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Rugby League

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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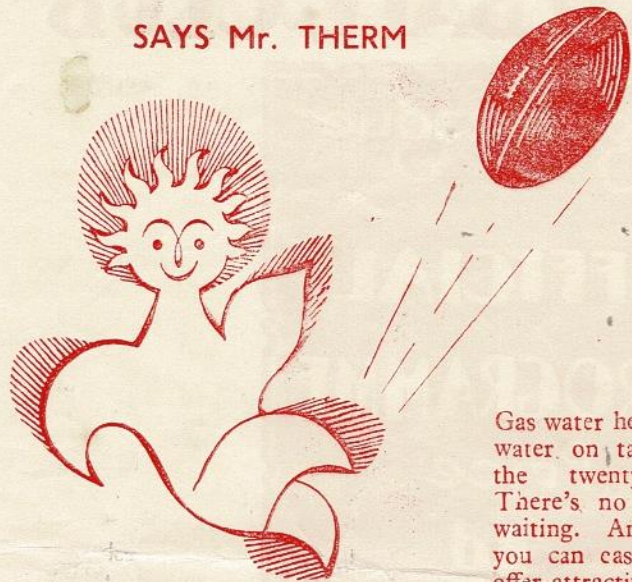
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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

LANCASHIRE SENIOR CUP—2nd Round.

Oldham v. Wigan

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 21st, 1938.

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

CLUB CHAT.

After our defeat at St. Helens Recreation last Saturday, our league position is far from being an imposing one. Played four, won one and lost three is not an encouraging start, and one can only hope that this state of affairs is only of a temporary nature.

Last Saturday at the "Recs" we had chances to win the match several times over and we simply refused to take these gifts, not that I am discounting our opponents, who also let several scoring chances go astray. It was unfortunate that we should be beaten in the last minute of the game, as a draw would have been a true reflection of the game. When the winning points were actually scored we were minus the services of Rhydderch, our centre. This player appears to be most unfortunate with regards to injuries, a knee injury with suspected cartilage trouble is now feared.

Our "A" team at Watersheddings last Saturday against the Recreation "A" had quite a day out and won easily by 36 points to 3 points.

The spectators had a good treat by the exhibition of football and it is pleasing to note that several players were at the top of their form.



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One feature was the excellent form displayed by our recent acquisition, Ken Fleming, outside half back, from Rochdale Hornets.

Although not quite in condition, having only played once this season, on August 20th in the Infirmaries' Cup match, Fleming promises the good things and recommendations which have been said about him; he is equally at home at centre, but prefers the outside-half position. Ken is a native of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and played Rugby Union for Victoria prior to joining Hornets. He comes to us on a free transfer, and is not eligible for the Lancashire Cup matches.

THIS EVENING'S MATCH.

This evening we entertain our old friends from Wigan in the second round of the Lancashire Cup. In the first round Wigan disposed of Swinton at Wigan. We had a bye—let us hope this evening's match is not a "good bye" for us.

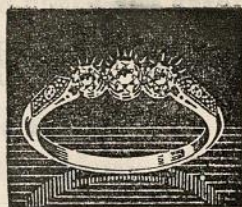
Great matches have taken place between the Wigan and Oldham Clubs in the past, and one could write at length of the glories of some of the matches; however, I hope that this game will prove no exception and that we have a real enjoyable time, with the hope of a win.

The Wigan team still contains that redoubtable and match winning player, James Sullivan. What an excellent servant he has been to the Wigan Club, and to the game also! His records which would fill column after column and appears to stand for all time.

The Wigan team contains a few players who will be making their debut at Watersheddings—Moxey, second row forward, Bowen, loose forward, Ward, centre, all three ex-Llanelly players. Ward had a few games with Wigan last season, but Moxey and Bowen are close season captives. Williamson is an ex-Newcastle centre. The rest of the team are well-known exponents of the game and need no introduction.



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TEAMS.

OLDHAM

White Jerseys.

1. Davies, C.
2. Hall, F.
3. Lowe, E. E. K.
4. Macrae, G.
5. Bates, E. E.
6. Downey, M. J.
7. Givvons, A.
8. Read, J.
9. Brooks, E.
10. Moore, W. J.
11. Garnett, A.
12. Ashworth, F. W. (capt.)
13. Pugh, N.
14. Ambler, H. D.

WIGAN

Cherry and White Jerseys.

