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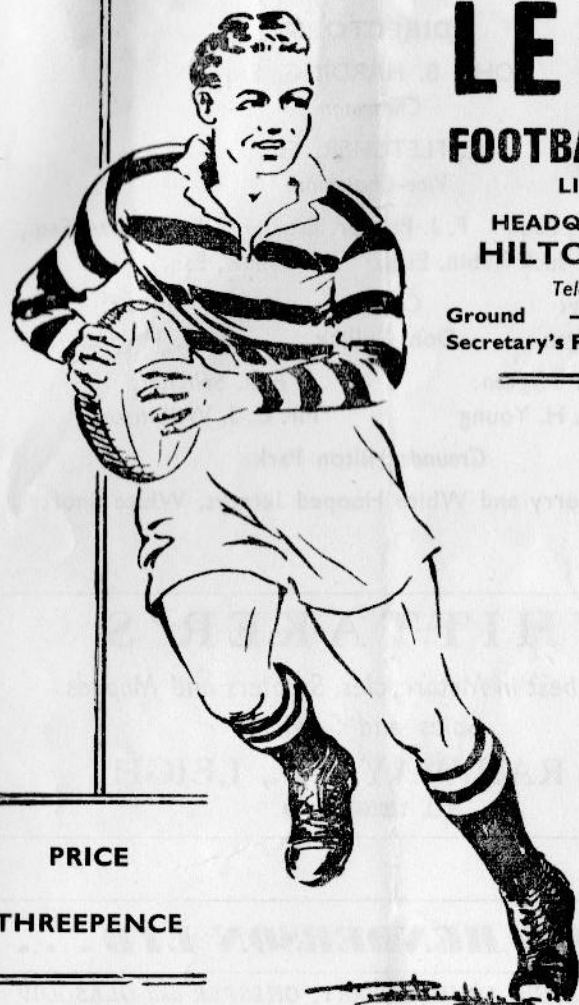
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SATURDAY, 30th APRIL, 1960

Kick-off 3 p.m.

A BRIGHT FUTURE

We make due acknowledgements to the "Evening Chronicle" for quotations from Mick Martyn's current article on R.L. affairs.

Says Mick in this leading Northern newspaper "The future looks bright for Rugby League in Leigh.

Although we have not got among the honours this season, most of our players are young and it is always a good policy to base a side on youth."

Coming from our Test forward these are interesting statements and we feel sure that most of our supporters will agree with the sentiments expressed.

Mick will be back

Almost everywhere there has been disappointment expressed about Mick's absence from the game, and even clubs who have always had a keen fancy for Mick's services, think that his enforced absence has left a blank in the team's performances.

We are pleased to say that Mick is still coming down to Hilton Park for light training and there is every hope that he will be in the pre-season practice games.

While on the subject of young forwards, we couldn't help overhearing the remarks at Wilderspool Stadium on Easter Monday

when we collected two surprise points.

The points gained were surprising in view of the fact that the Wires had beaten us twice this season at Hilton Park, although in one case there were only two points separating the sides at the finish, while in the cup tie our forces were greatly depleted.

The remarks we heard, and which gave us an amount of pleasure, concerned Bill Sanderson who is making a rattling good job of the loose forward role, and Derek Higgs, the second row lad.

The pair were given a fine Press as well, but the Warrington crowd seemed very impressed indeed with the form of these young forwards.

Sanderson was compared with the late Peter Foster, by some good judges, and therefore the Leigh selectors felt that they had at least made yet another fine discovery.

The pair did very well and very few teams win at Wilderspool, although the Wires are not the force they were when Harry Bath, Harold Palin, Albert Johnson and Gerry Helme were in action.

About Gerry Helme

Incidentally, to clear up one or two arguments, Gerry, who has done a good job with our "A"

teamers despite the fact that the Lancashire Championship for the County Combination is not coming our way this season, won two Lance B. Todd Memorial Trophies at R.L. finals.

Formerly these trophies were purchased by the player who was voted the man of the match at Wembley.

The money for the trophy of the player's choice was provided from a special fund which was administered by Mr. Harry Sunderland, the B.B.C. broadcaster and "Sunday Dispatch" columnist, Mr. R. F. Anderton, the Warrington Club director who was a Tour Manager on two occasions, and Mr. John Bapty, the well known "Yorkshire Evening Post" writer who is also Sports Editor of that famous Leeds organ.

The trophy idea was inaugurated to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Lance B. Todd, the great player and also manager of the Salford club which he built up to great heights before the war. Mr. Todd was killed near Manchester in a road accident when he was on Home Guard duty during the war.

How Votes are cast

Another point which has interested many followers is how the votes are cast.

Well known writers on the R.L. game who visit Wembley for the challenge cup final, are invited to take part.

They name the man whom they think shows the greatest skill and sportsmanship in the final.

So we have one man on our staff who has two trophies which is a record.

We hope the time will arrive when we have a team on the field at Wembley and one of our serving players is so honoured.

There is now a new organisation set up by the famous "Red Devils" from Salford and they now incorporate the old scheme.

A trophy and a relic are now presented to the most outstanding player at Wembley.

Who will be the winner this year?

What a great thing it would be if the votes were counted quickly and the player who was chosen, could be handed the trophy by Her Majesty the Queen?

What a great honour it would be for the player and club concerned.

The presence of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at Wembley on May 14th has resulted in greater interest being shown in this annual event.

The Queen who is the Patron of the Rugby League, will present the cup and the players on both sides will be presented to the Duke.

