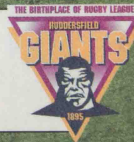




Huddersfield GIANTS 2007

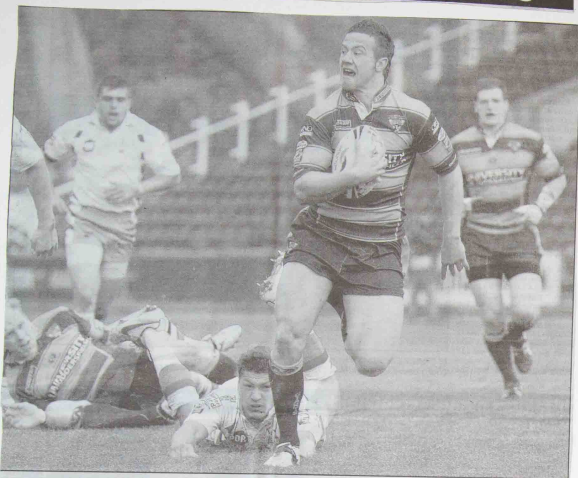


Back Row: Stuart Jones, Mat Gardner, Leroy Cudjoe, Sean Gleeson, Keith Mason, Chris Nero, Shane Elford, Stephen Wild, Steve Snitch, Paul Reilly.
 Centre: Ben Cooper (head conditioner), Keiron Purtil (assistant coach), Paul Anderson (assistant coach), Paul Smith, Andy Raleigh, Darrell Griffin, Eorl Crabtree, John Skandalis, Simon George, Tom Dalton (kitman), Mark Weavill (kitman), Gary Slade (physio), Greg Brown (masseur and rehabilitation).
 Front: Paul Jackson, Ryan Hudson, Kevin Brown, Chris Thorman (captain), Jon Sharp (head coach), Brad Drew (vice-captain), Robbie Paul, Tom Hemingway, Jamahl Lolesi.
 Missing from the picture: Martin Aspinwall.
 (Picture order number: 485-35-07)



Giants ... 46

Quins ... 16



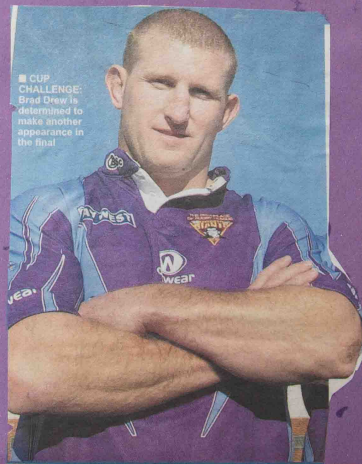
■ DON'T STOP ME NOW!: Steve Smitch charges to the tryline to score his first of two tries against Harlequins after being sent clear by the grounded Paul Reilly following a magical centrefield run
Picture by Paul Welch (18.11.15 on)



■ PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT: coach Jon Sharp and winger Paul Reilly celebrate the win.
Pictures by John Rushworth



■ HAVING FUN: Jamahl Lolei dives over for the opening try (top) and is then congratulated by his teammates



■ CLIP CHALLENGE: Brad Drew is determined to make another appearance in the final

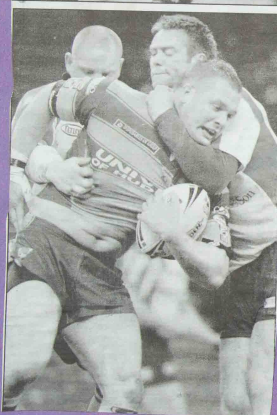
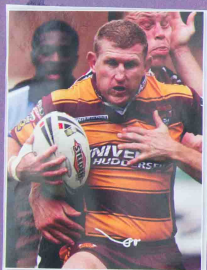
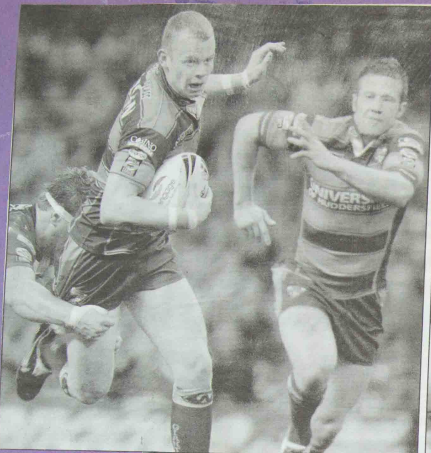


■ SO CLOSE: Eorl Crabtree broke away to feed Robbie Paul late in the game.



