

## TODAY'S TEAMS

### EAGLES

1. Quentin Lau-Togagae
2. Rob Worrincy
3. Menzie Yere
4. George Tyson
5. Ben Blackmore
6. Cory Aston
8. Steve Thorpe
9. Keal Carille
11. Michael Knowles
12. Duane Straugheir
13. Matt James
14. Matty Fozard
15. Scott Wheeldon
16. Adam Neal
17. Mark Mexico
18. Elliot Minchella
19. Garry Lo
20. Jack Blagbrough
21. Dave Hewitt
22. Ryan Millar
23. Greg Burns
24. Rhys Jacks
25. Nathan Chappell
26. Stan Robin
27. Thibaut Margalet

### ROUGHYEDS

1. Richard Lepori
2. Adam Clay
3. Jon Ford
4. Jack Holmes
5. Jamel Chisholm
6. Lewis Palfrey
7. Steven Roper
8. Phil Joy
9. Sam Gee
10. Jack Spencer
11. Josh Crowley
12. Danny Langtree
13. Liam Thompson
14. Joe Burke
16. Gary Middlehurst
19. Adam Files
20. Gareth Owen
21. Kenny Hughes
22. Danny Grimshaw
23. Craig Briscoe
24. Will Hope
26. Michael Ward

### MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: T GRANT  
TOUCH JUDGES: ANDREW SMITH T CRASHLEY  
RESERVE REFEREE: A BARNABY  
M COM: D ASQUITH  
TIME KEEPER: T RANDERSON



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Centurions

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Designed By: Simon Waller  
Created By: Liam Claffey

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### CHAIRMAN CHAT - BY EAGLES CHAIRMAN IAN SWIRE

I would like to welcome the directors, supporters and players of Oldham Roughyeds to the Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park for this evening's Kingstone Press Championship fixture. Both teams broke their losing sequences last weekend and will be looking for back-to-back victories.

I returned from my holiday in time to witness last week's fantastic display against Featherstone and I'm sure that I wasn't alone in wondering why the team hadn't performed that way since earlier in the season. In fact Bradford away was probably the last time the team showed its true calibre and that was followed by the disappointing defeat at Oldham so nothing can be taken for granted this evening.

In my programme notes for the Batley game three weeks ago I tried to give an honest perspective on some of the off-field problems that we have been battling against for the last few seasons and how some of them had come to a head this season. Ian Annis followed that up in last week's programme by invoking the fighting spirit that was shown back in 1999. The responses that I personally have had

to my statement has been both heartwarming and reassuring and I can honestly say that I did not receive a single negative comment. One email I received thanked me for the "efforts you have put into supporting and developing Sheffield Eagles over so many years. It is very helpful to be able to understand the reasoning behind the decisions that have been taken recently". I responded to that particular email saying that "I have always been as honest as possible with people about the situation at Eagles although I have had to be very careful with what I have been able to say so far this season.

I appreciate this can be frustrating for supporters at times but there have been a number of delicate discussions taking place. Some of these have now been completed and legal confidentiality agreements signed which has allowed me to reveal my personal position. Equally important discussions regarding the future continue to take place and I was very encouraged with what I heard upon my return yesterday.

Still a lot of work for John Whaling and others to do but hopefully some very exciting news in the next couple of months with a

more sustainable business plan at a permanent ground in Sheffield. The last few years have been incredibly difficult off the field (and on this season) and all I can do is thank you for continuing to keep the faith." I also put a statement out on social media appreciating all the positive comments and saying that it had been an honour and a privilege to have been Eagles Chairman for the past 17 years. Again it was pleasing that this elicited only positive responses. It's been a fantastic journey that we've been on for the last 17 years with too many highs to mention along with some lows that have quickly been forgotten.

I simply cannot thank Mark, the rest of the board, the over 230 players who have pulled on an Eagles shirt during my time as custodian and our fantastic supporters enough for letting me be a small part of the journey. Be assured that the journey will continue long after this season is finished with many more exciting twists and turns. When my future commitments allow me I am looking forward to coming along with my family to #jointhejourney in the Olympic Legacy Park for many years to come. Thank you all so very much.

#### Club Staff & Directors

Directors: Ian Swire (Chairman), Chris Noble MBE, Ian Annis, Mark Aston Associate Director: Andy Tyers  
Chief Executive: John Whaling Director Of Rugby: Mark Aston Administration Manager: Liam Claffey  
Assistant Coach: Keith Senior Elite Performance Manager: Nick Ward Accounts Manager: Louise Susans  
Player Welfare Manager: Ged Curcaren Lead Physio: Kai Farnsworth Team Manager: Richard Pepper  
Club Chaplain: Baz Gascayne Club Doctor: Andrew Hogg Kit Man: Brian Moore Eagles TV: Rob Staw  
Media: Adam Whiteside & Dan Fowler Physio: Mick Heye Club Statistician: Nigel Borham Analysis: Richard Wood  
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A special thanks to BLK, Rhino Rugby League, the RFL, Bartlett's, Barclays and COF for donating prizes.



