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BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE DEAN FROM THE HUDDERSFIELD RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Association was formed in 1980 and has over 200 members.

Its objects are to maintain interest in Huddersfield Rugby League Club and the game in general and to help any members who require financial aid or other need, which is granted through the discretion of the committee.

The Association's main event is the Annual Dinner which is held each year at the Pennine Hilton Hotel, Ainley Top, near Huddersfield.

Another regular event is the Annual Crown Green Bowling Handicap, which takes place at Cowcliffe Liberal Club, Huddersfield.

The Association also run at least one breakfast trip to a Rugby League game each year.

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FARTOWN & THE FLYERS -- GOING PLACES

DEAN MOUNTAIN

By Ian Laybourn, of the Huddersfield Daily Examiner

When Dean burst onto the Rugby League scene in 1983, he was destined to reach the very top.

He experienced a fairy tale rise to prominence, playing in the final as a teenage and gaining international representative honours at Colts and U21 level.

That circumstances and ultimately injury, should take a cruel hand was a blow not only to the player but to the game as a whole, shorn as it is of the ball playing skills of which Dean was an accomplished practitioner.

Strangely, 'soccer was Dean's first love and it was not until he was 15 that he picked up a rugby ball in earnest for the first time, and that in a Rugby League hotbed.

He played for Stanley Rangers and Castleford Juniors before signing for Castleford on his 17th birthday.

Within 12 months, he achieved more than many players achieve in a lifetime, as he turned out in three finals in the space of a fortnight - the "A" team top four play off, the Colts challenge cup, (in which he was the Jim Challinor man of the match), and the 1984 Premiership.

Forward substitute in that Premiership decider at Headingley, he was forced to sit and watch as Castleford let slip an 8-0 interval lead against Hull K.R. and eventually go down 18-10 in front of a 12,000 crowd but it was an experience he will never forget

The Cas' line-up included Kevin Ward, Tony Marchant, Bob Beardmore and John Joyner while the Robins had such as George Fairbairn, Mike Smith, John Dorahy and Paul Harkin on duty.

Highly thought of by coach Mal Reilly, he was a regular member of the Castleford first team squad from 1985 to 1988, making 49 appearances albeit 32 of them as substitute.

It was after the arrival of Australian Darryl Van de Velde in 1988 that Dean's career took a decisive turn.

He joined the police force, and with night shifts, this naturally restricted the time available for normal training sessions.

Under Van de Velde's strict no-train no-play policy, Dean's future at the club was placed under strain and it was with a great deal of regret that he eventually left Wheldon Road.

Gary Stephens, another Castleford lad who was in the process of building a progressive team at the newly named Ryedale-York, snapped up the forward in a deal that took winger St John Elles to Wheldon Road, but his availability had caught the imagination of other coaches too.

Nigel Stephenson, spearheading a revival at Fartown, managed to obtain his services on loan during the 1989-90 season but any prospect of a permanent deal appeared to disappear when Stephenson resigned towards the end of that season as the fartowners' fortunes went sadly downhill.

Former Bradford Northern coach Barry Seabourne took over the Huddersfield reins and, remembering Dean's exploits for his old county Colts team, made Mountain the first major signing of his rebuilding programme.

Dean's younger brother Gray followed him to Fartown and there were high hopes that the pair would team up in the Huddersfield first team.

Injury, of course, put an end to those hopes one Friday night in January, when Dean - making a comeback from a broken thumb in the "A" team - suffered severed cruciate knee ligaments in an innocuous - looking tackle.

APPEARANCES

CASTLEFORD

1983/84	0 + 2		
1984/85	1 + 1		
1985/86	11 + 13	3	12
1986/87	4 + 12	1	4
1987/88	1 + 4		
1988/89	--		
TOTAL	17 + 32	4	16

RYEDALE YORK

1989/90	5		
TOTAL	5		

HUDDERSFIELD

1989/90	3 + 1
1990/91	5 + 3
TOTAL	8 + 4

IN CONVERSATION WITH DEAN MOUNTAIN

Dean Mountain was 14 years old when he first donned a pair of rugby boots, playing for the Stanley Rangers junior club in Wakefield. After a successful spell playing for Rangers Dean was snapped up by Castleford who at that time ran an under 17 team competing in what was then the Rugby Football League's junior competition for professional clubs.

