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Oldham v. Leeds
Tuesday, Jany. 1st, 1924.

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Oldham v. Leeds

AT WATERSHEDDINGS (RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP),

On Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 1924. Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

Hermon Hilton

Will our members and supporters please make a note of the fact that the above popular local born player takes his benefit on Saturday, Jan. 19th—

Oldham v. Barrow
at Watersheddings.

The Tickets for the match are now on sale and can be obtained at the Pavilion and from members of the Committee.



Editorial Notes.

Half-Time.

Half the season has now practically run its course, and we have thus a chance of taking stock and seeing how matters stand. Frankly, we must say that we are somewhat disappointed at our present position in the League table. We started off fairly well, and our early season form gave us hopes that we should occupy high

rank before the turn of the year was reached. Those hopes, however, have not been realised. We have been a most inconsistent team, for whereas we have invariably played real good football at home, we have given some very feeble displays when away from home. Our form in the two games in which we beat Wigan, and again when we triumphed over Huddersfield, was good

(Continued on Page 5.)

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enough for the most fastidious ; but strange to relate, we have never appeared able to reproduce such form when away from Water-sheddings. That is very curious. Last season we gave some of our best displays when appearing on our opponents' grounds, as for instance our splendid victories at Wigan, Leeds and Rochdale. With the exception of the Wigan Highfield game at Wigan, we have never been what we may term badly beaten ; we have lost most of our games by very narrow margins. Still, the fact remains that we have a very poor away record, whilst at home we have defeated all comers. Let us hope that the turn of the year will bring about an agreeable turn in our away results, and if that comes about we should not be long before we are figuring in the "first four."

At Halifax.

Twelve months ago last Saturday we visited Halifax and won a handsome victory by thirteen points to two. Last Saturday, under exactly similar climatic conditions, we were somewhat badly beaten by seven points to nil. This was a game in which we had so much the worst of the encounter that the score against us scarcely does Halifax sufficient credit. They had a much better combination amongst the back division than we, and therein lay their success. We scarcely liked the method of their placing the ball in the scrum, but as the referee allowed it, there is little more to be said on the matter. We may just add that we thought at the time it caused us to labour under a great disadvantage. When we did get possession,

however, our efforts at finishing were crude in the extreme. On at least four occasions we had the spectacle of Hesketh breaking away in such a fashion that it appeared odds on our scoring, but on each occasion there was that lack of cohesion which was fatal to our chances. We were rather caught napping when Rees scored the try for Halifax. Credit, however, must be given to the player for his opportunism and the big dash he made which carried him over the line. The Halifax team have been doing none too well lately, and their victory gave great satisfaction to their supporters.

Pulling the "Lion's" Tail.

We have given the Swinton "Lion" some real good Christmas boxes in recent years, but the Christmas of 1923 will long be remembered by our Chorley Road friends. A defeat to the extent of 37 points to 10 is almost staggering in its extent. And yet the game was by no means as one-sided as the huge score would suggest. The fact of the matter was that Swinton caught both our forwards and backs in one of their best moods. The re-arranged back division was a great success, and Woodward, in particular, will be able to look back upon the game with a certain amount of pride and satisfaction. He played well at Halifax on the previous Saturday, but his display on Christmas Day fairly delighted our holiday crowd. The return to the team of Rix and "Ned" Thomas also worked successfully, whilst Beynon partnered Hesketh with very profitable results. It was a smashing victory for our lads, and one could readily under-

(Continued on Page 7.)

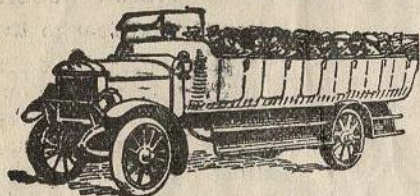
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stand the look of consternation upon the faces of the Swinton officials when we were piling up that huge total.

"A" Team Still Winning.

For a "friendly" game, the encounter between the Oldham and Halifax Reserves at Watersheddings last Saturday was a trifle "warm." Both teams went at it with a vigour that was quite refreshing, and long before the end of the game some of the players appeared to be feeling the strain of a strenuous struggle. In the end, however, our youngsters won by nine points to nil, and thus, like the first team, maintained their unbeaten home record.

Our Visitors.

This week-end we have a couple of interesting games down for decision at Watersheddings, in Widnes and Leeds. Both these teams have already beaten us this season, Widnes by seven points and Leeds by four. We have therefore more than a passing interest in these encounters, for we shall be anxious to avenge those defeats and to keep our home record unsullied. We recognise the fact that the task is by no means an easy one, but nevertheless we are still in an optimistic mood, and think that we can just about bring off the "double."

The Usual at Barrow.

After our brilliant victory over Swinton it was a trifle disappointing that we should come undone as we did at Barrow. There were certainly a few extenuating circumstances, but even after making

those allowances there appears to be no excuse for our general failure. It was a pity that we had to be without the services of Hesketh and Hilton, but as to whether they would have made the difference between winning and losing is open to doubt. We shall start winning games away from home some time. When that day arrives we shall have a celebration.

