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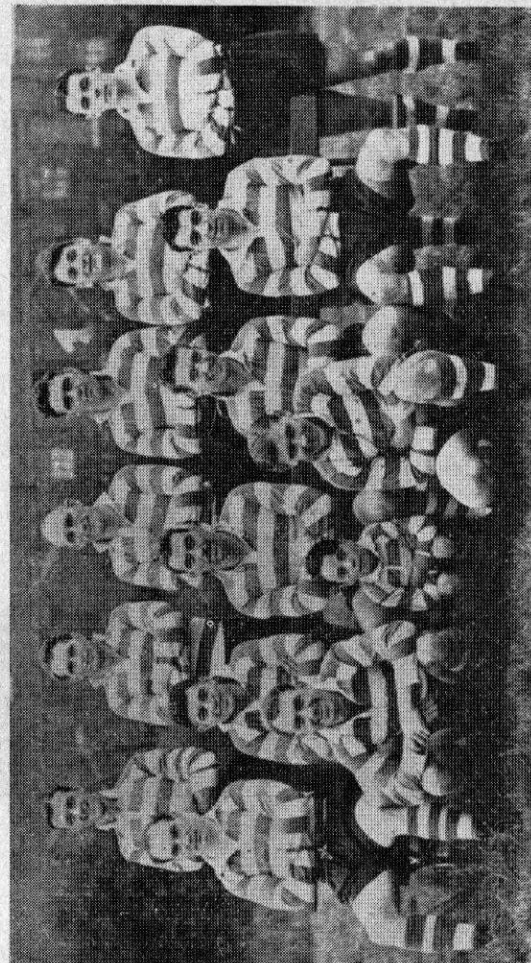


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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

11, Ashton Road East,  
Failsworth.

19th May, 1954

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Whenever I settle down to write or think about our Football Club, my mind fills with what might have been.

Had we not missed this chance, or had we not suffered that injury, how high would our hopes have risen.

Still we must never forget that is football. The glorious uncertainty of our game.

But at Oldham our hopes are based upon the prospects of our young players.

They have ability, enthusiasm and given the guidance, and blessed with the necessary luck, they can go far.

Experience is coming to them with every match they play in, and soon, I believe, we shall reap the due reward.

Our supporters are keen and for the most part faithful, following the club through thick and thin, home and away.

Many of them, members of the Supporters' Club connected with Oldham Football Club, giving of their time and energy to further the fortunes of the club they have at heart.

I hope many more will join them, for I know what a help, a real live, strong, Supporters' Club can be.

We can therefore look forward with high hopes, for, although it is many years now since honours came to our club, I believe that we are due to reap the benefit of all our endeavours, and see, once again, the name of Oldham connected with the premier honours of our game.

WILLIAM HOWARD, M.B.E., J.P.

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## A message from the President of the Supporters' Club

58 Worcester Street,  
Oldham.

Fellow Sportsmen,

It has been my privilege at the Annual General Meeting of the Supporters' Club to be elected to serve as your President for the coming season.

Since the formation of the Supporters' Club, which was formed at the Friendship Hotel, Mumps, on Tuesday, April 26th, 1932, and at the first meeting the following officials and committee were elected:—

Chairman: Mr. T. Beswick.  
Secretary: Mr. H. Lees.  
Treasurer: Mr. H. Mellor.

Committee: H. Sutcliffe, J. H. Cocker, F. Kenyon, H. Fenton and J. Griffith.

These gentlemen started a club of which we are proud, and during the years have done valuable work, with concreting terracing, etc., and also given grants to our parent body from time to time.

During the last season we regret to say we have lost a long standing and valuable servant of the Supporters' Club, in Mr. J. Hollingworth who in his time has held every position in the club.

During the coming season my committee and officials will be trying hard to increase our income and the ways are up to now "Canteens," "Penny-on-Ball," "Rugby & Soccer Monthly," and in September or October we are hoping to sell the Rugby League Diary, so we ask one and all to rally round and patronise us, so that we can increase our income, and in turn we can hand our profits over to our parent body.

The last two years all our donations have been earmarked for the "GROUND RECONSTRUCTION FUND" and the first of their objectives is to raise monies for the double-decker stand known as the "Penny Rush Stand," and which when completed will be a stand of 10 bays, and the first part of six bays should be in use for the commencement of the 1954-55 season.

I appeal to all interested rugby followers whether members of O.F.C. or not to join the Supporters' Club, and also if you have enjoyed our new publication of our "Year Book" recommend it to your friends.

Yours faithfully,

R. MOORES.

Page Eleven

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Aug. 7	Rochdale Hornets (Law Cup)	...	...	Home
" 14	Wakefield Trinity	...	...	Away
" 21	Batley	...	...	Home
" 25	Salford (Wednesday, 7 p.m.)	...	...	Away
" 28	St. Helens	...	...	Away
" 31	Liverpool C. (Tuesday, 7 p.m.)	...	...	Home
Sept. 4	Barrow	...	...	Away
" 11	Lancs. County Amateurs (Lancashire Cup)	...	...	Home
" 18	Batley	...	...	Away
" 25	Wakefield Trinity	...	...	Home
Oct. 2	Blackpool	...	...	Away
" 9	Workington Town	...	...	Home
" 16	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	Away
" 23	Hull	...	...	Home
" 30	Liverpool City	...	...	Away
Nov. 6	Blackpool	...	...	Home
" 13	Widnes	...	...	Away
" 20	Whitehaven	...	...	Home
" 27	Wigan	...	...	Away
Dec. 4	Salford	...	...	Home
" 11	Whitehaven	...	...	Away
" 18	Keighley	...	...	Away
" 25	Swinton	...	...	Home
" 27	...	...	...	...
Jan. 1	Belle Vue Rangers	...	...	Home
" 8	Leigh	...	...	Away
" 15	Warrington	...	...	Home
" 22	Workington Town	...	...	Away
" 29	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	Home
Feb. 5	Barrow	...	...	Home
" 12	1st Round Challenge Cup	...	...	...
" 19	St. Helens	...	...	Home
" 26	...	...	...	...
Mar. 5	2nd Round Challenge Cup	...	...	...
" 12	Belle Vue Rangers	...	...	Away
" 19	Widnes	...	...	Home
" 26	Warrington	...	...	Away
Apr. 2	Wigan	...	...	Home
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" 9	Hull	...	...	Away
" 11	Keighley	...	...	Home
" 16	Leigh	...	...	Home



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Aug. 14	Leigh "A" (F)	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 21	Liverpool City	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 28	St. Helens	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 31	*Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	Away
Sept. 4	Barrow	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 7	*Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 18	Salford	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 25	Swinton	...	...	...	...	...	Away
Oct. 2	Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 9	Workington Town	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 16	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 23	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 30	Liverpool City	...	...	...	...	...	Home
Nov. 6	Blackpool	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 13	Widnes	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 20	Whitehaven	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 27	Wigan	...	...	...	...	...	Home
Dec. 4	Salford	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 11	Whitehaven	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 18	Leigh (F)	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Jan. 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 8	Leigh	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 15	Warrington	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 22	Workington Town	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 29	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	Away
Feb. 5	Barrow	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 19	St. Helens	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 26	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Mar. 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 19	Widnes	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 26	Warrington	...	...	...	...	...	Home
Apr. 2	Wigan	...	...	...	...	...	Away
" 8	Swinton	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 9	Rochdale Hornets (F)	...	...	...	...	...	Home
" 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 16	Leigh	...	...	...	...	...	Away

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Page Sixteen

1953-54

## A SEASON OF HOPES AND ILL-FORTUNE

Oldham were not as good a team in 1953-4 as they were in 1951-2, but they went just as close to gaining honours. In the 1951-2 days they were brilliant in attack, and very jealous in guarding their goal-line and eventually, with a great late season spurt, they were only a point off the top four play-off after whacking Hull Kingston Rovers with the last match of the season.