### MATCH REPORT - FEATHERSTONE ROVERS BY MATT YOUNG

Sheffield Eagles ended a run of six consecutive league defeats after a 35-10 victory over Featherstone Rovers.

The Eagles eased their relegation fears after recording their first victory since April 29 following a stirring performance at Bawtry Road. With new signing Nathan Chappell in the side, plus the availability next week of Catalans loan duo Stan Robin and Thibaut Margalet, the Eagles finally have some momentum going into a crunch clash with fellow strugglers Oldham on Friday.

The Eagles made light of the form book to make a blistering start which stunned their top four chasing opponents. Their early pressure was rewarded on 11 minutes thanks to a brilliant individual score from Cory Aston. The half-back jinked back on the inside, then threw a sublime dummy before diving over. Aston converted his own score.

The Eagles increased their lead when a flat pass from Keal Carlile was collected by Scott Wheelodon who breezed through for the second try. Aston converted. After a delay for an injury to Rovers' Michael Channing, the Eagles resumed their stranglehold on proceedings. Debutant Chappell's offload in the tackle ricocheted off Jamie Foster into the hands of Ben Blackmore, who scored in the corner. Aston missed the extras. An errant elbow saw Mark Mexico in the



CARLILE, STRAUGHEIR AND QLT CELEBRATE AFTER ELLIOT MINCHELLA SCORES FOR THE EAGLES

bin, but despite being a man light the Eagles were in again when a loose pass allowed Garry Lo to sprint 70 metres to score. Somehow Aston failed to extend the lead after missing the kick in front of the sticks. The visitors gave themselves hope through Jamie Cording's try which was converted by Foster. Rovers then put the Eagles under a sustained period of pressure, not helped by Duane Straugheir being the second player to see yellow.

The home side's resistance was broken on 52 minutes when James Duckworth squeezed over, but Foster missed the conversion. With the visitors sensing an opportunity, the Eagles got the crucial next score through Menzie Yere following Aston's grubber kick, but the latter failed with the kick. The game was sealed when an error gave the Eagles posses-

sion with Aston handing over to Blackmore for the sixth try, which wasn't converted. It didn't matter as a Michael Knowles drop goal, and a late Elliot Minchella try added the gloss to the performance, with Aston this time kicking the extras.

Eagles: Laulu-Togagae, Lo, Yere, Chappell, Blackmore; Aston, Fozard; Thorpe, Carlile, Wheelodon; James, Straugheir; Knowles. Interchange: Minchella, Worring, Tyson, Mexico.

Featherstone: Channing, Duckworth, Cording, Taulapappa, Foster; Lilley, Thackeray; Griffin, Ellis, Baldwinson; Spears, Davies; Knowles-Tagg. Interchange: Briggs, Roche, Ormondroyd, Bostock.

Referee: Andy Sweet

Attendance: 817



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Hello and welcome to the #TeamDBL blog.

Last week was without doubt a fantastic one for the Eagles. Having made a couple of loan signings - Stan Robin and Thibaut Margalet - the side romped to an impressive 35-10 win over Featherstone Rovers.

What a win it was. The victory, in front of our

magnificent home support, was much-needed and well-earned. Let's hope the Eagles can kick on now, and end the season on a high. The win may have been the Eagles' first since 29 April, but we firmly believe that the Eagles can make it two from two tonight against the Oldham Roughyeds. Away from the Eagles, we've been busy preparing for Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice's 'It's A Knockout' event, which is taking place tomorrow (July 2) at Dinnington Rugby Club. We're raising money for Bluebell Wood by taking part in the wacky event, which will be a fun take on the 90s hit TV show.

The event starts at 10.30am and will feature costumes, giant foam and slides as teams of ten (ours will include our sponsored professional boxer, Sam O'Maison) go head-to-head to raise money for a charity which offers support and care for children with shorter life expectancies.

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Gareth Walker's



## CHAMPIONSHIP TALK

in association with **League Express**

LAST season's Championship campaign was characterised, in part, by the stunning late-season progress of Richard Marshall's Halifax.

A nine-match winning run propelled them into the competition's top four, and they then won two games in the Qualifiers, ensuring they finished above both Sheffield and Leigh in the final shake-up.

Now it looks like history could be repeating itself. Given last year's achievements, and the increased central funding that brings, there were heightened expectations for 2016.

And by Marshall's own admission, they were failing to live up to those early in the season. A shock home defeat to Swinton in April - having lost three games straight in February/March - left Fax off the top four pace.

But since that Lions loss, Marshall's charges have lost just once in nine league matches (at Batley, while they also drew at Whitehaven last month with a late Gareth Moore try). In that run has been emphatic wins over Sheffield and Featherstone, the



GARETH MOORE HAS BEEN IN FINE FORM FOR FAX

latter of whom they beat 37-0 in an eye-catching Summer Bash performance.