■ GOING WELL: prop forward Keith Mason was impressive against his former club.





Giants 36 Wildcats 12

■ IN FULL FLOW: Giants players Kevin Brown (top, left), Darrell Griffin (left) and Chris Thorman (above) make the Wakefield Refence work overtime during Huddersfield's latest Super League victory at the Millennium Stadium. (4)

SALFORD CITY REDS ... 10

Huddersfield Giants 36



Giants one step closer to dream

By **CHRIS ROBERTS**
Sports Reporter

IN-FORM Huddersfield Giants' dream of a second successive Challenge Cup final is very much alive



Coach Jon Sharp's side last night destroyed Salford at The Willows to move into the quarter-final for the third time in four years.

Their 36-10 triumph underlined the gulf in class between the two teams, with attention now turning to Tuesday's last-eight draw, which will be broadcast live by BBC News 24 at 4.45pm.

It means Huddersfield are just two games away from following up last season's first final appearance in 44 years against St Helens at Twickenham with a trip to the new Wembley on August 25.

But for now, Sharp is refusing to get too carried away.

"We're all delighted to get into the quarter-finals again, and for a whole host of reasons," said Sharp.

"Obviously, it's great because it keeps our dream of getting to the final again alive.

"But it's also helped us make it eight wins on the trot, and it's important to have kept that winning momentum.

"It's never easy at The Willows, but I think we handled it superbly, and all credit to the players for that."

"We can now look forward to the draw and, to be honest, I don't really mind who we get in the next round."

"I'm pretty confident with what we're doing right now, but we know whoever we get it'll be tough, because there are only good teams left in the competition at this stage."

"And we can't afford to dwell too long on the Cup because we've got a big Super League game ahead of us next Friday."

It's Bradford Bulls at home, and that will give us a good benchmark of where we are at.

"That has to be our main focus now."

"But we'll be using this performance last night as something to build on."

"I thought we were excellent in the second half, and that was on the back of a solid first-half showing. We'll need to do that against the Bulls."



■ I WANT TO BREAK FREE! Robbie Paul evades the challenge of Salford's Mark Edmondson to set up another attack during Huddersfield's impressive Cup triumph at a wet Willows last night. (19/8-17/07)

PUMP IT UP!

Fans can swing it

IN-FORM captain Chris Thorman is calling on the Giants fans to be their 'extra man' in tonight's Galpharm Stadium Super League showdown against Bradford Bulls (8.00).

By CHRIS ROBERTS
Sports Reporter

support gave the players a big lift.

And he is hoping they can do something similar tonight as Huddersfield seek a first Super League win over Bradford Bulls after 20 failed attempts.

Their latest was a highly convincing 36-10 Challenge Cup triumph at Salford a week ago.

Well over 1,000 fans made the trip to The Willows last Friday, with Thorman admitting their vocal

was monumental. I've never known anything like it for an away game for the Giants."

"We had more fans than Salford and they never stopped singing.

Turn to Page 44



■ GETTING TO GRIPS: Giants star Paul Reilly squares up to former teammate, the Bradford Bulls utility back Marcus St Hilaire, ahead of tonight's Galpharm clash



■ IT'S JAMMER AND HIS HAMMER!: it was a great idea of the Giants' marketing team to get the inflatable Jammer Hammers for tonight's game against the Bulls. As everyone knows, Jahmal Lolei has a big head, and to produce these inflatables in honour of his big 'hammer hits' has swollen it even more! But, with the way he's been playing, I think we can all forgive him

WE'VE DONE IT!

Long wait now over

By CHRIS ROBERTS
Sports Reporter

DELIGHTED Giants coach Jon Sharp hailed his Huddersfield heroes for securing a first Super League victory over Bradford Bulls.

And he immediately dedicated the 36-12 Galpharm triumph to his coaching staff.

Last night's win was the Giants' first over the Bulls in 21 Super League attempts and took Sharp's side up to fourth in the table, ahead of Wigan Warriors on points difference.

It also made it seven top-flight triumphs on the trot – the winning run is now nine with the two Challenge Cup successes – and Sharp was delighted on a number of fronts.

