

TODAY'S TEAMS

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JIMMY ELSTON
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JAMAINE WRAY
MARK SPURR
RYAN MACDONALD
KYLE PALMER

OLDHAM

GARETH LANGLEY
ALEX WILKINSON
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ADAM HUGHES
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INSIDE:

Read Sharon Shortle's interview with Nathan on page 34



YORK CITY KNIGHTS **V** **OLDHAM**

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Welcome...

from the chairman



I have a few stray thoughts to share with you come the autumn of this year. Final decisions will need to be made on the long-debated issue of Super League franchises – effective 2009. Perhaps, therefore, now is as good a time as any to take stock of the credibility of the National League as a competition in its own right and not as some form of rugby league ‘underworld’ operating in the shadow of Super League Ltd.

My personal view is that the two competitions should be uncoupled and regarded as running in parallel to each other – not one superior to the other. The National League should be given the respect it deserves as the premier competition for those who play the game on a part time professional basis. To win the National League (in whichever division) should be rewarded appropriately. There has to be a re-appraisal of the significance of the National League in the context of the sport at large. It is, frankly, demeaning to the players, coaching staff, supporters, volunteers, sponsors and club community partners for the holy grail of Super League to overshadow the integrity of the National League in its own right. My feeling is that participation in Super League Ltd should not be by the way of promotion as such but rather by way of application for admission to that full time professional competition. If a club (at whatever level) is able to satisfy the 5 core criteria for participation in the full time environment then it should be open to that club to apply for a franchise. It would then be a matter for Super League Ltd to determine the outcome of any such application for membership of their league. For those clubs seeking full time professional status, this approach would enable them to plan appropriately for the new environment in which they seek to operate.

The National League, for its part, needs to be upgraded. The partnership with the Cooperative movement is a massive step in the right direction. If the competition is to break the shackles of financial insecurity and dependence on the transient bounty of individual benefactors, then an entirely new approach has to be implemented. Presumably the hope / intention is that all clubs should be managed professionally, administered competently and be viable financially. If that be the aim of the game, it's ruling body and its major sponsors, the outcome of future negotiations (in the context of the franchise debate) must include a very significant capital injection for the National League. Otherwise I fear that clubs will continue to be undermined by an inability to plan with confidence for the future.

Thanks for letting me get that off my chest; I hasten to add that these are my personal thoughts only!

A very warm welcome to all our friends from Oldham; it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity of sharing some hospitality with you. You must be very pleased with the success of your season so far.

Yours

ROGER



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KNIGHTS YORK CITY

Head Coach

MICK COOK

Welcome back to Huntingdon Stadium after two weeks on the road, the support both at Hunslet and Keighley was second to none and you certainly gave the lads a lift. The last three games have seen us take maximum points but at a cost.

Scott Rhodes, Danny Grimshaw, Nathan Priestley, Rob Spicer and Adam Sullivan all received injuries to the knee and it is possible that they may require surgery.

Today's game will be a big test, Oldham have been one of the form teams in 2007 and we will need to keep improving on the field to maintain our winning run.

Our objective at this time is to consolidate a place in the play offs so today's game is very important for us. Get behind the lads and enjoy the game.

Yours **Mick**



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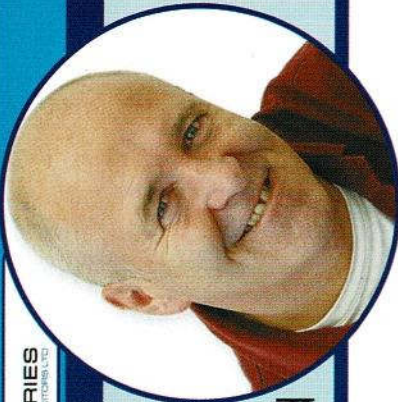
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Danny Lockwood

LEAGUE WEEKLY

'Ahead of the Game' Paul Bennett, League Weekly

STEPHEN WILD raised a few eyebrows recently when he turned down St Helens to stay at Huddersfield. And not just because he'd supposedly rejected a move to the Super League, Challenge Cup and World Club Challenge winners.

Oh no. In fact, it was MORE because he should not have received an offer from Saints at all.

In reading all about how Stephen decided to stay loyal to the Giants, we almost forgot that it's AGAINST THE RULES for clubs to speak to under-contract players until September 1.

We don't know for sure whether Saints made any offer – though that's what Huddersfield's press releases seemed to imply. Their 'approach' could have been limited to a legitimate word in his agent's ear; a simple expression of interest.

To be honest, I'm not really interested in the argument. I'm far more interested in whether the September 1 anti-tampering deadline should actually exist.

For one thing, if it isn't actually adhered to and policed (and I can tell you from my time covering the transfer market for League Weekly that it ISN'T) then what's the point? Isn't a rule that nobody follows simply a bad rule?

But there are more compelling arguments than that. The main one – and the one that's concerned me over the years – is the understandable eagerness of coaches to get next season's squad in the bag as soon as possible.

It's a brave coach that leaves his squad to the eleventh hour because you simply can't be sure what you'll end up with. So, if you need a new

hooker for next season and you're not allowed to speak to any under contract Super League player, what do you do? Well, you look to Australia where there ISN'T a deadline and bring in an Aussie or a Kiwi instead ... and let's not forget, clubs are allowed 10 overseas players next year. That will become less of a problem as the quota comes down heading towards 2011, but it is a problem now – and 2011 is quite a long way away, you know.

I do have mixed feelings about the issue. I do think there needs to be some kind of cut off date because a) you don't want a scenario whereby a player goes through a whole season knowing he'll be playing for one of your rivals the next and b) the simple fact that the Aussies are doing one thing is an argument in itself to do quite the opposite.

But this seems to be a rule that most, if not all, of our coaches and chief execs dislike and if I'm in any doubt over an issue then I'm tempted to side with the people who know the workings of the game the most.

The Aussies, before they did away with their deadline, had the date set at the end of June. For me, I think that seems more reasonable and workable. What do you think?

LEAGUE WEEKLY

the no.1 rugby league newspaper



National League Talk

with GARETH WALKER of RUGBY LEAGUER & LEAGUE EXPRESS

PEOPLE involved at National League level will have read with great interest news that in football, Premiership clubs have agreed to give more than £90million to Football League clubs over the next three years. Buoyed by a significant increase on their own television deal, which sees them net an incredible £2.7billion over three years, the Premiership decided to filter some of their money down to the lower levels of the game.

Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore said: "The Premier League and our member clubs recognise the importance of the continued health of the professional game at all levels."

"This solidarity payment means that Football League clubs will have the ability to increase investment in critical areas such as youth development and community programmes."

So what is the situation in Rugby League?

Well, National League clubs do receive some central funding from the top level of the game. Each year they receive £15,000 of unconditional money, £12,500 of which comes from the Super League pot. In addition to that, this year and next, clubs get an additional £25,000 which has to go towards a community or commercial position, and it's a job that cannot be given to a player.

The money is provided jointly by the RFL and the National Sports Foundation, and initially at least, is for this season and next.

Clubs must meet certain criteria to qualify for this funding, which is paid quarterly.

So is this enough to help secure the future of the game outside the top flight?

When the proposed franchise system arrives - unless a clear vision for National League rugby is unveiled by the RFL quickly - clubs outside the elite may need help to secure their immediate future.

As we have seen this season, some clubs are struggling enough as it is, without losing that annual connection to Super League.

The other question is, do Super League clubs actually care what happens to their National League counterparts, once they have secured their own franchises?

Only last week, the chairman of a top flight club criticised his peers and stated that their own self-interest is holding the sport back.

Writing in his programme notes, the Hull KR chairman Neil Hudgell started by lamenting the actions of Wigan and St Helens in overhauling the scale of points deductions agreed by clubs for those that had breached the salary cap. Hudgell went on to say that this is just one example of clubs' selfishness harming the overall sport.

"The sensible debate about increasing the size of the Super League competition to 14 clubs is stifled by certain clubs not wishing to share the Sky money pot more than 12 ways," Hudgell wrote.

It would be good to think that more officials at the top of the sport can look at the bigger picture in the crucial couple of years ahead.

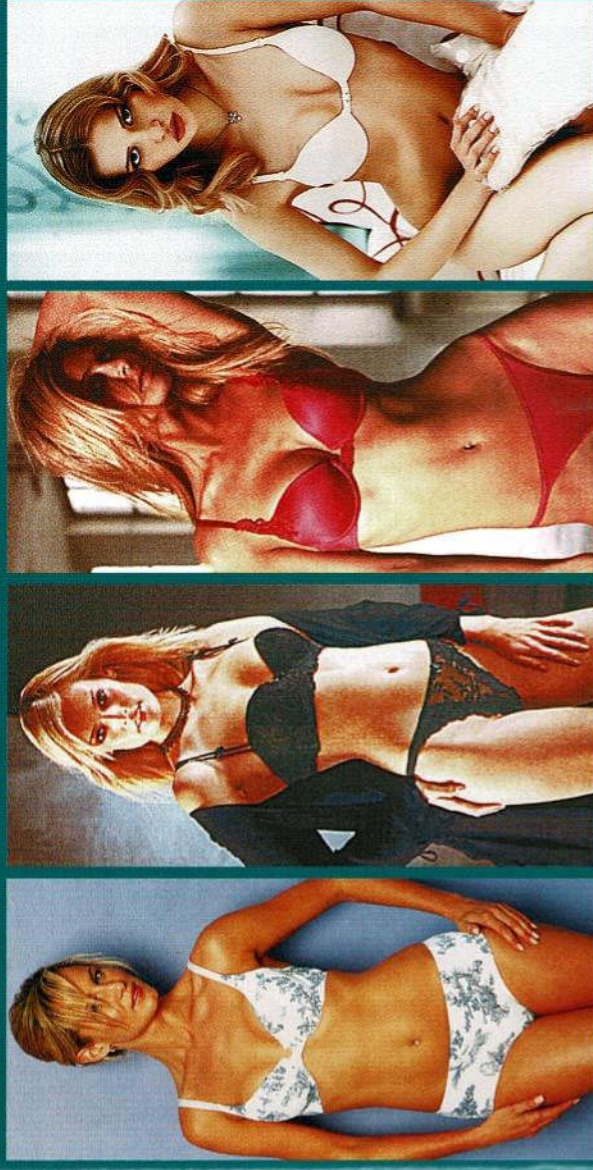
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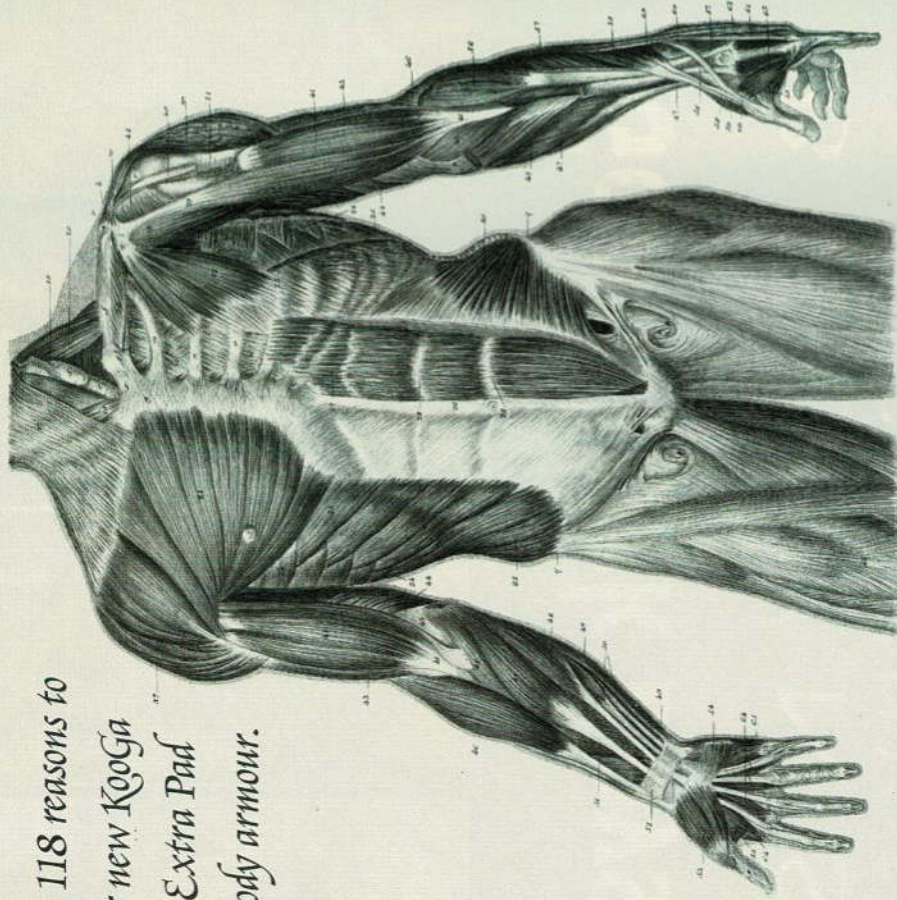
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Commercial Corner

with PHIL SEYMOUR - COMMERCIAL MANAGER

A very warm welcome to today's Co-operative National League Two game against Oldham, and I am very happy to welcome today's Match-Day Programme Sponsors, Martins Of York Skip Hire, our Man of the Match Sponsors, K Walker & Co, our Match-Ball Sponsors, SKF (UK) Ltd, our Community Development Match-Day Sponsors, Hague & Dixon, and today's special guests are our fitness partners, Fitness First, I hope you all enjoy your day out here at the Knights.

