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RUGBY LEAGUE

FOOTBALL PROGRAMME

Saturday, February 20th, 1954

Kick-off 2.00 p.m.
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Nº 3823

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at 7 p.m.

WARRINGTON STADIUM

Welcome to our Visitors

This afternoon we extend greetings to Oldham who make their second appearance of the season at Wilderspool.

Their previous visit here was to contest the second round of the Lancashire Challenge Cup in September last, when, following a tremendously hard fought struggle, we emerged victors by the narrow margin of 12 points to 11 points. Oldham, on that occasion, looked a well equipped side, and one which would certainly have a say in the destination of honours for 1953-54.

A period of inconsistency in recent months has, however, somewhat dashed hopes at Watersheddings that Oldham would be Championship contenders this term, for prior to to-day's game they occupied 14th position in the league table, with apparently too much leeway to make up to be considered as serious challengers for the "top four."

Their league record to date this term is:—

P. 26 W. 11 D. 3 L. 12 for 353 ag'st 282 pts. 25

During the season our visitors have received many set-backs through injuries to key players, especially to their half-backs which, consequently, has had a large effect on their playing results. The return to fitness of their players, however, gives the side a formidable look, and it is expected that their best thirteen will be fielded to-day.

A number of current Internationals figure on the Oldham staff, including England wingers O'Grady, selected for the first tour trial, and Cracknell, their costly signing from Huddersfield earlier this season. The centres are both youngsters, 19-year-old Davies, an England player, and Barrow, a local boy who has shown most promising form since his debut a short time ago. At full-back Ganley has proved to be a tower of strength and is a first-class goal-kicker; whilst half-backs Daley and Stirrup, or utility half Feather, are versatile and experienced players.

At forward, too, our visitors appear to be well represented with powerful scrummagers in Ogden and Smith, the latter signed from Bramley recently, and a mobile and constructive second row in Winslade and Little, both in good form at the present time. Both these young players have gained representative honours, Winslade for the Welsh Rugby League team, and Little for Cumberland County Rugby Union side. Another fairly regular member of the pack is Tomlinson, a Warringtonian, who has assisted the Oldham club for a number of seasons. Captain and loose forward is Bryn Goldswain, a grand footballer and

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Manual of Rugby League Coaching, price 2/-

leader, who couples his duties in the scholastic profession with those of coach to Oldham.

Throughout the years our visitors have been acknowledged as exponents of the open and attractive style of football, and have invariably proved to be popular opponents. In view of the Challenge Cup-tie at Oldham a fortnight hence, this afternoon's game acquires additional interest, and no doubt both teams (and its respective supporters) will take the fullest opportunity of assessing the abilities of the other.

NEXT MATCH AT WILDERSPOOL STADIUM

WARRINGTON v. ST. HELENS, Saturday, 27th February. Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

HERE AND THERE

Ron Ryder will be justified in feeling that the current season is his unluckiest, for another injury received against Bramley on Saturday last is likely to keep him off the field for a few matches. Ron received an injury to his ribs early in the second half, and x-ray indicated a fracture to one of the lower ribs. This is his fourth injury this term which has necessitated hospital treatment; previous injuries being a broken jaw, severely dislocated fingers, and contusions of the knee.

Albert Naughton continues to make good progress from his recent knee operation, and is expected to recommence training next week. His recovery is somewhat earlier than was first thought, and present indications are that he is likely to be available for team selection in two or three weeks' time.

After missing the whole of the current season through a wrist injury John Warburton has now been declared fit for match play and will play his first game since March last this afternoon against Oldham "A."

On Saturday next, the occasion of our match with St. Helens, a collection will be taken in aid of the Ryan-Bevan Testimonial Fund. The services of any person who would like to assist in taking this collection would be very welcomed. They should please report to the Secretary's office at 1.30 p.m.

Sports Night held at the Parr Hall on February 3rd, in aid of the fund, was again a great success, and the Testimonial Committee extend sincere thanks to Mr. O'Day, the organiser, the "Evening Chronicle" Sports Team, and all sportsmen and women who contributed to its success and whose services were freely given. The Committee also extend their thanks to Mr. A. Ward and colleagues for their efforts in connection with the whist drive held at Stockton Heath on February 1st in aid of the fund.

