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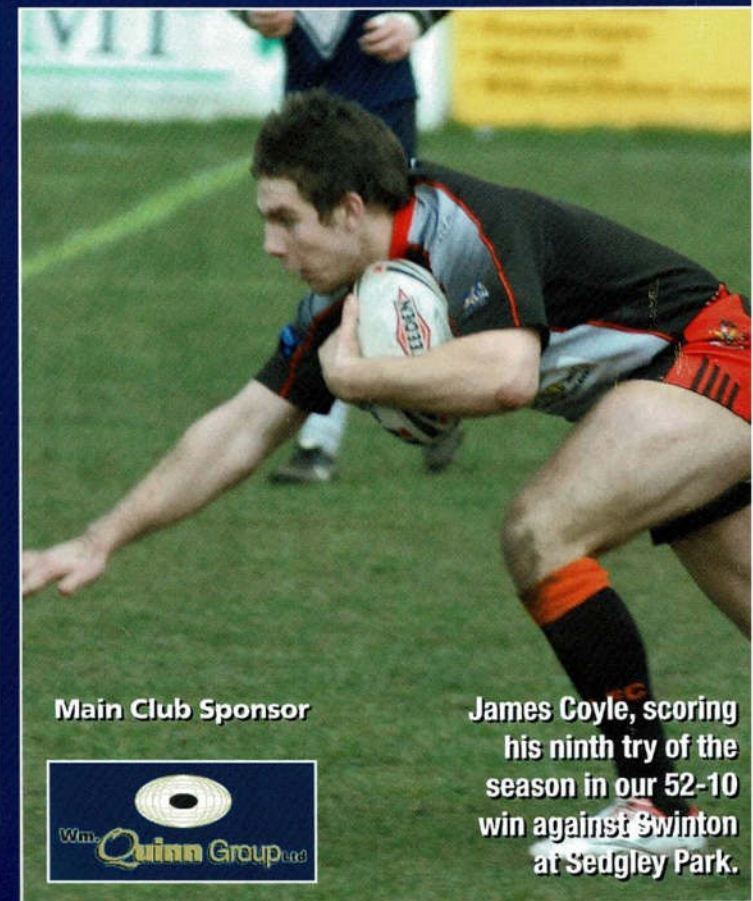
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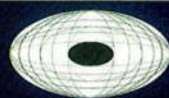
v Hunslet Hawks

National League Two

Monday 24th March 2008

Kick-Off 3.00pm





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HOW THE NORTHERN RAIL CUP TABLES FINISHED UP

BY Nigel Marland

Well that isn't strictly true as Celtic Crusaders game on Saturday evening against Doncaster was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch but they were both through so it didn't affect the draw, which is:

Barrow Raiders v Batley Bulldogs,
Oldham v Whitehaven,
Salford City Reds v Bramley Buffaloes or
Warrington Wizards,

Halifax v Celtic Crusaders,
Featherstone Rovers v Leigh Centurions,
Widnes Vikings v Sheffield Eagles,

Gateshead Thunder v Doncaster,
Rochdale Hornets v Dewsbury Rams.

There will also be an open draw for the Quarter Finals and Semi-Finals of the competition.:

6th April: Last 16 stage

25th May: Quarter finals

15th June: Semi finals

6th July: 2007 Northern Rail Cup Final

Northern Rail Cup tables

Group One Table

	P	W	D	L	BP	F	A	Diff	Pts
Halifax	6	5	0	1	0	296	124	172	15
Whitehaven	6	5	0	1	0	170	118	52	15
Keighley	6	2	0	4	0	130	218	-88	6
Workington	6	0	0	6	3	82	218	-136	3

Group Two Table

Featherstone	6	4	1	1	0	218	136	82	14
Gateshead	6	4	0	2	0	168	158	10	12
York	6	0	2	4	2	110	172	-62	6

Group Three Table

	P	W	D	L	BP	F	A	Diff	Pts
Celtic Crusaders	5	4	0	1	1	126	76	50	13
Sheffield	6	3	0	3	1	144	142	2	10
Doncaster	5	2	0	3	2	112	114	-2	8
London Skolars	6	2	0	4	0	124	174	-50	6

Group Four Table

Salford	6	5	0	1	1	294	56	238	16
Oldham	6	4	0	2	1	164	124	40	13
Rochdale	6	2	0	4	1	122	254	-132	7
Swinton	6	1	0	5	2	116	262	-146	5

Group Five Table

Batley	6	4	1	1	0	187	116	71	14
Dewsbury	6	4	0	2	1	168	125	43	13
Hunslet	6	0	0	6	2	86	230	-144	2

Group Six Table

Leigh	6	6	0	0	0	161	74	87	18
Widnes	6	3	0	3	3	210	75	135	12
Barrow	6	3	0	3	1	126	188	-62	10
Blackpool	6	0	0	6	1	68	228	-160	1

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From the Boardroom

With Chris Hamilton...