On Sunday they brushed aside full-time local rivals Bradford, with the final 32-24 scoreline at Odsal not telling the full story - Fax were 32-12 up before a late Bulls rally.

It was their fourth straight win against their West Yorkshire neighbours, signalling a shift in power that has lasted the entire summer era and beyond. Sunday's result puts Halifax in third with four Championship games remaining.

And although their top four spot

is far from assured - fifth placed Bradford remain only a point behind - their destiny is very much in their own hands.

Marshall, as is his way, was not getting carried away after the match.

"There's still a long way to go," he said.

"But to put in that performance, taking into account with had 15 players (Matt Sarsfield and Ben Heaton were injured in the first half) was outstanding - better than last year's Qualifiers.

"The players should be very proud of that performance."

It should be noted that Fax have arguably the toughest run in of any team in the Championship now. After this week's game against ever-improving Swinton, they still have to travel to full-time top two Leigh and London, with Qualifiers rivals Featherstone sandwiched in between.

But with the likes of Moore, Ben Johnston and Adam Tangata in fine form at the moment, Marshall's charges will fear no-one in coming weeks

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## TUBBY TALK - MARK ASTON SPOKE TO MATT YOUNG



WITH NEW PLAYERS & LIKES OF STRAUGHIER BACK FROM INJURY, WE HAVE COMPETITION FOR PLACES

It was great to finally hear our winning song again last Friday after the terrific performance against Featherstone.

It was a relief to finally break the poor run of results, and have now given ourselves a platform to start moving up the table again. I have to say all credit to the lads for the way they responded last Friday. I have noticed a steady change in and around the dressing room recently, the culture around the place is much better and I think that we are starting to see the fruits of all our hard work on the training field.

I think that is our most complete performance of the season so far. We have had some good performances and results this season, obviously not enough, but the display against Feather-

stone ticked nearly all the boxes that I am looking for. I looked back over the home game against Halifax earlier in the season and whilst I was pleased with some aspects, I sensed a problem defensively even in victory, and that has proved to be a problem for us this season. For the first time on Friday I was satisfied with our defensive fortitude, and whilst there clearly is much more room for improvement, that was a major step in the right direction.

I would like to formally take this opportunity to welcome our three new signings to the club. Nathan Chappell made his debut last Friday, whilst at the time of writing I am set to include Catalans duo Stan Robin and Thibaut Margalet in the squad for tonight's game. I thought Nathan added a calming influence to the side, and his

impact cannot be underestimated. He adds some experience to the ranks, and he is an example to some of the younger lads we have here who I am sure will learn so much from him. I am excited about seeing Stan and Thibaut in action, but after the performance last week they face a fight to get into the side.

It has been a while since I have been in this position, but finally I can say we have real competition for places in the squad, something that I have been desperate for! We have the likes of Duane Straughier, Steve Thorpe and Garry Lo back from injury, coupled with the three new lads and it gives me something to think about. Suddenly we have players here who are looking over their shoulder and that can only be a good thing. Competition breeds better performances, so it was vital that we managed to strengthen our hand.

Tonight we welcome Oldham for another vitally important fixture. They beat us earlier in the season in a tight contest, and there is no doubt they will be up for this. We have to concentrate on ourselves though, we have to make sure we match the levels we showed last week, if we can do that then we give ourselves a great chance of victory.

Enjoy the game!

Tubbs

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## WARDY'S WORKOUT - BY EAGLES ELITE PERFORMANCE MANAGER NICK WARD

The secret of being brilliant – is to do the simple things uncommonly well

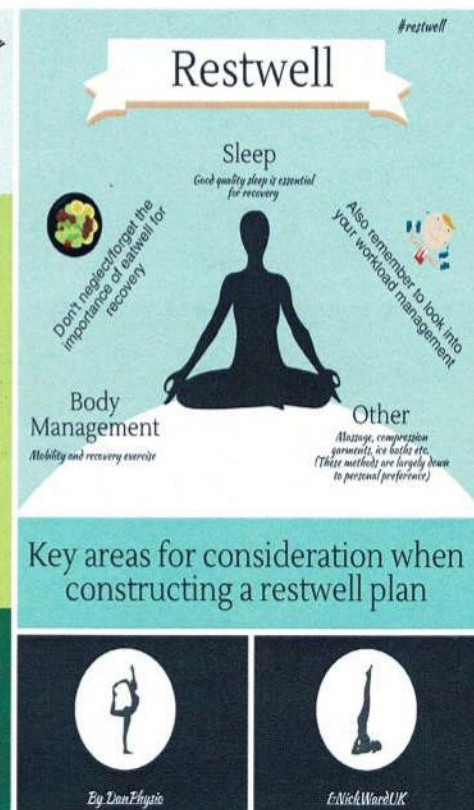
It is interesting having worked so long in performance sport that I often face familiar challenges with each generation. Each generation seems to have different answers to the same issues and normally they involve some incredible exercise, food or gadget

that they just need. More often than not though the answers do not lay in some magical food or app, but in adopting simple habits (for free!) but consistently.