At that time the Castleford youth team were in Dean's own words "the best in the game". No fewer than 7 members of that team were to turn professional, including Chris Chapman, Martin Spears, Craig Howes and of course Dean himself.

The reorganisation of youth rugby which was taking place at the time meant that the Cas U17 team progressed into the B.A.R.L.A U18 league whilst being a good quality league, Dean pulls no punches in saying, "it was no where near as well organised as the R.F.L controlled U17 league had been".

It is surprising yet true that despite being brought up in what is one of Rugby League's strongest hotbeds, Dean never had the opportunity to play League at school for as Dean says. "There was never any question of playing League, they only ever ran Union teams".

The first representative honour to come Dean's way was a call up for the B.A.R.L.A., Yorkshire, U17 team. This was quickly followed by selection for Yorkshire Colts and finally a place in the Great Britain . Colts team for two internationals against France. A copy of the letter informing Dean of his selection for Great Britain is reprinted elsewhere in this booklet.

In the Lancashire v Yorkshire Colts game at Swinton Dean had an outstanding game and took the £25 man of the match award.

"It was one of those games where you just can't do anything wrong, even when I did things I had no right to get anything out of I came up on top" remembers Dean.

The coach of that 1983/84 Yorkshire, Colts side was Barry Seabourne, who was to bring Dean to Huddersfield six years later. Well known coaches were never far away during Dean's tragically brief career, Maurice Bamford being coach to the Great Britain, Colts in which Dean played and his club coach at Castleford was none other than the current Great Britain coach, Malcolm Reilly.

It is as a player that Dean most fondly remembers Reilly however, when he says. "I was fortunate enough to play alongside Mal' in the old game right at the end of his career at Cas', but even then the bloke oozed class. He was definitely the best player I had the fortune to play alongside."

Another former Castleford, Loose Forward who Dean regards highly is Steve Norton, Describing him as "the player I most admired and I once played against him at The Boulevard."

That encounter at the Boulevard also goes down as Dean's most memorable game. "It was:the 1985 Premiership Semi Final. We had beaten Widnes in the first round and went to Hull as underdogs, no one came away from The Boulevard with much in those days. On the day we clicked and they didn't, it was as simple as that."

Dean was named as forward substitute in the final against Hull K R at Headingley but recalls that he was forced to watch the entire game from the bench. Dean looks back on the day unselfishly when he admits, "it was frustrating not to be able to get on to the pitch but our pack was doing all that could be expected of them so I couldn't expect the coach to bring any of them off." This comment is typical of the sort of bloke Dean is, always prepared to think of someone else in the face of his own disappointment.

A year later and the story was just the same in the 1986 Challenge Cup. Wigan had been beaten in the quarter final and Oldham in the semi, so it was off to Wembley for the final but there was to be more disappointment for Dean who was left out of the team, Stuart Horton getting the vote instead. Once again there is no sign of bitterness as Dean reflects on coming so close to achieving what so many strive for but so few gain, an appearance in the cup final at Wembley. "Stuart deserved a place in the team a lot more than I did, it would have been a real injustice had I been picked in front of him."

The following season saw Dean progress steadily until he took a decision which was to have a major effect on his career. "I decided that it was time to add some security to my life so I applied to join the police force. The only trouble was that the shifts I had to work interfered with my training schedules at Cas' and rightly or wrongly it meant I was no longer considered for regular first team rugby."

Dean admits to being envious of the players who now enjoy full time status, thus providing the kind of security which he had to find outside the game. "I would have loved the opportunity to be full time, I know some people are against full time professionalism in the game but providing the clubs can afford it I think it is the way to go."

At the moment Dean is out of the game completely, spending what spare time he has with his family. "The shift working really doesn't help, there is little point me taking up a coaching post with a junior club when I know I can't commit myself to two evenings a week plus Saturday afternoons on a regular basis."

Whilst Dean would like to get into coaching eventually, he confesses to being a committed family man at the moment. "I got married in April 1988 to Michelle and two years ago we had a little girl, Joanne. "I have come to terms with being out of the game now and it is nice being able to devote what spare time I have to Michelle and Joanne."

"To be honest I don't go to all that many games now, it gets to me a bit watching a game and thinking, I could be out there and if I was I would do that differently." He says "my main sporting activity now is a game of golf which I play off a handicap of about 12 on a good day or 20 on a bad one."