Today we start our 2008 home league campaign and, as ever, it will be the second game in four days having played on Good Friday at Rochdale.

We are all aware what our target is this season and now the time for talking is over and it is what happens on the field that will be important.

Our opponents today Hunslet Hawks are very much in a transitional stage having very nearly folded after the end of last season and the appointment of Stephen Ball has hopefully been the key element in turning around the club. They like so many others have had financial problems and that situation is one that so many clubs, ours included, have faced in the last few years - so much so that those who haven't are in a distinct minority.

With their innovative scheme whereby fans pay £5 a week to the club they can hopefully turn things around and move on to better things in the not too distant future.

As for ourselves we are already in a position to take a look at the season so far and say that we can definitely do better in terms of consistency but we have to be pleased with our qualification from the group stages of the Northern Rail cup which has seen us gain a home tie in the qualifying round against our friends from Whitehaven who, just to demonstrate the point above, are also having financial problems at the present time.

With a Carnegie Challenge Cup fourth round tie to look forward to against Swinton in a few weeks there is plenty to be optimistic about at the moment and things are certainly moving in the right direction.

We must however remain focused and there will be plenty of ups and downs during the season which is about to unfold but we are confident we have the personnel in place to help us to achieve things for this club.

The playing standards in the National Leagues have risen year on year and this year the Second Division looks as though there will be teams taking points off each other week in week out so as we have said many times before we must be focused each week if we want to have a chance of winning games.

Today is a classic example of that in so much as Hunslet have got a new team who will take time to knit and gel but their recent results have been highly encouraging and with plenty of youth in their squad they will not lack the belly for a fight.

This game will also be the first of three consecutive home games for us so we all want to make sure we give you good reason to come back next week.

Please start the season with great support for the team as we try to make Boundary Park a place where no other team wants to come to and get behind the boys today.

Enjoy the game

Chris Hamilton

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CoachesComments

With Steve Deakin...

Welcome to Boundary Park for the first league game of the 2008 campaign and I think that I speak for

all the coaching and playing staff when I say that we are really looking forward to going one step further this year than last, even at the risk of overstating it and being a bit repetitive.

Our preparation in the group stages of the NRC have gone well, the only downside being a disappointing first half at Rochdale but we have played some good rugby, got the new players in to our systems and dealt with a bit of adversity and injuries really well, so we are confident, going into a tough and demanding Easter programme, that we can get off to a good start and then go from strength to strength.

On the injury front it was great to see Hoyle coming back with a good performance in the reserves before having a run with the first team, something that all at the club should be proud of when you look at where we were two years ago and where we are now, a great situation for us

and long may it go on. Congratulations also to Houghie and Leo Casey and the young reserve grade players for their efforts in a win at Featherstone and I am sure they will be looking to get some first team games in before the end of the season, putting the right kind of pressure on the senior squad.

As well as getting Simeon back we are also looking to get back both Lee Wingfield and Lucas in the near future, so we will then have a reasonable depth to the squad and be in a better position to manage the player's health and consequently their form. We are all aware of the burn out that players can get as the game demands so much in terms of physical and mental effort and the chance to freshen up players is welcomed, even though the players don't like to miss a game it is essential to keep them fresh and use the squad so we can perform consistently.

We are all focussed so much on our objectives this season that time passes by quicker than you can imagine. We are amazingly already three months into the new year, don't blink or you may miss something - the Roughyeds are on the road up.

Enjoy the game

Deaks

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HunsletHawksPenPics



GRAEME HALLAS

Position: Head Coach
Graeme is in his first season at the club, and faces the task of building a squad on a smaller budget than other coaches in NL2.

Vastly experienced ex-professional Graeme joined us from the Leeds...

ADE ADERIYE

Position: Utility

Performed well in last years Academy season, now looking to break into the first team squad this term.