Numbers are increasing steadily in Lancelotto, but not as fast as they need to as we push towards the play-offs. If any Knights fan knows anyone who has not yet joined the lotto, but could spare £1, £2, or £3 per week, please either give us a call on 01904 758234 and we'll send you a leaflet out, or visit the website at www.yorkcityknights.co.uk and print one off. We need your help to make this work.

At half time today there will be a kicking competition to win a month's free membership at Fitness First on Clifton Moor, the Knights fitness partners. They have kindly donated this prize, so good luck to whoever takes part, and don't forget to visit www.fitnessfirst.co.uk for more details about the services they can provide.

If you know of any companies, or individuals who might be interested in sponsoring here at the Knights just get in touch with me by calling 01904 758234 or by email at phil@ycknights.co.uk and if they sponsor then we'll give you £50, if they spend more than £250.

Kind regards **Phil Seymour**

Email: phil@ycknights.co.uk

Presentation Evening 21st September 2007

Tables and tickets are on sale now for this fantastic annual event, held at York Racecourse. A sumptuous dinner will be followed by the presentations of awards including the prestigious "Player of the Year" trophy, which will then be followed by dancing into the small hours. Tickets are priced at just £45, or £450 for a table of 10. Dress code; black tie for gentlemen, and evening dress for ladies. For more information or to make a booking please call Leanne on 01904 758234.

Recent Lancelotto Results

Draw - Friday 20 July 2007

£300 - A2298 - from Nunnery Lane, York
 £150 - A4487 - from Nether Poppleton, York
 £100 - B2170 - from Beeford, Driffeld
 £50 - B2168 - from Boroughbridge Road, York

Draw - Friday 13 July 2007

£300 - B1896 - from The Three Cranes, York
 £150 - A1574 - from Bishophorpe, York
 £100 - A2173 - from Stockton On Forest, York
 £50 - A0185 - from Rawcliffe, York

Draw - Sunday 8 July 2007

£300 - A4230 - from Bad Bargain Lane, York
 £150 - A0717 - from Huntington, York
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KNIGHTS

1. Who scored 4 tries in last weeks victory over Keighley Cougars?
2. Name the two Academy players selected to tour Russia?
3. By what score did the Knights defeat Oldham at Sedgley Park last season?
4. What was the score in last seasons home fixture against Oldham?
5. From which club did the Knights sign Lee Lingard?
6. When did Ryedale-York tour the Soviet Union?
7. What was significant about 26th March 1989 to York RL?
8. Which team won this years York 9's?
9. Which other club were relegated from Division 1 with the Knights?
10. How many league games did the Knights win last season?

OLDHAM

1. How many times have Oldham won the Challenge Cup?
2. How many times have Oldham appeared at Wembley?
3. Who hold the Oldham record for goals in a season?
4. In 2002 where did Oldham play their home games?
5. In which year did Oldham leave Watersheddings?
6. When Oldham were in Super League what were they known as?
7. Who is the current Oldham coach?
8. Where do Oldham play the majority of their home games?
9. When that stadium is not available where do they play?
10. Who is the current Oldham chairman?

Answers

1. Lee Lingard
2. Matt Embleton and Leigh Rientoul
3. Oldham 0 Knights 62
4. Knights 54 Oldham 14
5. Sharlston Rovers
6. May 1991
7. The last game at Clarence Street
8. Ambassadors
9. Oldham
10. 5

Answers

1. 3
2. 0
3. Bernard Ganley
4. Hurst Cross Ashton-under-lyne
5. 1997
6. Oldham Bears
7. Steve Deakin
8. Boundary Park
9. Sedgley Park
10. Bill Quinn