Mediocrity set in during the following year but "this is OUR season" we were saying in August last year. It might easily have been but for the misfortune of meeting perhaps the only team which could have knocked Oldham out of the Challenge Cup—Warrington.

I do not blame any one player for losing that all-ticket Challenge Cup second round match of tragedy. Why put the burden in one section when the whole team had failed to ram home a distinct first-half territorial advantage? Mistakes made in attack are just as disastrous as those made in defence. The difference is that those made in defence are shown on the scoreboard whereas nothing is done—except groan—to record a miss or some hard luck feature near the opponents' lips.

Warrington also finished Oldham's Lancashire Cup hopes. Yet I was one Oldhamer who was proud of my team on that day at Wilderspool on September 24, 1953.

They went down 11-12 but battled like tigers all the way. They could win championships with less fervour than that displayed on the day.

In fact, after that comparatively early-season game, Oldham had hopes of championship, and the Challenge Cup competition was always something to look forward to, whatever the luck of the draw.

I have no cause to want to excuse the team. But I can say that without a shadow of doubt injuries not only curtailed Oldham's prowess on the field but sapped morale in the meantime. Oldham were going into battle like infantrymen aware that they had no artillery to help them on the way.

In any case, Goldswain was only recovering from "wounds" and Ganley, Stirrup, Daley, O'Grady, Warham, Wins'ade and others had already been "pipped" by the "enemy."

Page Seventeen

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It was beginning to be apparent that reinforcements were necessary. Steps were taken to remedy the situation. Dick Cracknell was persuaded—and it took a great deal of persuasion—to make Watersheddings his home. He cost Oldham what is to many of us—and to most clubs—a fortune—£4,500.

How much the committee must have debated whether to spend that money; but how much the committee must have debated the necessity of strengthening the team.

The transfer was clinched, so Oldham became £4,500 lighter—but, on paper, formidable in the three-quarter line which, apart from one position, consisted of internationals.

On the left was O'Grady, just now on the verge of making a come-back to form and to glory. His centre was Alan Davies whose fans even now think should have been a tourist. The right centre was causing trouble but now we had another great wingman to pick up the threads and get the best out of his partner.

For some time, Cracknell just didn't work in with the scheme of things. It can never be understood why. All right, he hadn't the partners. But was he himself at his best?

The fact that Cracknell has a best, and a very good best, was shown in tries later in the season. Once he recovered from what seemed a Fartown sickness he was an Oldham thoroughbred, but requiring a centre.

He had four or five, as a matter of fact, but that position has not been settled and is still open to this day.

That is one of the problems for the 1954-5 committee, a bigger problem now that the club has little money to start hunting in the transfer market. However, there are youngsters on the books—Oldham is one of the youngest teams in the league—and team-building is not out of the question.

Oldham were twelfth club in the table last season. Even with their injuries they should have done better.

Their away form is damaging their reputation. Oldham could thrash Whitehaven twice at home, 45-6 (Lancashire Cup) 46-6 in the league. But they couldn't win at Whitehaven, nor have they won there since Whitehaven joined the league.

Oldham's early season set-backs were defeats at Widnes, where they should have made mincemeat of the home side, and at Bramley, where Daley gained his broken forearm and has languished in an eddie of poor form since. The Stirrup-Daley partnership was broken in the fourth match of the season and it seemed that the dark clouds were already gathering over the horizon.

Brilliance at Huddersfield had previously shown what the team could do, even though in this spell-binding match at Fartown Oldham fell behind after being miles ahead. The promise didn't materialise.

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*Page Twenty*

Eventually, Oldham won thirteen games, lost twelve and drew three in Lancashire section games. From their 36 Northern R.L. League matches they gleaned seventeen victories, suffered fifteen defeats and drew four games.

Their most damaging period was from October 31 to January 9 when they won only two of twelve games. There was a glimmering of recovery towards the end of the season when four wins were gained in a row, including a staunch 7-2 win at Wigan to gain the double.

Oldham played "middling" football and ended in the middle of the table. They are capable of playing top-class football and can reach the top next season.

It all depends on the firmness and ability and then the response given to the manager-coach called for by members at the annual meeting in May. Whatever the future holds, whatever the future form of the player himself, it must not be forgotten that Bryn Goldswain as coach and captain has given great service to Oldham and has almost, on two occasion, taken the team to championship and Challenge Cup honours for this town of ours.

NORTHERN.



*Bernard Canley, Oldham's record goal-kicker.*



*Bryn Goldswain. Behind Oldham's post-war revival.*

*Page Twenty-one*

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Page Twenty-two

## MATCH DETAILS

### ROCHDALE HORNETS v. OLDHAM

August 8th at Rochdale. Lost 19—31

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Warham; Jones, Stirrup; Ogden, Munday, Tomlinson, Little, Lomas, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries: O'Grady 2, Warham. Goals: Ganley (5).

**Rochdale Hornets**—Cahill; Oldroyd, Short, Harris, Lord; Chisnall, Vallet; Fisher, Ellean, Hawkins, Schofield, Kelly, McNally.

Rochdale scorers—Tries: McNally (2), Oldroyd (2), Kelly, Schofield, Chisnall. Goals: Lord (2), Harris, Short, McNally (drop goal).

Attendance: 8,413.

Referee: G. S. Phillips (Widnes).

### OLDHAM v. WIGAN

August 15th at Watersheddings. Won 18—7.

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davis, Warham; Jones, Stirrup; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Jones, Davies. Goals: Ganley (5), Stirrup (drop goal).

**Wigan**—Cunliffe; Nordgren, Broome, Ashcroft, Bevan; Fleming, Kelly; Gee, Mather, W. Collier, F. Collier, Williams, Griffin.

Wigan scorers—Try: Ashcroft. Goals: F. Collier (2).

Attendance: 16,254.

Referee: R. Gelder (Wakefield).

### HUDDERSFIELD v. OLDHAM

August 22 at Fartown. Lost 20—27.

**Huddersfield**—Hunter; Henderson, Pepperell, Devery, Cooper; Rylance, Banks; Slevin, Curran, Bowden, Brown, Large, Valentine.

Huddersfield scorers—Tries: Henderson (2), Pepperell, Cooper, Devery. Goals: Devery (6).

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Warham; Daley, Stirrup; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Warham, Davies, Stirrup, Jackson. Goals: Ganley (4).

Attendance: 17,362.

Referee: C. F. Appleton (Warrington).

### BRAMLEY v. OLDHAM

August 26th at Bramley. Lost 9—16.

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Platt; Daley, Stirrup; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Watson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try: Daley. Goals: Ganley (2).

**Bramley**—Proctor; Riley, Nepia, Warrior, Humphreys; Armitage, Burnell; Cluderay, Hanley, Smith, Baldwin, Tomlinson, Guy.

Bramley scorers—Tries: Nepia, Armitage. Goals: Nepia (5).

Attendance: 4,000.

Referee: T. W. Watkinson (Manchester).

Page Twenty-three

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Page Twenty-four

### OLDHAM v. LEEDS

August 29th at Watersheddings. Won 14—5.

**Oldham**—Stirrup; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Platt; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Winslade, Watson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Platt (2), Pitchford, Davies. Goal : Winslade.

**Leeds**—Jones; Turnbull, Moore, Brown, Broughton, Williams, Stevenson; Nutting, Wood, Gwyther, Clues, Poole, Blan.  
Leeds scorers—Try : Poole. Goal : Jones.  
Attendance : 10,932. Referee : T. Armitage (Huddersfield).

### WIDNES v. OLDHAM

September 2nd at Widnes. Lost 9—11.

**Oldham**—Stirrup; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Platt; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Davies (2), Platt.

**Widnes**—Sale; Owen, Wright, Cullis, Jolley; Oster, Davies; Rowbottom, Hayes, Wilcox, Simpson, Woodward, Todd.  
Widnes scorers—Try : Wilcox. Goals : Jolley (4).  
Attendance : 6,000. Referee : Mr. L. Garbett (Castleford).

### WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM (Lanes Cup, 1st Leg, 1st Round)

September 5th at Whitehaven. Lost 12—13.

**Whitehaven**—McKeown; W. Nicholson, Morgan, Gates, Harrison; Garratt, Keen; McAlone, Graham, Killen, Tomlinson, Robertson, McGuinness.  
Whitehaven scorers—Tries : McAlone, Gates, Nicholson. Goals : McKeown (2).

**Oldham**—Ganley; Emmitt, Mitchell, Davies, Stirrup; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Pitchford, Emmitt. Goals : Ganley (3).  
Attendance : 5,900. Referee : R. Gelder (Wakefield).

### OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN (Lanes Cup, 2nd Leg)

September 7th at Watersheddings. Won 45—6.

**Oldham**—Canley; Emmitt, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Mundy, Jackson, Little, Winslade, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Stirrup (2), Feather (2), Davies, Emmitt, Goldswain. Goals : Ganley (12).

**Whitehaven**—McKeown; Nicholson, Morgan, Gates, Harrison; Garrett, Keen; McAlone, Richardson, Graham, Robertson, Tomlinson, McGuinness.  
Whitehaven scorers—Goals : McKeown (3).  
Attendance : 10,142. Referee : Mr. H. Squires (Ossett).

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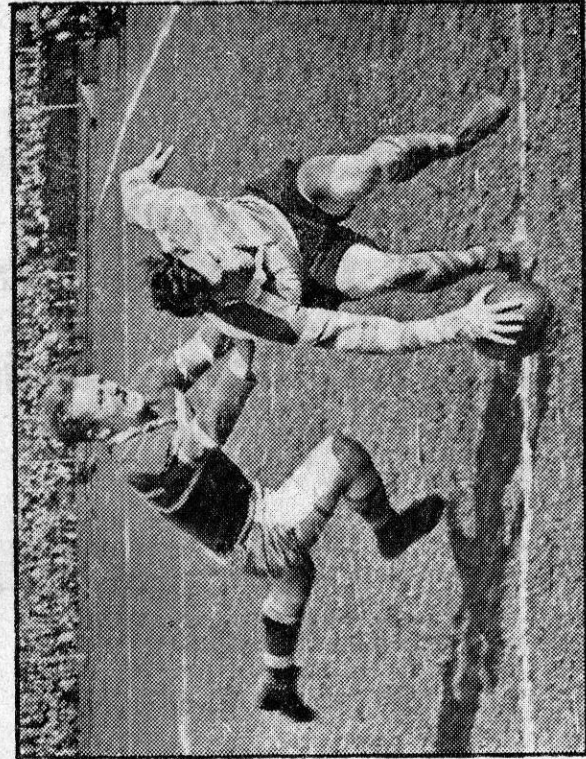
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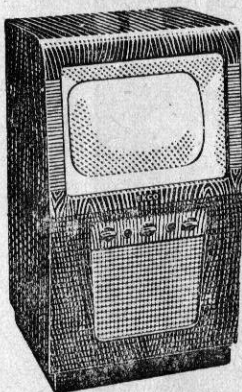
Action picture. O'Grady scores his last try of the season, against Rochdale Hornets. Walter Jones attempts to stop him.

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**LEIGH v. OLDHAM**

September 12th at Leigh. Won 17—9.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Emmitt, Mitchell; Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Munday, Anthony, Winslade, Little, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Davies, Emmitt. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Leigh**—Ledgard; Kindon, Lowe, Allan, Davies; Moore, Clough, Edden, Tabern, Owen, Pawsey, Mossop, Foster. Leigh scorers—Try : Kindon. Goals : Ledgard (3).

Referee : H. Squires (Ossett).

**OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL CITY**

September 19th at Watersheddings. Won 28—2.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Emmitt, Mitchell, Fearis, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Jackson, Keith, Anthony, Winslade, Little, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (2), Keith, Little, Fearis, Ganley. Goals : Ganley (5).

**Liverpool City**—Bennett; Cox, Hayes, Ogden, Adair; Hand, Green; Wright, O'Mara, Reilly, Curran, Stott, Cockram. Liverpool scorer—Goal : Green.

Attendance : 8,106.

Referee : S. Abram (Wigan).

**WARRINGTON v. OLDHAM (Lanes Cup, 2nd Rd.)**

September 24th at Warrington. Lost 11—12.

**Warrington**—Frodsham; Bevan, A. Naughton, Mountford, Challinor; Price, Sheridan; D. Naughton, F. Wright, G. Wright, Bath, Phillips, Ryan.

Warrington scorers—Tries : Naughton, Challinor. Goals : Bath (3).

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Feather, Stirrup; Anthony, Mundy, Jackson, Tomlinson, Winslade, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try : Mitchell. Goals : Ganley (4).

Attendance : 15,524.

Referee : M. Coates (Pudsey).

**LEEDS v. OLDHAM**

September 26th at Leeds. Lost 10—27.

**Oldham**—Ratchford; Emmitt, Mitchell, Davies, Platt; Feather, Stirrup; Anthony, Mundy, Jackson, Tomlinson, Little, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : Stirrup, Feather. Goals : Ratchford (2).

**Leeds**—Morgan; Turnbull, McLellan, Brown, Broughton; Watson, Stevenson; Horsfall, Wood, Gwyther, Hopper, Poole, Clues. Leeds scorers—Tries : McLellan (2), Turnbull (2), Broughton, Stevenson. Goals : Morgan (6).

Attendance 20,000.

Referee : Mr. N. T. Railton (Wigan).

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### OLDHAM v. WIDNES

Saturday, October 3rd at Watersheddings. Won 33—2.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Emmitt, Fearis, Davies, Platt; Feather, Stirrup; Jackson, Mundy, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Stirrup (2), Jackson (2), Goldswain, Little, Platt. Goals : Ganley (5), Stirrup (drop goal).

**Widnes**—Pumford; Hazelhurst, Jolley, Jones, Hill; Oster, Davies; Rowbottom, Hayes, Wilcox, Royle, Lamb, Todd.  
Widnes scorer—Goal : Jolley.

Attendance : 10,341.

Referee : M. Coates (Pudsey).

### OLDHAM v. DEWSBURY

Saturday, October 10th at Watersheddings. Won 11—2

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Fearis, Mitchell, Platt; Feather, Stirrup; Jackson, Keith, Tomlinson, Little, Watson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Platt (2). Goal : Fearis.

**Dewsbury** — Thompson; Calligan, Price, Taylor, Hemingway; Ormondroyd, Quinn; Danter, Bradshaw, Wilmot, Payne, Metcalfe, Withington.

Dewsbury scorer—Goal : Thompson.

Attendance : 13,530.

Referee : S. Adams (Hull).

### SALFORD v. OLDHAM

Saturday, October 17th at Salford. Drawn 11—11.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Davies, Fearis, Platt; Feather, Stirrup; Jackson, Mundy, Anthony, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Try : Fearis. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Salford**—Smith; Baines, Finnan, Fairhurst, Danby; J. Davies, Keavney; Marston, Boardman, Rogers, Grainger, Moses, Birkin.  
Salford scorers—Try : Baines. Goals : Rogers, Davies (3).

Attendance : 11,000.

Referee : L. Thorpe (Wakefield).

### OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

Saturday, October 24th at Watersheddings. Won 20—6.

**Oldham** — Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, Platt; Feather, Stirrup; Anthony, Keith, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : Little (2), Davies, Stirrup. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Rochdale Hornets**—Cahill; W. Jones, Short, Ron Stanford, Bradley; Chisnall, Helme; Fisher, Sivill, Hawkins, Duffy, Kelly, McNally.  
Hornets' scorers—Tries : Cahill, Jones.

Attendance : 15,418.

Referee : A. Howgate (Dewsbury).

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## DEWSBURY v. OLDHAM

Saturday, October 31st at Dewsbury. Drawn 6—6.

**Oldham**—Ratchford; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Anthony, Keith, Jackson, Little, Winslade, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Mitchell.

