

Hassan Hussain's rugby journey began not on a traditional pathway, but through trust, opportunity, and an open mind. With a strong sporting background in cricket, Hassan was asked by his PE teachers to step in for a school rugby match when numbers were short. That single game proved transformative. Recognising his natural ability, his teachers encouraged him to pursue the sport further — and Hassan quickly fell in love with rugby league.

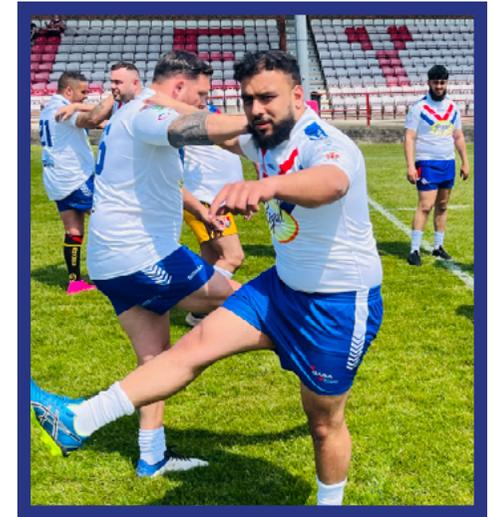
After representing his school across multiple age groups, a chance encounter with a parent led him to Hunslet Warriors, where his rugby journey truly took shape. In his very first season, Hassan earned a six-week trial with Wakefield Wildcats, resulting in a scholarship and appearances at professional stadiums including Belle Vue, The Jungle, Salford, Featherstone, Batley, Dewsbury, and Hunslet.

Although he chose not to continue through the Wildcats Academy, Hassan progressed through the Leeds Rhinos

College Academy, BARA, Hunslet age groups, and senior rugby. Alongside his club development, he also represented the North of England Universities, reflecting his ability to perform at a high competitive level while balancing education and sport. Internationally, he represented Pakistan and earned Man of the Match on his first international tour with BARA in Italy — a milestone moment reflecting both talent and composure.

Rugby was not common within Hassan's cultural background, and the journey was not without challenges. Often the only South Asian player in the league, he faced isolation, limited family support, and experiences of racism. Yet rugby offered community, discipline, and belief.

Away from the pitch, Hassan is a qualified teacher — highly intelligent, approachable, and deeply committed to education. He regularly volunteers his time mentoring, coaching, and supporting young people through BARA



projects and played a key role in the pioneering South Asians in Rugby Insight Report, helping to shape understanding and future pathways.

Now playing for BARA and giving back to the game, Hassan's story reflects the power of representation and shows that South Asian players belong in rugby league — with opportunity, support, and a future in the game.

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