

LEAGUER CLUB FOCUS

Aussie star's high-life sickener

By Darrell Platt



■ PAUL SHAW . . . target for high tackles.

WHILE stand-off Paul Shaw continues to impress for Salford he is certainly attracting the wrong sort of attention from his opponents.

His baptism into the British Rugby League scene could not have been much tougher for the Manly star and he has certainly had to show plenty of character when you consider that he has been the recipient of several high tackles in the few games he has played for the Red Devils.

In two recent games justice was not seemed to have been done when opponents were despatched to the sin-bin when they should have been taking an early bath after imposing illegal tackles on the Aussie stand off.

In Sunday's game with St Helens will o' the wisp Shaw had set up plenty of scoring chances for Salford but in the end his talents were wasted mainly by poor finishing.

However, following the battering he took he was forced to retire from the fray and bang went the Reds chances of winning the game.

The point of all this is that when a talented player is reduced to a trot through foul tactics then you really have to ask yourself what sort of game you want to see.

SPIRIT

Nobody at Salford is naive enough to think that good players should not be afforded the attention they deserve but let's keep it within the laws and spirit of the game.

Meanwhile, the Reds have lost their way in the last two matches but they are still playing the sort of attractive rugby which keeps the turnstiles clicking. The Lancashire Cup Final against Wigan was well within Salford's capabilities but they lost out in a 10 minute spell and that was that.

Last Sunday they should have had enough points on the board to declare after 20 minutes but they didn't take their chances and Saints made them pay.

This Sunday the Reds travel to Thrum Hall, Halifax in the John Player Special Trophy and team manager Kevin Ashcroft will be hoping his side can get back to winning ways.

The last time the Reds won there was way back in 1975 when Salford won 13-4, a Keith Fielding try and five goals from Jim Fiddler saw them through that day, and hopefully a similar result will be the outcome on Sunday.