**Dewsbury**—Thompson; Dickinson, Callighan, Price, Hemingway; Ormondroyd, Thornton; Wilmot, Bradshaw, Flannery, Metcalfe, Stephenson, Payne.

Dewsbury scorers—Goals : Thompson (3).

Attendance : 4,000.

Referee : J. W. Jackson.

## OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

Saturday, November 7th, at Watersheddings. Lost 3—5.

**Oldham**—Stirrup; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Fearis; Feather, Pitchford; Anthony, Keith, Jackson, Little, Winslade, Goldswain.

Oldham scorer—Try : O'Grady.

**St. Helens**—Moses; Llewellyn, Howard, Gullick, Dickinson; Honey, Ball; Ayles, Blakemore, Parr, Parsons, Bretherton, Karalius.

St. Helens scorers—Try : Parsons. Goal : Ball.

Attendance : 6,626.

Referee : T. Armitage (Huddersfield).

## WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM

Saturday, November 14th at Whitehaven. Lost 0—7.

**Whitehaven**—McKeown; Nicholson, McAvoy, Smith, Harrison; Garrett, Kean; McAlone, Richardson, Kill'en, Tomlinson, Rodgers, Robertson.

Whitehaven scorers—Try : Harrison. Goals : McKeown (2).

**Oldham**—Feather; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Stirrup; Anthony, Mundy, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Attendance : 4,500.

Referee : S. Adams.

## OLDHAM v. BRAMLEY

Saturday, November 21st at Watersheddings. Won 35—13.

**Oldham**—Feather; Lomas, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Stirrup; Jackson, Keith, A. Tomlinson, Leyland, Goldswain, Little.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Lomas (3), Barrow (2), O'Grady (2), Leyland, Davies.

**Bramley**—Wilson; Riley, Nepia, Warrior, Millington; Armitage, Burnell; Smith, Rippon, Newbound, Baldwin, Tomlinson, Guy.

Bramley scorers—Tries : Warrior, Riley, Nepia. Goals : Wilson (2).

Attendance : 7,445.

Referee : Mr. A. Hill (Dewsbury).

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#### BELLE VUE RANGERS v. OLDHAM

Saturday, November 28th at Belle Vue. Lost 14—17.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Goldswain, Little. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Cracknell. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Belle Vue Rangers** : Pimblett; McGilvray, Morgan, Jones, Day; Williams, Cleworth; Pugsley, Dutton, Gallagher, Herbert, Tierney, Jennings.

Belle Vue Rangers scorers—Tries : Day (2), Morgan. Goals : Tierney (4).

Attendance : 5,000.

Referee : Mr. F. Smith (Barrow).

#### OLDHAM v. BARROW

Saturday, December 5th at Watersheddings. Lost 8—24.

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Barrow, Davies, Emmitt; Ayres, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Tomlinson, Watson, Little.

Oldham scorer—Goals : Ganley (4).

**Barrow**—Gibson; Lewthwaite, Jackson, Goodwin, Castle; Horne, Toohey; Webster, McKeating, Barton, Grundy, Parker, D. Wilson.

Barrow scorers—Tries : Goodwin, Wilson, Castle, Lewthwaite. Goals : Gibson (6).

Attendance : 9,770.

Referee : Mr. G. Phillips (Widnes).

#### ST. HELENS v. OLDHAM

Saturday, December 12th at St. Helens. Lost 9—21.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Ayres, Pitchford; Ogden, Mundy, Smith, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try : Pitchford. Goals : Ganley (3).

**St. Helens**—Ball; Llewellyn, Greenall, Gullick, McCormick; Metcalfe, Honey; Prescott, Blakemore, Ayles, Parr, Bretherton, Cale.

St. Helens scorers—Tries : McCormick, Prescott, Greenall, Llewellyn, Parr. Goals : Metcalfe (3).

Referee : W. Stockley (Swinton).

#### OLDHAM v. WORKINGTON TOWN

Saturday, December 19th at Watersheddings. Lost 10—22.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Munday, Smith, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Davies, Cracknell. Goals : Ganley (2).

**Workington**—Risman; Southward, Paskins, Gibson, Bailey; Kerwick, Thomas; Hayton, Lymer, Henderson, Mudge, Thompson, Ivison.

Workington Town scorers—Tries : Bailey, Southward, Thomas. Goals : Risman (4), Gibson (drop goal).

Attendance : 8,524.

Referee : Mr. L. Thorpe (Wakefield).

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Action picture. Goldswain grasps a Hornets forward.

Page Thirty-seven.

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OLDHAM v. SWINTON

December 25th at Watersheddings. Won 23—0.

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Little, Wins'ade, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (2), Emmitt (2), Ganley. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Swinton**—Lawrenson; Norburn, Burn, Winkworth, Hardman; Parkinson, Thomas; McGowan, Osmond, Phillips, Woods, Tonge, Haynes.

Attendance : 10,931. Referee : S. Abram (Wigan).

WORKINGTON TOWN v. OLDHAM

Saturday, December 26th at Workington. Lost 0—3.

**Workington Town** : Risman; Southward, Paskins, Gibson, Bailey; Archer, Thomas; Hayton, Lymer, Henderson, Mudge, Thompson, Ivison.

Workington Town scorer—Try : Gibson.

**Oldham**—Ganley; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Winslade, Goldswain.

Referee : Mr. F. Smith (Barrow).

HULL v. OLDHAM

Saturday, January 2nd at Hull. Lost 3—23.

**Hull**—Hutton; Bowman, Riches, Turner, Watts; Conway, Tripp; Stott, Harris, Coverdale, Markham, Hockley, Whiteley.

Hu'll scorers—Tries : Bowman (2), Watts (2), Whiteley. Goals : Hutton (4).

**Oldham**—Feather; O'Grady, Mitchell, Davies, Emmitt; Ayres, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Winslade, Goldswain. Oldham scorer—Try : Emmitt.

Attendance : 9,550. Referee : Mr. S. Abram (Wigan).

OLDHAM v. SALFORD

Saturday, January 9th at Watersheddings. Drawn 2—2.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady, Daley, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Anthony, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

O'dham scorer—Goal : Ganley.

**Salford**—Smith; Hartley, Finnan, Roughley, Danby; J. Davies, Keavney; Marston, McKinney, Rogers, Grainer, Moses, Birkin. Salford scorer—Goal : Davies.

Attendance : 7,902. Referee : Mr. W. Rigby (Leigh).

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### OLDHAM v. HUDDERSFIELD

Saturday, January 16th at Watersheddings. Won 15—4.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Feather; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Davies, Cracknell. Goals : Ganley (3).

**Huddersfield**—Hunter; Henderson, Ramsden, Rose, Cooper; Devery, Banks; Slevin, Bradshaw, Bawden, Large, Briggs, Valentine. Huddersfield scorer—Goals : Devery (2).

Attendance : 12,671 Referee : Mr. A. Howgate (Dewsbury).

### LIVERPOOL CITY v. OLDHAM

Saturday, January 23rd at Knotty Ash. Won 25—10.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Feather; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Davies, Barrow Goals : Ganley (5).

**Liverpool City**—Cox; Grundy, Wood, Tegg, Adair; Green, Parkes; Moss, O'Mara, Welsby, Holland, Collier, Griffin.

Liverpool City scorers—Tries : Parkes, Tegg. Goals : Wood (2). Attendance : 1,500. Referee : Mr. W. Stockley (Leigh).

### LIVERPOOL CITY v. OLDHAM (Challenge Cup, 1st Rnd., 1st Leg)

Saturday, February 6th at Knotty Ash. Won 15—5.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Feather; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Winslade, Goldswain, Cracknell. Goals : Ganley (3).

**Liverpool City**—Cox, Bennett, Wood, Tegg, Adair; Green, Parkes; Moss, O'Mara, Welsby, Collier, Holland, Griffin.

Liverpool City—Try : Wood. Goal : Wood.

Referee : Mr. T. Armitage (Huddersfield).

### OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL CITY (Challenge Cup, 1st Rd., 2nd Leg)

Saturday, February 13th at Watersheddings. Won 18—11.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Feather; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Watson, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (2), Davies, Ganley.

**Liverpool City**—Cox; Bennett, Wood, Tegg, Adair; Hesketh, Parkes; Moss, Winterbottom, Welsby, Holland, Collier, Griffin.

Liverpool City scorers—Try : Tegg. Goals : Wood (4).

Attendance : 7,492.

Referee : Mr. S. Adams (Hull).

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## WARRINGTON v. OLDHAM

Saturday, February 20th at Warrington. Lost 2—14.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Smith, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorer—Goal: Ganley.

**Warrington**—Frodsham; Bevan, Challinor, Stevens, McCormick; Price, Helme; D. Naughton, Wright, Lowe, Bath, White, Ryan.  
Warrington scorers—Tries: Helme, Bath. Goals: Bath (4).  
Attendance: 17,271. Referee: Mr. N. T. Railton (Wigan).

## OLDHAM v. LEIGH

Saturday, February 27th at Watersheddings. Won 20—7.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Leyland.  
Oldham scorers—Tries: O'Grady (3). Barrow: Goals Ganley (4).

**Leigh**—Ledgard; Kitchen, Lowe, Baxter, Kindon; McGurrian, Chadwick; Edden, Tabern, Owen, Pawsey, McFarlane, Foster.  
Leigh scorers—Try: Kitchen. Goals: Ledgard (2).  
Attendance: 9,089. Referee: Mr. G. Phillips (Widnes).

## OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON (Challenge Cup, 2nd. Rnd.)

Saturday, March 6th at Watersheddings. Lost 4—7.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorer—Goals: Ganley (2).

**Warrington**—Frodsham; Bevan, Challinor, A. Naughton, McCormick; Price, Helme; D. Naughton, Wright, Bath, Phillips, White, Ryan.  
Warrington scorers—Try: Bevan. Goals: Bath (2).  
Attendance: 20,750. Referee: Mr. H. Squires (Ossett).

## BARROW v. OLDHAM

Saturday, March 13 at Barrow. Lost 6—12.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries: O'Grady, Cracknell.

**Barrow**—Hebblethwaite; Lewthwaite, Jackson, Goodwin, Castle; Horne, Toohey; Belshaw, McKeating, Barton, Grundy, Parker, Healey.  
Barrow scorers—Tries: Grundy (2). Goals: Horne (2), Hebblethwaite.  
Attendance: 11,000. Referee: Mr. G. S. Phillips (Widnes).

## OLDHAM v. HULL

Saturday, March 20th at Watersheddings. Won 21—9.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.  
Oldham scorers—Tries: Cracknell (2), Mitchell. Goals: Ganley (6).

**Hull**—Hutton; Bowman, Riches, Turner, Watts; Moat, Knapp; Scott, Harris, Coverdale, Markham, Hockley, Drake.  
Hull scorers—Try: Riches. Goals: Hutton (3).  
Attendance: 9,072. Referee: Mr. A. Howgate (Dewsbury).



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**OLDHAM v. LEIGH (Friendly)**

Saturday, April 3rd at Blackpool. Lost 13—18.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Platt, Mitchell, Noon, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Ogden, Mundy, Smith, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try : Mitche'l. Goals : Ganley (5).

**Leigh**—Hosking; Kindon, Lowe, Brown, M Davies, Chadwick, McGurrin; Edden, Dickens, Owen, Pawsey, P. Davies, McFarlane.

Leigh scorers—Tries : Pawsey, Owen, M Davies, Lowe. Goals : P. Davies (3).

Attendance : 2,500. Referee : Mr. K. W. Bland (Poulton-le-Fylde).

**OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON**

Thursday, April 8th at Watersheddings. Drawn 7—7.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Barrow, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try : O'Grady. Goals : Ganley (2).

**Warrington**—Frodsham; Bevan, Challinor, A. Naughton, McCormick; Price, Helme; D. Naughton, Wright, Lowe, Bath, Phillips, Ryan.

Attendance : 7,257. Referee : Mr. A. Howgate (Dewsbury).

**WIGAN v. OLDHAM**

Saturday, April 10th at Wigan. Won 7—2.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Stirrup; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Little, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Try : O'Grady. Goals : O'Grady (2).

**Wigan**—Cunliffe; Silcock, Broome, Ashcroft, Ralph; Fleming T. Parr; Gee, Mather, Featherstone, McTigue, Williams, Street.

Wigan scorer—Goal : Gee.

Attendance : 17,982. Referee : Mr. I. Gelder (Wakefield).

**OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN**

Monday, April 12th at Watersheddings. Won 46—6.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Winslade, Goldswain.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Cracknell (3), O'Grady (2), Davies (2), Pitchford, Feather, Keith. Goals : Ganley (8).

**Whitehaven**—McKeown; Nicholson, Emery, Smith, Harrison; Garrett, Keen; McCourt, Crewdson, Kendall, Rodgers, Gilmore, Robertson.

Whitehaven scorer—Goals : McKeown (3).

Attendance : 5,000. Referee : Mr. H. Squires (Ossett).

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**SWINTON v. OLDHAM**

Good Friday, April 16th at Swinton. Won 15—2.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Little, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—

**Swinton**—Lawrenson; Norburn, Senior, Welsh, Edwards; Parton, Thomas; McGowan, C. Thompson, Holder, Cheetham, A. Thompson, Haynes.

Swinton scorer—Goal :

Attendance : 12,000.

Referee : Mr. V. Vacher (Lyon).

**OLDHAM v. BELLE VUE RANGERS**

Saturday, April 17th at Watersheddings. Won 20—15.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Lomas, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Stirrup, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Davies, Pitchford, Jackson. Goals : Ganley (4).

**Belle Vue Rangers**—Gregory; Beatty, Morgan, Jones, Day; Williams, Rees; Gallagher, Flannagan, Clancy, Herbert, Jennings, Pimblett. Belle Vue Rangers scorers—Tries : Williams, Gallagher, Jones. Goals : Gregory (3).

Attendance : 9,390.

Referee : Mr. S. Abram (Wigan).

**ROCHDALE HORNETS v. OLDHAM**

Monday, April 19th at Rochdale. Lost 7—10.

**Oldham**—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Goldswain. Oldham scorers—Try : O'Grady. Goals : Ganley (2).

**Rochdale Hornets** — Cahill; McArthur, Jones, Short, Bradley; Chisnall, Helme; Livesey, Ellean, Hawkins, Dooney, Kelly, McNally.

Rochdale Hornets scorers—Tries : Bradley, Cahill. Goals : Cahill (2).

Attendance : 15,215.

Referee : Mr. J. W. Jackson (Barrow).

**HALIFAX v. OLDHAM**

**(Arthur Daniel's Benefit)**

Saturday, May 15th at Halifax. Lost 32—33.

Halifax scorers—Tries : Daniels (2), Clarkson (2), Mageen (2), Pearce (2), Olson. Goals : Illingworth, Kiefty, Pearce.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Goldswain (2), Cracknell, Fearis (2), Barrow (2), Murray. Goals : Ganley (2), Fearis, Pitchford.

Attendance : 6,000.

