



**August 2009**

### **Offiah to crown rugby league's fastest man**

Former rugby league speed superstar Martin Offiah has been announced as the guest of honour for the 2009 Rugby League's Fastest Man competition.

Offiah will present the trophy to the winner of the sprint event, which is being staged at Headingley Carnegie Stadium, prior to the Carnegie Floodlit Nines final on Wednesday 26 August.

Commenting on the event Offiah, who has taken part in similar events in both England and Australia said: "Speed plays such an important part in the modern game in both attack and defence. Finding the fastest man in the game is a great idea and a wonderful accolade for a player to carry though I will add with great accolades comes great responsibility'."

Martin is a also a big fan of nine aside Rugby League. "i am really looking forward to watching the 9s on the evening, early in my career I played for Widnes in a 9s event at Central Park and thoroughly enjoyed it"

Players from eight engage super league clubs will take part in the sprint alongside entrants from Jamaica, the Army and Co-operative Championship teams. And Offiah believes that there is every chance the winner may come from outside the top flight: "There are some great names from the engage super league, Donald, Penny, Roberts and Halley amongst them, but they will be pushed all the way by the likes of Nixon [Barrow] and Calvert [Whitehaven] who have scored some breathtaking tries this season."

Offiah who is now a well known TV celebrity, scored over 500 tries in a glittering Rugby League career spanning 14 years and is seen as the ideal man to present the trophy.

Mark McKinley from the Carnegie Floodlit Nines Tournament Organising committee said, "We were all delighted when Martin accepted the invitation to present the trophy, he's one of

only a few rugby league stars to become a household name and is a huge icon within the sport'

The sprint challenge will see players dressed in full playing kit race 90m along the famous Headingley pitch without a ball. The winner will receive a cheque for £1000 and a specially commissioned trophy.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for editors:**

#### **RL's Fastest Man Sprint:**

Totesport has also compiled odds on all of the confirmed competitors for the race to find 'Rugby League's fastest man'

#### **Current odds are -**

Kevin Penny	2/1	Warrington Wolves
Scott Donald	4/1	Leeds Rhinos
Dave Halley	9/2	Bradford Bulls & Wales
Peter Fox	5/1	Hull KR & England
Craig Calvert	6/1	Whitehaven and Cumbria
James Nixon	6/1	Barrow and Cumbria
Roy Calvert	6/1	Duhaney Park Sharks & Jamaica
Luke George	8/1	Wakefield Wildcats
Amos Roberts	12/1	Wigan Warriors
James Ford	12/1	Castleford Tigers
Johnny Leather	12/1	Blackpool Panthers
Kingsman Bulitautin	12/1	British Army
Tangi Ropati	tbc	Sheffield Eagles & Samoa
Hull FC and Huddersfield Giants		- awaiting declaration

#### **Carnegie Floodlit Nines**

The Carnegie Floodlit 9s will be a one-day rugby league 9s tournament, which will host 12 senior teams including six engage super league clubs. The competition will take place on Wednesday August 26 at Headingley Carnegie Stadium.

#### **History of 9s:**

The first recorded event was held in 1883 in Batley and was won by Batley. In 1888 Kendal Hornets won the Northern Counties 9s Challenge Cup.

#### **Schedule:**

4pm Gates Open  
4.30 - 6.30 Group Games  
6.30 - 6.50 under 8s  
6.50 - 8.10 Quarter Finals  
8.10 - 8.30 under 8s  
8.30 - 9.10 Semi-Finals

9.10 - 9.30 Sprint and Presentation  
9.30 - 10.00 - Final and Presentation

### **The Carnegie 9s draw in full:**

**Qualifying Group A: Jamaica , Cumbria RL, Leeds Met Carnegie**  
**Qualifying Group B: Army RL, Royal Navy, Blackpool Panthers**

4.30 - 4.50 Leeds Met University v Jamaica  
4.50 - 5.10 Army v Royal Navy  
5.10 - 5.30 Leeds Met. v University v Cumbria  
5.30 - 5.50 Army v Blackpool Panthers  
5.50 - 6.10 Cumbria v Jamaica  
6.10 - 6.30 Blackpool Panthers v Royal Navy

### **Quarter-Finals**

6.50 - 7.10 Hull FC v Group A Winners  
7.10 - 7.30 Hull Kingston Rovers v Wakefield Trinity Wildcats  
7.30 - 7.50 Huddersfield Giants v Group B Winners  
7.50 - 8.10 Leeds Rhinos v Warrington Wolves

### **Semi - Finals**

8.30 - 8.50 Winners of QF 1 v Winners of QF 2  
8.50 - 9.10 Winners of QF 3 v Winners of QF 4

### **Final**

Please see [www.floodlit9s.co.uk](http://www.floodlit9s.co.uk) for ticket information

For further details please contact Mark Dorey at Leeds Met on 0113 812 3021 or email [m.dorey@leedsmet.ac.uk](mailto:m.dorey@leedsmet.ac.uk)

### **Leeds Metropolitan University**

- Leeds Metropolitan University has 30,000 students and over 300,000 associate students through its partnerships with 24 colleges.
- The University is home to The UK Centre for Coaching Excellence.
- Leeds Met Carnegie is the primary partner of rugby league's Carnegie Challenge Cup.