LUKE BLAKE

Position: Hooker

Luke is another young lad who came to us on a four year scholarship, and is now pushing for a first team place. Very deceptive, Luke tackles way above his size and weight. A promising future is on...

MATT BRAMALD

Position: Utility Back

Matt brings great experience to the club, after long spells at Dewsbury, Featherstone, Batley and Keighley. Matt is also currently assisting Graeme with the coaching duties.

MATT CARBUTT

Position: Forward

Matt has represented Great Britain Students and recently toured South Africa. Came up through the ranks and is now establishing himself as a first team regular.

DANNY COOK

Position: Utility Back/Forward

Play anywhere utility man. Danny has turned out in most positions for the club. Always gives 100%. Danny is a school teacher at local school South Leeds High.

STEVE CRAVEN

Position: Prop Forward

Steve is Australian, formerly with Sheffield Eagles, he was brought in at the beginning of the season by Graeme Hallas to add size and power to the front row.

STUART DUNBAR

Position: Utility Back

Stuart has joined the club this season from Halifax after a previous stint at the Huddersfield Giants. Enthusiastic and strong running centre.

JADE FERGUSON

Position: Hooker

Jade joined us from Oz in the close season. Made his own way over for a trial after playing lower league rugby in Oz. Unfortunately Jades stay with Hunslet didn't work out and he...

KARL GUNNEY

Position: Second Row Forward

Karl is the grandson of Hunslet Legend Geoff. He has progressed through the ranks and is now looking to break into the first team this year.

BEN LAWTON

Ben is a promising youngster who recently joined us from local amateurs the Hunslet Warriors.

JAMIE LESTER

Position: Back Rower.

Strong running and tackling back rower or centre. New Zealander, currently signed on amateur forms.

GARY MCLELLAND

Position: Full Back/Winger

Gary played in last seasons Academy side, mainly at full-back. He will be hoping to get his chance in the first team this year.

STEVE MORTON

Position: Winger

After a spell back with his amateur club Queens, whom he helped lift the Yorkshire Cup.

MARK MOXON

Position: Stand Off/Hooker

Signed from Halifax, Mark previously played for Doncaster Lakers and the Huddersfield Giants. Though not the biggest member of the squad Mark is often well up on the tackle count ladder.

GLEN PENNINGTON

Signed last season along with brother Luke, from the highly successful Drighlington amateur club who were formerly coached by Hunslet favourite Latham Tawhai. Both were highly recommended by Latham.

LUKE PENNINGTON

Signed last season along with brother Glen, from the highly successful Drighlington amateur club who were formerly coached by Hunslet favourite Latham Tawhai. Both were highly recommended by Latham.

CHRIS PLUME

Position: Prop Forward

Chris joins us this year from Dewsbury Celtic, having previously played with the Huddersfield Giants. He will add much needed size and power to the pack.

LUKE RAYNER

Position: Winger

Luke came from local amateur side Hunslet Old Boys and is yet another who has progressed through the clubs Academy set up.

ANDY ROBINSON

Position: Wing/Threequarters

Steady and reliable, Andy rarely has a bad game. Uncompromising in defence.

DARREN ROBINSON

Position: Hooker/Loose Forward

Experienced ball handling forward. Has played in NL1 for many years. A firm favourite with the fans, Darren can also play stand off as required.

PAUL ROBINSON

Position: Utility

Came to the Hawks after a spell with Batley Bulldogs. Yet another product of the Stanningley amateur club.

RUDYS ADAM

A product of local rivals Dewsbury Rams, Adam was signed this season by Graeme Hallas.

SEAL PAUL

Position: Centre/Second Row

Vastly experienced player, Paul struggled last year with injuries but has recently returned to full fitness and will be competing for his place back in the team.

STUART YOUNG

Position: Half Back/Hooker

Another product of local amateurs Queens, Stuart joined the club on a four year scholarship and is now on the brink of the first team. A fiery competitor, Stuart is always in the thick of the action....

KEVIN TILL

Position: Scrum Half

Nippy No.7 with an eye for a gap. Brings others on with his enthusiasm. Signed from Gateshead Thunder, a former Cas'. Panthers amateur.

DEAN TOWNEND

Position: Centre/Second Row

Dean signed recently from all conquering locals Queens. Has made a big impression in his opening games. Formerly with the Leeds Rhinos Academy, Dean looks to have a promising future ahead of him.

