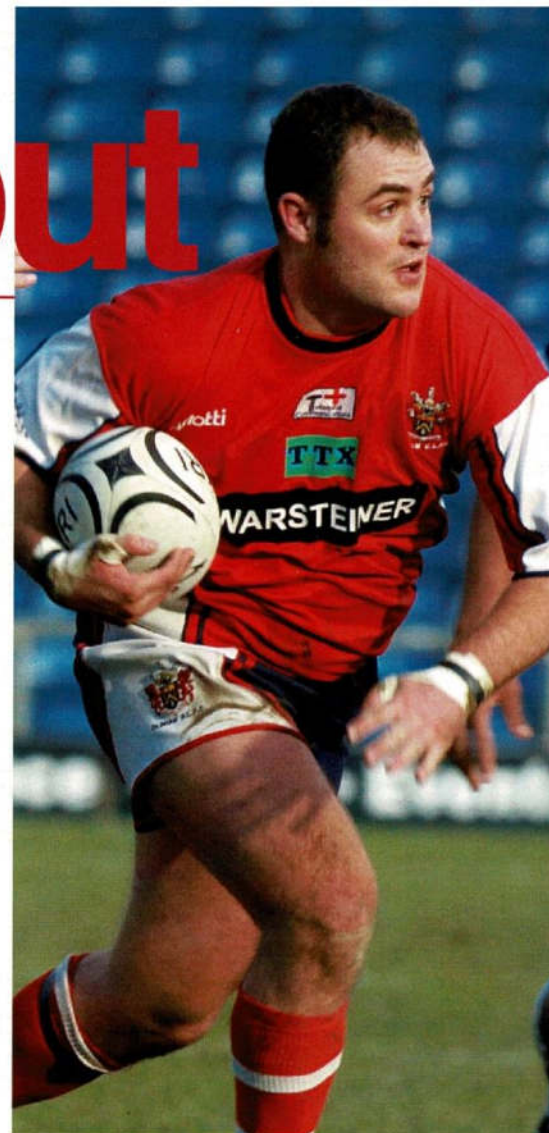
Player Stats

Jimmy Kirkland v Halifax

On field	70 mins
Tackles	27
Hit ups	7
Metres made	60
Missed tackles	1
Distribution	Excellent

Danny Guest v Halifax

On field	43 mins
Tackles	15
Missed tackles	0
Hit ups	14
Metres made	98
Off loads	2



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with Ian Wilson

**I don't suppose that many will recall a
match played at Watersheddings on
October 11, 1981.**



It was v Keighley; not particularly memorable in the great scheme of things, I suspect; in the Second Division - though with an attendance of 2243, which I suspect would be very welcome today. For those with some taste for nostalgia, the Oldham side was : Murphy, O'Neill, McEwan, Parrish, Caffrey, Taylor, Kirwan, Alexander, O'Mahoney, Harris, Nicholson, Goodway, Flanagan, with subs. Worrall and Mordell. [For Keighley fans here, your 15 were : Scanlan, Wilkes, Brelsford, Rowett, Beale, McGovern, North, Sellars, Raistrick, Clarkson, Moorby, Farrell, Garner ; Dickens, Dudley]. We won 21-12, with tries for Martin Murphy, Ashley McEwan, Dave Nicholson, Andy Goodway and Terry Flanagan.

Why do I recall such an occasion, you may well ask. Very simply, it is because it was the first time that I took my family to a match, and it had a lasting effect on all of our lives. My children were then aged 9 and 8, and they were both immediately hooked. The result was that, for many years afterwards, our family Sundays were spent supporting Oldham all around the RL hinterland, and they - not to mention my wife - developed an interest which has given huge

amounts of pleasure for life, as well, in my son's case, as employment!

The recent birth of a grandson got me to thinking about this minor bit of history, and to pondering about how the game is handed on from one generation to another. There are, of course, lots of different avenues through which people come to be participants, whether as players or supporters, and the family is merely one of them. There is no doubt, though, that developing the next generation is one of the most important things that current aficionados can do, if the game is to survive and prosper ; this is one of the few things which Sky's Steve says [repeatedly!] where I can bring myself to agree with him!

This is why I can only applaud the club's recent initiative to get more youngsters to watch the Leeds friendly. It had its problems, of course, but I am sure that we will merely use them to make sure we do it better next time. There are lots of other potential ways of encouraging greater interest amongst the younger generation both in the club and in the game in general, too. Several clubs around the game have experiences we could learn from, I am sure - you only have to look at what Bradford have achieved, for example, and there are others at perhaps a lower level of intensity. It would be great to see a concerted drive, with all parties with an interest in the game in the town working together, to generate a big increase in the active involvement of youngsters.

40/20VISION

in yer face

with Geoff Cooke

We all like to indulge in pre-season forecasting, speculation on the fortunes of this or that club being the lifeblood of the game and for the betting fraternity a necessary activity before parting with their money.

Everybody tends to look at the quality of any new signings and whether they add to or take away from a club's potential. However, I am a great believer in continuity and retaining the vast majority of the previous season's squad can be a good pointer to a club's prospects. On that basis don't be surprised to find St. Helens and Hull among the leading Super League sides this term.

Both have Coaches with excellent track records, both have stability and both have added quality to a strong squad. In addition Hull F.C. have a great record of bringing through young players and have an outstanding crop of next generation players eagerly awaiting their chance. Furthermore two weeks into the season and the bookies' favourites for relegation are already looking a good bet to overturn the odds. Mark my words Salford will NOT be relegated. Instead expect the drop to be contested between Castleford and Wakefield, neither of whose squads strike me as having the necessary strength in depth.



Meanwhile, two weeks into the season and already an irate Warrington fan is on the phone to GMR demanding Paul Cullen's head. Some people's impatience really does flabbergast me!