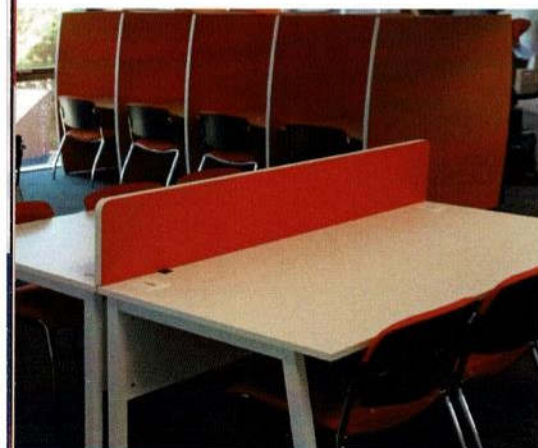
That is after all what a habit it ... but how do you start? Well try thinking of the the thing you want to change and begin with an IF... THEN statement. If I make a shopping list, THEN I probably

will buy better foods. The thing with forming habits is to start with the simplest habit possible that will lead you to the next necessary action towards achieving your goal.

Have a look at the Eat Well and Rest Well infographics below and see if these may motivate you to change 1 thing – and think IF.... THEN.....



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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE CORNER - BY JOHN WHALING



**ELLIOT MINCHELLA'S TRY ROUNDED OFF A GREAT VICTORY LAST WEEK AGAINST FEATHERSTONE ROVERS**

I would like to welcome the directors, supporters and players of Oldham to the Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park for tonight's Championship fixture.

Following the great result last week against Featherstone we now need to back it up this week against a very useful Oldham side.

When we played them over at their new home at Bower Fold earlier in the season we were beaten 20-21 in a very competitive game, we are hoping to turn that around and add another 2 points to help us finish as high as

possible before the split because, the points gained during the normal season are carried forward to the 8's and we want to get into the end of season play off.

I think the result and the quality of play last week shows that the side we have put together is better than the results have suggested and when they click they are a match for most teams in this league.

We have the core of this side signed up for next year and with the addition of new players in some key positions, I am confident that we can once again become a force to fear in this com-

petition.

Off the pitch things are progressing and we have 3 parties who are interested in helping us to develop the stadium at The Olympic Legacy Park and also taking over the club. We continue to work closely with the management at the OLP and plans are on schedule for the pitch laying to start in August, followed by the floodlights and surrounding infrastructure, including car parking. We are still hopeful of being able to play at the OLP in March 2017.

We have met with companies that develop stands and we are currently looking to have a stand in front of the Oasis Academy and one on the Flame Hill side. These stands will have hospitality boxes built in which will give us some flexibility with regards to match day hosting and sponsorship opportunities.

We are also looking to develop terracing behind the posts for fans who like to stand, toilet blocks and catering facilities to make the match day experience one of the best in this league.

I believe we are now moving in the right direction and that we can hopefully do well in the Championship Shield to take something from what has been a disappointing season for us. I hope we get another good performance tonight and that you enjoy the game.



17. MARK MEXICO



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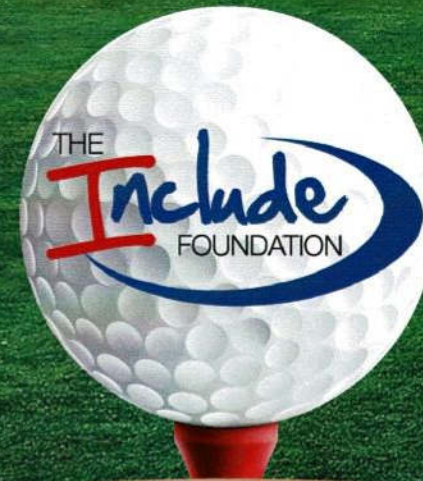
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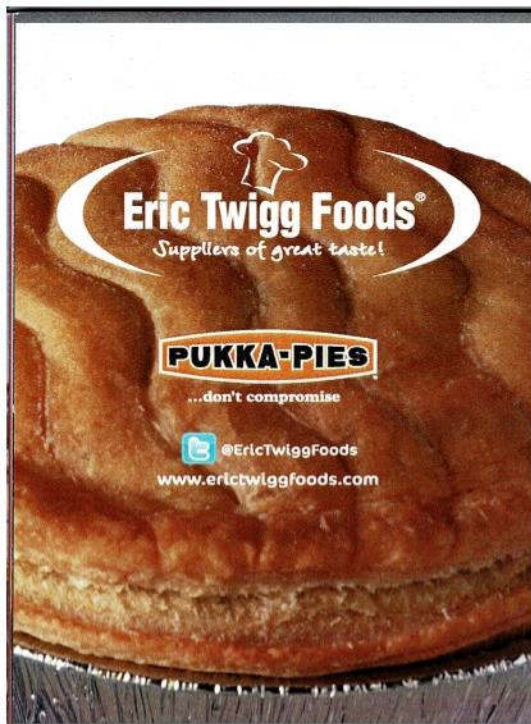
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## FROM THE OFFICE - BY EAGLES ADMINISTRATION MANAGER LIAM CLAFFEY

It was great to get back to winning ways last week, it's been a long time since we have left the Sports Park after watching a victory, hopefully we will watched another one tonight.