When asked about the issues in the game today which concerned him most, Dean was quite forthright about his views on refereeing, "a bad one can cost you and your club a game, a trophy, and a lot of money." He is not happy with the use of video evidence however, saying "the refs. decision should be final, the League should have the confidence in its refs. to be able to make disciplinary decisions on the basis of a refs. report."

The head high tackle must be got out of the game says Dean. "There is no place in the game for blokes who go out there and resort to the use of the head high tackle. The bans they get should reflect the serious nature of the offence they have committed."

Dean feels the game has become unbelievably fast even since he started playing but when asked if he felt 3 divisions was helping this process he pledged his allegiance to a 2 division system. If this meant having fewer clubs would he still give it his support? "I can see little point of having teams in the League just for the sake of them being there, they have to be able to maintain a certain degree of competitiveness in order to warrant their existence."

Whilst it is easy to accuse the big clubs of being greedy Dean comes to their support when he says "you can't get away from the fact that it is the big clubs who bring the money into the game."

"The amalgamation of some clubs makes sense but clubs who are seen to be helping themselves to maintain their own identities should be given support by the League," he urges.

In reflecting on his own career Dean is equally conscious of the self help ethic. "I should have been more dedicated, having made the Cas' first 13 I just expected things to happen and they don't, you have to make them happen. If I had put more in for example perhaps it would have been me who deserved selection for the Wembley team, as it was I had to make do with assisting Rob Hill of Radio Leeds with his station's coverage." (A letter from Ron Hill to Dean following the game is printed elsewhere in the booklet.)

Dean feels that rising to the top level in the game so early may have been a drawback. "At 18 I may have been too young to handle being given a place in the first team," though he puts getting there down to support of his mum and dad.

"The trouble was once I got into the first team I thought that was the hard work over. Only when it's too late do you think if only I'd put more into it at that stage." Dean now recognises the sign he missed as a teenager. "A coach only picks you if he thinks you're good enough and that should be motivation in itself."

I asked Dean about Britain's prospects in this summer's tour and at the time of the interview, back in April he was in no doubt that we would beat the Aussies. He thought however that a lot would depend on the form of Lee Crooks, Shaun Edwards and Ellery Hanley.

Of the current crop of top players he also rates Jonathon Davies, "out of this world," Dean describes him.

Dean's first playing position was 2nd row and he also gives that as his favourite position. As for his least, that has to be blind side prop he says, "propping down at number 10 seems to me a lost cause. Equally driving a ball in to three oncoming players strikes me as being neither use nor ornament though I suppose someone [else] has to do it. What I used to enjoy most was running out wide and laying the ball off to

someone in a bit of space, seeing a move which you have started develop into an attack or even a score gives you a real kick."

I persuaded Dean to share his most embarrassing moment during his career, which he relates, "happened in a cup prelim at The Boulevard against West Hull. I was on the bench and the coach told me to get ready to go on, I got up and started to warm up along the touch line but didn't notice that my boot lace was undone, as I turned to come back up in front of the main stand I tripped over and fell flat on my face to the delight of the 4,000 crowd."

I suggested to Dean that it might be an idea to take up refereeing in the future but he responded by saying quite simply "I'm not hard faced enough."

Dean has many fond memories of his playing days, in fact he admits to having at least one for every knock he took.

David Hallas

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Huddersfield..... 14
Castleford..... 42
Six of the Castleford team on duty had also been in action the previous night with the 'A' team, and the Fartowners can be thankful that half-dozen tired in the second half, or the slaughter would have been bigger.
League leaders Castleford made mistakes

in the early part but improved eventually and Huddersfield found it hard to deal with the strong running of second-row duo Phil Payne and Colin Bibb.

Colts League

Eight in a row

The visitors also made full use of having the conditions to help them in the first half, to build up a good 28-4 lead — the only worry being a jaw

injury to Craig Howes. Greatbatch (two), Magyar, Mountain, Payne, Bibb, Marchant and McCarthy shared the tries and Mountain tagged on five goals.

Fullback Darrel Law performed his defensive duties very well as Castleford had to overcome a scrum deficiency. Billy Marchant also caught the eye at loose forward with several penetrating breaks.

It was only the second defeat this season for Huddersfield as Castleford made it eight wins in a row.

