

OLDHAM RLFC MATCH UPDATE



OLDHAM RLFC v NORTH WALES CRUSADERS RLFC

SUNDAY 31ST JULY – 3pm Kick-off



MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD COACH

Hello and welcome to the Vestacare for today's League 1 match up with the North Wales Crusaders.



Anthony Murray and his coaching team have certainly worked wonders over the past few years as their side has built progressively over their time in charge there. We are expecting another tough encounter and it is one in which we aim to be a lot better in.

Last time at home I really felt we let ourselves down with a very poor first half showing that was full of soft actions especially when dealing with any adversity. We had an honest talk at half time and even though the game was gone, we really needed to demonstrate some character and desire for the badge. In the second half I felt we improved a lot but overall, it was a very disappointing day.

The following week in training we again spoke as both a collective and individually regarding performance levels and set some small targets moving forwards. As a coach I was ready to get back out there as soon as possible to try and put right some things we had been nowhere near on. We have a good honesty in self-assessment within the group, but our focus remains putting what we practice in training, into performances on the field at weekend.

Last week we took as many boxes as we could in order to get everything right and generate a performance over in West Wales. In a week that a few things again didn't go our way with suspensions, loan recalls and injuries, I felt we showed some real grit down in Wales.

The weather was not the best for open and expansive Rugby League, but we were very happy as a staff that we kept West Wales scoreless and gained a much-needed victory. Again, there were several learning points, both positive and negative to take out of the performance and we will be keeping working on these things through the week in preparation for the weekend.

I would like to thank Chris and the board for their continued support last week in organising some further loan deals to ensure we have an adequate number of bodies and increase competition for places in the squad throughout the run in to the season. I would also like to place our thanks on record to all the partner clubs involved in the loans for their continued support and getting things done efficiently. Currently we are taking one week/game at a time and all of our focus this week is on North Wales. We wish them well for the rest of the season but will be striving to put in our best performance and take home the spoils today.

We spoke last week about the need of us all as a group to be together in everything through difficult times. I extend this to our loyal fans who we realise have been hurting but together we are always stronger in the journey to success.

I hope you all enjoy the game.

Stu - Head Coach

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for today's encounter with North Wales Crusaders.

To say we haven't been at our best in the last 2 home games is a big understatement. Today we need to play for 80 minutes and to continue to give our all, especially when things are not going right for us, which they inevitably will, at some point in the game.

Digging deep when things don't go right or according to plan is how you show character and there have been too many times this year where we have failed to show a desire to knuckle down and dig in.

We will again be without our Captain and Vice-Captain, through suspension, today and so we need, even more, to stick together and pull in the same direction.

We did this last week after a long journey down to Llanelli to play West Wales. Despite their results they are a very physical side who do not stop coming at you, so a 38-0 score line was not to be shunned.

We had a few players missing last week, for various reasons, and that meant a new captain in Emmerson Whittel, Kian Morgan playing at stand off and James Thornton starting the game at prop.

It was difficult conditions too with constant rain from before kick off and throughout the match so all in all we were happy, especially with keeping them to no score. We needed that win to give the players some confidence and as I said we need to build on that, not only this week, but also every week remaining of this current season.

We understand the frustration of you as fans and appreciate it is easy for us to say stick with us but that is really what we need right now. Some of the comments to myself and Stuart are really not pleasant and I can assure you, NOBODY is working harder than us to put things right.

We care, it's as simple as that.

Enjoy today's game and hopefully a victory for us!



Christopher Hamilton - Chairman & CEO



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IT IS fair to say Tom Spencer has had a fruitful career.

Since making his Super League debut for Wigan Warriors, he has gone on to play at the upper echelons of the championship for the best part of his career.

While at Leigh, he won the championship in three successive years – with the latter resulting in promotion to Super League – before moving on to win the Million Pound Game with London Broncos.

That's not bad for a lad from Wigan who had, in his own words, "not much talent".

Speaking on the Talking Yeds podcast about making his debut for the Warriors, he said: "It was pretty surreal for me because I'd never been a talented junior player.

"I'd never been tipped as someone who was expected to really play professionally. I just kind of always loved my training. I trained hard, worked hard and tried to get as far as I could.

"It will probably go down in a lot of people's eyes as an average career, but you can only compete against yourself.

"You can't compare yourself to someone who has perhaps always been tipped to be one of the best players.

"My philosophy in life is just to try to be better than you were yesterday."

Spencer spent most of his career at Leigh, and had two spells at the club, after initially starting with them on dual-registration while at Wigan.

The prop forward, while at the Centurions, played with Head Coach Stuart Littler and captain Martyn Ridyard.

In his last season at Leigh before moving to London, the club achieved promotion to Super League through the Super 8s format, defeating the likes of Huddersfield, Salford and Hull KR.