I'd like to welcome our Match Ball sponsors Constant Security and IFM Insurance this evening. Both have been long supporters of the Eagles and I hope David from IFM and his guests and Adam from Constant and his guests have a great evening with us.

Both took part in the Brand for a Grand package last year, which includes a number of benefits, including match day sponsorship. It also includes a prize draw for a chance to be back of shirt sponsor for the whole season, which was won by Eric Twigg Foods. I met with Neil from Eric Twigg this week as they supply the food in the fanzone here at the Sports Park. We are in discussions about

our catering requirements for next season at the Olympic Legacy Park as plans continue to progress on our home for next season.

Sheffield Eagles will be running the food and drink concessions next year (and taking the revenue from these) which is something we have never done before, which is great news for the club, it's a key revenue stream for many clubs and something we have never been able to take advantage of.

Going back to the Brand for a Grand Package for 2017, if you, or you know a business interested the details of the package is as follows:

- Entry into the draw for the back of shirt sponsorship – two winners (home and away kits)
- Man Of The Match Sponsorship package at game of your choice (four people with signed framed programme as memento)

- ¼ page match day programme advert for the entire 2017 season

- Pitch side premier advertising board for the entire 2017 season

- 2 Complimentary Season Tickets

- Logo included on Sponsors page of sheffieleagles.com with link to your website.

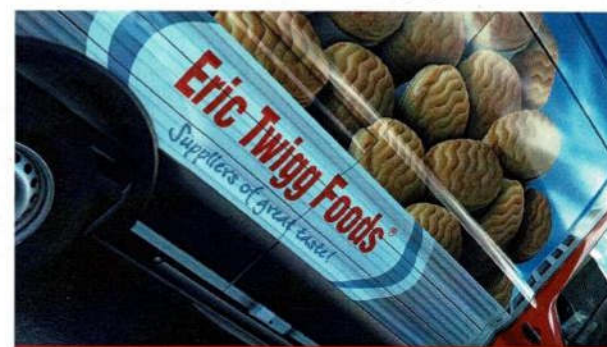
- Two tickets to the Eagles final home match of 2016 (where the winners of the shirt sponsorship will be drawn)

Cost: £1000 + VAT

The package gives businesses a host of benefits at a reduced rate compared to buying together and allows them sample a variety of hospitality and advertising. Please contact me on 0114 261 0326 or liam.claffey@sheffieleagles.com for more information or to join Brand for a Grand 2017.

Finally, apologies for the very poor quality of the match day speakers last week which meant there was a lack of music and announcement over the PA system. Three separate fuses blew on the system and so a replacement system was sought at quick notice to ensure the match could go ahead. Hopefully we will have no problems tonight!

A reminder fans are welcome to join the players in the main bar, upstairs in the Graham Solley building after the game so please join their, post-match.



ERIC TWIGG FOODS - SUPPLIERS OF MATCH DAY CONCESSIONS HERE AT THE SHU SPORTS PARK



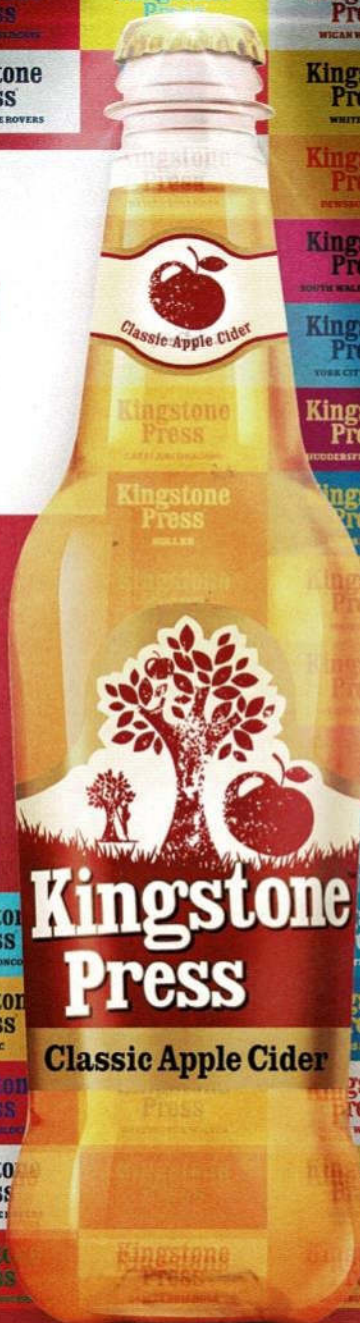
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## TODAY'S VISITORS - BY EAGLES MEDIA EXECUTIVE ADAM WHITESIDE

Following the Eagles first home victory since April last weekend this week's visitors are the Oldham Roughyeds.