Colts League

Runaway win

Castleford 52
Bramley 12
THE home outfit overcame an early slipshod spell, in which they opened the scoring only to allow Bramley to take the lead, to pile up the points and register a runaway win.

Castleford, with hooker Stuart Horton operating at scrum-half, were guilty of wasting possession and missing tackles in that early anxiety, but when prop David Martin raced through for a magnificent try from his own half, the one-way traffic started.

Tries came at regular intervals as the result of good handling and backing up, and Castleford were assured of victory by half-time when they had built a 21-7 lead.

John Magyar, Jack McLeary, Ian Fletcher and Andrew Gascoigne all bagged a brace of tries, and the rest were shared by Phil Crewe, Martin Ketteridge, Martin and Dean Mountain.

Both Tommy Fenton and Mountain chipped in with four goals apiece.



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Biggest win of the season

Salford..... 0
Castleford..... 88
IT was all so easy for classy Castleford as they powered to their biggest win of the season with a 16-try display.

They mastered tricky conditions to take a 44-0 interval lead and they doubled the score in the second-half which was reduced to 22 minutes to save Salford further embarrassment.

Ball-handling loose-forward Billy Marchant scored two tries and set up numerous others with his creative skill and winger Neil Greatbatch collected four touchdowns from just five passes.

Greatbatch showed lethal finishing by scoring all his tries with lengthy runs.

Other try scorers were winger Chris Chapman (two), second-rower Martin Ketteridge (two), full-back Phil Payne, centre Tony Spears, stand-off Ian Hardisty, scrum-half Craig Howes, prop Dean Mountain, and prop Ian Fletcher.

Mountain and Ketteridge landed six goals apiece.

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I would just like to thank you personally for the help you gave to me, which made my job far more relaxing. With your own disappointment to cope with, you still found time to have a chat and make me feel one of the party.

After being part of that great team effort which helped "Leeds" to a memorable victory, make sure this gives the incentive to improve your skills as you become more experienced. This has been a wonderful platform to build a very successful career on.

Listen to good advice from your parents and those who matter. I am looking forward to sharing your success - All The Very Best Dean.

Thank You Once Again

Yours Sincerely
Ron A. Hill



The Rugby Football League

180 Chapeltown Road Leeds LS7 4HT
Secretary : D.S. Oxley M.A.
Telephone 624637 Telegrams "Norfu" Leeds 7

RL/427/84
GAK/ELR

20 November 1984

Dear Sir

Re: Colts International - France v Great Britain
Saturday, 15 December 1984 at Aussillon

You have been selected to travel to France with the Great Britain Colts team for the above game. The team is as follows:-

- | | | |
|----|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | Loughlin, Paul | (St Helens) |
| 2 | Greatbach, Neil | (Castleford) |
| 3 | Allen, Shaun | (St Helens) |
| 4 | Wilson, Mark | (Leeds) |
| 5 | Chapman, Chris | (Castleford) |
| 6 | Edwards, Shaun | (Wigan) |
| 7 | Holden, Keith | (Wigan) |
| 8 | Mountain, Dean | (Castleford) |
| 9 | Puckering, Neil | (Hull) |
| 10 | Tomlinson, Alan | (Hull) |
| 11 | Dannatt, Andy | (Hull) |
| 12 | Gunn, Richard | (Leeds) |
| 13 | Divorty, Gary | (Hull) - Captain |
| 14 | Beazant, Darren | (Leigh) |
| 15 | Westhead, John | (Leigh) |
| 16 | Wilson, Chris | (Wigan) |

Please reply by return of post on the attached form that you are able to travel. If no reply is received from you within reasonable time, it will be assumed that you cannot play and your name will be substituted in the team.

A valid passport is required for the journey. If you have not got one, you will be reimbursed for the cost of a yearly passport if a receipt is submitted to this office in good time.

A full itinerary for the trip will be provided later but the party will assemble in Leeds on Wednesday, overnight in London, fly on Thursday to Toulouse, returning on Sunday, 16 December.

Travelling expenses based on second class railway fare will be paid to the point of assembly.

continued/.....



Coach Dennis Hartley and his young hopefuls get tuned up for the big occasion.

