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Rugby League

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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP.—1st Round.

OLDHAM v. BATLEY

Saturday, FEB. 19th, 1938.

Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

CLUB CHAT.

Our two league victories over Huddersfield has now given us a new lease of life, and with, as one may say, an outside chance of first four honours. Both games against our opponents have been of an enjoyable nature, and it is a pity that we cannot arrange fixtures each season with one another to our mutual benefit. Our game at Huddersfield last week was a thriller, the two tries scored by each side being exceptionally good efforts. Smith, our scrum-half, played his best game since joining us and was much in keeping with the good reputation he previously enjoyed in Wales, he completely outplayed and outwitted his opponent, Royal. There is no doubt that the superiority of our half-backs, coupled along with our usual great forwards both in the scrums and the loose; also our good team spirit, was instrumental in securing victory.

THE LEAGUE.

The fight for leading positions in the Rugby League is very open, more so this season than ever before. Anyone of the first 12 clubs have a chance of figuring in the first four at the conclusion of the season. Any of these clubs must have a successful run in winning matches from now onward. As regards ourselves, we have the following league fixtures to fulfill:—

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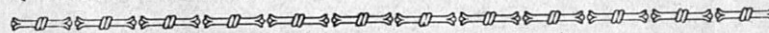
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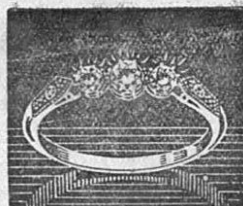
Some difficult matches one must admit, but difficulties are made to be overcome, and it would be a wonderful run of success if our team accomplished maximum points from the above matches; of course, other clubs who are in the running for honours have difficult fixtures to fulfill, but it is poor consolation to rely upon your opponents for mistakes on their part. I am sure our team realise the magnitude of their task but have confidence in themselves to put forth every effort to achieve an ambition of figuring in the honours' list.

THE CHALLENGE CUP.

To-day sees the commencement of the hard road to Wembley, being the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup. All the participants of the cup to-day are full of optimism, with a view of some financial reward, and some with the object also of capturing the blue riband of the Rugby League. Disappointments and surprises there are sure to be, and we ourselves are hoping to get over the first hurdle in opposing strong opponents from Batley—The Gallant Youths.—The Batley club was founded in 1880 and like all clubs has had its good times and its bad ones. They won the cup the first year it was put up for competition in the year 1897, also in 1898 and 1901, but have not figured in the final since. This season they are playing attractive football and of the last nine league matches played have secured 15 points out of a possible 18, so our team must realise they are up against a stiff proposition to-day and only the best they can give will overcome our visitors. I append a few notes of the Batley team playing to-day:—



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None but purest
Drugs used.
Prompt Service.

OLDHAM

Red and White Jerseys.

1. Rees, T. E.
2. Hall, F.
3. Rhydderch, V.
4. Davies, C.
5. Bates, E. E.
6. Downey, M. J.
7. Smith, A. R.
8. Ashworth, F. W. (capt.)
9. Brooks, E.
10. Rees, L.
11. Pugh, N.
12. Moore, W. J.
13. Givvons, A.
14. Read, J.

BATLEY

Blue Jerseys.

1. Bennett, F.
2. Nunn, H. V.
3. Pollard, D.
4. Kitson, H. S.
5. Thomas, R. E.
6. Cecil, E. R.
7. Ralph, A. R.
8. Sparkes, S. S.
9. Hall, J.
10. Rhodes, J.
11. Hudson, W.
12. Oakland, E.
14. Brown, G. S.

Referee:—Mr. A. HILL, of Leeds.

Touch Judges:—Messrs. B. Timulty & C. G. Snowden.

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WINES AND SPIRITS

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Bennett, full-back, brought out by the old Wigan Highfield Club, seen service with Barrow. Age, 28; 5 feet 10 in.; 12 stone 2 lbs. **Nunn**, wing-threequarter, native of Mirfield. Age, 26; weight, 13 stone; height, 6 feet 1 in. **Pollard**, centre, a Wakefield product, one of the Pollard Brothers of Rugby League fame, had a period with Leeds. Age, 21; weight, 12 stone 1 lb; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Kitson**, centre, native of Halifax. Age, 28; weight, 12 stone; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Thomas**, wing-threequarter, secured this season from Halifax, a Welshman. Age, 25; weight, 12 stone 2 lbs; height, 5 feet 9 in. **Cecil**, half-back, also a late Halifax player. Age 24; weight, 11 stone 3 lbs; height, 5 feet 9 in. **Ralph**, half-back, secured from Leeds, international and hails from Wales. Age, 28; weight, 10 stone; height, 5 feet 7 in. **Sparkes**, a Welsh front row forward, late of Halifax. Age, 27; weight, 12 stone 7 lbs; height, 6 feet. **Hall**, hooker and County man, returned to his old club after a period with Leeds. Age, 32; weight, 14 stone 3 lbs; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Rhodes**, forward; age 21; weight, 14 stone; height, 5 feet 9 in. **Hudson**, forward, comes from a good nursery, Sharlston. Age, 20; weight, 13 stone 2 lbs; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Oakland**, forward, a Batley youth. Age, 27; weight 14 stone 4 lbs; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Foley**, forward, native of Batley. Age, 27; weight, 13 stone 1 lb; height, 5 feet 10 in. **Brown**, loose forward, a Rugby Union convert from Morley, has kicked 54 goals this season. Age, 22; weight, 14 stone 7 lbs; height, 5 feet 9 in.