Oldham managed to put an end to their horrible run of form last weekend with a 26-18 victory over Whitehaven in which the Roughyeds managed to score all of their points unanswered. This win ended an eight-game losing streak for Oldham which dated back to 1st May. The Roughyeds currently sit in 11th place in the Championship table but are five points above bottom club Workington Town and they also sit just two points behind the Eagles.

Last season Oldham gained promotion to the Championship for the first time since 2006. Oldham topped the League One table finishing two points ahead of the Keighley Cougars who they then defeated in the League One Grand Final 31-20. An impressive season for the Roughyeds saw them lose just three league games all season.

Scott Naylor is the current coach of Oldham and has been since his appointment in 2012. Naylor guided Oldham to promotion last season and now has the task of establishing the Roughyeds as a long-term Championship side. The 44-year-old had spells at Wigan, Salford and Bradford during his playing days and also represented England on four occasions. His success as a player came as part of a Bradford Bulls

side who won the 2001 Super League Grand Final as well as beating Newcastle Knights in the 2002 World Club Challenge.

Full-back Richard Lepori is an instrumental player for Oldham and will pose a threat throughout the game much like he did when the Eagles travelled to Oldham earlier in the season. Lepori often slots into the attacking line at pace creating an overlap before finding wingers such as Adam Clay and Jamel Chisholm who both cause serious danger down either flank.

In the forwards Oldham second-rower Danny Langtree managed to crash over for two tries in the space of five minutes in their recent victory over Whitehaven and he will be looking to carry over his try-scoring form into the game versus the Eagles. Oldham also have a trio of loanees from

1st placed club Leigh Centurions with Jonathan Pownall, Tom Spencer and Lewis Foster all currently in their squad and all possessing a lot of talent in the pack.

The Roughyeds currently play their home games at Bower Fold which is also the home of Stalybridge Celtic FC. They have had a number of grounds over the past few seasons including Park Lane and Whitebank Stadium following the news the club would no longer be able to share Boundary Park with Oldham Athletic FC. Their current home holds 6,500.

Oldham head into the final four games of the regular season trying to close the gap on the rest of the league and their sole aim from the Championship Shield will be to avoid relegation and secure a second season in the Championship.



ONE TO WATCH: ITALIAN INTERNATIONAL, FULL-BACK RICHARD LEPORI



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## 2016 FIXTURE LIST

| DATE        | KO/RESULT | RESULT | OPPONENT            | VENUE                 | COMP          | ATTENDANCE |
|-------------|-----------|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| Sun, 10 Jan | 14 - 38   | W      | Dewsbury Rams       | Tetleys Stadium       | Championship  | 703        |
| Sun, 17 Jan | P-P       | N/A    | Swinton Lions       | Sedgley Park          | Championship  | N/A        |
| Sun, 07 Feb | 42 - 12   | W      | Workington Town     | Derwent Park          | Championship  | 813        |
| Fri, 12 Feb | 26 - 6    | W      | Halifax             | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 1349       |
| Sun, 21 Feb | 20 - 8    | L      | Batley Bulldogs     | Mount Pleasant        | Championship  | 814        |
| Fri, 26 Feb | 48 - 26   | W      | Swinton Lions       | SHU Sports Park       | Challenge Cup | 508        |
| Sun, 06 Mar | 36 - 28   | L      | Leigh Centurions    | Leigh Sports Village  | Championship  | 3282       |
| Sat, 12 Mar | 24-26     | L      | Whitehaven          | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 502        |
| Sat, 19 Mar | 32-28     | W      | Swinton Lions       | SHU Sports Park       | Challenge Cup | 412        |
| Fri, 25 Mar | 28-16     | L      | Featherstone Rovers | Big Fellas Stadium    | Championship  | 2052       |
| Mon, 28 Mar | 34-16     | L      | Dewsbury Rams       | Tetleys Stadium       | Championship  | 813        |
| Sun, 03 Apr | 46-28     | W      | Bradford Bulls      | The Provident Stadium | Challenge Cup | 4234       |
| Sun, 10 Apr | 21-20     | L      | Oldham Roughyeds    | Bowers Field          | Championship  | 724        |
| Fri, 15 Apr | 44-10     | L      | Wakefield Wildcats  | Belle Vue             | Challenge Cup | 2257       |
| Fri, 22 Apr | 24-56     | L      | London Broncos      | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 513        |
| Fri, 29 Apr | 32-28     | W      | Dewsbury Rams       | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 441        |
| Sat, 14 May | 30-37     | L      | Workington Town     | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 494        |
| Fri, 20 May | 14 - 25   | L      | Bradford Bulls      | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 995        |
| Sat, 28 May | 14 - 32   | L      | London Broncos      | Bloomfield Road       | Championship  | 9521       |
| Sun, 05 Jun | 60 - 22   | L      | Halifax             | The Shay Stadium      | Championship  | 1680       |
| Fri, 10 Jun | 10 - 24   | L      | Batley Bulldogs     | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 651        |
| Sun, 19 Jun | 22 - 18   | L      | Swinton Lions       | Heywood Road          | Championship  | 551        |
| Fri, 24 Jun | 35 - 10   | W      | Featherstone Rovers | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  | 817        |
| Fri, 01 Jul | 20:00     |        | Oldham Roughyeds    | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  |            |
| Sun, 10 Jul | 15:00     |        | London Broncos      | Ealing Trailfinders   | Championship  |            |
| Fri, 15 Jul | 19:45     |        | Leigh Centurions    | SHU Sports Park       | Championship  |            |
| Sat, 23 Jul | 18:30     |        | Whitehaven          | The Recreation Ground | Championship  |            |