"I thought it was our best performance for a whole host of reasons, not least because we came up against a really good team that were very motivated and proud of a record that has stood for so long," said Sharp, whose side were chasing their first win in 23 League encounters over last night's rivals, dating back to 1972, and a first win overall against them since 1980.

"I know this horrible record against Bradford has been an issue for the people who have been at this club a while. And I hope they were able to enjoy a glass of red wine last night and really celebrate.

"But for ourselves we were very much focused on what we needed to do. We played pretty well and looked like a team that is smooth and in a rich vein of form.

"However, while it's me who is here taking the plaudits, I think it is vitally important to acknowledge the magnificent work done by my coaching staff.



Super League table

20 Heats	P	W	D	L	P	A	Pts
Salford	15	10	0	4	249	245	510
Wigan	14	9	0	5	242	232	48
Widnes	14	7	0	7	215	229	14
Warrington	13	6	0	7	204	211	12
Hull FC	13	6	0	7	205	200	10
Widnes	14	6	0	8	201	202	11
Warrington	13	5	1	7	201	200	11
Widnes	13	5	1	7	201	202	11
Bradford	13	5	1	7	204	212	7

"Keiron Purtill, Paul Anderson and Ben Cooper stood strong and tall in the face of adversity at the start of the season and are now reaping the rewards.

"So I would publicly like to dedicate this victory to them.

"It's amazing to think we're now up to fourth in the League table when you think of the start we made, but we still want to do better!"

● Match report and pictures – Pages 42 & 43.

Huddersfield Giants 36

Bradford Bulls 12

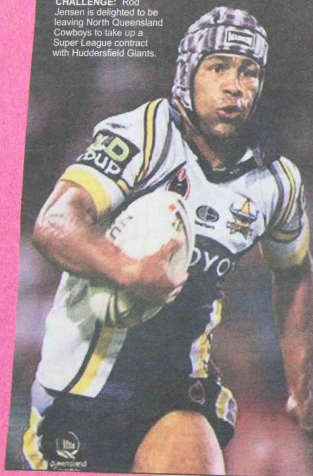


■ THE LOOKS SAY IT ALL!: the smile on the face of Jahmal Lolei as he joins in the celebrations after Stephen Wild had scored the Giants' opening try is in total contrast to that of former Huddersfield and now Bradford Bulls centre James Evans



■ OH NO YOU DON'T: the Salford defence works overtime to halt an early raid by Ryan Hudson. It was a scene that was to be repeated over and over again at The Willows. Pictures by Peter Cottle

■ **RELEASING THE CHALLENGE:** Rod Jensen is delighted to be leaving North Queensland Cowboys to take up a Super League contract with Huddersfield Giants.



New signing ... Rod Jensen, 28, has been signed by Huddersfield Giants. He may make his debut as early as next Sunday at Hull FC.



■ **HERE AT LAST:** Giants signing Rod Jensen gets a first look at the Galpharm Stadium. Picture by Andrew Catchpool

By **CHRIS ROBERTS**
Sports Reporter

ROCKET Rod Jensen has finally landed at the Giants!

After a chase that lasted for three years, the 28-year-old former North Queensland Cowboy has taken his first look at the Galpharm Stadium.

The Australian jetted into town yesterday and immediately declared himself available for Sunday's big Powergen Challenge Cup clash at Bradford Bulls (2.15).

And if he does get the nod, it will bring to an end an incredibly long wait for the Giants to get their man.

"I suppose it's a case of better late than never," declared Jensen.

Give me Cup place pleads the Rocket

"The Giants wanted to get me over here a few years ago, but there was no quota spot available for me at the time.

"I was disappointed about that, because I've always dreamed of playing in England at some stage in my career.

"But I never gave up hope that one

day I would become a Giant. And now I'm here it feels fantastic!

"I hadn't been happy for a while at the Cowboys, because of all the re-shuffling that was taking place in Australia.

"You just didn't know what the future might hold for you.

"I was still playing regularly, but

with all the uncertainty, I felt now might be ideal to make my move.

"Fortunately, the Giants' interest in me remained, so here I am!

"I've been here only a day, but everyone has made me so welcome, and I'm already proud to call the Galpharm Stadium 'home'.

"I just can't wait to make my debut.

