

OLDHAM RLFC MATCH UPDATE



OLDHAM RLFC v LONDON SKOLARS RLFC

SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST 2022 – 3pm Kick-off



MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD COACH

Hello and welcome to the Vestacare for today's League 1 match up with the London Skolars.

London are a side that have built steadily over the past few years due to some great grass roots community work down in the capital by both themselves and the Broncos. We know only too well how they can play after our performance down there earlier in the season.

Since the last programme notes we have had a defeat to North Wales and a victory last week over the Midlands Hurricanes. The North Wales game saw us compete hard especially in the first period where we stuck to our game plan and the process of Rugby League and we were leading at half time against a side currently second in the competition.

The second half saw us go away from what we had been doing well and we invited a quality team into the game repeatedly with some really basic errors. We were then broken down by a team that really completed their sets high and went up a level in comparison to us dropping down a couple. It was a much-improved competitive performance but still not where we would like to be or the result we were aiming for.



Last week saw us take on the Midlands Hurricanes in what can only be described as a mixed performance. For 57 minutes I thought we were very composed, and you could see the details we had been working on in training paying off on the field. For the next 23 minutes we then seemed like a team on a self-destruct mission, and we ended up nearly throwing away a comfortable lead.

The positive from the fixture is that we picked up the 2 points we were aiming for. The Midlands are developing into a quality side but there is no way we should be shipping in that many points in succession in that time frame. Again, we will work hard this week to fix up what went wrong whilst reaffirming what went well and how good we look when we do the right things consistently.

We need you fans again today in this match up against another team around us in the league table. The lads really appreciate the support, and we are aiming to give you something to shout about. As I have said before we are on a journey, and we need as many people to buy into that as possible. Together we will always be stronger.

I hope you all enjoy the game.

Stu – Head Coach



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the Vestacare Stadium for what, from our point of view, should be something of a revenge mission.

Our performance in the capital a few weeks ago left a lot to be desired to say the least and there will be plenty of players in our side today who need to stand up and put right what happened in that game, the night before the Challenge cup final.

Skolars are a big, physical team who, if you give them the opportunity, will run over you and rack up the points – just like they did that night.

For us, we need to make sure we are up for the physical challenge that EVERY game brings and make sure we do the tough bits of the game to enable us to hopefully get on top and then take control of the match.

Last week at Hurricanes was the epitome of everything our season has been to date. We started off a bit hesitant but then grew into the game, scored some good tries and were in total control at 39-0.

What then happened after Hurricanes scored, what most people thought was a consolation try, was us again giving in to adversity. In the end we hung on for the win and that is now 2 out of the last 3 which is something we haven't done before all season.

Daft as it may sound to some of you, we are still fighting to try and give ourselves a chance of making the Play Offs.

We are in a battle with Hunslet, who have a tough run in, but there is very little margin for error so we need to make sure we show some toughness in our approach to what is in front of us, as the pressure is on us, not them.

Time will tell but we will be doing our best.

A big thank you to all the Oldham fans who made the journey down to the Midlands for a Sunday evening game last week.

We are very aware that this has been a tough season but your ongoing support means a lot – not only to the players and coaching staff, but everybody at the club, thank you again.

Today we need you as much as ever so please get behind the lads from the start and hopefully at the end of it we can add another two points to our total.

Enjoy the game.

Christopher Hamilton –
Chairman
& CEO





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FOCUS ON: CALVIN WELLINGTON

BEING from South Wales, Calvin Wellington grew up originally playing Rugby Union.



Only in the off-season would players turn their hand to League. Calvin had his first experience of the sport when he was 15 and he was captured by the intensity of it.

"People don't realise how hard it is to complete a full 80 on the field and I felt like the game was made more for me.

"The reason I chose League is because I like to be challenged and to be held accountable on the field and not being able to hide.

"It brings out something in you that you never knew you had," he said.