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6-Feather

5-O'Grady

4-Davies

3-Barrow

2-Cracknell

1-Ganley

OLDHAM—Red and White Jerseys, Blue Shorts

Referee—Mr. N. T. RAILTON (Wigan). Tough Judges—Blue Flag : Mr. E. CUNNINGHAM (Widnes) ; Primrose Flag : Mr. J. FERGUSON (Maryport)

Wilderspool

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A number of cards for the Watch Competition have not yet been returned. It would be appreciated if the completed cards would be returned as soon as possible in order that the draw can be made.

Provided we enter round two of the Rugby League Challenge Cup, as expected, our tie at Oldham on March 6th is likely to be "all ticket." Police limit of maximum accommodation at Watersheddings is 21,000.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. C. Mountford on the birth of their second child, a son, last week.

A pair of gent's gloves were found in the stand on Saturday last. The owner should please contact the Secretary.

Officials for our next three matches are : v. St. Helens, Mr. R. Gelder ; v. Oldham, Mr. H. Squires ; v. Liverpool C., Mr. T. W. Watkinson.

The following article is reprinted from the "Australian Rugby League News," to whom we tender acknowledgments :—

OTHER NATIONALITIES BEAT FRANCE. 18th October, 1953.

THANKS TO "BEST EVER" BEVAN

High praise is lavished on Brian Bevan for his part in Other Nationalities' win over France at Bordeaux in this report from a high Official of the English Rugby League.

He writes :—

"Perhaps you would like to hear about the game played at Bordeaux when the Other Nationalities, consisting of eight Aussies, four New Zealanders and a Scot, beat France by 15 points to 10 points. Something must be placed on record about this game, because it proved conclusively that Brian Bevan must indeed take his place among the Rugby "immortals." Surely there has never been a better attacking wingman in the whole history of the Rugby game.

Played on the beautifully constructed Municipal Stadium at Bordeaux, the Empire boys, even in the eyes of French Officials, started as "odds-on" favourites. Opinions rapidly changed when the French team went into action. Their tackling was superb and their defence impenetrable.

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AFTER THE MATCH— VISIT THE **PALACE**

TO-NIGHT (Sat.) 2 sep. houses 6 & 8.15—Two pictures (adults only), "BEWARE, MY LOVELY" also "THE HITCH HIKER"—Book Now SUNDAY, Feb. 21, for SEVEN DAYS—Fred MacMurray, Vera Ralston, Robert Douglas, Victor McLaglen in **FAIR WIND TO JAVA** ® also (except Sat.), Gig Young, Edward Arnold, Mala Powers in "CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS" (A) Actually filmed in the streets of Chicago. Last complete performance: Sunday 6.13; Monday to Friday 7.23 Matinees: Mon. to Friday 2 p.m. Evngs cont. 5.50. Sunday cont. 4.45

For twenty minutes every movement of the visitors was nipped in the bud. Then Bevan got the ball! A rapid burst of side steps left three would-be tacklers trailing on the ground, and then Bevan, having perfectly demonstrated his elusiveness, gave us an equally effective demonstration of his speed with a diagonal run of forty yards, in which he outpaced all opposition to score in the opposite corner. France counter-attacked and at half-time were leading by 10 points to 5, and on the play looked like retaining the lead. Twenty minutes after half-time Bevan again had the ball. There was no possible chance to score—or so we thought! From a standing start near the touch line Bevan stepped again and again into the thick of the French players, and then with a prodigious spurt he bounded clear to gain what must have been the best individualist's try ever scored on the ground.

Five minutes from the end York's nippy little stand-off half, Johnny Robinson, broke clear after a planned move from the base of the scrum to give his side the victory—on the whole, a rather lucky win. Dropped passes by the French threequarters frittered several chances away. But, irrespective of who won or who should have won, it will always be remembered as "Bevan's match." He was rightly referred to by the French press as the "Roi du Terrain" (King of the ground).



Programme Prize

This programme may be worth 10/- to you. Watch for the announcement of the prize-winning number on the score board at half-time, and if yours is the lucky number take it to Mr. L. Hockenhuil, who will hand you a voucher, value 10/-, to be spent with any of our advertisers.