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### Results of First Team Matches—1953-54

Date	Opponents	Grmd.	Rlt.	For			Against			Receipts	
				G	T	P	G	T	P	£	Attend.
Aug. 8	Rochdale H. (Lane's Cup)	away	L	5	3	19	5	7	31	8,413	801
" 15	Wigan	home	W	6	2	18	2	1	7	16,254	1,152
" 22	Huddersfield	away	L	4	4	20	6	5	27	17,362	—
" 26	Bramley	away	L	3	1	9	5	2	16	4,000	—
" 29	Leeds	home	W	1	4	14	1	1	5	10,932	—
Sept. 2	Widnes	away	L	0	3	9	4	1	11	6,000	—
" 5	Whitehaven (Lane's Cup 1st Rnd., 1st Leg)	away	L	3	2	12	2	3	13	5,900	535
" 7	Whitehaven (2nd Leg)	home	W	12	7	45	3	0	6	10,142	975
" 12	Leigh	away	W	4	3	17	3	1	9	—	—
" 19	Liverpool City	home	W	5	6	28	1	0	2	8,106	524
" 24	Warrington (Lane's Cup, 2nd Rnd.)	away	L	4	1	11	3	2	12	15,524	1,490
" 26	Leeds	away	L	2	2	10	6	5	27	20,000	1,690
Oct. 3	Widnes	home	W	6	7	33	1	0	2	10,341	732
" 10	Dewsbury	home	W	1	3	11	1	0	2	13,530	1,041
" 17	Salford	away	D	4	1	11	4	1	11	11,000	—
" 24	Rochdale H.	home	W	4	4	20	0	2	6	15,418	1,242
" 31	Dewsbury	away	D	0	2	6	3	0	6	4,000	—
Nov. 7	St. Helens	home	L	0	1	3	1	1	5	6,626	511
" 14	Whitehaven	away	L	0	0	0	2	1	7	4,500	—
" 21	Bramley	home	W	4	9	35	2	3	13	7,445	509
" 28	Bell Vue Rangers	away	L	4	2	14	4	3	17	5,000	—

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Date	Opponents	Gmd.	Rlt.	For G T P	Against G T P	Attend.	Receipts £
Dec. 5	Barrow	home	L	4 0 8	6 4 24	9,770	700
" 12	St. Helens	away	L	3 1 9	3 5 21	8,524	575
" 19	Workington Town	home	L	2 2 10	5 4 22	10,931	853
" 25	Swinton	home	W	4 5 23	0 0 0	—	—
" 26	Workington Town	away	L	0 0 0	0 1 3	—	—
Jan. 2	Hul'	away	L	0 1 3	4 5 23	9,550	865
" 9	Salford	home	D	1 0 2	1 0 2	7,902	562
" 16	Huddersfield	home	W	3 3 15	2 0 4	12,671	995
" 23	Liverpool City	away	W	5 5 25	2 2 10	1,500	—
Feb. 6	Liverpool C. (Chall. Cup 1st Rnd., 1st Leg)	away	W	3 3 15	1 1 5	—	87
" 13	Liverpool C. (Chall. Cup 2nd Leg)	home	W	3 4 18	4 1 11	7,492	717
" 20	Warrington	away	L	1 0 2	4 2 14	17,271	1,364
" 27	Leigh	home	W	4 4 20	2 1 7	9,089	618
Mar. 6	Warrington (Chall. Cup, 2nd Rnd.)	home	L	2 0 4	2 1 7	20,750	2,750
" 13	Barrow	away	L	0 2 6	3 2 12	11,000	(Receipts record)
" 20	Hul'	home	W	6 3 21	3 1 9	9,072	650
Apr. 3	Leigh (friendly)	Blackpool	L	5 1 13	3 4 18	2,500	—
" 8	Warrington	home	D	2 1 7	2 1 7	7,257	475
" 10	Wigan	away	W	2 1 7	1 0 2	17,982	1,266
" 12	Whitehaven	home	W	8 10 46	3 0 6	5,000	320
" 16	Swinton	away	W	3 3 15	1 0 2	12,000	1,109
" 17	Belle Vue Rangers	home	W	4 4 20	1 3 15	9,390	632
" 19	Rochdale H. Halifax	away	L	2 1 7	2 2 10	15,215	1,177
" "	(A. Daniels' Benefit)		L	4 8 32	9 3 33	5,000	—

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## Results of "A" Team Matches

1953				
Date	Opponents	Rlt.		Ground
Aug. 15	Rochdale (Shield)	W	15- 4	away
" 22	<b>Wigan</b>	W	12- 2	home
" 29	Leigh (f.)	L	10-43	away
Sept. 5	<b>Rochdale</b> (Shield)	W	18- 3	home
" 12	<b>Leigh</b>	W	31-12	home
" 19	Liverpool C.	W	13-11	away
" 26	Leigh (Shield)	L	10-29	away
Oct. 3	Widnes	L	5-18	away
" 17	<b>Salford</b>	W	52-13	home
" 24	Rochdale	L	18-19	away
" 31	<b>Warrington</b> (f.)	W	12- 7	home
Nov. 7	St. Helens	L	6-21	away
" 14	<b>Whitehaven</b>	W	28- 0	home
" 21	Warrington (f.)	L	0-11	away
Dec. 5	Barrow	L	0-18	away
" 12	<b>St. Helens</b>	L	13-29	home
" 19	Workington	W	16-15	away
" 26	<b>Workington</b>	Losing	0-14	home

(Match abandoned after 58 minutes)

1954				
Jan. 9	Salford	L	8-26	away
" 16	Swinton	D	7- 7	away
" 23	<b>Liverpool</b>	W	31- 8	home
Feb. 20	<b>Warrington</b>	W	21- 6	home
" 27	Leigh	W	10- 7	away
Mar. 13	<b>Barrow</b>	W	11- 5	home
" 27	Whitehaven	W	8- 0	away
Apr. 3	Warrington	L	8-11	away
" 10	<b>Swinton</b>	W	21-15	home
" 16	<b>Widnes</b>	W	27- 0	home
" 19	<b>Rochdale</b> Wigan	W	18- 5	home away

(f.) denotes friendly match.

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## COMINGS AND GOINGS . . .



*Dick Cracknell. Oldham paid a record fee for this Yorkshire wingman — £4,500.*

### OLDHAM'S SIGNINGS

Peter Roy Fearis, centre, signed August, 1953. Aged 21, a centre formerly with Dorset and Wiltshire R.U.

Richard Cracknell, wingman, signed October, 1953, from Huddersfield, at a record fee of £4,500.

John Noon, centre, signed November, 1953, former Continuation League and Lower-moor player.

Tipuna Arnold Smith, prop forward, signed December, 1953. Came from Bramley. He is a Maori.

### OLDHAM'S DEPARTURES

Bryn Day, forward, transferred to Leigh.  
Joe Warham, wingman, struck off list.  
(Later became manager to Rochdale Hornets).

## FINANCE

### POINTS FROM OLDHAM F.C.'s BALANCE SHEET

Oldham lost £4,416 0s. 4d. on the season in comparison to the profit of £1,862 0s. 6d. on the previous year.

Players wages and bonuses went down to £7,296 10s. 0d. from £9,620 of the previous season.

Income tax shot up £1,098 on the previous season.

A saving of £724 was made on players' outfits and laundry.

Transfer fees jumped from £1,300 to £5,500.

Gate and stand receipts dropped from £25,101 in 1953 to £18,699.

Donations to new stand amounted to £784 16s. 0d.

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## First team appearances and scorers for 1953-54

	Matches	Goals	Tries
Ganley, W. B. ... ..	36	130	3
O'Grady, T. ... ..	36	—	29
Mitchell, W. S. ... ..	31	—	4
Davies, A. ... ..	40	—	16
Warham, J. ... ..	3	—	2
Jones, A. ... ..	2	—	1
Stirrup, F. ... ..	27	2	7
Ogden, H. ... ..	24	—	—
Mundy, J. ... ..	17	—	—
Tomlinson, A. ... ..	33	—	—
Little, S. ... ..	32	—	4
Lomas, H. ... ..	3	—	4
Goldswain, B. V. ... ..	42	4	3
Jackson, K. ... ..	25	—	4
Daley, F. ... ..	9	—	1
Cracknell, R. ... ..	23	—	11
Watson, J. H. ... ..	5	—	—
Platt, L. ... ..	9	—	6
Feather, J. ... ..	36	—	5
Winslade, C. ... ..	28	1	1
Pitchford, F. ... ..	18	—	5
Emmitt, L. ... ..	13	—	6
Anthony, L. ... ..	10	—	—
Keith, J. ... ..	27	—	2
Fearis, P. ... ..	5	—	3
Cracknell, R. ... ..	23	—	11
Ratchford, W. ... ..	2	2	—
Barrow, R. ... ..	12	—	4
Leyland, T. ... ..	2	—	1
Ayres, D. ... ..	3	—	—
Smith, T. A. ... ..	18	—	—
Noon, J. ... ..	1	—	—

The scorers in the friendly with Leigh at Blackpool are included in these figures.



