

Changing Fortunes in West Yorkshire

Huddersfield get hip!

The changing fortunes of Rugby League are graphically illustrated by Huddersfield - the blue riband side of several different eras, and now struggling desperately to get away from the lower reaches of the second division.

Before the start of the present season more than a few eyebrows were raised by Huddersfield's decision to get hip. Overnight, the claret and golds became the 'Barracudas' and Fartown was rechristened 'Arena '84'. Whether those choices of names were quite the most suitable has to remain a matter of opinion but there's no denying that Huddersfield suddenly found themselves thrust into the glare of publicity, and that had to be good news.

The cheer girls came out at 'Arena '84' and the traditional old jerseys were replaced by a (thankfully tasteful) new style kit. But, to date, Huddersfield haven't been able to put together the kind of results to win back the missing thousands to the terraces. They know it takes time to build up their strength again.

Coach Brian Lockwood is deter-

mined to be a success. His on-field general Phil Johnson has inspired most of Huddersfield's better moments this season, and the outstanding power of back-rower Paul Dixon has never been far from the action. A top performance to beat the outstanding young Swinton side gives Huddersfield the promise of better days. 1984 may yet be seen as a turning point in the fortunes of this most famous of all clubs.