At the level below Super League thank goodness for the Northern Rail Cup. At a lot of clubs the turnover of players is phenomenal. For the second year running Oldham have virtually a new team and the two games so far against Rochdale and Halifax, each of whom have greater continuity in their squads, show how early season form depends on players knowing each other's games. Hopefully by the time the league competition starts Oldham's players will be more familiar with each other.

The club has an outstanding Coach who has recruited well, team spirit is second to none and if injuries can be minimised - not a hopeful scenario at the moment - the team is well placed to challenge for a play-off place.



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club corner

with Nigel Marland

Why don't I keep my big mouth shut? Before everyone choruses with "Hear, Hear" I am talking about my comment in last week's programme that I hoped we would have more luck with injuries this season than we did last year, but from the experience of the Rochdale and Halifax games fate is once again against us.

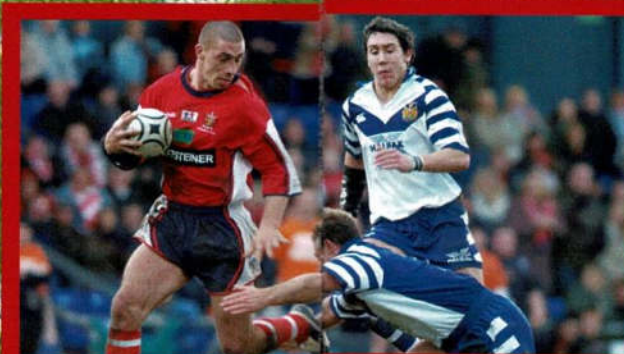
As with last season it isn't just injuries but serious ones to players at the top of their form and vital to the success of the team. Ged Corcoran and Alan Hadfield both look like being out for at least six weeks. Those of you who saw Ged at the Halifax game will realise he is sporting one of the "best" black eyes you have ever come across. We wish both players all the best for a speedy recovery.

As the coach said in the press conference injuries are part and parcel of this tough game of rugby league and it's no use crying about your bad luck. You have to pick yourself up and carry on with the rest of the squad, hopefully with players who wouldn't have had the chance showing their capabilities. I didn't go to the Rochdale game but by all accounts we were unlucky to lose and I thought we could have given Halifax a much closer encounter but for the disruption of the injuries. Again, as John said, these games have shown we have nothing to fear in future encounters with Rochdale and Halifax.

Personally I think we need to look at our ball possession, we are not completing our sixes nearly

enough and often giving the ball away cheaply. We are also conceding far too many penalties - 15 in each game, that's thirty to the oppositions' seventeen. John realises this and I think his explanation in his column today is illuminating.

On the positive side I have to fully agree with the coach on the spirit in the side. I am privileged to spend the entire home games in the tunnel next to the Oldham bench (more of that later) and can witness at first hand the joys, trials and tribulations that occur during a match. Things aren't always, as they seem to the supporter. Wayne Corcoran, for example, was struggling from early doors with a groin injury he has been carrying for some time but had put his hand up to soldier on with the injuries to Chris Hough and Simon Svabic. On the day he struggled on despite discomfort for most of the first half and the hand also went up again in the second half when Jimmy Kirkland had been struggling with an injury and he went on again for the last ten minutes. Others on the bench too were volunteering for extra time on the field despite weariness and / or injury to support wounded colleagues. The team spirit is impressive.



Personally I am far more optimistic than I was at this time last season with a squad I would guess that cost considerably less than last years. Injuries to backs have shown up the fact that we are still two players short in the backs and I know that everything is being done to try and bring in two more players but at this time in the season this is not an easy task.

I must admit to being at my most nervous on Sunday in my role as Match Day Announcer as I was seeing the lads for the first time and afraid of making a blunder especially as we seem to be permanently without a working scoreboard these days. I got through however without any major blunders with the help of the coaching teams of both Halifax and ourselves. This is another positive of rugby league, almost without exception visiting teams and their aids are more

than willing to help recognise the names of try scorers etc. although occasionally players on the bench will jokingly give their own name to try and increase their try count for the season.

Finally can I say how impressed I was with our new Roughyettes, especially the rock and roll section at half time. A number of fans, including ones from Halifax congratulated me on them and asked why they didn't do more. So well done Roughyettes and thanks to Frank Ellswood and Mark Anthony Kitchens for their sponsorship of these talented youngsters.

Hopefully we can register our first Cup win of the season today, so enjoy today's game and I'll speak to you again in the Saddleworth Rangers programme. What a great day that promises to be.

Nigel

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AROUND & ABOUT

with The Heritage Trust

The Heritage Trust website receives over 100 hits per day. For those of you who've not previously visited the site, it offers an abbreviated history of the Oldham club, information on every player who has represented it since way back in 1895, match results and league positions, the club's records and player's representative honours, and details surrounding the club's Hall of Fame. It also provides an extensive list of Roughyeds' related reading material and much more.



Davidson's Cheshire jersey and cap unearthed in Montana.

A good proportion of those who click onto the website are genealogists seeking information about relatives who they believe have at one time or another represented the club, whether as a player, coach or official plus lots of ex-pats who just want to reminisce. It's surprising where

enquiries come from. We regularly field questions from Australia and New Zealand but we've had them from as far and wide as Iceland and Argentina! Just a couple of weeks ago we had two in the same day from the States. The first was from a James Davidson in Montana. His grandfather John Bright Davidson



Original framed photo of 1897-98 Oldham side discovered in San Francisco junk shop.

had emigrated out to America from Oldham in the early 1900's. A rugby cap and jersey had been passed down through the family but they hadn't a clue what they represented. After investigations here in Oldham it turned out that John Bright Davidson's parents, Anne and Christopher, had owned a draper's shop in the town during the mid/late 1800's and had named their two boys John Bright and William Gladstone after the liberal politicians. For whatever reason JB played rugby league (although it was then known as the Northern Union) for Stockport who played in the same division as Oldham. In 1898 he was selected to play in the forwards for his adopted county Cheshire against the counties of

Lancashire, Cumberland and Yorkshire. The cap was awarded to mark this achievement and the jersey was worn during at least one of the three games. They are the only known set to have survived down the years and are therefore both unique and invaluable to rugby league historians. The trust is negotiating its return to this country.