"The utility player needs to impress at training today to put himself in with a shout of playing against the Bulls.

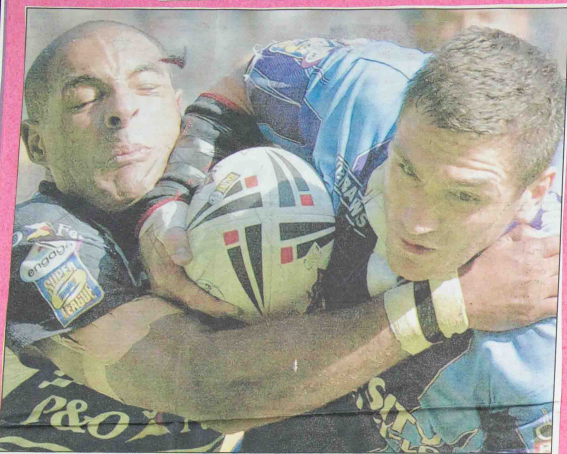
But he believes he's ready.

"I feel fresh after my journey and my fitness is good," he added.

"I've already spoken to the coaching staff about being available to play. I would be ready for the challenge."

Hull FC 9

Giants 9



■ HEIGHT OF BATTLE: Hull's Gareth Raynor gets to grips with Giants man Stephen Wild during yesterday's closely-fought clash at the KC Stadium which ended in controversy when Jon Sharp's side were denied what seemed a kickable penalty. (KICK) © PHOTODISC



CRUELLY DENIED



ON
THE
UP!

Giants climb
off bottom slot

STORY - BACK PAGE & 41, 45, 46

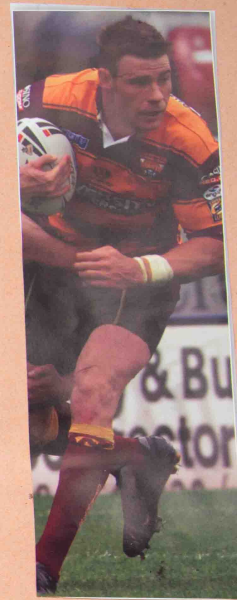
- 1 Keiron Cunningham
- 2 Lesley Vainikolo
- 3 Paul Scullthorpe
- 4 Paul Newkome
- 5 Robbie Paul
- 6 Andy Farrell
- 7 Jamie Peacock
- 8 Sean Long
- 9 Chris Hoythya
- 10 Shortayne Hape
- 11 James Loves
- 12 Jamie Lyon
- 13 Iestyn Harris
- 14 Paul Wellens
- 15 Keith Senior
- 16 Gary Connolly
- 17 Adrian Morley
- 18 Paul Deason
- 19 Jason Smith
- 20 Kris Radlinski
- 21 Bobbie Goulding
- 22 Paul Cooke
- 23 Richie Barnett
- 24 Leon Pryce
- 25 David Solomon
- 26 Stuart Fielden
- 27 Tommy Marlyn
- 28 Henry Paul
- 29 Jason Robinson
- 30 James Roby
- 31 Trent Barrett
- 32 Peter Gill
- 33 Darren Albert
- 34 Paul Anderson
- 35 Adrian Vowles
- 36 Lee Briers
- 37 Kevin Sinfield
- 38 Graeme Brodley
- 39 Brad Drew
- 40 David Fairleigh
- 41 Richard Swain
- 42 Danny Nutley
- 43 Stanley Gene
- 44 Andrew Durnment
- 45 Terry Matterson
- 46 Ferret Tullagi
- 47 Mark McLinden
- 48 Stacey Jones
- 49 Lee Gilmour



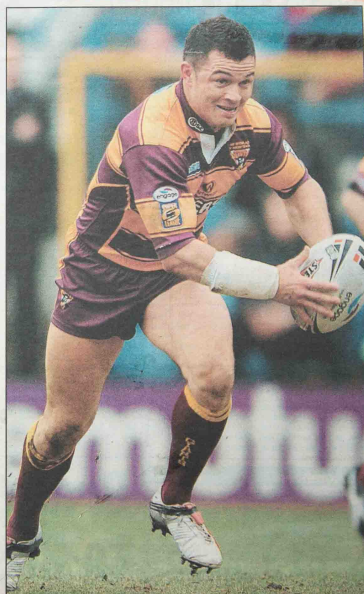
■ OFFICIAL RECOGNITION: (above, from left) Chris Thorman, Stanley Gene and Brad Drew and below, from left) Brandon Costin, Paul Rowley and Bobbie Goulding are all classed as being among the top 100 players in Super League