JOHNNY WAINHOUSE

Position: Hooker

Johnny has struggled with an injury for the last few months but has trained hard during the close season and hopes to make his long awaited return in the Northern Rail Cup fixtures at the start of...

GARETH WALKER

Position: Loose Forward

Signed from Keighley, formerly with Dudley Hill. Will be looking to be part of the first team squad this year.

BEN WALKIN

Position: Back-Row Forward

Youngster signed from local amateur side East Leeds. Strong running and tough tackling prop, considered to have a big future in the game. Another product of the Hawks Academy set up.

LIAM DANIELWATLING

Liam came up through the York area with Acorn and Heworth before joining the York City Knights. He is another youngster signed by Graeme Hallas who is now hoping to make his name in the Hawks squad.


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OldhamFixtures '08



Oldham's score always appears first

Comp	Opp	V	KO	Res	Att
January					
	Sun 13th	LEEDS RHINOS	A	3:00pm	4-50 6,340
	Sun 20th	HULL KR	H	3:00pm	Postponed
	Sun 27th	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	20-26 1,108

February

NRC	Fri 1st	SWINTON	H	8:00pm	22-20 848
NRC	Fri 8th	SALFORD	A	8:00pm	12-40 4,224
NRC	Fri 22nd	SALFORD	H	8:00pm	18-14 1,350
NRC	Fri 29th	ROCHDALE	H	8:00pm	38-8 1,024

March

NRC	Sun 17th	ROCHDALE	A	7:30pm	22-32 682
ccc(3)	Sun 9th	BRITISH ARMY	A	1:30pm	56-10 500
NRC	Sun 16th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	52-10 549
NL	Fri 21st	ROCHDALE	A	3:00pm	
NL	Mon 24th	HUNSLET	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 30th	YORK	H	3:00pm	

April

NRC	Sun 6th	WHITEHAVEN	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 13th	KEIGHLEY	A	3:00pm	
ccc(4)	Sun 20th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 27th	ROCHDALE	H	3:00pm	

May

NL	Mon 5th	BLACKPOOL	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sat 10th	LONDON	A	3:00pm	
	Sun 11th	CHALL CUP 5th ROUND			

NL	Sun 18th	SWINTON	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sat 24th	GATESHEAD	A	6:30pm	
	Sun 25th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP QF			
NL	Fri 30th	DONCASTER	A	8:00pm	

June

	Sun 1st	CHALL CUP QF			
NL	Sun 8th	LONDON	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 15th	HUNSLET	A	3:00pm	
	Sun 15th	NORTHERN RAIL CUP SF			
NL	Sun 22nd	BLACKPOOL	A	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 29th	GATESHEAD	H	3:00pm	

July

NL	Sun 6th	WORKINGTON	A	3:00pm	
	Sun 6th	NORTH RAIL CUP FINAL			
NL	Fri 11th	BARROW	A	7:30pm	
NL	Thur 17th	DONCASTER	H	7:30pm	
NL	Sun 27th	KEIGHLEY	H	3:00pm	
	Sun 27th	CHALLENGE CUP SF			

August

NL	Sun 3rd	YORK	A	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 10th	BARROW	H	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 17th	SWINTON	A	3:00pm	
NL	Sun 24th	WORKINGTON	H	3:00pm	
	Sat 30th	CHALLENGE CUP FINAL			

September

	Sun 7th	ELIMINATION PLAY OFFS			
	Sun 14th	QUALIFYING/ ELIMINATION SEMI-FINALS			
	Sun 21st	FINAL ELIMINATOR			
	Sun 28th	N L GRAND FINAL			

October

	Sat 4th	S L GRAND FINAL			
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- **Monday** ~ the round-up and results from the weekend's games
- **Wednesday** ~ news and views from the Roughyeds
- **Thursday** ~ all the news from the amateur clubs



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OH, BROTHER! DERBY-DAY RIVALRY AIN'T SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS

*In the Roughyeds camp,
Adam, aged 20
In the Hornets nest,
Craig, aged 22*

Player Profile: ADAM ROBINSON

by ROGER HALSTEAD

THREE days ago, Oldham and Rochdale Hornets clashed for the fourth time this season in the opening game of the new Co-operative NL2



PICTURE COURTESY OF THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

season ... and nowhere was the rivalry felt more than in the Robinson household in Wakefield.