Jim Moffatt

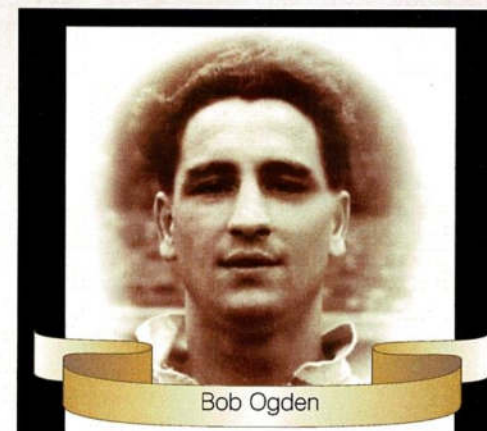
For the record Stockport reverted back to being a rugby union club at the end of the 1900-01

season and Cheshire last competed as a rugby league county in 1905.

The second enquiry from the States came from a Bruce Anderson serving with the US military in California. He e-mailed over images of an original framed 1897-98 Oldham team photograph that he'd recently bought in a San Francisco junk shop! He'd thought at first that it was of an association football side. Oldham were county champions that season and the shot was taken to celebrate.

But how the heck does a framed photo of an 1897 Oldham side end up in a Californian junk shop? We'll never know for certain but I think I've got a good idea. Included on the team photograph is Jim Moffatt, a Scottish born forward. He was a carpenter and builder by trade, who, shortly after he finished playing in 1901, moved out to South Africa. On hearing of the demand for tradesmen following the San Francisco earthquake he then moved on to California. After visiting Oldham in 1911 he returned to 'Frisco, where, to the best of my knowledge, he lived out the rest of his life. Whatever the route, right now a little bit of Oldham rugby league history is hung on the wall of a USA military mess!

Michael Turner



Bob Ogden

Our sympathy's go out to the friends and relatives of former Oldham and Wakefield Trinity scrum-half Bob Ogden who died on the 12th of February. Bob, born in Oldham, played for the club during and after the Second World War before signing for Trinity where he kept former England half-back Herbert Goodfellow out of the side. Ironically, Goodfellow was later signed by the Roughyeds.

He also played for Bramley and Liverpool and in later life served on the Oldham committee.

visiting today

Keighley RLFC

Adam Mitchell: Currently sidelined due to a broken leg in Keighley first hit out of the season against Batley Bulldogs but hoping to recover before the end of the season.

Matt Bramald: Former Featherstone and Batley player who is a solid last line of defence and who top scorer fro the Cougars in 2005.

Sam Gardner: Former Otley Rugby Union player who is making a name for himself on the wing as he is a player with pace and good going forward.

Darren Nixon: Joined the Cougars from Waterhead Amateur Rugby League club in the National Conference and looks to have made the centre berth his own.

Michael Fogarty: Another player signed from Conference side Waterhead and whose another big solid player with plenty of pace.

Andrew Jackson: A winger who came through the ranks at Featherstone Academy and then Keighley and a real acquisition for the club.

Scott Nixon: He is the Cougars one quota player and is a former New Zealand A international and who has formed a great partnership with Barry Eaton.

Barry Eaton: The clubs player coach who has a vast amount of experience having played for Dewsbury, Widnes and Batley. As well as being a Welsh international Barry is the world record holder for consecutive kicks at goal.

Phil Stephenson: Made his debut for the club in 1991 and has just finished a very successful testimonial season at the Cougars, a real cornerstone of the pack.

Jon Wainhouse: This hooker/loose-forward was signed by the Cougars towards the end of last season who during the day is part of the development team at Leeds Rhinos.

Tobias Williams: Toby is a player who has come through the Cougars Cubs system to the Academy and now first team level and is a hard working prop.

Karl Smith: Now in his eighth year at the club a real hard working second row forward and another product of the Cougar Cubs.

Tom Palmer: Another local lad who has again come through the Cougars system by way of the under 18s and then the 21s.

Richard Knight: Son of the former Warrington, Castleford and Huddersfield player Glen who signed from Conference side

Huddersfield Sharks and has also played at Huddersfield Academy

Matt Foster: Matt is the club Community Development Manager and also in his second spell at the club. He was a part of the 1996 Premiership winning side and is the First Team conditioner.

Alex Brown: At just 18 Alex is a powerful winger who is set to be a star of the future. He also signed from Huddersfield Sharks and has already made his mark for the club.

Marco Ferrazzano: Another player who has come through the under 18 and under 21 system at the club. A real impact player who is not frightened to take on opposing defences.

Shane Walton: Shane's career has been blighted by injury but he always comes back for more. He is another Cougar Cubs product who has come through the 18s and 21s.

Gavin Duffy: A player who has come through the Cougar Cubs and the Academy system at the club.

James Feather: Another player who has come through the youth and Academy systems at Keighley.

on this day

Don Yates looks back to February 26th yesteryear

The visit of Keighley to Boundary Park for this afternoon's Northern Rail Cup-tie gives an early opportunity for Oldham fans to gauge the progress of three former local amateurs who joined Keighley recently.