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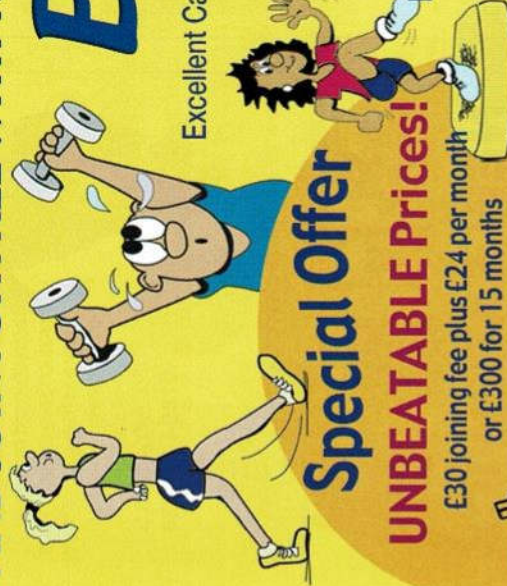
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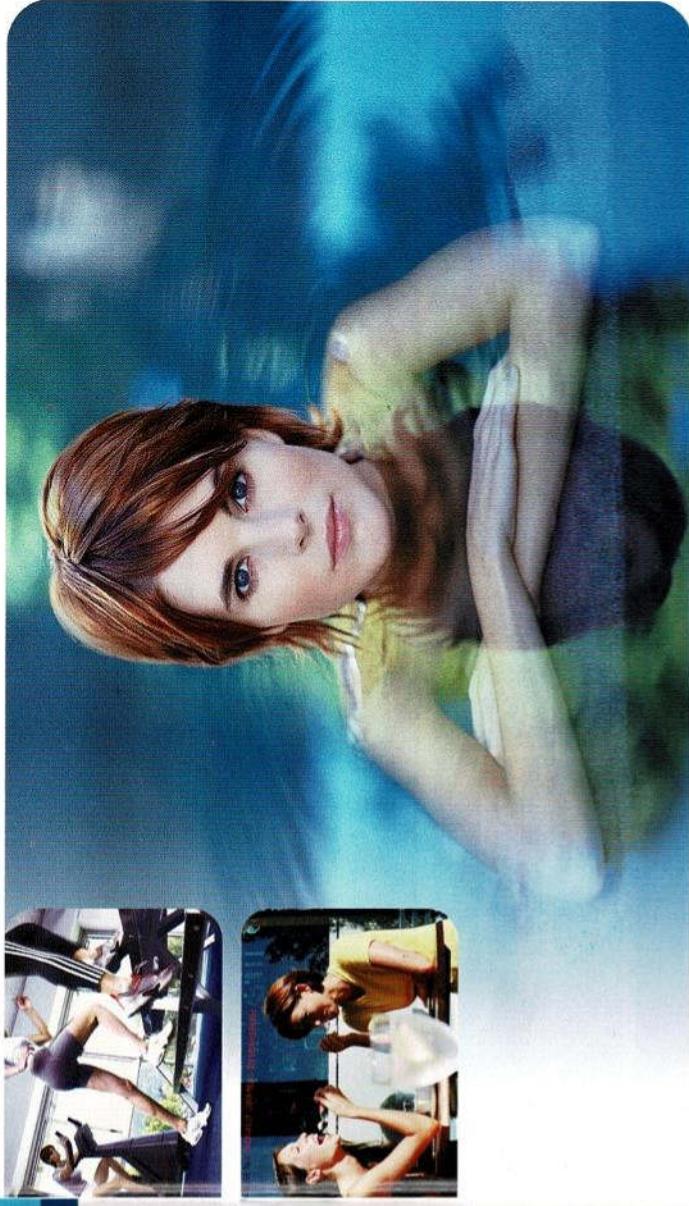
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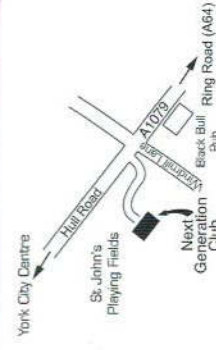


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HEIGHT: 6ft 1
WEIGHT: 15st
Centre / 2nd Row

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DAVID BUCKLEY

DOB: 14/10/81
HEIGHT: 6ft 1
WEIGHT: 16st 2
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DOB: 8/8/78
HEIGHT: 6ft 1
WEIGHT: 18st 1
Prop

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DOB: 8/12/79
HEIGHT: 5ft 9
WEIGHT: 13st
Hooker

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RYAN ESDERS

DOB: 20/10/86
HEIGHT: 5ft 11
WEIGHT: 14 1/2st
Loose Forward/Centre

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ANDY GARGAN

DOB: 21/3/87
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st 8
Half Back

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DOB: 2/12/78
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st
Winger/Full Back

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DANNY GRIMSHAW

DOB: 25/2/86
HEIGHT: 5ft 11
WEIGHT: 12st 6
Half Back

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STEPHEN GRUNDY

DOB: 2/12/85
HEIGHT: 5ft 11
WEIGHT: 13st 5
Centre

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JOE HELME

DOB: 1/4/84
HEIGHT: 6ft 2
WEIGHT: 16.5st
Prop

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DOB: 25/8/82
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 13st 9
Utility

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LEE LINGARD

DOB: 21/10/83
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st
Full Back / Wing

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RYAN MACDONALD

DOB: 24/2/78
HEIGHT: 6ft 1
WEIGHT: 17st 5
Prop

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LEE MAPALS

DOB: 17/7/85
HEIGHT: 5ft 7
WEIGHT: 10st 5
Full Back

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DAN POTTER

DOB: 8/11/78
HEIGHT: 6ft 1
WEIGHT: 15st 4
Centre

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NATHAN PRIESTLEY

DOB: 21/8/87
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 15st 11lb
2nd Row

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DOB: 19/9/80
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st
Full Back / Wing

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DOB: 21/6/80
HEIGHT: 5ft 8
WEIGHT: 12st 5
Half Back

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JOHN SMITH

DOB: 14/8/80
HEIGHT: 5ft 11
WEIGHT: 15st 11
2nd Row

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ROB SPICER

DOB: 22/9/84
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 13st
Loose Forward / Centre

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CHRIS SPURR

DOB: 7/7/80
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 14st 4
Centre

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DOB: 08/11/83
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st 4

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DOB: 14/11/82
HEIGHT: 6ft 3
WEIGHT: 17st 3
Prop

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DOB: 19/2/86
HEIGHT: 5ft 10
WEIGHT: 13st 6
Half back

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DOB: 22/10/82
HEIGHT: 5ft 8
WEIGHT: 11st
Wing

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HEIGHT: 5ft 11
WEIGHT: 17st 3
Prop

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'It's a kind of magic'.

Today's Opponents

No information supplied, so instead...

NATIONAL LEAGUE MATTERS By Alan Edge
Views expressed in this article, are not necessarily those of this club, or its Directors!

Once again 'The Greatest Game' is being held to ridicule, and yet again the RFL are in the thick of the action, to ensure that we get national publicity, for all the wrong reasons! I refer, of course, to the latest Salary Cap fiasco, where W***n have succeeded, with the aid of a smart lawyer, in overturning a decision by the Sooper Dooper League clubs, to double penalties for over-spending on the 'Cap'. Apparently, W***n argued that the new penalties should only apply to their (oops, any club's) overspend, this season, when the other clubs thought they had voted for the penalties to be applied this season, for last season's overspend! You can see where there was scope for confusion in the vote, can't you? The High Court Judge, who chaired the appeal hearing, was scathingly critical of the way the RFL had worded their legislation and, curiously stated that it was against natural justice, to apply punishments retrospectively. Now, I'd have thought it was more natural to punish someone AFTER they had committed an offence, rather than BEFORE it! If you are wondering why I'm prattling on about what is not an NL issue, just pause to think how it has affected today's visitors to the Telford Stadium - Castleford Tigers. If W***n were guilty of significantly breaking the 'Cap', then they could be said to have deliberately cheated last season, to avoid relegation. Remember, they finished only three points ahead of Cas', so an instant deduction of say four points would have seen the 'Pies' gracing our NL grounds this season, and not the Tigers! As W***n are so keen to stick to last year's scale of points deductions, perhaps their punishment (if found guilty!) should then be applied to last season, eh?