Yes, it isn't widely known, but our Roughyeds' forward Adam Robinson and the Hornets prop Craig Robinson are brothers. Oh, and there's another brother Mark, the eldest, who is in the

Royal Navy and who keeps the family tradition going by playing second-row for the Navy, whom he represented on their recent tour of Australia.

There was a time when all three played for the same club, Stanley Rangers in Wakefield. But they were little lads back then, our Adam was four, Craig was six and Mark was eight. And Adam didn't have much say in the matter when he was first taken along to the Rangers, given that his elder brothers were already there and their dad, Michael, was a coach at the club.

Mark, now aged 25, was first on the scene. Craig followed, entering this world on July 30, 1985 and then came Adam on April 8, 1987 which means, of course, that the Roughyeds' rough-and-tumble prop or second-rower celebrates his 21st in two weeks time. On that day, if on no other during a season in which Oldham and Rochdale clash at least five times, Mrs Robinson will make sure that her two youngest sons put club rivalry behind them and are united as one on a memorable day for the whole family.

While Mark is away in the Navy, both Adam and Craig still live with their parents at the family home in Wakefield.

And while it's not exactly a case of a family at war, the senior Robinsons have to make sure they divide their loyalties and their support two ways, leaving it to Adam and Craig to fight for bragging rights and to fight for the corners of their respective clubs.

"We both have a bit of fun and try to sneak a peep at each other's game plans, especially when derby day is coming up," said Adam. "We don't give anything away, though. We are very loyal as a family and as brothers but when Oldham are taking on Rochdale that's something different. We just go out to smash each other!"

"We've been up against each other twice already this year (it might be thrice by now if both played on Good Friday) and we really enjoy the personal battle. Twice when I was at Doncaster I played against him as well, but it wasn't quite as spicy as when I'm playing for Oldham and Craig is on the Hornets side.

"Obviously, I go out looking for him, and he goes looking for me when I have the ball. We both enjoy it. And it's a massive day for the family. They turn out in force and get behind both of us, and then when it's all over it doesn't matter who has won and who has lost: we are all one family again and united in that."

Adam was only 12 when Wakefield began to take an interest in him and at 16 he signed professional forms for his hometown club to fulfil an ambition. At 17, he went full time at Belle Vue and in the next 12 months he was given a taste of life at the top level when he was chosen to play in a few pre-season friendlies for the Super League outfit as well as in one Super

League game against Leeds at Headingley. "They steam-rollered us," recalled Adam, "but it was a great experience."

He was still only 18 when, in early 2006, he left the Wildcats behind to seek regular first-team rugby with NLI club Doncaster. He wasn't expecting to play as much senior rugby as he did, but it was a great season for him and he played in 22 first-team games, playing in the second-row outside that experienced and multi-talented play-maker Graham Holroyd.

He played second-row for the Lakers in their 56-10 win against Oldham at Boundary Park and



PICTURE COURTESY OF THE OLDHAM EVENING CHRONICLE

also in their 58-10 triumph at Belle Vue.

On the back of that good year, he signed another contract

with Doncaster. The intention was to go full time with the South Yorkshire club, but in the early part of that 2007 season the club hit the buffers from both the financial and the administrative point of view and Adam was one of several players to be released from his contract so he could seek new employment elsewhere.

"There was no money coming in and the club was in difficulties," he recalled. "A few of us left, and I signed for Oldham, initially to the end of that 2007 season."

A joiner in Wakefield, 'Robbo' made a big and immediate impact with the Roughyeds, but only ten games into his new career with a new club he damaged his left shoulder in the game at York. That put paid to him for the rest of the campaign which ended in the NL2 Grand Final against Featherstone Rovers at Headingley last October.

"I was bitterly, bitterly disappointed to get injured at that stage because the team went on a roll after the win at York. I was told I needed an

operation and I had to sit and watch as the side stormed through the play-offs and into the final. It was great for the lads, for the club and for the fans, but on a personal note I was really disappointed because I had to miss it all. That's rugby league for you."

The operation to repair a shoulder cartilage was performed the week before the Grand Final in Oaklands Hospital, Salford and, by a strange twist of fate, there was another rugby league player having a similar operation on the same day in the same hospital. Name -- Tommy Grundy, then a Leigh player, now one of Adam's colleagues in the Roughyeds squad.

Adam had the close season to recover from surgery and now, having proved his fitness in a few Northern Rail Cup games, he is relishing the prospect of helping Roughyeds to have a big year again in Co-operative NL2.

