

BEDIANS ON A ROLL

■ **FLYING HIGH...** All-conquering Old Bedians are sweeping all before them, with Chorley becoming their latest victims at the weekend, going down 23-5 in atrocious conditions despite an injury to skipper Martin Ansbro forcing a reshuffle of the Old Bedians' pack and some early uncertainty as a result.

L-r, back Paul Astall, Nigel Williams, Tom Stanway, Eddie Fanning, Andy Smith, Mick Samuels, Martin Fanning, Paul Kelly, Leo Carroll, Vinnie Horeau, Bernie Carroll chairman. Front John Robb, Jon Rashid, Richard Waterworth, Martin Ansbro captain, Jonathon Griffiths, Phil Williams, Mar-



EVEN the absence of skipper Martin Ansbro did nothing to halt his Old Bedian army marching to yet another victory at the weekend.

Second row Mick Samuels led the side to a 23-5 victory over Chorley, with Phil Williams standing in at hooker.

That slight disruption to the pack told early on as they allowed the visitors to take the initiative.

But once the Bede's pack got going the result became a foregone conclusion.

Martin Fanning scored their opening try and, despite playing into the wind in the second half, the pack worked good positions for the backs.

Jon Rashid, making a welcome return at fly-half, put wing Paul Astall over in the corner and then produced

Ansbro's army marches on

BY GEOFF GREEN

a high box kick that enabled the opportunistic Martin Driscoll to scoop up the ball and dash in for a third.

Despite the following wind Chorley were unable to keep any sustained pressure on Bedians whose forwards again won a good position to allow the backs to score through full-back Paul Leydon after some neat passing.

That sealed victory and the man-of-the-match award for Leydon.

The second team took on Ashton-on-Mersey from a higher league and,

despite the conditions, both sides tried to play attractive rugby. However, Bede's were overpowered 36-0.

Afterwards skipper Phil Parker praised the team's commitment, with particular credit going to man-of-the-match Leigh Prescott and front row stalwart Geoffrey Jaffer.

Meanwhile, there was a feast of running rugby despite the weather when Broughton entertained De La Salle at Yew Street. Salle won 33-10 despite falling behind to a try by Gareth Smythe, who added the conversion and a penalty.

Flanker Ben Jones hit back with a

try for Salle, converted by Lee Halsall, and second row Nick Jones went over for a second soon afterwards.

The Jones show continued when wing Gareth Jones raced 30 metres to score and hooker Ian Watson and other wing Paul Linekar also got over.

Salle vets beat Broughton 55-0 with tries by Edwards, Smythe, Bowden, Richardson, Flatley, Ruane and two from newcomer Billy Greg.

Ashton-under-Lyne pipped struggling Eccles 7-0 thanks to a try by Andy Adshead and conversion from Paul Etchells. But there was a price to pay for success because back row

Kevin Morris broke a rib.

Eccles lost Paul Makinson with concussion and Steve Whittingham was ruing the strength of the wind.

Ashton scored when Steve's attempted clearance from his own 22 metre area was blown back into the in goal area where Adshead struck.

The rest of their sides did well. Skipper Paul Bates scored twice in the second team's 31-15 win and another came from Stuart Smith, who had had to pull out of the senior game through work commitments.

The other try came from Andy Renshaw while Mike Ince converted all four and kicked a penalty. Not for the first time this season Smith carried off the man-of-the-match award.

Tommy Berry, Stu Macdonald and Ian Cheshire scored in the thirds' 15-7 win and Carl Lee kicked two penalties as the fourths beat a Sedgley Park side 7-6.