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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

OLDHAM V. ST. HELENS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 1946.

KICK-OFF 3-0 P.M.

CLUB CHAT

" OFF-DAYS "

ANALYSING THOSE Once more we are at home and hoping that luck will come our way to-day for four defeats in a row and three of these

at home require some explaining.

Thus, early in the season there have been unexpected victories and defeats that have set us wondering. Our team has played badly when they were expected to perform brilliantly; and the same team has shown great form one match and poor another. How are these to be explained – and avoided? Perhaps it would be as well to dwell a moment on the last point-how are they to be avoided?

Naturally, we want the team with which we are associated to win, and however much we pride ourselves upon the sportsmanship which accepts defeat and acknowledges the skill of the victors, there is bound to be some measure of disappointment if

defeat has been due to bad play.

How is defeat to be avoided and how are we to avoid bad play? We are not so much concerned that the team should lose a match, but we are greatly concerned if they play poor football. So we try to find the explanation of these unexpected reverses. How does it happen that a whole team or section of a team are under a blight altogether?

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In every case, no doubt, there are psychological as well as physical causes for the team to produce their best form and, of course, one of the physical causes may be the strength of the opponents, but how are we to explain the fact that a team can play bad football against opponents who are showing no outstanding powers?

If there is a failure we must look to some personal factor for an explanation of the lack of consistency; for my own part I am almost invariably made to think that the root of the trouble

is in a lack of physical fitness.

It may be due to the fact that a man is undertrained or overtrained, or it may be due to flying in the face of common sense. which teaches the athlete that he must have a sufficiency of sleep and that he must be temperate in all things.

A man ought to be in perfect training and he ought to do his duty to his side by taking his full measure of rest, and eating

and drinking wisely.

It sometimes happens, of course, that a player is troubled in mind, he may be burdened by domestic griefs, and sometimes such things have an overwhelming power, but if a man is in perfect health and perfectly trained, I believe it possible for him, once the game starts, to banish thoughts of trouble and to concentrate on the game. I believe that if we could trace these puzzling variations of form to their source we should find that they are due to the fact that when the players went on the field they were not in that perfect physical trim which is necessary if men are to do justice to their powers. It is this which makes devotion to training and the cultivation of fitness so important.

THE SEARCH Great activity prevails in South Wales amongst FOR PLAYERS Rugby League agents, who appear to be redoubling their efforts to spot the required stars for our game. A few club officials were in South and West Wales last

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12-PUGH, N. 11-SHAW, J. D. 9-FROST' W.

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8-OGDEN, H.

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WINES AND SPIRITS

Saturday taking a look-over of the recommendations. No doubt, this next few weeks will see more migrations from this area to

our game.

We are interested in one or two players, but up to the present nothing definite has been done as further observation is being taken, and added to the difficulty of securing suitable employment and transfers from controlled work, and also the great problem of the housing.

PUBLICITY Many letters have been received at The Rugby League Headquarters in Leeds from supporters of our game complaining of the lack of publicity given to the

Rugby League by the B.B.C. and the Press.

This is very well as far as it goes, but my advice to all our supporters who desire to see our game given more press publicity and announcements and talks by the B.B.C. is to write to the B.B.C. and to your own particular favourite newspaper for more Rugby League News.

It's up to you friend to just drop a note to the authorities at the B.B.C. and to your newspaper proprietors asking for some news about OUR game, and I am sure that the officials in charge



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of all the news for such publication will be only too pleased to hand same over to the benefit of all concerned. Our Rugby League game is a game for every class and all classes to play. It is not a caste game and we cater for all and sundry and it is only right that we should have a place in the sporting world.

WEMBLEY Our Supporters' Club are running a trip to Wembley for the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final to be played on May 3rd, 1947. The Railway Company have promised all assistance in the way of a special train and all who intend to make this journey should apply for further particulars to the Hon. Treasurer of the Supporters' Club, Mr. John Hollingsworth, 22, Garnet Street, Oldham.

CASUALTY We are still in bad luck regarding injuries to players, and the latest addition is Frank Wilkinson, who received a broken fore-arm whilst playing against Belle Vue Rangers "A" at Watersheddings on Saturday last.

Vincent Kenny has a bad shoulder injury, and happily there is nothing broken, but he will be out of the game a few weeks. Tom Ayres, after a broken bone in the ankle, has now resumed light training, and expects to be fit in two weeks. Les Thomas is still suffering from a shoulder injury, and it will be a little time before he is able to resume. Ken Blan is slowly recovering from a rupture, but will be out of the game for some time. Fred Elson is still awaiting admittance to hospital for the removal of a cartilage. S. Griffith is troubled with torn ligaments of the knee, and treatment and rest is required for recovery.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 9th, 1946

Oldham "A" v. Leigh "A"

at Watersheddings.

Kick-off 3-0

Saturday, November 16th, 1946

Oldham v. Castleford

at Watersheddings. Kick-off 2-45

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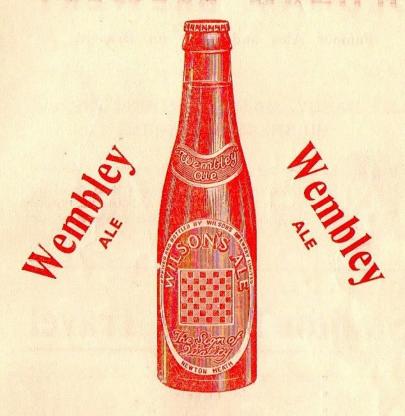
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