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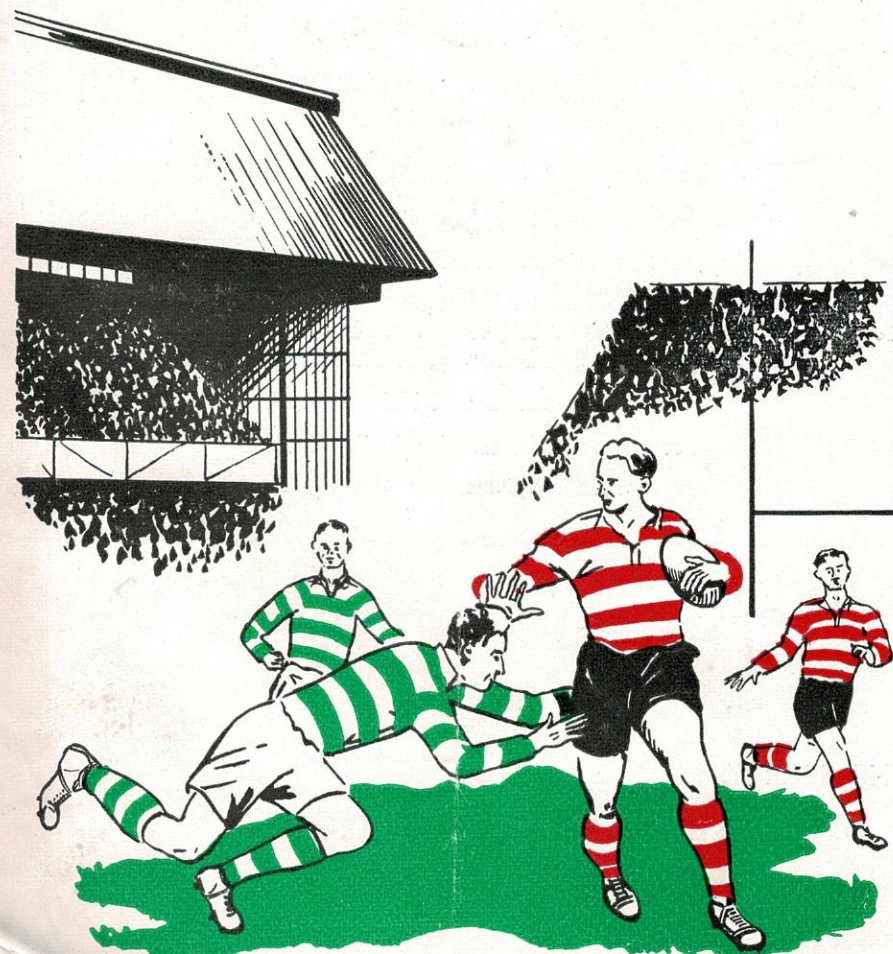
CROFTBANK MILL OLDHAM

Fixtures for the Season

1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 7—	Rochdale (Charity)	Home	3-0
14—	Wakefield T.	Away	
21—	Batley	Home	3-0
25—	Salford (Wed.)	Away	7-0
28—	St. Helens	Away	
Sept. 4—	Barrow	Away	
11—	1st Round Lincs. Cup		
14—	Liverpool (Tues.)	Home	7-0
18—	Batley	Away	
25—	Wakefield T.	Home	3-0
Oct. 2—	Blackpool	Away	
9—	Workington	Home	3-0
16—	Rochdale Hornets	Away	
23—	Hull	Home	3-0
30—	Liverpool S.	Away	
Nov. 6—	Blackpool	Home	3-0
13—	Widnes	Away	
20—	Whitehaven	Home	2-30
27—	Wigan	Away	
Dec. 4—	Salford	Home	2-30
11—	Whitehaven	Away	

1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Dec. 18—	Keighley	Away	
25—	Swinton	Home	2-30
27—			
Jan. 1—	Belle Vue R.	Home	2-30
8—	Leigh	Away	
15—	Warrington	Home	2-30
22—	Workington	Away	
29—	Rochdale Hornets	Home	3-0
Feb. 5—	Barrow	Home	3-0
12—	First Round R.L. Cup		
19—	St. Helens	Home	3-0
26—			
Mar. 5—	Second Round R.L. Cup		
12—	Belle Vue Rangers	Away	
19—	Widnes	Home	3-0
26—	Warrington	Away	
Apl. 2—	Wigan	Home	3-0
8—	Swinton (Friday)	Away	
9—	Hull	Away	
11—	Keighley (Mon.)	Home	3-0
16—	Leigh	Home	3-0

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THIS SPACE TO LET

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THE SECRETARY,

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB,

PAVILION,

WATERSHEDDINGS,

OLDHAM, Lancs.