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HOLLINWOOD

TIME OF KICK-OFF.

Much is to be said for and against a 3-30 p.m. kick-off at our game. From the beginning of the season until October 22nd, and from February 3rd to the end of the season the official time for commencement is 3-30 p.m. Personally, I think 3 p.m. is late enough for any kick-off during the above periods. Our soccer brethren realise this and, although their playing time is 90 minutes against our 80 minutes, they feel no ill effects in attendances, and furthermore get greater publicity by way of verbatim reports of their matches in the "Sports Edition" of the Saturday evening papers. One has only to take any Northern edition of a sports paper to find incomplete reports of our Rugby League matches on Saturdays, due, no doubt, to the lateness of the kick-off, thus losing a certain amount of publicity which the game no doubt requires.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Just a reminder that joint committees of the Football Club and Supporters' Club are holding a whist drive and dance this evening at Hill Stores, 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. The local Cotton Queen, Miss Marjorie Bolton, will attend. Tickets, including refreshments, 2/6, obtainable from the Pavilion, Canteens, or Friendship Hotel.

THE MAYOR'S APPEAL

Oldham Royal Infirmary

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COMING EVENT.

FEBRUARY 26th, 1938,

SALFORD

at Watersheddings, Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

HALF-TIME SCORES.

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

A LEEDS
WIGAN

D SALFORD
HULL

B HALIFAX
WARRINGTON

E YORK
SWINTON

C LIVERPOOL STANLEY
HUNSLET

F HULL CITY
OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Owing to Press Telephones being out of order, we regret the Half-time Scores of matches played Feb. 5th were not exhibited, and we offer our apologies.

MARKET HOTEL,

CURZON STREET, OLDHAM

HERMAN HILTON, Proprietor.

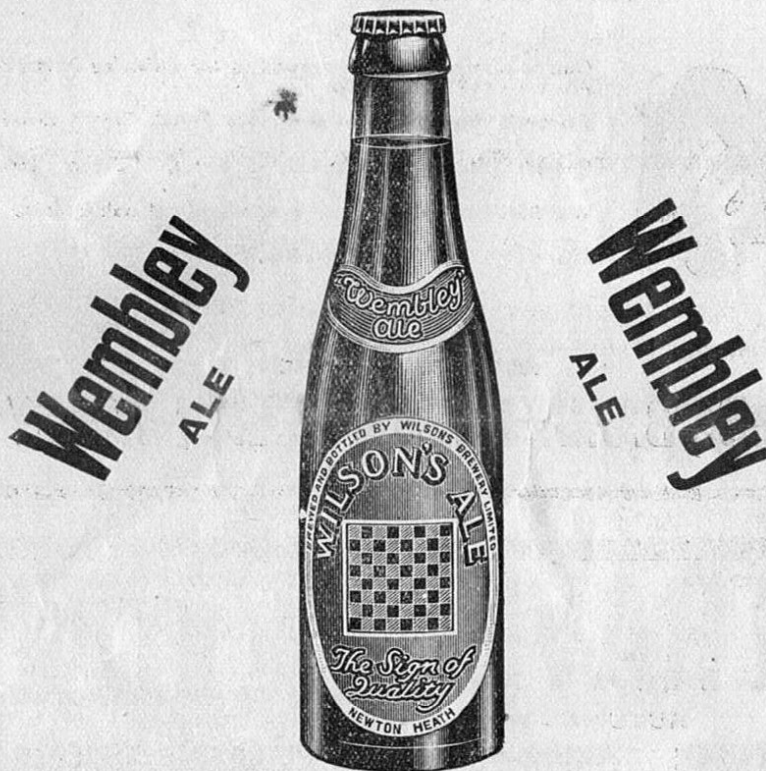
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