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## REMEMBERING DON VALLEY STADIUM - BY COURTNEY-JADE QUAYLE

This week, we recieved an email from 16-year old Eagles supporter Courtney who wrote about her feelings when Don Valley Stadium closed as part of a school project. Courtney's article is below and we'd like to thank her for this piece:

I was at the heart of so many people. It was so many people's dream to be my best friend, but like everyone, there was some people who hated me and wished that I had never been brought into this world. Could I help it? Could I change? No! All around me, there were different groups which merged into one massive- but not ginormous popular group on weekends, which was out to bully everyone else.

It was like a school playground, with the popular groups which runs the school, the unpopular groups- who wished they were popular- and the groups who were popular occasionally or when something needed doing. But, at the end of the day if anyone needs anything we are all there for each other and stay loyal to each other. We was like a massive family. I was a baby that everyone adored.

Lonely, that is what I am apart from that one day every few weeks when the Sheffield Eagles RLFC are playing. A supreme rush of elation went through me, and I had a party. All over Sheffield and different parts of the country, everyone wanted to

come to mine for that day, and it was always a magical day for some people but a wretched day for others. All the laughter and happiness coming from my best friends is the best feeling in the world. But, the unhappiness of them is the worst feeling existing and I am distraught for them and just want to cry for them. I love everyone enjoying themselves in my modern but debilitated home. It was like a shooting star making my dreams come true every few weeks.

Everyone around me, leaves me to go to a different part of the country when Eagles aren't playing at home. I taste the cold and lonely air, sympathising with me. Loneliness, that's what I can taste. Would you like to be used? Be owned by someone else so you can't change it? I didn't agree to this? I was a massive 'fan' of dog-racing and have parties for that; then racing (e.g. race for life) and now rugby league. How is this fair? I wish there was a way out of this godforsaken deal. I was quite big in both ways, but it is what made me how I am and I thought that everyone loved me for it and didn't want me to change. I thought I had an amazing life ahead of me...

Then, they couldn't afford to keep me, so they destroyed me...

The pain I felt when they murdered me was a bullet going through my heart and shattering

it. All I am is an empty shell with nothing inside. I am just waiting for the day when my destiny is made. I am waiting for the day when I will be told my fate. All I am now is a discarded site.

All the memories, gone! All my friends can see of where I was is a massive building site. Disgusting, all the scree and rubble is frightening. It is like someone has taken a massive sports stadium and annihilated it. I see people coming up and crying because I was a big part of their lives. I see the tram going to and from Meadowhall and people are looking at my out of the window devastated and sobbing their hearts out at the fact that I am gone. Even though it is a building site, there are gorgeous flowers and notes there as people have built a little memorial for me.

A piece of me falls off and hits the ground. It drops onto my death certificate. It was so hard to read it. It reads: Don Valley Stadium (also known as DVS or The Home of The Sheffield Eagles RLFC)! It was me, I was the demolished, abandoned stadium. It was the hardest things I ever had to hear.

CRASH!

All of my body starts being torn apart and a plan is laid on top of me for a new stadium. After all these years, I can't believe that they are just going to supplant me.



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## A VIEW FROM THE SPORTS PARK - BY DAN FOWLER

This week sees the visit of Oldham Roughyeds to the SHU Sports Park. I'd like to welcome everybody associated with Oldham to the ground this evening as the Eagles look to string back-to-back wins together.

Last Friday was one hell of an evening for Sheffield as Mark Aston's men conquered Featherstone Rovers 35-10. It was the debut of Nathan Chappell and he impressed all with an astute performance after his signing from Huddersfield Underbank.

The two new loan signings, Stan Robin and Thibaut Margalet from Super League club Catalans

Dragons, didn't take part but they may feature tonight. It's good that coach Aston has made some changes with recruitment and I'm sure I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that I hope the club reaps the reward.