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 50 Andrew Johns | 67 Terry O'Connor | 84 Dennis Moran |
| 51 Brandon Costin | 68 Brad Godden | 85 Brad Davis |
| 52 Brett Dallas | 69 Chris Thorman | 86 Tevita Vaikona |
| 53 Jon Wilkin | 70 Willis Takau | 87 Brian McDermott |
| 54 Allan Langer | 71 Brian Carney | 88 Willie Poching |
| 55 Jim Dymock | 72 Danny McGuire | 89 Steve Prescott |
| 56 David Furner | 73 Gareth Ellis | 90 Steve Prescott |
| 57 Rob Burrow | 74 Rob Purtham | 91 Richard Horne |
| 58 Adrian Lam | 75 Paul Johnson | 92 Anthony Sullivan |
| 59 Kevin Iro | 76 Maurice Fa'asavalu | 93 Jamie Rooney |
| 60 Terry Newton | 77 Stephen Kearney | 94 Chris Chester |
| 61 Martin Gleeson | 78 Barrie McDermott | 95 Tony Martin |
| 62 Malcolm Anker | 79 Apollo Perelini | 96 Paul Rowley |
| 63 Mick Cassidy | 80 Steele Retchless | 97 Michael Dobszoff |
| 64 Mickey Higham | 81 Ben Jeffries | 98 Tony Grimaldi |
| 65 Marc Glanville | 82 Steve Molloy | 99 Danny Peacock |
| 66 Shaun Edwards | 83 Stuart Spruce | 100 Tony Smith |
| | | 100 Freddie Mee |



SHANE ELFORD



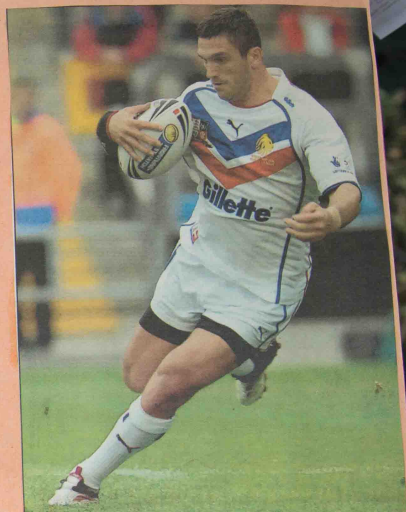


■ **SO NEAR, YET SO FAR:** Stephen Wild races away towards the Leeds line, until chasing winger Scott Donald came across and produced a superb try-saving tackle. Unfortunately for the Giants man, if it had been any other player he wouldn't have been stopped

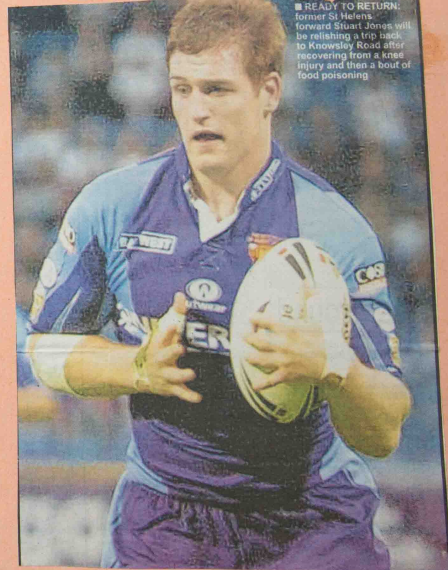
Giants 12 Rhinos 25



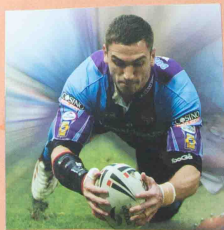
■ **LEADING BY EXAMPLE:** John Skandall (above) and Kevin Brown (below) were both at the forefront of the Giants' challenge against Leeds



■ **RAMPANT LION:** Giants star Stephen Wild in the colours of Great Britain as they defeated France 42-14 at Headingley last night
Picture: John Rushworth