They are the Waterhead trio of Michael Fogarty, Daz Nixon and Terry Fitzgerald. Twelve months ago, on Saturday 26th February 2005 all three played for Waterhead when they visited Rose Bridge for a fourth round National Cup-tie. The home team, unbeaten at their Pinfold Street enclosure since the previous November, jumped into an early 10-0 lead. Waterhead fought back with Fogarty, Nixon and Fitzgerald all prominent as the visitors recovered to lead 12-10 at the interval. Winger Paul Joyce and scrum-half Lee Charlesworth were the Waterhead try scorers and former Oldham academy player Kiel Lancashire added a couple of goals. Alas, Waterhead were unable to hold on to their lead and Rose Bridge came back to win 18-12. Prop Andy Eatock, another player who had trials at Keighley this winter, was included in the Rose Bridge pack.

There have been many memorable cup-ties staged in Oldham around this time of the year. One which springs to mind is the Challenge Cup, second round replay against Rochdale Hornets which was staged at Watersheddings on Wednesday 26th February 1975. Four days previously Oldham had allowed a 10-2 lead slip away but they finished the job at the second attempt when they beat Hornets 15-3. A crowd of 6,886 saw Oldham lead 10-0 at half-time before coasting to victory. Winger Mike Elliott (2) and scrum-half Dickie Brown scored tries for Oldham and centre Phil Larder, later a successful coach at Lawkholme Lane, added three goals. Rochdale's try was scored by loose-forward Stuart Whitehead, the former Shawside junior who began his professional career with the Roughyeds.

When Huddersfield visited Watersheddings for a first round

Challenge Cup-tie on Saturday 26th February 1910, the visitors were building up to become one of the greatest combinations in the entire history of the game. They had won the Yorkshire Cup earlier in the season and during the following five seasons won eleven major trophies including the League Championship on three occasions. Such rugby league legends as Stanley Moorhouse, Albert Rosenfeld, John Willie Higson and Doug Clark were included in the Huddersfield team. Oldham, too, fielded a powerful line-up which included Alf Wood, George Smith, Sid Deane, George Tyson, Joe Ferguson and Bert Avery. Later that year Oldham went on to lift the League Championship but they failed to score a point against Huddersfield. The match was decided by a solitary penalty which was landed by full-back Jack Bartholomew. Two weeks later lowly Ebbw Vale met Huddersfield in the second round and produced one of the biggest shocks of the season by winning at Fartown.

On Wednesday 26th February 1930 Yorkshire entertained Glamorgan & Monmouthshire at the old Hunslet ground, Parkside. The match attracted a disappointing attendance of only 2,000. The visitors led 5-0 at half-time and went on to win 13-5. At loose-forward for Glamorgan & Monmouthshire was Emlyn Watkins of Oldham, a former Blaina RUFC player who turned professional with Leeds in 1926 and joined Oldham twelve months later. He made 116 appearances for the Roughyeds and scored ten tries. That 1929-30 County Championship, won by Lancashire, was contested by Cumberland and Glamorgan & Monmouthshire despite the fact that those two counties did not have a club side in the League Championship.



chamber's choice

by Matthew Chambers

WAYNE Corcoran has already made quite an impact for Oldham Roughyeds.

The Rochdale-born youngster showed in last week's performances against Rochdale and Halifax that he didn't make a Super League debut at the tender age of 18 for nothing.

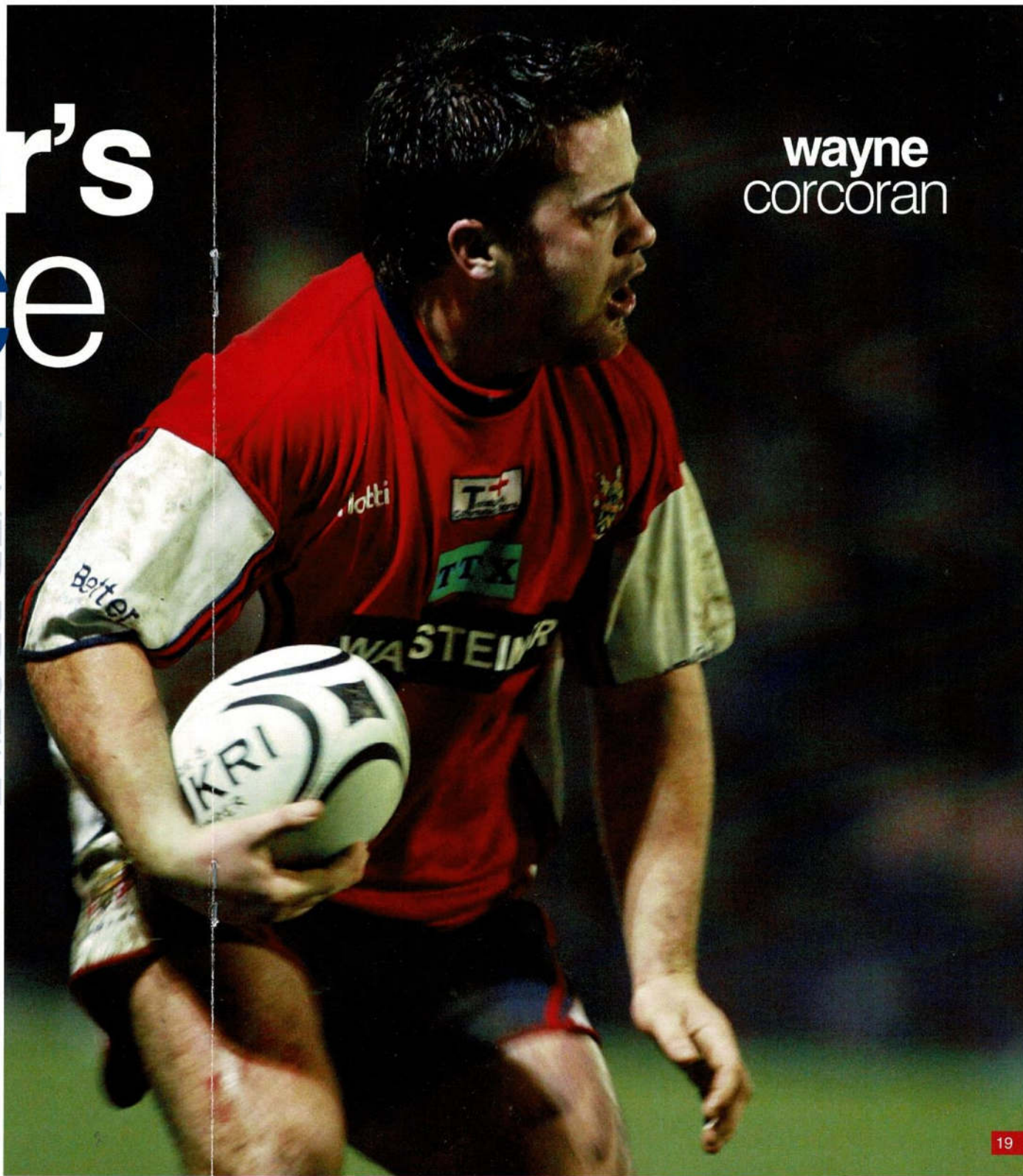
Full of darting runs from stand-off, eager to offload in the tackle to those able to keep up with his quick rugby brain, and an accurate kicker with both feet, the 20-year-old Ireland international must have thought he had begun to put his injury problems of the past behind him.