(C9345/1)

York Youth Cup Final

Clean sweep by pointers

Pointers.....37
Batley Boys..... 5

The Castleford side made it a clean sweep of trophies when they landed the Yorkshire Youth (Under-17) Cup at Wheldon Road last Friday (writes Brian Heseltine).

This youth side, sponsored by senior club Castleford, were a class above the Batley team, and, but for a period in the second half when starved of possession, they would have won by an even bigger margin. There were cracking tries but few will dispute which was best — the one in the sixth minute of the second half when, from their own half, Castleford handled superbly and backed up in great fashion before loose forward Dickinson made the touch down. Nerves played a big part in some early dithering handling from pointers, and it took them 13 minutes to end the deadlock, with centre Spears racing in for the first try.

Fullback Richard Hartley, followed with tries in the 17th and 25th minutes, and then ever-dangerous winger Greatbatch hurtled in when accepting a high pass. Left winger McCarthy collected one after 34 minutes and second-row forward Mountain kicked his third goal to make it 21-0 at haltime. Greatbatch and Dickenson were 'early second half scores, with Mountain adding goals to both, and then followed the "starvation" period when Pointers saw little of the ball. The Batley scrum half nipped in quickly from a scrum heel near the Pointers line and the goal was added. Greatbatch notched the next Pointers try and this was followed with one from centre John Blackburn, as he hugged the touchline to complete the scoring. Pointer Juniors — R. Hartley; Greatbatch, Spears, J. Blackburn, McCarthy; Howes, Waite; Summerscales, Capless, Blackburn, Mountain, Bibb, Dickinson. subs Cocks, Blankley.

Third time in final

Castleford will be appearing in their third Colts League Cup final when they face Hull at Elland Road on Saturday (12.35) as a curtain-raiser to the York-Wigan Challenge Cup semi-final.

The first time they reached this stage was in 1978 when they beat Wakefield Trinity 19-10 at Headingley, but three years later they crashed in a high-scoring game, 32-17 to Hull.

The Wheldon Road teenagers, under the coaching of Dennis Hartley, have carried all before them in the league this season and have beaten Hull away from home 16-2 in the league.

Their only reversal in fact was a shock 16-12 defeat at the hands of Bradford Northern, on Bonfire Night.

On their way to this final Castleford won 24-10 at Wakefield, thrashed St Helens

68-2 at home and triumphed 30-24 at Leigh in the semi-final.

There were no injury worries for them after the League win last weekend, and the side will be finalised from a 17 strong squad of: Payne, Laws, Greatbatch, Spears, Magyar, Chapman, Duxbury, Hardisty, Howes, McCarthy, Mountain, Capless, Fletcher, Bibb, M Campbell, Ketteridge and Marchant.

Yorkshire Youth League

IN an entertaining game at under 17 level, Pointer Panthers pulled off an 18-5 win at Travellers Saints in the Yorkshire Youth League.

Travellers led 10-8 with tries by Mick Daley and Chris Chapman and two Jon Sharp goals and Panthers were under the additional handicap of having Tony Spears sent off.

A try by Nicky Wragg and Sharp goal put Saints 15-13 ahead in the second period but Panthers cashed in on late pressure to turn the tables.

Colts Championship play-off

Grand Slam bid foiled

Castleford..... 20
Wigan..... 38

Castleford's hopes of achieving the "Grand Slam" came to an abrupt end at the first round of the top-eight championships play-off.

Without doubt their long programme had a telling effect for many players looked jaiced in the second half.

The home side were also at the receiving end of some unpleasant Wigan tactics, and a stronger referee would have taken quicker action.

In a rugged first half Wigan were penalised nine times for foul play, with one player being warned four times.

This ill feeling simmered until the second half when a free-for-all erupted and resulted in two Wigan players and Castleford's Magyar being sent off.

Dean Mountain opened the scoring with a penalty goal and there was more Castleford joy when Chapman put Howes in for a try, but the visitors replied with two tries in the corner.

A kind bounce when a penalty kick thundered

against a post, resulted in Spears scoring a try which Mountain improved. Wigan rallied again to lead 16-14 at half-time, Mountain collecting the other Castleford points with a penalty.

The forward was on target again in the second half to level the scores only for Wigan to grab a converted try in reply.

Then came a fortunate escape for the visitors as full back Payne, who otherwise had a faultless game, picked up a loose ball but on the point of scoring dropped it.