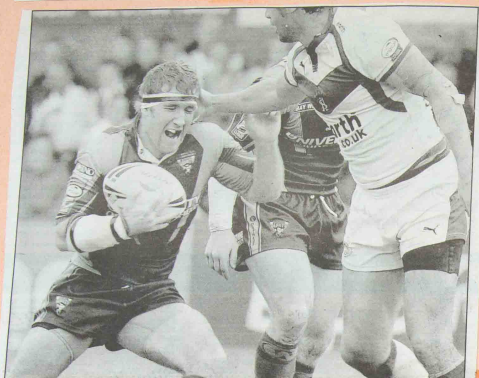


■ **READY TO RETURN:** former Six Nations forward Stuart Jones will be relishing a trip back to Knovsley Road after recovering from a knee injury and then a bout of food poisoning



Saints ... 54

Giants ... 4



■ EAR WE GO: Ryan Hudson is halted by a high hand from a Saints defender

PC100607Agians-8



■ RECEPTION COMMITTEE: Giants' full back Chris Thorman can find no way through the Saints' defensive line

PC100607Agians-7

Rovers ... 25

Giants ... 24



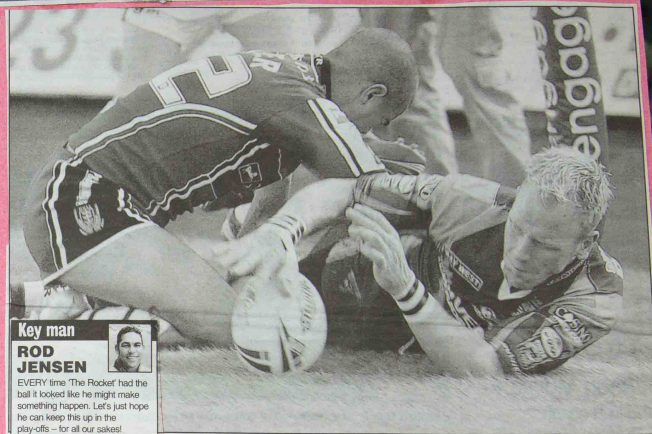
■ ON HIS WAY: Rod Jensen races in for his second try at Hull KR (AC150907Agians15)

Key man

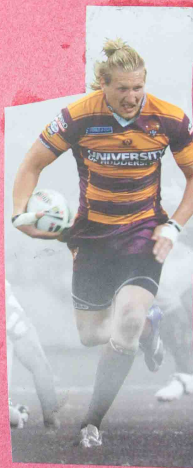
ROD JENSEN

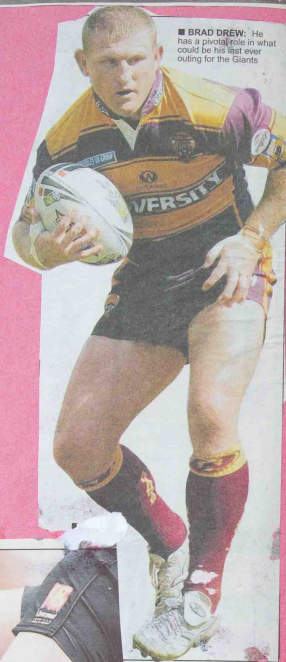


EVERY time 'The Rocker' had the ball it looked like he might make something happen. Let's just hope he can keep this up in the play-offs - for all our sakes!



PLEASURE AND THE PAIN Paul Reilly plants the ball over the tryline for the Giants' first try at Hull KR (above), but suffered injury in the process (below) (AC150907Agians37)