"My shoulder still clicks and wobbles a bit," he said, "but I've been assured it's fine, and I'm looking forward to playing a big more rugby than I did last year and, hopefully, to making up for missing out on so much success towards the end of last year."

"Until I was injured, I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Oldham last year and I see no reason why this year can't be just as good, even better. I was one of the last people to re-sign and I was so happy here that when I heard that some of the lads had signed two-year deals I decided I wanted to be part of that, too."

"It's great to be playing again. We have got a lot of skill in the team and it's good to be running of James Coyle and Neil Roden. It's a long season and it is still early days. We have been hit by a few injuries during the group stages of the Northern Rail. It happens. But we have enough talent in the squad to overcome that."

"Our No 1 aim is to win automatic promotion and, given the quality of the squad that has been assembled, we'll all be disappointed if we don't achieve our goal."

Roger Halstead



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GuestWriter..

No 3: Matthew Chambers

Reporter for Oldham Chronicle and lifelong Oldham fan.

AND so another season of blood, sweat and tears begins in earnest once more as National League Two kicks off – only this time, with a significant difference.

Namely, that the teams involved aren't entirely sure how many promotion and relegation spots they are playing for.

The Super League licensing system, to be introduced in 2009, has created the bizarre situation in which there could be as many as four or five teams going up to NLI come the end of the season – depending on how many sides are given a golden ticket to move up into the top flight.

More will be known at some point in July, when the RFL is due to announce which clubs have applied successfully for a spot in an expanded Super League.

Until then, Oldham et al will just have to go about their business in the dark.

But even if a raft of teams do end up being promoted to NLI, there is still plenty of glory to be had from finishing the season as champions. And that has to be the aim of the Roughyeds.

You don't bring in guys like Mick Nanyin and Marcus St Hilaire if you are merely hopeful of a decent season. Such signings mean success is expected, not least by those funding such ambitious moves.

After six games in the Northern Rail Cup, plus a couple of friendlies – one of which, the Law Cup game at Rochdale, most Roughyeds supporters will have already wiped from the memory banks – the signs are positive so far.

First and foremost, Oldham have finally

qualified for the next stage and have landed a home tie. Whitehaven will be very tough opponents in the last 16, of course. But so were Salford, and they were well beaten at Boundary Park in what was regarded by some as the best Roughyeds performance in the new club's history.

If the 18-14 win over Shaun McRae's men raised expectations to a new high, they were levelled out a little a week-and-a-half later when the team travelled to Rochdale. And lost, again.

Better to lose now than in the league campaign, of course. And the coaching staff will no doubt have made it absolutely clear to anyone who doubted it before that even a drop-off in energy of a few per cent can cost you dear in as competitive a division as this one.

It is a cliché that has been done to death, but every game is going to be tough this year. Particularly so when you have been put on a pedestal, as is the case with the Roughyeds due to the signings made and the victory over Salford.

Doncaster have had mixed results so far but you can bet coach Ellery Hanley will be working overtime to get it right when it matters; Barrow may be in transition but still managed to beat Widnes last week; London Skolars piled 50 points on NLI side Sheffield on their own patch before winning on the road at Celtic Crusaders; and teams like York, Keighley and Gateshead have all improved since last season. Then there is Rochdale, the pedigree of whom nobody doubts now.

Deakin's side may be the odds-on favourites to finish top. But now is the time to go and prove they deserve such a tag.

Matthew Chambers

TRUST DIG DEEP TO BACK OUR NEW RESERVES SIDE

Rugby Oldham, the Supporters' Trust, are putting significant financial assistance the Roughyeds way in order to assist the club with the funding of its new reserves side.

The link-up of Club and Trust - with the reserves team the common denominator - was announced on Friday night, February 29, when Oldham beat derby rivals Rochdale Hornets 38-8 at a gale-lashed Boundary Park.

Significantly, there were five Oldham-born players in the Rochdale side, but not one in the Roughyeds 17-man squad.

One of the main reasons for forming a reserves team, coached by John Hough and Leo Casey, is to try to arrest that sort of

exodus, and the similar departure of Oldham boys to other clubs.

And with similar thoughts about the ideal of keeping the "made in Oldham" trademark actually in Oldham, the Trust has announced that it will make an undisclosed, yet considerable, contribution towards the club's cost of running a second team.