When the RFL announced their new rules on 'overseas' quota players, I did say they might be on dodgy ground. Well, their ruling that a players'

country of origin is defined by which national federation has trained him, has opened yet another ridiculous can of worms! A number of BRITISH BORN players, including Martin Gleeson, Simon Finnigan, and the Henderson brothers, were not trained as youngsters in this country, and would thus count as OVERSEAS players!! And the RFL's answer to this conundrum? Such players could always apply for 'special dispensation' to be British! Ah yes, the infamous 'special dispensation' clause, which every club lawyer will immediately seize upon to drive a jumbo jet (full of Aussies) through! Why on earth should British born players have to get 'special dispensation' from the RFL, to be classified as British? I should add that I do sympathise with the RFL's aims - for example, Hull KR's recent signing, Rhys Lovegrove, is an Aussie, who has never ventured out of Australia, but qualifies as 'British' as his Mum hails from that famous RL heartland county of Wiltshire!

Talking of overseas' signings, I notice that Celtic Crusaders are being linked with former State of Origin star, Josh Hannay. It would appear that the Welsh side have been given the nod, over a SL Franchise bid, providing they win promotion from NL2, this season. They look like they may have their work cut out to achieve that promotion, but surely, they would also need to prove themselves in NL1 too, wouldn't they? And, to make a fist of it in SL, they may just need to boost their gates above the current 800 mark!

I leave the final word this week, to the former World class player, who displayed many qualities, including a very astute rugby brain. In exasperation at his current team performing like headless chickens recently, (and I intend no insult to our feathered friends!) he was heard to say, "If I ever need a brain transplant, please God, don't give me one of theirs!"

Enjoy your game today, and travel safely.

Memory Lane

MATCH TO REMEMBER:

Sunday 29th Aug 1999, Huntingdon Stadium
Division Two

York Wasps (34) 70 - Oldham (8) 8

TEAMS

YORK WASPS: J Benn (1, 13G); F Sini (4T); S Austerfield; J Strange; L McKenzie; A Preston; D Calloghan (2T); A Precious (1); A Pallister (1); L Tichener - 17; C Judge (1); M Lambert; P Edwards
Subs: G Atkins - 3 (1); P Darley - 8; P Lawrence - 6 (A.N.O); M Hagan

OLDHAM: Salisbury (2G); Brassington; Mead; Darks; McNicholas; Webster - 14; Brown; Guest; Hough; Clegg; Perrett (1); Jackman - Sent Off
Subs: Round - 11; Prescott - 6; Peralta - 8; Maders - 9

REFEREE: S ODDY (Halifax) • **ATT:** 728

Jamie Benn broke two club records in this match - most goals in a match and most points in a match.

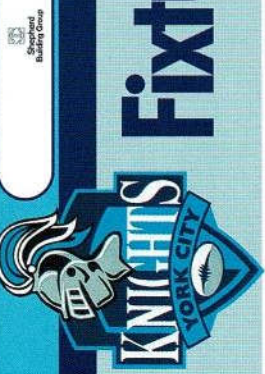
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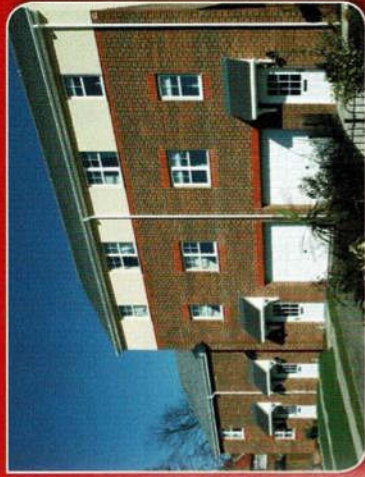


Fixtures and Results

DATE	OPPONENTS	CUP	H/A	K.O	RESULT	W/L	ATT
26 DEC 06	HUNSLET HAWKS	FRIENDLY	H	12:00	26 - 20	W	923
14 JAN 07	MARK CAIN ALL STARS	TESTIMONIAL	H	3:00	38 - 32	W	920
26 JAN	CASTLEFORD TIGERS	FRIENDLY	H	7:30	16 - 18	L	1,043
04 FEB	LEEDS RHINOS	FRIENDLY	H	3:00	32 - 22	W	1,448
11 FEB	GATESHEAD THUNDER	LC	A	3:00	12 - 58	W	503
18 FEB	HALIFAX	LC	A	3:00	34 - 14	L	2,113
25 FEB	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	LC	H	3:00	24 - 22	W	1,182
04 MAR	GATESHEAD THUNDER	LC	H	3:00	46 - 4	W	1,033
11 MAR	TOULOUSE	CC	H	3:00	54 - 28	W	701
18 MAR	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	LC	A	3:00	12 - 26	W	758
25 MAR	HALIFAX	LC	H	3:00	20 - 60	L	1,729
01 APR	HUDDERSFIELD	CC	A	3:00	74 - 4	L	2,136
06 APR	GATESHEAD THUNDER	NL	A	3:00	26 - 18	L	557
09 APR	LONDON SKOLARS	NL	H	3:00	40 - 18	W	1,074
15 APR	HUNSLET HAWKS	NL	H	3:00	14 - 19	L	1,036
22 APR	BARROW	LC	H	3:00	16 - 18	L	658
29 APR	BARROW RAIDERS	NL	A	3:00	30 - 10	L	1,404
06 MAY	WORKINGTON TOWN	NL	A	3:00	31 - 8	L	1,151
13 MAY	CELTIC CRUSADERS	NL	H	3:00	4 - 26	L	1,444
20 MAY	SWINTON LIONS	NL	A	3:00	26 - 38	W	\$00 EST
27 MAY	BLACKPOOL PANTHERS	NL	A	3:00	12 - 24	W	237
03 JUN	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	NL	H	3:00	34 - 8	W	938
10 JUN	OLDHAM	NL	A	3:00	21 - 10	L	1,024
17 JUN	WORKINGTON TOWN	NL	H	3:00	18 - 26	L	1,402
24 JUN	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	NL	H	3:00	12 - 46	L	1,924
30 JUN	CELTIC CRUSADERS	NL	A	6:00	30 - 16	L	702
08 JUL	BARROW RAIDERS	NL	H	3:00	14 - 4	W	846
15 JUL	HUNSLET HAWKS	NL	A	3:30	14 - 16	W	462
22 JUL	KEIGHLEY COUGARS	NL	A	3:00	10 - 42	W	787
29 JUL	OLDHAM	NL	H	3:00			
05 AUG	GATESHEAD THUNDER	NL	H	3:00			
12 AUG	FEATHERSTONE ROVERS	NL	A	3:00			
19 AUG	SWINTON LIONS	NL	H	3:00			
24 AUG	LONDON SKOLARS	NL	A	7:00			
09 SEP	BLACKPOOL PANTHERS	NL	H	3:00			