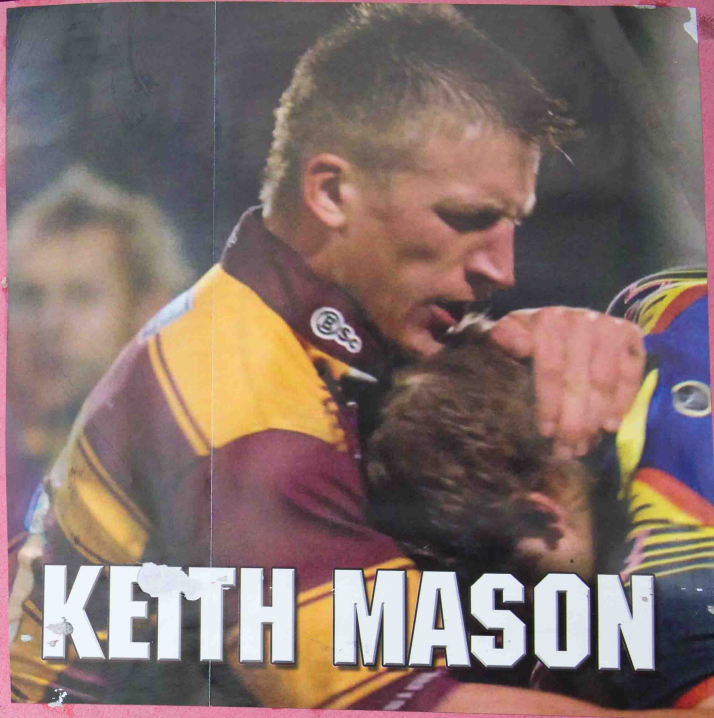




■ BRAD DREW: He has a pivotal role in what could be his last ever outing for the Giants



■ TOUCH DOWN: Brad Drew stretches out to score his try early in the second half which helped the Giants bring it back to 26-12. But it was to be the final ray of hope for the under-performing Giants
AC080707Bgiants41



KETH MASON



Baloo's a big figure

I HAVE to admit that when it was first said that Paul Anderson might be playing at the weekend there was a bit of a snigger round the dressing room.

But that was only banter as we all know just what he would have done for us had he been given the chance to play.

To be honest the guy is just immovable.

And Baloo (pictured left) would have been more than up to it.

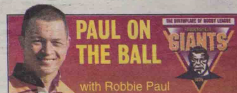
Like a lot of players who are only one year out of the game, he is tremendously fit.

It is just one of those things that when you have been so used to training hard everyday that, even though you are not playing, you cannot give it up.

He stepped out of playing last season with St Helens after having one of his best seasons - he truly bowled out at the top.

And to have him on board has been fantastic for the Giants.

There is no way that you cannot respect the guy. He demands respect, over his career he has earned respect and he is just such a big presence.



Front-row is perhaps the only specialised position left in the game and I know that Eori Crabtree, Andy Raleigh and Darrell Griffin have all made so much progress since Baloo came to the club.

He pays a lot of attention to detail and when it comes down to it, whether it is the youngsters coming through at the club or the first-teamers, you have got to listen to someone who has won all those honours.

But Baloo has so much he can hand on.

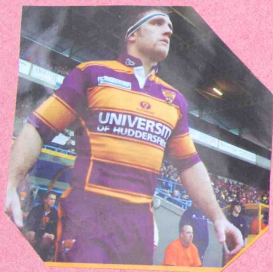
He is an international, he has all the big game experience and he has had such a successful career he has been able to add so much to what we do.



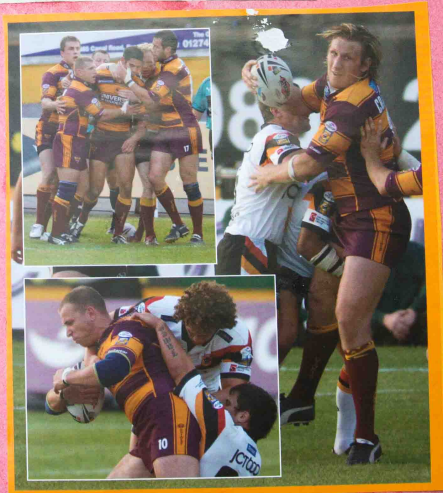
JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT: Ryan Hudson (left) and Robbie Paul (centre) congratulate Darrell Griffin after the big prop scored his first try of the season in yesterday's 42-22 triumph over Catalans Dragons at the Galpharm. The win took Jon Sharp's side back into the top six ahead of Friday's trip to Wigan.
Picture by Peter Cottle (PC050807giants-17)



SCORCHER: in-form Giants half-back Robbie Paul breaks clear of the Catalans defence to set up another break (PC050807giants-17)



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LOLESI LEADS



■ **GOLDEN MOMENT:** Jamahl Lolesi crosses for his hat trick try in the stunning Super League victory over Bradford Bulls, with Giants teammate Paul Reilly (right) leading the celebrations. Inset: the scoreboard highlights a superb success. Pictures by Paul Welch (@wv190807/Agents-16)