He started out at South Wales Scorpions – the club that is now West Wales Raiders – and played alongside St Helens star Regan Grace.

The two both signed for St Helens at the same time and shared a house together until Calvin left for Union club Dragons in 2017.

Calvin had just left school when he moved up North and found it tough being away from home, with not much money.

He said: "There were times when I just wanted to go home. There were a lot of knock-backs and setbacks with injuries that really affected my mental health but I just thought: 'I've come this far, what's the point in turning back now?'"

"At the time, I remember one of the CEO's coming to me and Regan counting pennies up just to try to get a Domino's for the weekend – he ended up giving us the money because he felt bad for us."

It was not all bad – the Saints Academy taught Calvin a lot which he has taken forward throughout his career, and life.

One of those lessons came from his very first senior training session in pre-season with the club.

"We were doing shuttle run drills and I think one or two of us in the under-19 squad just missed it by an inch.

"It was the last set, and they pulled the whole training session apart and made everyone do it all over again.

"The coach went on to explain: 'If you start cheating on the training field, then you start doing it in the game and then it translates into your life. You start cutting corners and doing shortcuts.

"It really taught me honesty and just turning up. It doesn't matter if you come first or last as long as you do it right and complete it," he said.

Wellington left Saints and spent two seasons playing for Welsh Rugby Union club Dragons in 2017, where the coach at the time described him as a "freak of an athlete".

He returned to the 13-man code and spent time playing under Chris Thorman at Workington Town.

He had originally signed for Ottawa Aces for the 2021 season, before the pandemic quashed any chance of a North American team competing in League 1.

Outside of the sport Calvin is studying a law degree and at the moment works with children with behavioural problems something he feels is a "vocational calling" after recently being diagnosed with ADHD himself.

LONDON SKOLARS RLFC DANGER MAN: ABEVIA McDONALD

One man to look out for in the Skolars 17 today is Abeviah McDonald.

The Jamaican International has 7 tries to his name already this season, and is certainly a handful for defences, weighing 15 stone.

His best game this year came against promotion favourites Swinton Lions, where he scored a hat-trick of tries in a 22-48 defeat.

The 6ft 1in 30-year-old played rugby league back in Jamaica but in the last few years moved to England, where he signed for the Skolars not long after.

McDonald played for the Reggae Warriors last year in a 6-54 defeat to England Knights and is hoping to make the Jamaica squad for the World Cup at the end of the year.



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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
28 LOGAN ASTLEY	--
29 ROBBIE BUTTERWORTH	DAVID AND VAL WEBSTER
30 JACK BIBBY	--
31 CONNOR CARR	RUGBY OLDHAM
32 DANE WINDROW	MICK HARROP
34 BILLY YARROW	GORDON SEDGEWICK
35 OLI FIELD	--
-- JOHNNY OPENSHAW	--
-- ALEX SUTTON	--

LONDON SKOLARS RLFC 2022 SQUAD

CHRIS BALL	AARON SMALL
ERROL CARTER	CHRISTIAN GALE
LUCIANO BEJANIDZE	ANTHONY COX
ASTON STEPHENSON	ALEX DEERY
LEIGHTON BALL	OLLIE BLOOM
SAM WELLINGS	LAMONT BRYAN
RYAN CANE	MICHAEL GREENHALGH
KOJO KORANG	LAMECK JUMA
SHANE HURLEY	KAYNE CHAN-KITCHENER
JOSHUA DALTON	DAVID BOFENDA
HARRY KAUFMAN	KYLE ARMSTRONG
JEROME YATES	JONNY BELL
CONNOR FLANAGAN	ELLIOT HUTCHINGS
JARRED BASSETT	CHARLES HAMMOND
REECE RANCE	DOUG CHIRNSIDE
LIAM O'CALLAGHAN	PHIL LYON
ABEVIA MCDONALD	OMAR BENHOURA
MATT ROSS	
JAKE TILFORD	
COACH: JOE MBU	

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