Rugby Oldham's new association with Oldham RLFC (1997) Ltd was launched on the pitch at the Rochdale game when

Roughyeds chairman Bill Quinn shook hands on it with two officials of the Trust, namely Ian Wilson (secretary) and Michael Ackroyd (treasurer).

Said Bill: "On behalf of the Roughyeds, we are delighted with Rugby Oldham's significant contribution to our funding of the new reserves team. It is good to know that our club is seen by others as one that is moving forward on a lot of fronts.

"Our reserves team will provide young players with opportunities and give them a chance to show what they can do in a new environment at a professional club.

"As far as Oldham boys are concerned it will also mean they don't need to leave town in order to advance up the rugby league ladder.



READY to rumble... the boys who will represent Roughyeds in reserve-team rugby this season with coaches John Hough and Leo Casey.

"We thank Rugby Oldham for their support and trust that the 2008 reserves season will be a successful one for the Roughyeds, for Rugby Oldham and for the young players and their coaches, John Hough and Leo Casey."

Rugby Oldham's press release said the board of Rugby Oldham was pleased to announce that the Trust was to invest heavily in helping to fund the reserves side in the coming season.

It went on: "We are delighted with the progress that has been made on the first-team playing front, and now fully endorse the club's structured approach to attracting young players into the fold.

"As has been well publicised, nine of the

selected 17 players in this season's Reserves side are required to be aged 21 or under.

"Most members of the local rugby league fraternity - and all at the Roughyeds - would share a concern that in recent years many talented local youngsters have had to turn to out-of-town professional clubs to progress their rugby league.

"We share with the club's directors a hope that in the not-too-distant future an Oldham first team could take to the field made up primarily of local born and bred talent.

"The launch of the Reserves side is the first step towards making that a reality."

OFF TO A PROMISING START

OUR new Reserves team got off to a promising start with a plucky performance while going down 32-12 at Keighley, followed by a hugely encouraging 18-14 win at Featherstone, both in pre-season friendlies. The season proper was due to start today against Salford at The Willows.

Dan Potter, one of the most experienced centres in the National Leagues, played the full game at right centre for Keighley, who were led around the park in the second half by the little maestro himself, Barry Eaton.

Several other members of the home side had also played at first-team level, in stark contrast to the Oldham boys, who trailed only 10-6 until two or three minutes before half time when Cougars extended their lead with their third try.

In the second half Cougars were not only playing down the slope, but they brought on veteran player-coach Eaton to run the show.

"We told them Eaton would be spraying out

passes," said Roughyeds coach John Hough, "but the reply from the lads was: 'Eaton? Who's he?' They hadn't heard of Barry or of Dan Potter, so that probably worked in their favour. They certainly weren't overawed."

Every Oldham player contributed significantly while wearing a Roughyeds jersey for the first time, but among the eye-catchers were full-back Anthony Bingham, winger Dwayne Nelson and half-backs Ethan Langhorn and Patrick Toft.

It was Langhorn's high kick to the corner which enabled Toft to open the scoring in the third minute, with second-row man Mark Smith adding the angled goal for an early 6-0 lead.

The other Oldham points came early in the second half when Toft went in for his second try and Smith added the goal to cut the home lead to 20-12.

Oldham: Bingham; Levenston, Kennedy, Fisher, Nelson; Langhorn, Toft; Eyres, Lowe, Clarke, Smith, Jagger, Mansfield. Subs: Garrett, Tilley, G Schofield, Jeffrey, Orwell.

A week later, the Oldham boys took on and beat Featherstone, 18-14, in their own backyard after scoring 14 points without reply in the second half. They trailed 4-14 at half-time, but then scored three second-half tries to none with Adam Jeffrey, Phil Jagger and Simeon Hoyle touching down and Mark Smith adding a conversion to his two first-half penalties.

Others to catch the eye were centre Liam Kennedy and prop Alex Eyres, but everybody contributed much in a pleasing all-round team performance.

Said coach John Hough: "We still had the enthusiasm and commitment we showed at Keighley, but we also played a bit smarter at Featherstone. We got a few back-to-back sets and made them count."

Oldham R.L.F.C.

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Lansdowne Trading
Services
Suzanne Kettleton
Clifford Bardsley
David Whitehead
David Lord
Janet Yewdale
Nigel Marland
Christopher Hamilton
Jeffrey Bates
Iain Ashworth
Roger Halstead
Steve Deakin
Nick Henry
Interior Door Systems (Joe
Collins)
James Rochford
Noel Brady
Gareth Owen
Roy Wood
Denise Buckley

Neil Houghton
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HOME SWEET HOME!