That is, until he tweaked his groin against his home-town club – a game which also saw brother Ged sustain a nasty injury. Wayne made training two days later and felt fine afterwards, but had to be substituted after half an hour against Halifax.

"I picked it up against Rochdale about five or ten minutes into the second half," he explained. "I thought it would be alright after training on it on Friday night,

wayne
corcoran

PLAYER PROFILE





wayne corcoran

Continued...

into awkward positions. I was really struggling in the end.

"You want to carry on, but with having two really tough games in four days it's hard. "I didn't want to miss the Halifax game for anything, but unfortunately I did have to come off."

It's understandable that Corcoran wanted more of an opportunity to showcase his skills against Halifax, having joined the West Yorkshire side as a young pup five years ago.

Prior to signing, he had formed part of a North-West Counties under-16s squad that flew off on a month-long trip down under in 2001, and it was on that jaunt that his talent first became apparent to the Super League big boys.

After picking up one of three player-of-the-tour awards and captaining the side several times, the former Royton Tigers youth arrived back to find Bradford, Wigan and St Helens knocking at his door.

"I joined Halifax at 15, where my brother was playing," said Wayne. "It was when my

but you can never tell because in games you're turning on it all the time and getting

16th birthday came that the Super League clubs became interested. But I had to turn them down as I'd already committed myself." After making his Halifax debut as a teenager, Corcoran was on the verge of Great Britain academy selection when he suffered a serious injury. "My shoulder kept dislocating," explains Corcoran. "I had two operations on it, the first in 2004 and the second one last June. "But I'm ok now and have played a lot of rugby since."

Halifax were confident enough in his fitness and ability to want him to stay at The Shay, but Wayne felt that the time was right to head off in a new direction.

"Halifax offered me a new deal," he said, "but after four years there I felt ready for a change. "I think John Pendlebury is the man to put my career back on track and that's the main reason I signed for Oldham." The 2006 season presents a great opportunity to get a once-promising career back on track, but Wayne isn't one to get carried away.

"I feel this year is about getting games under my belt," he said. "I just want to play as much as I can, and that's my main goal – then hopefully next year I can kick on and go from there."

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journalistic license

by Matthew Chambers

INJURIES may be part and parcel of rugby, but they still manage to frustrate coaches, players and supporters alike.

In the the past week-and-a-half, Oldham's bruised and battered squad has suffered hairline fractures, dislocated shoulders, knee injuries, groin strains and a multitude of cuts and knocks.

You can fill the coach's office with lucky heather, sprinkle the pitch with holy water and wrap players up in cotton wool between games, but the truth is that as soon as those players cross the whitewash there's a very real possibility some of them will get hurt.

It's also possible, at the time of writing, that Roughyeds coach John Pendlebury will be 'picking' from an overall squad of just 17 fit players today.

Now there's a challenge on which to prove his mantle as an ex-Super League coach of the year! It's a freakish situation, and its seriousness is compounded by the fact that the players sitting twiddling their thumbs on the sidelines aren't young pups on the fringes of Pendlebury's plans, but experienced campaigners such as captain Alan Hadcroft and vital forward Ged Corcoran.

Hadcroft suffered a dislocated shoulder against his old club Halifax, which was 'popped back

in' - now there's a euphemism for you - in the home changing room. Ged, meanwhile, suffered a fractured eye socket late on in the Rochdale game, as Oldham chased down a victory against 12-man Hornets. Both will be out for some time, while Chris Maye, Wayne Corcoran, Chris Hough, Alex Wilkinson and Simon Svabic have all occupied the attentions of physio Todd Williams to some extent this week. Despite all the setbacks, the players able to take to the field have shown an determination not to let the injury situation disrupt things too much. At this point last year, Roughyeds had lost all three pre-season games, narrowly sneaked past National League Two club Blackpool, and been hammered at Swinton.

This time, they very nearly beat Rochdale and gave a classy Halifax side a run for their money. Qualifying for the next stage of the competition is a tall task now, but given the glimpses of promise at both Spotland and Boundary Park, there's no need to be disheartened.

Matthew



the bootroom

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First of all a big thank you to last weeks mascot for doing a great job.

This weeks mascot is 5 year old Rebekah Berry who attends Lyndhurst Primary School. In her spare time Rebekah likes to play barbie dolls and watching Sponge Bob Square Pants. Rebekah also likes to follow Tranmere Rovers Football team and of course Oldham R.L.F.C.