Also in the match against Featherstone, a lot of praise was directed towards Cory Aston. And rightly so.

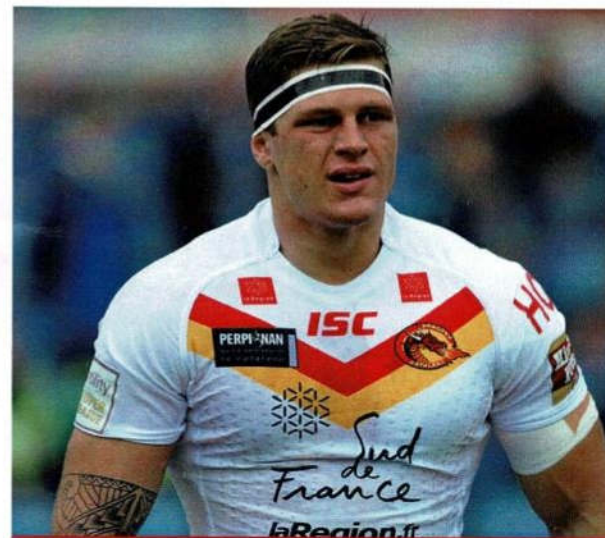
The youngster has copped some stick this year in what has been a frustrating season for all but when performances like the one we witnessed in round 18 come around, the praise is due and let's hope it's onwards and upwards for Cory and the rest of the

squad from here. We've also got to take into account that it's hard for half-backs to take control when the forwards aren't on the upper hand in the middle of the pitch. When everything clicks, the Eagles have proved in the past they're a dangerous outfit to contend with. Will we see more of the same tonight?

Scott Naylor's Oldham Roughyeds have held themselves well during their first season in the Kingstone Press Championship. After coming so close to promotion on numerous occasions before, they finally cracked it in 2015 and the Bower Fold club are trying to make up for lost time.

However, last year's League 1 heavyweights are currently in the relegation zone and they will be targeting this tie as a must-win. The Roughyeds beat Sheffield in the first meeting between the sides earlier on this season as half-back Lewis Palfrey ran the show and kicked the decisive drop goal which separated the two sides by the end of the contest.

Hopefully there'll be no repeat result tonight, with the Eagles looking to extend the gap between themselves and tonight's visitors. Make sure to get behind the boys tonight and cheer them on to, hopefully, another victory. Last week's effort was immense both on and off the field so let's have more of the same!



THIBAUT MARGALET, PICTURED COULD DEBUT TONIGHT FOR THE EAGLES ALONG WITH STAN ROBIN



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## CHAPLAINCY - BY EAGLES CHAPLAIN BAZ GASCOYNE

I think one of the nicest things someone can say about a person is: 'They are a kind person.' Being kind to someone doesn't take that much of an effort.

I remember back home in Darlington we had a saying which is grammatically incorrect but the sentiment is good. 'Treat people the way you want to be Tre't' simply meaning the way you would like to be treated by people do the same to them. Kind people are the best kind of people to be around.

The definition of Kindness is: the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate.

"Three things in human life are important. The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind. And the third is to be kind." -Henry James

I know when I've been on the receiving end of someone's kindness how it makes me feel. I feel loved, valued, appreciated and thought of.

Just last week someone very kindly gave me a full set of golf clubs as they knew I didn't have a set.

This made me very happy and excited that I can get back out playing golf. After last week's referendum result and the resulting Facebook and Twitter messages attacking the other side; and with a minority of UK people treating people of other nationalities who live in this country in a way they



THIS WEEK BAZ LOOKS AT LETTER K - KINDNESS

wouldn't 'want to be tre't': what a time to show acts of kindness by offering a smile or a welcome greeting to others. What better time to put into practice what Albert Schweitzer says kindness can do:

"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate."

Recent research shows that being kind makes yourself and others around you happy. In a study conducted by Dr. Sonja Lyubomirsky, psychology professor at University of California, Riverside, students were assigned to do five random acts of kindness per week for a period of six weeks.

At the end of the study, the students' levels of happiness had increased by 41.66%. Being kind had a profoundly positive effect on happiness. So if you long to be happy maybe it's time to be kind-

er to others on a regular basis.

Mark Twain said: "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

There is a verse in the Bible where Jesus is recorded as saying:

'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

This is not just referring to your next door neighbour but people we come across in our daily life & commitments. So the better we feel about ourselves and like ourselves the easier it can & will be to be kinder to others.

"There is overwhelming evidence that the higher the level of self-esteem, the more likely one will be to treat others with respect, kindness, and generosity." -Nathaniel Branden

I want to encourage you this coming week to ask yourself 'to who and how can I be kind to my neighbor?' You will be surprised how doing this makes you feel as well as the person who receives that act of kindness from you.

"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. They bless the one who receives them, and they bless you, the giver." -Barbara de Angelis

Just remember how beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it!



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