Make a note in your diaries because we have three home games in a row here at Boundary Park, starting with today's first home game in our Co-operative National League Two campaign against Hunslet.

Next Sunday, March 30, York City Knights come to Boundary Park and on the following Sunday, April 6, we host what should be a fascinating last-16 sudden-death clash with NL1 side Whitehaven in the Northern Rail Cup.

Having just completed four games in a row "on the road", including that long haul down to Hampshire to play the British Army in the third round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup, it will be good for everyone associated with the club, especially supporters, to be able to look forward to lots of rugby on home soil in the next week or two.

After Hunslet, York and Whitehaven here at BP, we travel to Keighley in the league on Sunday, April 13 and to Swinton in the fourth round of the Carnegie Challenge Cup on Sunday, April 20. That draw was made in Leeds and broadcast live on BBC Radio 5 Live as well as being networked over the BBC local radio stations. It means we will be playing the Lions for the third time this year with two more to come in the league.

After that Rochdale and Blackpool provide us with more home games on Sunday, April 27 and Bank Holiday Monday, May 5, respectively, giving us five out of our next seven fixtures to be played here at Boundary Park.

We all know there's no place like home, so get our your diaries and promise yourself a regular fix of the Boundary Park game-day experience.

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ARMY GAME MEMORIES CAUGHT ON CAMERA...



Photo by Robbeggardner

GAME OVER . . . and a time for handshakes all round as Roughyeds players and their British Army opponents relax on the pitch at Aldershot following our history-making 56-10 third-round Carnegie Challenge Cup win in the Hampshire garrison town on Sunday, March 9. In round four we play Swinton Lions at Sedgley Park on Sunday, April 20.

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Do you know what signs and symptoms to look for?

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Do you know what the long term consequences can be if this infection goes untreated?

Do you know where to go for information, screening or treatment?

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in the UK especially in men and women
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no symptoms

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labour
Infertility

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Sperm damage
Reduced fertility
Arthritis - making it difficult or impossible
to play sport or to exercise.

What is the test?

The test is done on a urine (wee) sample
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are sent back to the RU Clear? Office

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Results of your test

You will receive the results of your
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You can have the results by:

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The risk of developing serious health
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Today's Squads



Oldham

☐	Chris BAINES
☐	Simon BALDWIN
☐	Jason BOULTS
☐	Matty BROOKS
☐	Daryl CARDISS
☐	James COYLE
☐	Tommy GOULDEN
☐	Tommy GRUNDY
☐	Danny HALLIWELL
☐	Simeon HOYLE
☐	Phil JOSEPH
☐	Gareth LANGLEY
☐	Craig LITTLER
☐	Richard MERVILL
☐	Mick NANYN
☐	Paul O'CONNOR
☐	Lucas ONYANGO
☐	Rob ROBERTS
☐	Adam ROBINSON
☐	Neil RODEN
☐	Lee SANDERSON
☐	Warren STEVENS
☐	Marcus ST HILAIRE
☐	Said TAMGHART
☐	Alex WILKINSON
☐	Lee WINGFIELD
☐	

Hunslet Hawks



☐	Rudys ADAM	☐
☐	Ade ADERIYE	☐
☐	Luke BLAKE	☐
☐	Matt BRAMALD	☐
☐	Matt CARBUTT	☐
☐	Danny COOK	☐
☐	Steve CRAVEN	☐
☐	Stuart DUNBAR	☐
☐	Jade FERGUSON	☐
☐	Karl GUNNEY	☐
☐	Ben LAWTON	☐
☐	Jamie LESTER	☐
☐	Gary McLELLAND	☐
☐	Steve MORTON	☐
☐	Mark MOXON	☐
☐	Seal PAUL	☐
☐	Glen PENNINGTON	☐
☐	Luke PENNINGTON	☐
☐	Chris PLUME	☐
☐	Luke RAYNER	☐
☐	Andy ROBINSON	☐
☐	Darren ROBINSON	☐
☐	Kevin TILL	☐
☐	Dean TOWNEND	☐
☐	Johnny WAINHOUSE	☐
☐	Gareth WALKER	☐
☐	Ben WALKIN	☐
☐	Liam Daniel WATLING	☐
☐	Stuart YOUNG	☐

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Referee: R Loughton Touch Judges: A Fossett S Moss



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