We hope she enjoys her day and brings us lots of luck for this afternoons game. Hope to hear you all clapping and cheering for the team today.

We would like to thank our sponsors for this season which include F.R. Elsworth and a new sponsor Neil Haughton of Moorside Electrical.

Hope you all enjoy the game see you soon,

Janet and Carole

SUPPORT GROUP NEWS

It was great to get the first home game of the new season under way last Sunday after a long absence. The team performance was very encouraging and the match itself was full of action from both sides. Injuries, once again took their toll, but only like a number of other clubs, according to the rugby press.

The new look Roughyettes gave an entertaining and enterprising performance - perhaps they will have us all jiving on the terraces as the summer weather comes along! I am being rather ambitious with that comment, but I would really like to see a more enthusiastic crowd giving the team a bit of a lift. The atmosphere does seem to be a little low key at times when we play at home, yet full of vigour at some of the away grounds. Come on, let's give it a go!

The Challenge Cup draw against Saddleworth Rangers has certainly given us the best of chances for a decent crowd and a treat for all rugby fans in Oldham. Let's hope for some luck with the weather for what should be a rather special occasion.

Sheila

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oldham rlfcsquad 2006

Andy Bailey Born: 15.10.82

Previous clubs: Featherstone, Hull FC, Castleford Tigers.

Second-row forward signed from Castleford in the close season. Former Featherstone youngster who was brought to Hull FC by Shaun McRae at the age of 21, playing 10 Super League games for the Arle Birds. Currently studying a law degree at Bradford University.

Gareth Barber Born: 15.12.80

Previous clubs: Warrington Wolves.

Local lad who grew up playing alongside Leeds and Great Britain loose forward Kevin Sinfield, primarily a stand-off, but can fill in anywhere on the back line and also played regularly at hooker in 2005.

Mike Callan Born: 8.8.83

Previous clubs: Warrington Wolves, Leigh, Blackpool.

Joined Blackpool in National League Two last year but was released mid-season due to financial difficulties at the club. Man-of-the-match in the game against Oldham in the group stages of the Northern Rail Cup last year.

Ged Corcoran Born: 28.3.83

Previous clubs: Halifax, Limoux, Dewsbury. Grafting forward and a full Irish international, reared at Halifax alongside brother Wayne. Moved across the channel after a contractual dispute but returned last year to help the Rams to the National League Two Grand Final.

Wayne Corcoran Born: 10.7.85

Previous clubs: Halifax.

Irish international forward who made his Super League debut aged 18. Two shoulder operations have hampered his progress since, but has talent and could shine if given a run in the side.

Craig Dean Born: 20.10.76

Previous clubs: Halifax, Leigh, Swinton, Chorley. Experienced player who can operate at full-back as well as in the half-backs. Runs a business with team-mate Alan Hadcroft, and will be hoping to earn a contract stretching beyond the Northern Rail Cup.

Andy Gorey Born: 31.10.85

Young, enthusiastic full-back who made eight appearances on the wing last year and will be hoping to establish himself this time around. Former Royton Tigers youngster.

Dean Gorton Born: 16.1.84

Previous clubs: Salford.

Back-row forward signed by then Salford academy boss Steve McCormack. Never played in Super League, though he was the club's under-21s player of the year in 2004. Can also play in the three-quarters.

Danny Guest Born: 20.4.77

Previous clubs: Oldham Bears, Keighley, Chorley.

Huge 18-stone prop who made the return to Oldham after retiring at the end of the 2003 season following a serious knee ligament injury. Now in his fourth spell with the club.

Alan Hadcroft Born: 31.3.77

Previous clubs: Leigh, Halifax.

Robust centre known for his solid defence and strong running. Hadcroft is seen as a ready-made replacement for Jon Goddard. Toured New Zealand with a BARLA youth squad when he was 17.

Gareth Hayes Born: 15.6.85

Previous clubs: Salford.

Big Leigh-born prop who worked with John Pendlebury at Leigh under-18s. Went on the NW Counties under-16s Oceanic tour along with current team-mate Wayne Corcoran.

Ian Hodson Born: 23.10.81

Previous clubs: Leigh, Chorley, Swinton.

A plumber by trade, Hodson played for BARLA's Great Britain under-18s side in France before turning pro for Leigh, aged 18. Signed initially on loan from Swinton in April 2005. Hodson is an 80-minute player who is happy in the back row and at loose forward.

Chris Hough Born: 30.8.81

Previous clubs: Rochdale, Doncaster, Swinton, Blackpool.

Oldham-born scrum-half or stand-off who formed an excellent partnership with Marty Turner last season. Cousin of Roughyeds stalwart John.

John Hough Born: 14.4.76

Previous clubs: Warrington.

First player to commit himself to the new club when it was reformed in 1997. The hookers contract runs until 2007, which will allow him to complete 10 years with the club. Can also play at loose forward and is adept at acting half-back.

James Kirkland Born: 17.7.85

Previous clubs: Wigan.

A product of the Oldham Academy, and a young hooker who should go far in the game. A former Waterhead junior and Wigan Warriors student, Kirkland is a tough tackler and excellent acting half-back.

Chris Maye Born: 28.2.84

Previous clubs: Wigan, St Helens, Halifax, Swinton.

Gained Super League experience through a loan spell at Halifax. Was Swinton's top try-scorer in 2004 and he earned himself a spot in the National League division two dream team.

Danny Nanyin Born: 8.10.84

Injury brought a premature halt to the young Wigan-born prop's impressive start to the 2005 season, but the brother of last year's top National League One points scorer Mick Nanyin managed to pick up where he left off.

Chris Percival Born: 25.12.1979

Previous clubs: Widnes, Leigh.

Played for Oldham in the last three games of the 2003 season before signing a two-year deal with Leigh. The centre or wing missed all last season with a broken leg, after scoring 20 tries in 20 games in 2004, six of them against Oldham. After 14 months out, will be looking to recapture his old form.