Castleford crumbled then as their stamina ran out and they shattered the home defence with several tries.

The final score was provided by Castleford, however, following Magyar's dismissal along with the Wigan duo, for Howes received deep in his own half and hurtled 90 yards for a spectacular try.

Castleford were without injured duo Ketteridge and Greatbatch for what turned out to be the last game of the season, while Marchant defied injury to play, and Spears was hurt during the match.

Eighth double

Castleford.....31
Huddersfield..... 0

A HALF-strength Castleford made mistakes galore, but they still shattered the visiting defence seven times as they registered their eighth double of the season.

Nearly all of the first half Huddersfield were pinned to their own '25' soaking up none stop pressure. Ketteridge opened the scoring with a tenth minute penalty and then forwards Bell and Ketteridge and centre McLeary worked a fine

move to send centre Chapman in for try.

The visitors managed to survive the next 13 minutes, but Castleford went stand-off Jones rounded off more fine handling for a try which Ketteridge goaled.

Four minutes after that Bell continued the blitz by charging over, and two minutes after that strong running Mountain swooped onto a pass to gallop over, Ketteridge adding the goal to make it 18-0 at the interval.

Castleford found it hard to produce the same effective

football in the second half, but when they did Jones raced in for two more tries and scrum half Horton one. Both Ketteridge and McLeary added goals.

Though Castleford cannot qualify for the top-four play-off now they can finish in fifth position if they win their remaining games — a remarkable performance when one realises they were beaten in their first four matches and lost three in a row in October.

Under-17 Cup

**Errors
cost
dear**

Pointer Panthers10
Lock Lane 0

Two handling mistakes near their own line - made to count to the full by Pointers - cost Lock Lane the Castleford Under 17 Cup at Fryston on Sunday.

On both occasions - one in each half - they dropped the ball and Pointers pounced to grab the tries that wrapped it up, with Dean Mountain kicking two goals.

Otherwise the game was an even affair, with plenty of strong tackling from both sides, although Lock Lane themselves never looked like scoring as they lacked the composure near the Panthers' line. Nevertheless they did have two of the outstanding individuals, prop Iain Cockerham and man of the match Wayne Fenton.

Castleford clinch Colts cup

CASTLEFORD confirmed their position as the out standing Colts team with a 24-11 Challenge Cup final win over Hull in a curtain-raiser before yesterday's senior game at Craven Park (writes RAYMOND FLETCHER).

There was a powerful performance from Mountain, Castleford's big prop, who charged over for two tries to win the Jim Challinor Trophy as man-of-the-match.

The turning point came in the 56th minute when Chapman swerved in and out over 50 yards for a wing try to put Castleford 16-11 in front.

Hull's tries went to Eastwood and Collinson.

Colts on a spree

Castleford.....68
St Helens..... 2

Tries came at regular intervals after the opening ten minutes of this second round cup-tie, and by half-time Castleford were ahead 46-2.

The visiting defence crumbled as the home pack dominated and backed up well and when Saints were subdued the backs joined the frolics.

Chris Chapman, Tony Spears and Neil Greatbatch all scored a brace of tries and the other touchdowns were shared by Phil Payne, Dean Mountain, Mark Campbell, Ian Fletcher, Colin Bibb, and Martin Ketteridge, who also kicked 10 goals.

Billy Marchant, Dean Mountain and Mark Campbell set a fine lead in the pack and Payne impressed at fullback.

Colts League

Third win

Castleford.....32
Leeds.....12

This was Castleford's third win of the new season, in as many matches, and if the forwards had given their classy backs a better service the victory would have been by an even bigger margin (writes Brian Haseltine).

Two penalty goals by Ketteridge gave the home squad the early tonic they needed, and when impressive centre Magyar carved his way in for a try in the 16th minute everything pointed towards a runaway triumph.

Leeds answered with a scrambled try, which appeared to have been halted short of the line, but Castleford hit back before half-time with Spears dashing in on the right, with Ketteridge goaling. Spears struck again in the early stages of the second half to widen the gap and nine minutes after that Mountain used his strength to crash over, with this time Andrew Hartley landing the goal. In a period of slack defensive work by the home side Leeds scored again, but it was tit-for-tat for the rest of the game, and after Leeds had notched another, substitute Law divided in near the end to complete the scoring.