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## THE SEASON'S HONOURS

Apart from the greatest honour of them all—the selection of Terence O'Grady as tourist—there has been a crop of player honours for Oldham.

Included among them are Davies's debut for England against Wales for whom Goldswain and Winslade played (Sept. 16th, 1953, at St. Helens). Cracknell played for England against France in November.

Stirrup and Davies played for Lancashire v. Cumberland and Little was in Cumberland's team against Yorkshire.

Davies was in the second of two tour trials.

### FIRST TEAM DEBUTS DURING SEASON 1953-4

Peter Fearis v. Liverpool City (home)—September 19th.

Richard Cracknell v. Dewsbury (home)—October 10th.

Denis Ayres v. Barrow (home)—December 5th.

"Smut" Smith v. Barrow (home)—December 5th.

John Noon v. Leigh (at Blackpool, friendly)—April 3.



*Rod Marlor. Died May. Played in Oldham's pack in their great  
1920 days.*

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Page Sixty-four

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Oldham hold a Rugby League record for no other team has p'ayed in four consecutive Challenge Cup finals. Oldham established their record from season 1923-4 to 1927-8.

Oldham also played in five consecutive Northern R.L. finals, from 1906-7 season.

One Challenge Cup final has been played at Oldham, the 1915 meeting between Huddersfield and St. Helens when the Yorkshire side won 37-3 before 8,000 spectators (receipts £470).

Oldham have also staged a Rugby League championship play-off. In this, Swinton beat Featherstone Rovers 3-0 in 1928.

The season previously, Oldham was the venue (in 1927) of the Lancashire County Challenge Cup finals. Swinton also enjoyed a win in that game, beating Wigan 5-2.

Terry O'Grady has a long way to go before beating Jim Sullivan (Wigan) and J. F. Thompson (Leeds) for making most tours to Australia. Both went three times, both in 1924, 1928 and 1932. Sullivan was to have gone a fourth time but withdrew through the illness of his wife.

The only Oldham official to serve as R.L. Council chairman was G. F. Hutchins, who served in that capacity in 1938-9 and the following season.

The record attendance at Watersheddings was 28,000 when Huddersfield were the visitors in 1912. Record receipts established at the Warrington all ticket Challenge Cup second round game in 1953-4 (£2,750) are likely to stand for some time. It was verging on a 20,000 capacity crowd (set by the police for safety) and it can only be beaten by increasing ticket prices. The previous best was the £2,600 gate taken when the Australians were visitors in September, 1952 (£2,600).

Record try-scorer for one season for Oldham was Reg. Farrar, who scored 49 tries in 1921-2.

Record goal-kicker is Bernard Ganley, who landed 145 in 1952-3.

Page Sixty-five

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Page Sixty-six

## The Oldham Club honours since the 1895 breakaway from Rugby Union

- 1899 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1904 Northern Rugby League champions (first Oldham championship win).
- 1907 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners (first occasion), and winners of Lancashire League.
- 1908 Winners of Lancashire League
- 1909 Northern R.L. champions.
- 1910 Northern R.L. and Lancashire League champions.
- 1911 Northern R.L. champions and Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1913 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1919 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1922 Lancashire League champions.
- 1924 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1925 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1927 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1933 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.

Page Sixty-seven

BEER AT IT'S BEST AT THE —

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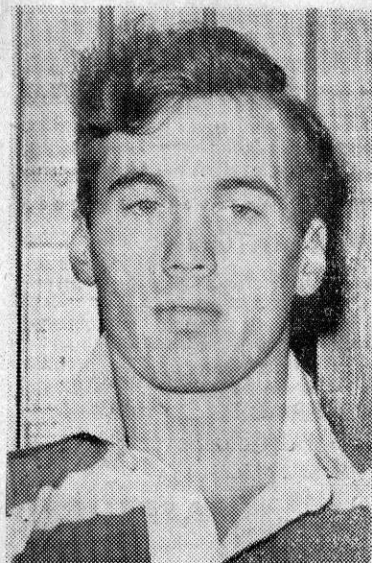
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Page Sixty-eight

## Terence O'Grady

Oldham's International Winger, writes on

## My RUGBY LEAGUE CAREER



*B. T. O'Grady. A tourist following in the footsteps of Herman Hilton, who, like O'Grady, was Oldham-born and lived near to the ground.*

How life moves! And it takes an invitation to write about it—such as I have received from this great Rugby magazine—to make one fully aware of the speed at which it moves.

I suppose it was pretty certain that I should handle a Rugby ball because the school I attended in Oldham lived for the game. In fact, it was even said that one of the three "R's" at St. Mary's was for Rugby!

Anyway, that's where it all started and I played my first game in the second row. How I evolved into a wingman is rather vague, the most I can say about it is that I appeared in the three-quarter line and after playing there I sensed that, providing I could justify a continuation in this new position, the wing position was the one where I should be happiest.

School, incidentally, was the place where I learned my first important lesson in Rugby—to look after my playing kit! Every Monday morning we had to stand by our boots for inspection purposes and woe betide anyone with last Saturday's dirt on them or with any missing studs! All this fuss seemed to be a bit silly at the time, but I have since learned to respect the motives behind it—you cannot play the game unless you're comfortable. There are other lessons, too, and team spirit was paramount in our training. I remember an incident in class following the usual Saturday game. Apparently one of our forwards had burst through the opposition and instead of passing out to his three-quarters, which he could easily have done, he "dummied" and went on to score himself. On the Monday morning the team coach gave

Page Sixty-nine

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Page Seventy

him the ball and, in front of the whole team, said "You don't want to pass the ball so here it is—take it home, it's yours." It was a hard way to learn, but it paid dividends. The player in question has since become a professional and a good one at that

### **I SIGN FOR OLDHAM**

On leaving school I joined a continuation league team of the same name, and with all the enthusiasm of the school team. We trained five nights a week and Saturday couldn't come soon enough for any of us. Like every player, my ambition was to play for the senior side in the district, and you can imagine my delight when I was invited by Oldham to take six trials with them. At that time I was just sixteen, and after three games I was signed on as a professional.

From my very first game with the "A" team I was aware of failings that I had never thought about before, but under the guidance of Alec Givvons I began to improve. My team mates were always ready to help, and players like international hooker Edgar Brooks and local idol Billy Mitchell gave their advice freely.

My debut with the first team was against St. Helens. Due to the weather, the game was abandoned at half time, and I was left thinking: "Blimey. What a way to start!" From then on events moved swiftly and soon I was in the County team against the Kiwis at Warrington. After that match I made a broadcast with my opposite number on the New Zealand team, Bruce Robertson, in the "Under 21 Parade." That broadcast struck up an international Rugby friendship between the two of us that persists yet. I have had the honour of playing for the County twice since then, and have also played for England against Wales.

### **THANKS TO BILLY MITCHELL**

To single out the greatest thrill is a hard task. Probably the greatest moment I can recall was the time when, after months of hard training I saw my name on the first team sheet and knew that my ambition had been realised—I was playing for Oldham, the town where I was born! Rugby spectators set a high standard for their players and they made no exception for me, but with Billy Mitchell alongside me on the field I weathered the initial storm. I cannot let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to Billy for the encouragement and help he gave me personally, and the tireless manner in which he gave of his experience. I shall always have cause to be thankful to him, and never shall I forget the way he coached and helped Alan Davies even though he knew that Alan would be the player who would displace him one day. It was in this sort of atmosphere that I spent my early Rugby days—and the same atmosphere exists to-day at Oldham—and I hope I may never have to experience a change.