PAVILION GOSSIP.

A Happy New Year to Everybody.

Didn't the Halifax team look smart in their blue outfit last Saturday? The blue jerseys and pants with white facings were distinctly striking. At the close of the game it was generally admitted that the Oldham followers were looking somewhat blue.

Our old friend Geo. Schofield, of Falstaffian proportions, was quite in his element when he met his Oldham friends. He makes a genial host does the old ex-half-back.

New way for spelling Wigan: Wig Van!

We are all fond of receiving cheques at Christmas, but we must confess we did not like the one we received at Halifax.

Sloman's injury has not turned out so bad as expected, and confidently hopes to be ready for the tour trial game. His numerous admirers will be glad to hear that.

The crowd was hugely delighted with Woodward on Christmas

(Continued on Page 13.)

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 7. Bates
 8. Kendall
 9. Tomkins
 10. Marlor
 11. Collins
 12. Brough
 13. Hilton
- Reserve—Fisher

Leeds

1. Roberts
2. Buck
4. Davies
7. Walmsley
3. Lyons
8. Stockwell
6. Binks
5. Bacon
10. Jackson
12. Thompson
14. Trusler
15. Kibler
9. Dixon
16. Pickles
11. Bennett

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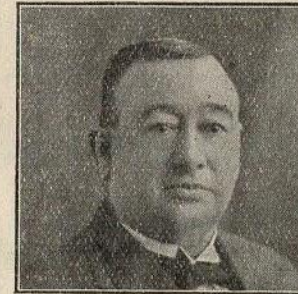
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Oldham v. Leeds,

Tuesday, Jan. 1st, 1924, at Watersheddings,
 KICK-OFF 2-30 P.M.

Oldham			Opponents		
G.	T.	P.	G.	T.	P.
Half-Time.....			Half-time.....		
Tries Scored by.....			Tries Scored by.....		
Goals Scored by.....			Goals Scored by.....		
G.	T.	P.	G.	T.	P.
FINAL.....			FINAL.....		
Tries Scored by.....			Tries Scored by.....		
Goals Scored by.....			Goals Scored by.....		

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Day. He has long since made himself quite a favourite with the Watersheddings crowd on the occasion of "A" team games, and it appears, judging from his display against Swinton, he's going to be equally popular with the first team crowd.

We were delighted to drop across our old friend Arthur Ricketts at Halifax last Saturday. The old ex-Halifax Secretary-Manager was over on a Christmas visit from Cardiff, and was looking remarkably well.

Wigan have been referred to as the League of Nations team. We did hear the other day that the strongest nation so far as football goes is combi-nation.

Lots of teams received their Christmas boxes, some of them in the ear. Swinton were amongst the lucky (?) recipients.

We heard of one Swinton follower "grouching" (not a bad word for Christmas if you have a brace) because he could not be accommodated with a seat. Did he really want a seat or was he vexed because we were making his team "sit up?"

Headline from an Huddersfield paper: "Startling news! Fartown players run over by Wigan Vans!"

That "friendly" game between Oldham and Halifax Reserves at sheddings last Saturday was awful warm. It was quite evident

that the visitors had come determined to check our youngsters progress. In that respect they were doomed to disappointment—they found Father Christmas at home.

The Swinton team were very plucky despite the whacking which we gave them. They fought gamely right up to the end. They will now be nursing those sores until next Good Friday, when they are anticipating getting their own back. In any case, we got in a good one. That "Lion's" tail got an awful twist.

Wonder if the Widnes Supporters Club excursion to Oldham has been a success? Many of them decided so on visiting Watersheddings.

Another Home Victory.

We finished up the year 1923 with a really brilliant victory over Widnes, a team that, on two or three occasions, have sprung a surprise upon us when visiting Watersheddings. They took a lot of shaking off on Saturday, but once we had broken the ice we were always looking like winners. The game was fought at a ding-dong pace, especially in the first half, and it was quite palpable towards the close that our Widnes friends had found the pace too hot to maintain. Additional interest was given to the game from the fact that Reggie Farrar made his first appearance of the season with the premier team, and his numerous admirers were pleased to notice such good form. Alf. Bates also made a welcome re-appearance and was quite a success. Brough had quite a field day, and, taken all round, our team had every reason to be satisfied with their afternoon's work.

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HALF-TIME SCORES.

The Half-time Scores in the Matches given below will be shown on the Score Board immediately they are received.

A WIGAN
v.
WAKEFIELD T.

D ROCHDALE H.
v.
WARRINGTON

B WINTON
v.
SALFORD

E STOCKPORT C.
v.
OLDHAM A.

C ST. HELENS
v.
ST. HELENS RECS.

F HALIFAX
v.
HULL

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