GIANTS	26
BULLS	22
TIME	4:43

Giants ... 26

Bulls ... 22



■ **WHAT A FEELING!** a delighted Jamahl Lolesi raises his fist in delight after completing a stunning hat trick in the 26-22 Super League victory over Bradford Bulls at the Galpharm Stadium yesterday, with teammates Rod Jensen (left) and Stephen Wild on hand to offer their congratulations. Picture by Paul Welch (@wv190807/Agents-16)

Warrington Wolves ... 22

Huddersfield Giants ... 34

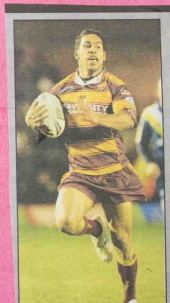


■ **CROWDED OUT:** Warrington's defence deals with a raid by Paul Jackson. Pictures by Peter Cottie (@c1508/Agents-16)

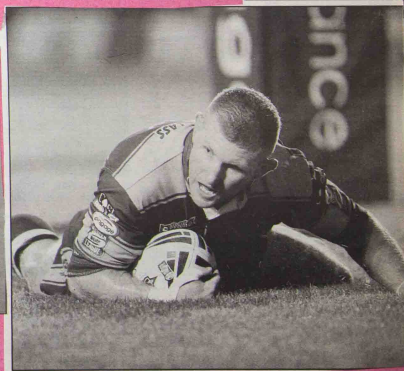
Key man
BRAD DREW



THIS was a team performance par excellence and picking out one player seems a bit tough. But Drew has to get the nod as his probing and prompting ensured the Giants were always dangerous and the Wolves nervous.



■ **YOU CAN'T CATCH ME:** Rod Jensen goes the length of the field for his try. (PC310607/Agents-16)



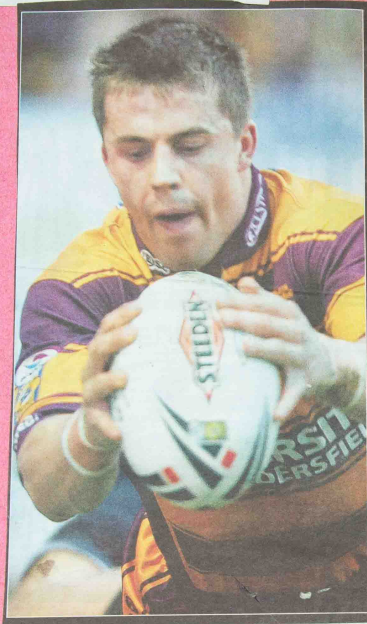
↑ celebration ... Giants' star Paul Reilly enjoys the success over Wakefield Trinity

Giants in play-off spot for first time

ASPY GETS DEAL



■ **THE PAIN GAME:** Giants prop Keith Mason sums up the frustration of his side as last year's beaten Challenge Cup finalists are sent crashing out of the quarter-final stage at Bradford Bulls yesterday



■ **MARTIN ASPINWALL** will remain at the Giants until the end of 2010.

Huddersfield have confirmed today the powerful 25-year-old (pictured) has signed a three-year contract extension.

The former Wigan ace is regarded as one of the best wingers in the game and would have been in great demand had he become available.

But Giants coach Jon Sharp is delighted he will be staying at the Galpharm, and is confident he will soon be back in the Great Britain fold.

"It's fantastic we've been able to hold on to one of the best wingers in the game," said Sharp.

"And I'm proud to have got

By **CHRIS ROBERTS**
Rugby League Writer

him on board for the next three years. As far as I'm concerned there's no better player at returning kicks than Martin, because he possesses such great strength.

"He's also quick enough to finish and is very hard to stop close to the line.

"I don't think there's any doubt we missed him at the beginning of the season when his groin injury kept him out for longer than we would have wished.

"But he returned to us stronger than ever, and I'm sure he'll soon be back in the Great Britain set-up."

● Sharp column - Page 40.



■ **BRIGHT SPOT:** Chris Nero beats the despairing last-ditch tackle of Bradford Bulls' Michael Platt to score the Giants' only first half try. It made it 18-4, which is as close as Huddersfield got to winning a third Challenge Cup semi-final in four years. Pictures by Julian Hughes



■ **EARLY RETURN:** Paul Jackson has shaken off a knee problem and could face the Wolves at the Halliwell Jones Stadium tonight