OLDHAM v. BATLEY

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Season 1954-55 has now made its debut and in our opening match at Wakefield we expected to have a very hard task—as we know from past experiences that we have come away from the Belle Vue ground empty handed for several years whenever we have had fixtures with them.

This game was one of fluctuating fortunes, each side scoring six tries, and it was only by the superior goal kicking of our full back that put us on the right side to finish victors by 32 points to 22 points.

Possession from the scrums in the first half was equal with 13 each, but in the second half, we secured the ball 16 times to our opponents 8 times.

For our opening match we consider that our team played well, but a tightening up in defence must be made, of course, if defence was dominant over attack in every match the game would lose its value as a spectacle. Spectators want to see tries scored, but not tries of the gift or snap variety. Clean cut and swift passing is desired by all and the ability to take the ball at all angles, and when least expected, to be able to take advantage of any mistakes by opponents must be our teams purpose when on the field.

A very unique position took place during the match at Wakefield, in so much as our team were penalised on twelve occasions for various infringements and our opponents were never penalised during the whole of the game, we never had a penalty awarded to us. It is a very fine achievement for one team to go through a match without infringing the laws of the game, of course, the referee is the sole interpreter of the laws and we must always abide by his decision, but it is a position that may never occur again during the season.

ROUGH PLAY

Much has been said, and much more written, about the rough play that has taken place in matches which our Touring Team has taken part in. Our comments on same cannot be expressed until we have the official version of the incidents.

It is pretty obvious that there is something wrong with our game, or are we the subject of a damaging and sensational press who are illuminating and inciting our players to abuse the game which they represent. Our Australian friends call our game "the greatest game of all," and we agree, if it is played as it should be played. To all parties we would say, "cut out the rough stuff and get on with the game." No one wants to see a game of fisticuffs, the sooner it is cut out the better it will be for all.

As a spectacle, under present conditions, our game is obviously on the downgrade, and anything going downhill deserves the fate that comes to it. Our game is attractive when played in the right spirit, and the crowds will come to watch it.

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OLDHAM Blue and White		BATLEY Red and White	
1. GANLEY, W. B.		1. WALSHAW, P.	
2. CRACKNELL, R.		2. ETTY, J.	
3. FEARIS, P.		3. KILROY, A.	
4. DAVIES, A.		4. RILEY, W. M. McDONALD	
5. LOMAS, H.		5. FIELD, N.	
6. DALEY, F.		6. COX, G.	
7. PITCHFORD, F.		7. NORTHERN, G.	
8. SMITH, T. A.		8. PICKERSGILL, K.	
9. KEITH, J.		9. BATTERSBY, E.	
10. TOMLINSON, A.		10. REDFEARN, E.	
11. WINSLADE, C.		11. PALMER, G.	
12. MURRAY, A.		12. PAYNE, L.	
13. GOLDSWAIN, B. V., Capt.		14. BRIGGS, C.	

Referee: Mr. T. ARMITAGE of Huddersfield

Touch Judges:
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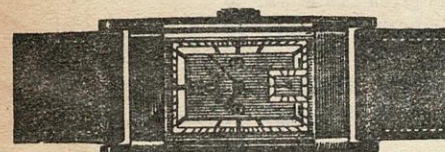
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The answer to all this is obviously with the Club Managements. They must insist on their players playing attractive and clean football, to make the game entertaining. This would also be the answer to the financial difficulties which several clubs are experiencing. The destiny of the game and also the destiny of the Club lies in its management, and the sooner Club directors and committees realise this the better it will be for all concerned.

ENTERTAINMENT DUTY

Much time and effort has been spent interviewing officials in London by representatives of the Rugby League in an endeavour to secure some reduction in Entertainment Duty.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer decreed that he would allow only one halfpenny off the duty.

Whilst admitting that a little—and this is a little—is better than nothing, this amount is practically of no value to small clubs and as a concession amounts to nothing with the same amount of work entailed in remitting.

In our own case, for a gate of £1,000, the relief of one halfpenny in tax amounts to £20. It would have been better to have a sliding scale, and, as in the case of an individual, the more money you take—or earn—the more tax you pay.

BRIEFS

Terry O'Grady has played 10 games in Australia and scored 17 tries. His record in New Zealand is not to hand. The team left New Zealand last Tuesday for a further three matches in Australia, at Newcastle, Canberra and Sydney. From reports, O'Grady was injured in the final test in New Zealand and we hope that his injury is only a minor one.

L. Platt. No doubt spectators are wondering what has become of Lawrence Platt since he has not appeared in any team up to the present. Platt has had a temporary breakdown in health and is at present having specialist treatment which we hope will be successful, and that once again we will have the services of this capable player.

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A BLACKPOOL
ST. HELENS

B BARROW
LEEDS

C WIGAN
HUNSLET

D HALIFAX
WARRINGTON

E YORK
ROCHDALE

F BARNSELY
ATHLETIC

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