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Colts League

Seven wins in a row

Castleford.....62
Barrow.....15
SUPERB handling and backing up earned the league leaders 11 tries as they stretched their unbeaten to seven (writes Brian Heselstine).

Travel weary Barrow opened the scoring with a penalty in the first minute but from the moment Castleford collected their first try through Chapman it became a matter of just how big a winning margin the home squad would enjoy. Some

powerful running from Fletcher and blind-side prop Howes, who has played scum half more than once this season, had the Barrow tacklers working overtime. By half-time the home side had established a 22-7 lead as further tries were produced by Fletcher, Spears and Howes and the only worry was when strong-running Dean Mountain had to go to Hospital with a damaged ear which required four stitches. There was

no halting the production of points however, and in the second period Chapman scored two more in the space of a couple of minutes and Magyar (two) added touchdowns while Andrew Hartley brought his goal tally to eight from 12 attempts.

The margin of victory was even more creditable when taking into consideration that three players were out through suspension and another five did not

fill their normal position. Some of the handling would have done a premier division senior side proud and for the most part Castleford did well to keep their cool when rattled. Barrow tested their tempers.

... and youngsters impress at York

York.....35
 Castleford.....32

Castleford, with only four first teamers amongst a side liberally sprinkled with inexperienced youngsters, who will still be available for the Colts squad this season, nevertheless gave a fine account of themselves before losing to a try in the last five minutes.

And Geoff Wraith in charge of the makeshift team in Malcolm Rely's absence, later expressed his delight over the performance; "We would have liked to have won of course, but in the circumstances, considering the age of some of the lads, I was particularly pleased," he said.

Several of the youngsters came in for special praise, among them prop forward Dean Mountain, Dave Rookley, Ian Fletcher and particularly stand-off Kevin Jones who had an outstanding afternoon.

And another satisfying aspect was the successful re-appearance of second rower Jimmy Crampton, who announced his retirement last season after a troublesome shoulder injury.

"Jimmy played the whole of the game, and came through well," said Wraith. "He reported no problems from the shoulder at all."

Unfortunately the match -- a testimonial for Gary Nicholson the York player who broke a leg badly last season -- proved less successful as an exercise under the new rules -- largely because the referee Mr Beaumont had not attended the recent Rugby League meeting for coaches and refs. when directives on how the changes should be applied were given.

As a result referee and players were often at odds-- especially over the new interpretation of the 'held' rule.

The Rugby League made it clear at the meeting that they wanted to do away with the 'upright tackle' and the 'held' rule, and Wraith accordingly ordered his squad to put their men down on the floor -- often to the displeasure of the referee.

Consequently the game never really flowed, and although the ref. apologised to the Castleford coach after the match, it was as

Wraith put it, "a little late in the day".

As for the details of the match, Castleford settled quickly to take a 12 point lead early on, but then lost their rhythm following a series of substitutions after the first quarter, and York hit back to go 29-22 ahead.

It was then Castleford's turn to recover and with five minutes to go they had fought back to lead 32-29, only for the home side to clinch the match with a converted try late on.

Cas' try scorers included first teamers Crampton and Bob Beardmore who crossed twice and also kicked all but one attempt at goal.

Team: -- Coen, Gill, Harrison, Howes, Roach, Jones, R Beardmore, Mountain, Horton, Johnson, Crampton, Timson, Battye Subs -- Orum, Rookley, I Hartley, Fletcher, A. N. Other.

Colts League

Six wins

Rochdale Hornets.....0
 Castleford.....24

The young Whieldon Road side chalked up their sixth successive victory, and their ninth double of the season, in this mid-week 'watersplash'.

Though the conditions were atrocious which resulted in the game being cut to 30 minutes each way, there was some good rugby, but Castleford were clearly the better side.

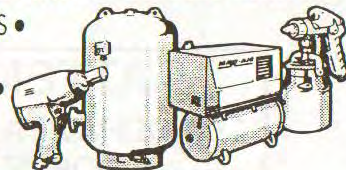
The best of the six tries was the first by winger Neil Greatbatch, with a run from

his own half. John Magyar (two), Andrew Hartley, Dean Mountain, and Mark Keringidge tagged on three goals.

Scrum half Stewart Horton and centre Andrew Hartley were the pick of the backs while Mark Campbell and Billy Marchant set a good example in the forwards.

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