NL - NATIONAL LEAGUE 2 • LC - NORTHERN RAIL CUP • CC - CHALLENGE CUP

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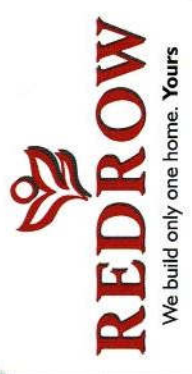


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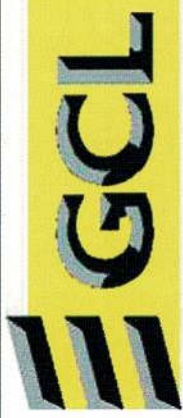
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NAME	PLAYED	SUB	TRIES	GOALS	DROP GOALS	POINTS
BROOKS, MATTY	3	0	1	1	0	6
BROWN, IAN	15	1	8	0	0	32
BUCKLEY, DAVE	21	3	6	0	0	24
BURTON, TOM	4	0	0	0	0	0
CAKACAKA, TABUA	9	1	2	0	0	8
DUNMORE, TOM	4	0	3	1	0	14
ELSTON, JAMES	8	14	6	0	0	24
ENDERSBY, ADAM	0	1	0	0	0	0
ESDERS, RYAN	15	6	4	7	0	30
GARGAN, ANDY	6	0	0	10	0	20
GODFREY, ALEX	6	0	5	0	0	20
GRIMSHAW, DANNY	6	0	1	14	0	32
GRUNDY, STEPHEN	4	6	2	0	0	8
HELME, JOE	0	8	2	0	0	8
LIDDELL, JON	16	8	2	6	0	20
LINGARD, LEE	9	1	5	7	0	34
LOWE, NEIL	7	2	2	0	0	8
MAPALS, LEE	25	0	16	0	0	64
MCDONALD, RYAN	0	10	1	0	0	4
PALMER, KYLE	3	1	1	0	0	4
POTTER, DAN	13	0	6	0	0	24
PRIESTLY, NATHAN	13	7	1	0	0	4
RAYNER, GEORGE	18	0	6	0	0	24
RHODES, SCOTT	20	0	4	0	0	16
SMITH, JOHN	5	4	2	0	0	8
SPICER, ROB	17	0	4	0	0	16
SPURR, CHRIS	22	0	8	0	0	32
SPURR, MARK	3	3	0	0	0	0
SULLIVAN, ADAM	21	1	1	0	0	4
THACKERAY, ANTHONY	6	0	5	0	0	20
WALDRON, JOHNNY	1	0	1	0	0	4
WATLING, LIAM	0	1	0	0	0	0
WILLIAMS, TOBIAS	5	18	1	0	0	4
WRAY, JAMAINE	19	4	2	34	0	76

FRIENDLY GAMES NOT INCLUDED

Supporters Club News

A warm welcome is expressed to all supporters who have made the journey from Oldham this afternoon. We hope you enjoy your visit to York and have a safe journey back over the Pennines.

Thank you The supporters club would like to thank Phil Howden of York@54 (York TV) for donating match DVD's of the victories over Barrow and Hunslet to members travelling on the coaches to Hunslet and Keighley. Phil has long been a great help to the supporters club providing footage for video nights. Thanks also to members who donated tombola prizes for the Tombola at the York 9's and to the members who manned the stall.

Back to the Sixties Saturday 18th August Huntingdon Sports Club Saturday 18th August Tickets are on sale price £5 per person which includes a chicken and chips supper kindly sponsored by Millers Famous Fish and Chips of Haxby. Come along and relive the great music of the sixties.

Away Travel To book seats on the coach to Featherstone Jenny Whitmore the Travel Coordinator on the Supporters Club travel hotline 07958 569266 and state your membership number.

London Skolars/Wembley Weekend 2007 The coaches are now FULL. The remaining balance is due by 31st July please make cheques payable to York City Knights Supporters Club.

Wembley Weekend 2008 The hotel has been booked for next season booking forms are available. The cost will be £180 per person (based on 2 adults sharing a room) which includes Coach Travel, Match Ticket and 2 nights Bed and Continental Breakfast.

Race Nights Local pubs have agreed to the supporters club to holding our popular race nights with the proceeds going to the supporters club. 7th September Yearsley Grove Hotel Huntingdon. 8th September The Black Horse Wigginton

Pot of Gold Thank you for your support in continuing to purchase the Pot of Gold half time draw tickets without your support we would not be able to make donations towards the Knights Academy as we did recently.

Lancealotto Have you joined yet? Can you enrol friends, neighbours and workmates?