There are many things I have myself to learn yet, but if I were to give advice to young wingmen of the future I would say, "Never try to ignore your centre. Play as a combination. Spectacular wingers are few and the chances of becoming one are remote. If you can strike up a lasting understanding with your centre, then the spectacle will be there without the individual touch, which, after all, is "the same difference."

Page Seventy-one

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## ALAN DAVIES of OLDHAM



Oldham's Committee has made some fine post-war signings and perhaps their best was the acquisition of Alan Davies from Dootsons' (Leigh) in July, 1950. Leigh must feel sorry about missing Davies for eventually they paid £5,000 for another Allan—Trevor Allan—who recently said goodbye to Kirkhall Lane while Oldham's Alan Davies will still be serving at Watersheddings, having cost less than a quarter as much as the fine-tackling Australian.

Davies was an under-21 international. He comes in the category of a born footballer. Perhaps the fact that his father was "Cocky" Davies, one time half-back with Leigh, has something to do with it. Watersheddings fans were very disappointed he wasn't chosen for the Tour. This 21 year-old player has hardly missed a match since making his debut against Wakefield in September, 1950, averaging 35 appearances a season. He is strong and penetrative and intelligently guards his wingman.

## Acknowledgements

The officials and committee of OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' CLUB, express their thanks to the Proprietors of the Oldham Chronicle and Green Final for the loan of blocks of the players, and to MR. FRANK CHAPMAN (Northern) for the great help he has done to make this, our first publication a success, also to the RUGBY & SOCCER MONTHLY for items allowed out of their publications.

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**LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP**

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP
1901-02	Broughton Rangers	Salford
1902-03	Halifax	Salford
1903-04	Bradford	Salford
1904-05	Oldham	Bradford
1905-06	Leigh	Hunslet
1906-07	Halifax	Oldham
1907-08	Hunslet	Oldham
1908-09	Wigan	Oldham
1909-10	Oldham	Wigan
1910-11	Oldham	Wigan
1911-12	Huddersfield	Wigan
1912-13	Huddersfield	Wigan
1913-14	Salford	Huddersfield
1914-15	Huddersfield	Leeds
1919-20	Hull	Huddersfield
1920-21	Hull	Hull K. R.
1921-22	Wigan	Oldham
1922-23	Hull Kingston Rovers	Huddersfield
1923-24	Batley	Wigan
1924-25	Hull Kingston Rovers	Swinton
1925-26	Wigan	Warrington
1926-27	Swinton	St. Helens R.
1927-28	Swinton	Featherstone R.
1928-29	Huddersfield	Leeds
1929-30	Huddersfield	Leeds
1930-31	Swinton	Leeds
1931-32	St. Helens	Huddersfield
1932-33	Salford	Swinton
1933-34	Wigan	Salford
1934-35	Swinton	Warrington
1935-36	Hull	Widnes
1936-37	Salford	Warrington
1937-38	Hunslet	Leeds
1938-39	Salford	Castleford
1945-46	Wigan	Huddersfield
1946-47	Wigan	Dewsbury
1947-48	Warrington	Bradford N
1948-49	Huddersfield	Warrington
1949-50	Wigan	Huddersfield
1950-51	Workington	Warrington
1951-52	Wigan	Bradford N
1952-53	St. Helens	Halifax
1953-54	Warrington	Halifax

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## CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

Year	Winners	Score			Runners-up	Score			Venue
		G	T	P		G	T	P	
1897	Batley	1	2	10	St. Helens	0	1	3	Headingley
1898	Batley	2	1	7	Bradford	0	0	0	Headingley
1899	Oldham	2	5	19	Hunslet	3	1	9	Fallowfield
1900	Swinton	2	4	16	Salford	1	2	8	Fallowfield
1901	Batley	0	2	6	Warrington	0	0	0	Headingley
1902	Broughton R	5	5	25	Salford	0	0	0	Rochdale
1903	Halifax	2	1	7	Salford	0	0	0	Headingley
1904	Halifax	1	2	8	Warrington	0	1	3	Salford
1905	Warrington	0	2	6	Hull K. R.	0	0	0	Headingley
1906	Bradford	1	1	5	Salford	0	0	0	Headingley
1907	Warrington	4	3	17	Oldham	0	1	3	Broughton
1908	Hunslet	4	2	14	Hull	0	0	0	Huddersfield
1909	Wakefield T	1	5	17	Hull	0	0	0	Headingley
1910	Leeds	2	1	7	Hull	2	1	7	Huddersfield
1910	Leeds (Replay)	7	4	26	Hull	3	2	12	Huddersfield
1911	Broughton R	2	0	4	Wigan	0	0	0	Salford
1912	Dewsbury	1	2	8	Oldham	1	1	5	Headingley
1913	Huddersfield	0	3	9	Warrington	1	1	5	Headingley
1914	Hull	0	2	6	Wakefield T	0	0	0	Halifax
1915	Huddersfield	5	9	37	St. Helens	0	1	3	Oldham
1920	Huddersfield	3	5	21	Wigan	2	2	10	Headingley
1921	Leigh	2	3	13	Halifax	0	0	0	Broughton
1922	Rochdale H	2	2	10	Hull	0	3	9	Headingley
1923	Leeds	5	6	28	Hull	0	1	3	Wakefield
1924	Wigan	3	5	21	Oldham	2	0	4	Rochdale
1925	Oldham	2	4	16	Hull K. R.	0	1	3	Leeds
1926	Swinton	3	1	9	Oldham	0	1	3	Rochdale
1927	Oldham	4	6	26	Swinton	2	1	7	Wigan
1928	Swinton	1	1	5	Warrington	0	1	3	Wigan
1929	Wigan	2	3	13	Dewsbury	1	0	2	Wembley
1930	Widnes	2	2	10	St. Helens	0	1	3	Wembley
1931	Halifax	5	4	22	York	1	2	8	Wembley
1932	Leeds	4	1	11	Swinton	4	0	8	Wigan
1933	Huddersfield	6	3	21	Warrington	4	3	17	Wembley
1934	Hunslet	1	3	11	Widnes	1	1	5	Wembley
1935	Castleford	1	3	11	Huddersfield	1	2	8	Wembley
1936	Leeds	3	4	18	Warrington	1	0	2	Wembley
1937	Widnes	3	4	18	Keighley	1	1	5	Wembley
1938	Salford	2	1	7	Barrow	2	0	4	Wembley
1939	Halifax	4	4	20	Salford	0	1	3	Wembley
1940	No Competition								
1941	Leeds	2	5	19	Halifax	1	0	2	Bradford
1942	Leeds	3	3	15	Halifax	5	0	10	Bradford
1943	Dewsbury	2	4	16	Leeds	3	1	9	
	Dewsbury	0	0	0	Leeds	3	0	6	
	(Dewsbury won on aggregate 16-15)								
1944	Bradford N	0	0	0	Wigan	0	1	3	
	Bradford N	1	2	8	Wigan	0	0	0	
	(Bradford N. won on aggregate 8-3)								
1945	Huddersfield	2	1	7	Bradford N	2	0	4	
	Huddersfield	0	2	6	Bradford N	1	1	5	
	(Huddersfield won on aggregate 13-9)								
1946	Wakefield T	2	3	13	Wigan	0	4	12	Wembley
1947	Bradford N	1	2	8	Leeds	2	0	4	Wembley
1948	Wigan	1	2	8	Bradford N	0	1	3	Wembley
1949	Bradford Northern	3	2	12	Halifax	0	0	0	Wembley
1950	Warrington	5	3	19	Widnes	0	0	0	Wembley
1951	Wigan	2	2	10	Barrow	0	0	0	Wembley
1952	Workington Town	3	4	18	Featherstone R	2	2	10	Wembley
1953	Huddersfield	3	3	15	St Helens	2	2	10	Wembley
1954	Warrington	0	0	4	Halifax	0	0	4	Wembley
	Warrington (Replay)	0	0	8	Halifax	0	0	4	Odsal

\* War-time competitions in which not all the clubs took part.



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