Mick Redford Born: 24.6.81

Previous clubs: Chorley, Blackpool.

Originally from the Leigh East amateur club, Redford can play second row, prop or centre. A wholehearted, crowd-pleasing figure at Blackpool, Leigh-born Redford has played around 100 professional games.

Mark Roberts Born: 9.11.82

Previous clubs: Wigan, Warrington.

Joined Oldham initially on loan from Warrington at the back end of the 2004 season. Initially used at centre, where he displays a turn of pace, Roberts also has sufficient upper-body strength to enhance the back row of the pack. Had an injury-plagued season in 2005.

Simon Svabic Born: 18.1.80

Previous clubs: Oldham Bears, Salford, Leigh. Goalkicking, playmaking half-back who earned Great Britain Academy honours while at Salford. Had a big impact at loose forward last season, and spent time skipping the side.

Alex Wilkinson Born: 9.10.82

Previous clubs: Bradford, London Broncos, Hull FC.

Locally-born 22-year-old centre, who has played nearly 40 Super League games. Played junior rugby with Royton Tigers before signing for Bradford Bulls. After a loan spell at Hull he was offered a two-year contract with the Arle Birds, but chose to go part-time with his home-town club to complete his degree in sports science.

Lee Wingfield Born: 9.6.81

Second row, signed from amateur club Leigh East, gave up the game in his early teens but returned aged 18 and soon established himself in the first team at East, playing alongside Oldham boss John Pendlebury's brother Gary. As one of BARLA's top back-row forwards, Wingfield has earned four overseas trips — two to Moscow, one to France and one to Australia.

Back row: Mark Roberts, Danny Guest, Ged Corcoran, Danny Nanyin, Ian Hodson, Andy Bailey.
Middle row: John Pendlebury (coach), Paul Hulbert (kit man), Mike Callan, James Kirkland, Gareth Barber, Alex Wilkinson, Dean Gorton, Lee Wingfield, Gareth Hayes, Keith Brennan (assistant coach).
Front row: Wayne Corcoran, Simon Svabic, Andy Gorey, Alan Hadcroft, Chris Hough, Craig Dean, John Hough.



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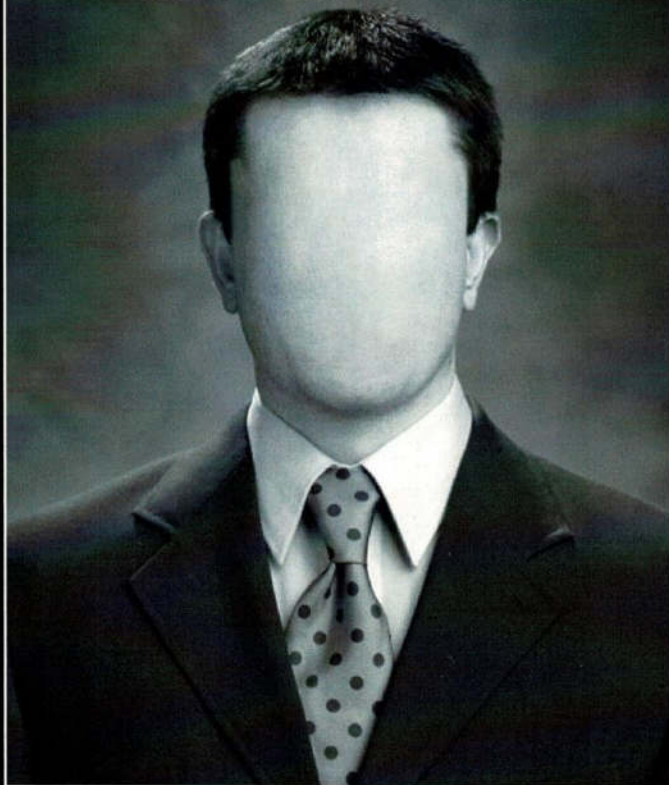
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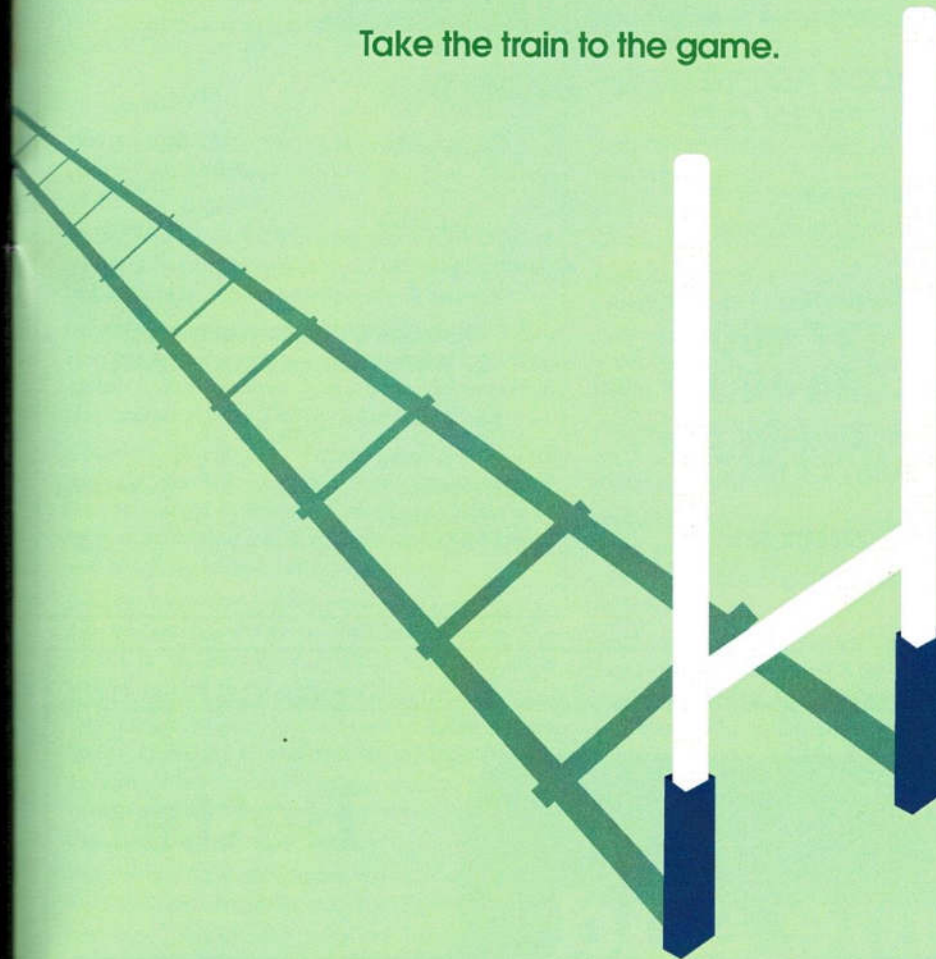
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CATCHING THE EYE!