Gary Hall Chairman



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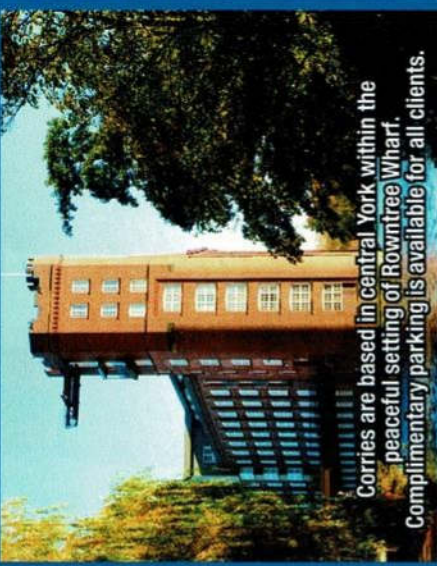
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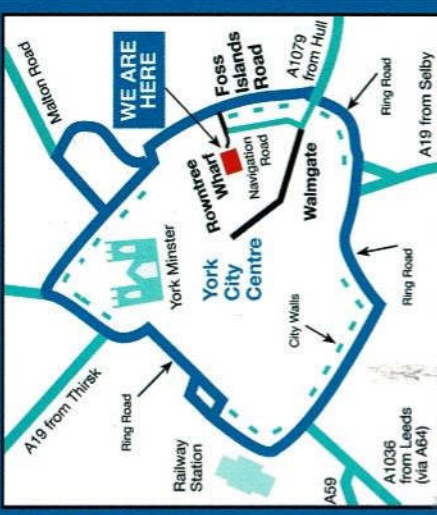
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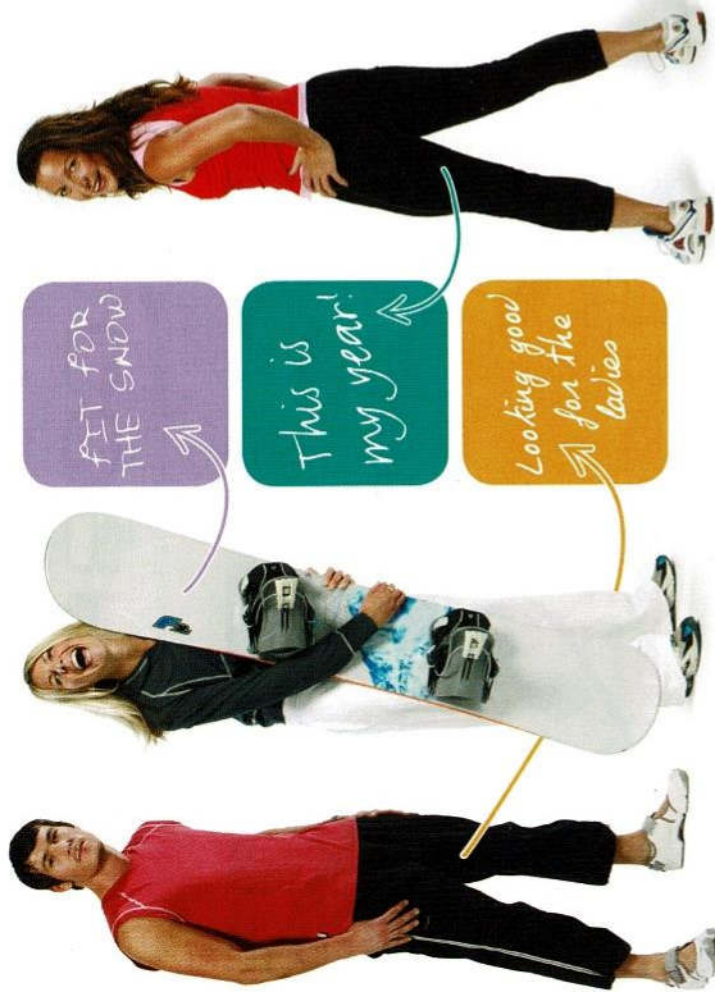
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THE **Press**

On the Knights shift

by The Press'

Knights reporter **Peter Martini**



WHAT a difference a week makes. Well, three weeks in this case, but you get my drift.

Not so long ago, there was despair on the Huntingdon Stadium terraces with some fans calling for Mick Cook's head and others writing off the season.

Now, there is a degree of renewed optimism following three wins on the bounce which have lifted York City Knights firmly into the play-off picture and with hopes they can climb the table still further.

It's often the way in sport. One minute, everything is terrible, doom-laden and the club is in danger of folding. The next minute, all is brilliant, and there's an outside chance of promotion. One minute, the players are the worst to have ever pulled on a York jersey. The next, they are among the best since the club began. One minute, the coach can't gee up his team. The next, his boys have wonderful team spirit.

We all enjoy a good rollercoaster ride (and I admit the media are as guilty as anyone at sensationalising the good and bad), but sometimes things could be kept in some perspective.

Sometimes, in reality, some of the lows aren't actually all that low (York fans should know that better than most given what happened a few years ago), and similarly some of the highs aren't always that high.

The Knights' recent turnaround will come under fierce scrutiny today against a side who have genuine promotion hopes of their own, having effected an extensive turnaround of their own.

Oldham, on the back of financial woes, were a mess last season and their relegation from National League One was virtually a sure thing from day one.

The men behind the scenes deserve great credit for rebuilding the club off the field, as do the coaching staff on the field.

The Roughyeds made some shrewd signings and some eye-catching ones, too, not least this week's recruitment of Rob Roberts. 'Two Bobs', as he is known, might be something of a journeyman – his long list of previous clubs includes York Wasps, where he had a brief spell in 2001 – but he can be a brilliant player on his day.

The Knights could and perhaps should have beaten Oldham earlier in the season, so today's game promises to have a bit of an edge to it.

However, the last time we were at Huntingdon Stadium, Cook's men gave arguably their best performance of term to shock title-chasing Barrow Raiders and begin this mini-revival. They may have to match that – again overcoming their injury problems – to take the points again today.

Whether their mini-revival turns into a fully-fledged resurgence could depend on the outcome. So, too, could the altitude of the metaphorical rollercoaster ride: will we touch the sky, or will we crash land?

York City Knights and **THE Press**
... a winning combination

Interview

by SHARON SHORTLE

NATHAN PRIESTLEY

Although he's not even 20 years old yet, this season has seen Nathan Priestley become well established in the starting thirteen at the Knights.

The second row forward now seems set for a career in rugby league, but it could have all been so different! "I grew up in Bradford," he says. "I actually started playing rugby union first in Keighley when I was about 13 or 14. They were just over the wall from the Keighley Cougar Cubs. I'd play on a Sunday morning then they'd shout me over so I'd just climb over the wall and play a second game for them because they kicked off a bit later on! I started playing then with Keighley Cougars and went on from there." That led to playing for the service area and then on to the Bradford Bulls scholarship until he moved from that area to Pocklington when he was 16. "I started Pocklington School and they played rugby union, so I just faded away a bit then from rugby league for about 2 years." He went on to play for Leeds Tykes academy before Hull FC came in and took him back to rugby league. After a year there in the under 18's, Nathan moved on here to York.

"When I signed at York I'd had offers of other places," he says. "I signed at York because I wanted to play first team. Last year I was actually a bit disappointed I didn't play that much. I think I had seven appearances for the first team. I was hoping for a bit more but I had little niggles and I wasn't fully fit all season. So I think the chance in the first team has come at the right time to be honest."

Nathan says he's been well supported in his career so far by his parents, although he thinks they'd rather he'd ended up playing the other code! "To be honest I think my mum and dad wanted me to play rugby union. They've always been big Bradford Bulls supporters but

they've always been into union with Leeds Tykes and stuff. But like I say, Leeds Tykes actually came in with a lot better offer the same time as I went to Hull. But I'm rugby league, it's what I want to do. Money doesn't bother me, I just want to play rugby league. But my mum and dad are proud. They never miss a game no matter where I am, especially my dad. I always have good support from them. There's no way I could be where I am without them. It's definitely down to them where I am."