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SUNDAY, 21st February

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Return same day from Blackpool Central at 7.30 p.m.

BRITISH RAILWAYS

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including 13th February)

(This list is in respect of club matches only)

| | Appearances | Tries | Goals |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Bath, H. | 28 | 2 | 102 |
| Bevan, B. | 30 | 42 | 0 |
| Challinor, J. | 21 | 12 | 0 |
| Frodsham, E. | 32 | 2 | 9 |
| Fishwick, H. | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Humphreys, A. | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| Helme, G. | 23 | 6 | 0 |
| Heathwood, A. | 10 | 0 | 2 |
| Herbert, R. | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Hughes, R. | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Horton, L. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lowe, G. | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Mountford, C. | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Miller, B. | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| McCormick, S. | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Naughton, A. | 26 | 19 | 0 |
| Naughton, D. | 28 | 2 | 0 |
| Price, R. | 23 | 6 | 0 |
| Phillips, S. | 31 | 2 | 1 |
| Perkins, R. | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| Ryder, R. | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| Ryan, R. | 28 | 4 | 0 |
| Sheridan, W. | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Stevens, A. | 5 | 2 | 0 |
| White, E. | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| Wright, F. | 24 | 2 | 0 |
| Wright, G. | 9 | 0 | 0 |

In addition, in the "Wardonia" Charity Cup match, tries were scored by Bevan, Naughton, D. and Ryan, (2), and goals Mountford (3) and Bamber.

1st Team Fixtures for Season 1953-54

| Date | Opponents | Ground | Result |
|---------|---------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Aug. 8 | Wigan | away | 20 30 |
| " 15 | Salford | home | 17 4 |
| " 19 | Barrow | home | 12 7 |
| " 22 | Hull K.R. | away | 5 17 |
| " 29 | Rochdale H. | home | 16 4 |
| Sept. 3 | Barrow | away | 5 0 |
| " 5 | Belle Vue R. (Lancs. Cup, 1st leg) | home | 28 7 |
| " 8 | Belle Vue R. (Lancs. Cup, 2nd leg) | away | 17 14 |
| " 12 | Leeds | away | 14 43 |
| " 19 | Wigan | home | 13 9 |
| " 24 | Oldham (Lancs. Cup) | home | 12 11 |
| " 26 | Whitehaven | away | 19 5 |
| " 30 | St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) | away | 10 17 |
| Oct. 3 | Hull K.R. | home | 42 13 |
| " 10 | Castleford | away | 28 13 |
| " 17 | Swinton | home | 23 8 |
| " 24 | Workington T. | away | 7 9 |
| " 31 | Leeds | home | 15 9 |
| Nov. 7 | Belle Vue R. | away | 9 2 |
| " 14 | Hull | home | 9 2 |
| " 21 | Salford | away | 10 8 |
| " 28 | Liverpool C. | home | 30 6 |
| Dec. 5 | Castleford | home | 36 12 |
| " 12 | Bramley | away | 19 6 |
| " 25 | Widnes | home | 23 7 |
| " 26 | Leigh | away | 13 6 |
| 1954 | | | |
| Jan. 1 | Wigan | away | 17 12 |
| " 2 | St. Helens | away | 7 2 |
| " 9 | Workington T. | home | 15 7 |
| " 16 | Bramley | home | 53 5 |
| " 23 | Rochdale H. | away | 19 7 |
| " 30 | Hull | away | 10 24 |
| Feb. 13 | Bramley (1st round, 2nd leg, Challenge Cup) | home | 17 0 |
| " 17 | Bramley (1st round, 1st leg, Challenge Cup) | away | 30 5 |
| " 20 | Oldham | home | |
| " 27 | St. Helens | home | |
| Mar. 6 | Challenge Cup—2nd Round | | |
| " 13 | Liverpool C. | away | |
| " 20 | Belle Vue R. | home | |
| " 27 | Swinton | away | |
| Apl. 3 | Oldham | away | |
| " 8 | | | |
| " 10 | | | |
| " 16 | Widnes | away | |
| " 17 | Whitehaven | home | |
| " 19 | Leigh | home | |

KICK-OFF TIME

January 18th to end of season 3.0 p.m.

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