The Northern Rail Cup is just two weeks old, but already we have seen the emergence of a clutch of exciting players.

It's impossible to go through every young player that has caught the eye in those opening matches, but a number of them have really stood out.

When Tommy Goulden arrived at Rochdale Hornets last season, he did so after a sparkling career in the amateur game that culminated in him captaining the BARLA Great Britain side.

Goulden made a handful of Rochdale appearances last year, but since the arrival of Darren Abram at Spotland, has really stood out, with outstanding performances against Oldham and Keighley from loose forward.

Graeme Mattinson's story is a similar one. He was the BARLA Player of the Year and man of the match in a National Cup Final at Wath Brow before moving to Whitehaven last year.

The quickfire hooker now looks to have a huge future ahead of him at the Recreation Ground, though he will continue to be pushed by Carl Sice, who climbed off the bench to score two crucial tries against Barrow on Sunday.

The Raiders have several promising youngsters of their own in their ranks, not least the centre Liam Harrison. Opposition coaches have already

noticed his ability in matches against Gateshead and Whitehaven.

Another one to watch out for in future is 17 year old scrum half Scott Kaigen.

Also in Cumbria, Shaun Lunt has made an excellent start to his Workington Town career. Lunt is on a season-long loan at Derwent Park from Castleford Tigers, and was their outstanding player in victory over Gateshead.

Among the National League One clubs, two second rowers had also made an early impact at their respective clubs.

Both Joe Hirst at Halifax, and Leigh's James Taylor have received stand-out reports for their early form, with both showing a tremendous appetite for work.

Similarly, Doncaster Lakers' prop Anthony Tonks looks one for the future. Like Lunt, he is on a 12-month loan from a Super League club, in his case Bradford Bulls. Tonks was the Gamestar in 'Rugby Leaguer & League Express' for their opening day win over Hunslet.

There are more promising young players all across the Northern Rail Cup that will rise to prominence in coming weeks. The competition continues to be a terrific breeding ground for future stars.

* The exclusive Northern Rail Cup ratings can be found in the March edition of Rugby League World, out now

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2006 fixtures

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	VENUE	K. O.	RESULT	W/L	ATT
22/1/06	Rochdale Hornets	Law Cup	A	14:00	42-8	L	1,114
27/1/06	Leeds Rhino's	Friendly	H	20:00	16-8	W	3,191
15/2/06	Rochdale Hornets	NR Cup	A	19:45	18-16	L	920
19/2/06	Halifax RLFC	NR Cup	H	15:00	26-42	L	1268
26/2/06	Keighley Cougars	NR Cup	H	15:00			
5/3/06	Halifax RLFC	NR Cup	A	3:00			
12/3/06		POWERGEN CC 3RD RD					
19/3/06	Rochdale Hornets	NR Cup	H	15:00			
26/3/06	Keighley Cougars	NR Cup	A	15:00			
2/4/06		POWERGEN CC 4TH RD					
9/4/06	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	H	15:00			
14/4/06	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	A	15:00			
17/4/06	Doncaster Lakers	NL1	H	15:00			
30/4/06	Leigh Centurions	NL1	A	15:00			
14/5/06	Whitehaven	NL1	H	15:00			
21/5/06		POWERGEN CC 5TH RD					
28/5/06	Hull Kingston Rovers	NL1	A	15:00			
4/6/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	A	15:00			
		POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER FINALS					
11/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	H	15:00			
25/6/06	York City Knights	NL1	A	15:00			
2/7/06	Rochdale Hornets	NL1	H	15:00			
9/7/06	Widnes Vikings	NL1	A	15:00			
21/7/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	H	19:45			
30/7/06	Doncaster Lakers	NL1	A	15:00			
		POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP SEMI FINALS					
6/8/06	Halifax RLFC	NL1	H	15:00			
13/8/06	Batley Bulldogs	NL1	A	15:00			
20/8/06	Widnes Vikings	NL1	H	15:00			
26/8/06		POWERGEN CHALLENGE CUP FINALS					
3/9/06	Leigh Centurions	NL1	H	15:00			
10/9/06	Whitehaven	NL1	A	15:00			
17/9/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
24/9/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
1/10/06	LHF Healthplan Play Offs						
8/10/06	LHF Healthplan Grand Final & Play Off Final						

Key

NR Cup - Northern Rail Cup
Powergen CC - Powergen Challenge Cup
NL1 - National League Division 1

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Oldham RLFC fully support the Let's tackle Racism in Rugby League campaign and welcomes all players and spectators irrespective of their ethnic or racial origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable.

Allow everyone to enjoy the game.


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is 80 minutes
of rugby league.



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