1. Sullivan, J. (capt.)
2. Morley, J. C.
3. Ward, E. H.
4. Garvey, J.
5. Holder, E. C.
6. Jenkins, E.
7. Gee, H. A.
8. Banks, G. W.
9. Golby, J.
10. Woods, J. H.
11. Kershaw, G.
12. Jones, I.
13. Bowen, J. B.

Referee:—Mr. B. LAUGHLIN, Batley.

Touch Judges: Messrs. H. W. Bateman and E. S. Kennedy.

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FULL BACK PLAY.

Apropos of our own position of full back, I am sure that the standard of play of full backs in the Rugby League to-day is on a high pinnacle. Although one or two clubs have failed—and this includes ourselves—up to the present time, to find the right man for full back, I consider there are more good full backs in our game than any other position, with the possible exception of say, second row forwards.

The good men of to-day are not content to catch and kick the ball. They adopt an attacking role, and in consequence are making the game more spectacular, which is what the supporter requires. Whilst one must admit defence is a great asset, some players are afraid to trust to their speed to increase their attacking skill. There are men like Sullivan, Walkington, Howells, Lewis, Teall, Osbaldestin, who show what an attacking unit a full back can be, and the clubs these players represent enjoy a good measure of success.

The full back position has developed into a most important position on the field, apart from coming up on either side of the pack and linking up with his three-quarters, he more than anybody else has the chance to get the backs on the move when they are held up from lack of possession from the set scrums.



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UNFAIR TACTICS.

One reads reports of last Saturday's games, where in three matches six players were dismissed from the field.

After the warnings issued by the League Management Committee, it is regretted that these delinquents have not taken heed of such warning, and must expect anything that comes to them by way of suspension. The public, and these are the people who keep the game going, do not want or seek these exhibitions of unfair tactics, and the Management Committee are to be complimented on the manner in which they are going about their work without fear or favour.

A DRAWBACK.

One of the greatest drawbacks of the game to-day is the unwillingness of many players to carry out the playing the ball rule after a tackle. Players should **get up with the ball in their hands and then drop it.** Time after time they hold the ball on the ground until they have regained their feet, and this must tempt opponents to kick whilst he is lifting it from the ground. It is a striking thing that all alterations to rules are carried out correctly in the early stages, only to be completely ignored later.

The rule of "play the ball" was interpreted correctly when introduced, but appears to be ignored by several players now, an infringement occurs and the game is held up, much to the annoyance of the spectators.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Saturday Next, September 24th, 1938.

Oldham v. Hunslet.

KICK-OFF 3-30 p.m.

Monday Evening, September 26th, 1938.

Oldham v. Warrington.

KICK-OFF 5-45 p.m.

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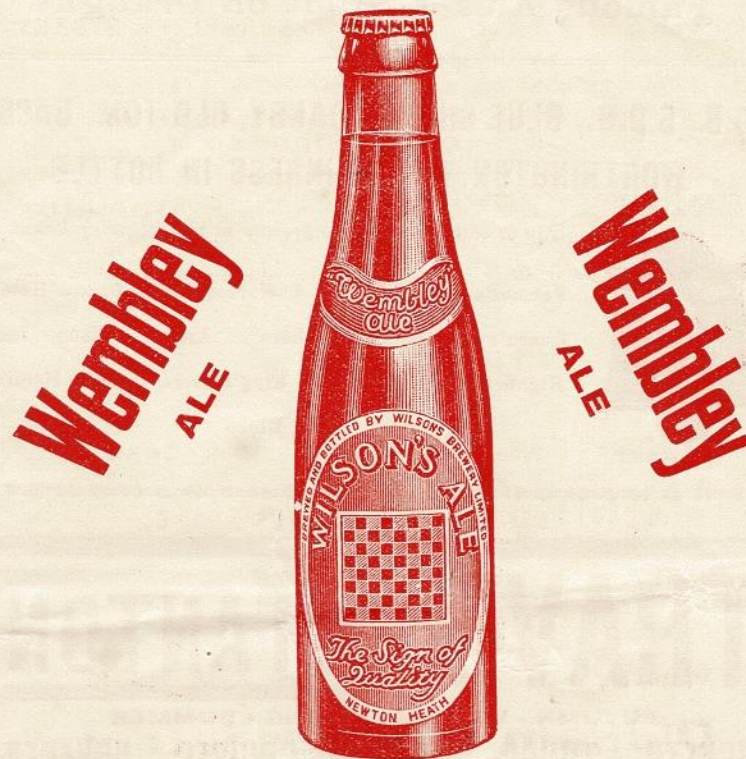
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