Another promotion followed in 2018, this time with London Broncos.

London caused a huge upset when they defeated big-spenders, and massive favourites, Toronto Wolfpack 4-2 without a try being scored in the whole game.

After, Spencer returned to Leigh and was once more challenging at the top of the second division before he moved to Oldham for the current season.

He said: "The first time I came to Oldham was during one of my stints at Leigh. I was recovering from a knee injury so I got sent for a month on loan.

"When I got to the stage where I was thinking of going back to semi-pro and getting ready for working life, I thought: 'I already know the club, I know a few of the lads and I thought what a great opportunity to come to Oldham to go into this next phase of where I am in my life.'"

The 31-year-old is enjoying a new kind of challenge this year playing for the Roughyeds:

"In the past I've been a working cog in the machine and concentrated on my little job within the team, but now I'm expected to lead and be responsible for encouraging those other inexperienced lads to play well.

"And that's something I'm glad I've had the opportunity to do."



NORTH WALES CRUSADERS RLFC DANGER MAN – ROB MASSAM

Try-scoring is in this man's DNA. He's the club's all-time leading try scorer, with over 150 of them to his name.

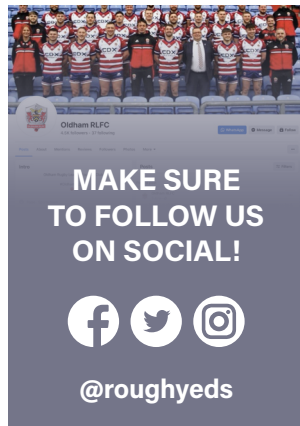
Apart from a short spell at Rochdale Hornets, Massam has been with North Wales since its inception back in 2012.

Despite now 34, his rugby league qualities show no sign of abating.

In 2021, the winger scored 22 tries; helped North Wales get all the way to the Play-off Semi Finals; and was crowned League 1 Player of The Year.

This year he is on course to match or better that tally with 16 tries already to his name and five games to go.

Crusaders have won all but one of their away matches this year and currently sit 2nd in the table behind Keighley.





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OLDHAM RLFC 2022 SQUAD



PLAYER	SPONSOR
1 OWEN RESTALL	GRANT AND SHEILA SOMERVILLE
2 TOMMY BRIERLEY	RUGBY OLDHAM
3 WILL COOKE	JOHN AND LYNDA MCANDREW
4 CALVIN WELLINGTON	GRANT AND SHEILA SOMERVILLE
5 BEN HOLCROFT	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
6 MARTYN RIDYARD	SHEDDINGS 107
7 DAVE HEWITT	GRAEME LEE
8 LUKE NELMES	ROBIN HIGHFIELD
10 TOM SPENCER	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
11 JASON MURANKA	MIKE HARROP
12 CALLUM CAMERON	GINNY AND ADRIAN ALEXANDER
13 EMMERSON WHITTEL	PAM TAYLOR
14 SEAN SLATER	247BLINDS.CO.UK
15 JORDAN ANDRADE	YEDS SUPPORTERS CLUB
16 JAMES THORNTON	ANNE KEARNS
17 JACK COVENTRY	PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION
18 JOE HARTLEY	ORSA
19 DOM NEWTON	247BLINDS.CO.UK
20 DAVID MILLS	CPD PROPERTY SERVICES LTD
22 LIAM COPLAND	OLDHAM RL HERITAGE TRUST
23 KIAN MORGAN	SERVO GROUP
24 ETHAN FERRY	ROBERTO LONGO
29 BILLY YARROW	GORDON SEDGEWICK
31 CONNOR CARR	RUGBY OLDHAM
32 DANE WINDROW	MICK HARROP
34 ROBBIE BUTTERWORTH	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
-- LOGAN ASTLEY	
-- JACK BIBBY	
-- TOBY BRANNAN	
-- OLI FIELD	
-- JOHNNY OPENSHAW	
-- ALEX SUTTON	

NORTH WALES CRUSADERS RLFC 2022 SQUAD

PAT AH VAN	BEN MOORES
CHRIS BARRATT	DANTE MORLEY-SAMUELS
BRAD BILLSBOROUGH	PAUL NASH
BRAD BRENNAN	PAT RAINFORD
REECE BRIERS	MATT REID
ALEX ECKLEY	GAV RODDEN
MATT FLETCHER	ROMAN SILVA
JORDY GIBSON	ALEX SMITH
DEC GREGORY	JONO SMITH
CALLUM HAZZARD	HARRY SWARBRICK
JACK HOLMES	WILL TILLEKE
JACK HOUGHTON	SCOTT TURNER
TOMMY JOHNSON	
ROB MASSAM	COACH: ANTHONY MURRAY

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Fourth Prize 2 x £25

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will be notified**

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WEEKLY DRAW