At the moment, Nathan is a full time student at Leeds Met University, studying Sport and Exercise Science. "I also work part time life guarding just to get some extra money in to have some fun! I'm going in to my second year now. First year is usually your easiest so I got through that alright. I've got to buckle down now and get some work done!"

So far, he's managed to combine playing with being a student without too many problems. "It was alright this year because as I say it's not been the hardest of years. I had quite a good education at Pocklington School so it was a lot of just going over what I did at A-levels. But this year I think it's going to be a lot tougher with the travelling and stuff."

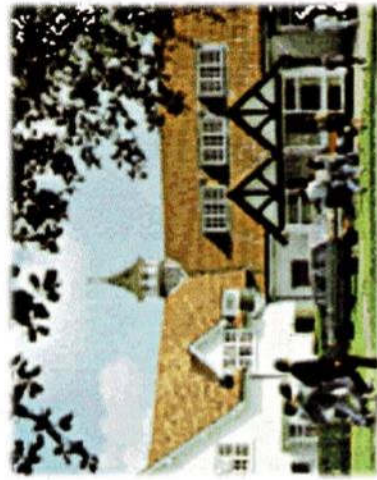
After just two years so far with the Knights, Nathan is aiming high. "I've come down this route because I got a lot of advice from people in the game. Playing in National League at my age is a good route in to Super League. I was 18 last year playing National League 1 which is quite good. I could have stayed in the academy route with Hull or other offers that came in. But I just wanted to get first team action and get some experience and hopefully push on or stay with the Knights if they push on."

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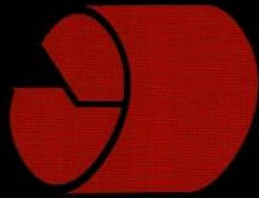
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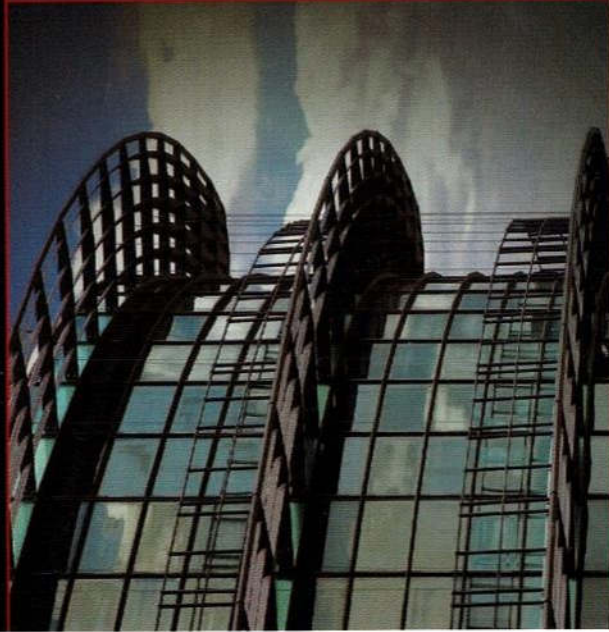
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Junior Knights Kids Corner



Hi Everyone!!

Welcome back to the Huntington Stadium after two weeks away from home. 3 wins in a row though is a fantastic result, well done to all concerned!

Junior Knights who have celebrated their birthdays this month are:

04/07 Daniel Archer
05/07 Elliot Kilby
16/07 Liam Kilbride
17/07 Chloe Louise Guildford
26/07 Molly Ralls & Reece Turnbull
31/07 Feargus Brown



We hope you all had a brilliant birthday and got lots of nice things.

Keep your eyes peeled for a special Junior Knights competition coming up where you choose your favourite player...so get your thinking caps on.

Everyone keep shouting and supporting the Knights!! Take care NORRIS THE KNIGHT

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TODAY'S MASCOT:

Name: Feargus Brown

Age: 2 on Tuesday

Favourite Player:

Dave Buckley

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YOUR DAY FEARGUS!**



Guess Who?

Last Matchdays answer was Lee Lingard





Phoenix Software

Community Development



by JASON RAMSHAW AND IAN WILSON

Good afternoon and welcome to round 16 of the Operative National League Two Match against Oldham. With Oldham sitting just above the Knights in the table today's game is vitally important. Let's give the lads lot's of support this afternoon!

The Development teams final competition of the school year took place recently, involving the Primary Schools Marston Moor Cup qualifiers and final and the Secondary School Cup finals. This event was held as part of the York International 9's festival held at Heworth ARLC. 11 primary schools from the York area participated in the Year 5/6 competition, Osbaldwick, Woodthorpe, Sheriff Hutton, St Lawrence's, Badger Hill, Tockwith, Wigginton, Archbishop of York Junior School (AYJS), Clifton Without, Brotherton & Byram and Wheldrake. The standard of play in this event gets better each year as more children in the area start playing at local amateur clubs. In Group A pre tournament favourites and current Marston Moor Cup holders Woodthorpe finished top with five wins from five closely followed by Osbaldwick, who like Woodthorpe in 2006 played with a majority Year 5 team. They were joined in the semi finals by surprise package Clifton Without who won all four of their games and Wigginton who edged out Brotherton to second place. That left the semi final line up as Woodthorpe v Wigginton and Clifton Without v Osbaldwick with both group winners Woodthorpe and Clifton Without progressing to the final after narrow wins.

The final, along with the four secondary schools finals, were held at the York 9's itself and proved to be a big hit with the crowd. In the Year 5/6 final Clifton Without defeated Woodthorpe 8 - 4 in a closely fought game. The Year 7 final was equally close with Cannon Lee beating Burnholme 8 - 4 thanks to a late score by Billy Legg. In the Year 8 final King James (Knaresborough) beat Graham (Scarborough) 16 - 0 with strong performances from North Yorkshire Service Area players Matt Brewer, Oli Day, Alex Foster and Alex Ganchev. In the Year 9 final Barlby edged out Millthorpe 24 - 20 with Knights scholar Jacob Scales playing a big part in the win, and in the Year 10 final Joseph Rowntree edged out Millthorpe 24 - 20. All the matches were played in great spirit and were a great showcase for schools Rugby League.

Enjoy the game!

Jason Ramshaw, Ian Wilson & Adam Prentis



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