Mr. Eric Clay of Leeds who has officiated at several Leigh games in the past is the referee for this great occasion.

Near Misses

Somehow the challenge cup escapes our grasp although there have been times in post war football when it seemed as if we were going to get over the semi final stage.

It can safely be said that luck has not favoured us in the semi finals and we have only to mention the re-play and the first game with Barrow to remind our supporters of the ill-luck in that year's cup competition.

Still, who knows, what will happen in the new season?

Mick Martyn thinks that we will be going places in 1960-61.

Let us hope that one of the places will be Wembley or even Odsal Stadium for the finals.

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A trip to Wembley would suit our officials, players and supporters down to the ground and add more historical points to local records.

Who knows, it may still happen sooner than expected.

Wakefield had to wait a long time before they got to the final again and what is more, 14 years have elapsed before they are at Wembley again.

Hull's first time at Wembley was last season against Wigan, but in their case they are in this season's final.

But the Hull patrons had to wait a long while before the team reached the final. So our supporters should be patient.

Up and Coming

We have many up and coming young players, and it is a pity the season cannot have been extended for the form shown over the Easter holidays revealed the fact that the side is clicking better than it did and that several players were now in their stride.

We hope the team will start in August next where it has left off.

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If there was a Summer League, which quite a lot of people think is a grand idea—the late Lance B. Todd was the man who mooted the scheme—we feel sure that we would be able to keep apace with teams like St. Helens, Wigan, Wakefield Trinity, etc.

But players require a rest—and so do the officials and staff.

The ground too should have time to recover from the wear and tear.

From what we have seen in other areas (and our players can vouch for this fact) the Leigh ground is in a far better condition than many in the league, even those belonging to the fashionable clubs.

Though we have a practice pitch—Leigh being one of the first in the field with this idea—the Hilton Park ground is used even more than those of other clubs.

Hilton Park is not only used for amateur games, senior R.L., but also for important occasions.

World Series

There are some people who think that the Leigh venue should have been considered for the

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World Cup Series in view of the floodlighting and also the fact that Leigh is surrounded by Rugby areas.

The big point which has no doubt gone in favour of places like Wigan and Bradford, is because of the large seating accommodation at the grounds.

We have several schemes in hand for increasing the stand accommodation and at the moment the club and the Supporters organisation are co-operating towards more facilities in the building which will always be labelled the "supporters stand."

Of course, such schemes cost a terrific lot of money, and when "gates", especially those in the bad weather are not up to scratch, then nothing can be done about such improvements.

However, with the form of the team suggesting better things than this season, and with help from the club's legalised pool, things should be looking up.

In any case, the officials are sanguine and so is Mick Martyn, even if we have only quoted a few lines from his recent article.

Pools Prizes

The pool idea of £20 a day for the top prize seems to have caught on.

It is a most encouraging sign that not one agent has decided to rest over the summer months, so the organisers are living in hope that the prize money will be increased to £50 per day!

Such an aim is not beyond those who have the pools in hand.

The boost in prize money would also bring in much needed revenue to the club.

You can play your part and a weekly shilling could win you some handy holiday money.

Needless to say, improvements will go on at Hilton Park during the summer.

Back to the better form by the players.

Yes, it was a pleasure to see the team winning all its engagements over the holidays and our league record received a much needed boost, although a little better fortune may have resulted in a victory over Widnes in the last floodlit game.

Oldham Here

This afternoon's visitors are Oldham, who at one time during the season promised so much.

They have suffered from injuries to many of their leading players and one of the notables is Ike Southward, who cost the Water-sheddings club £10,650 when he left Workington Town on March 11th last year.

Ken Jackson, another player who was chosen for the Tour, has also been suffering from injuries and he was unable to turn out against Hull in the semi final at Swinton.

Oldham are coached by Frank Stirrup who at one time was a Leigh player, and men who come from these parts who assist Oldham include Bernard Ganley, Geoff Sims, Frank Pitchford and Alan Davies.

It is interesting to point out that at this very moment Bernard is level with Austin Rhodes, the St. Helens full back in the league goals list.

Both have landed 168 goals.

Rhodes may take the title this season because the Saints have at least one extra match than Oldham. I'm referring to the league "play off."

Bernard may not play this afternoon because of strained knee ligaments.

Bernard was top of the league list last season with 192 goals; the previous season the number was 224 and he was top that year, but second to Lewis Jones in 1957-57. Jones landed 197 goals and Ganley 194.

Days gone by

It was at Hilton Park that Alan Davies made one of his early appearances. This was in a seven a side tournament soon after the ground was opened.

He was only 17 at the time and was then signed by Oldham.

Everything points to an attractive game, even though nothing is really at stake.

Oldham's chances (as have those of our club) for the "top four" disappeared some time ago, although on reflection the teams could have won certain games and placed them in the running for the play off.

Other club news is that our injury list is getting a little smaller, but several stars will not be seen in action again this season.

Brian Howard, the captain, is still suffering from injured ribs and Bill Sheridan is among the casualties. He has a damaged shoulder.

Incidentally, Oldham have not retained the services of John Crook, the forward, who was on loan to them and we have not retained Billy Wright the utility back from Widnes.

Great Honour

It is pleasing to see that Mr. W. Rigby, the well known referee has been chosen to run one of the lines at the Royal Wembley cup final.

Mr. Rigby has been associated with the game for many years, and his father was also a noted

touch judge. Therefore the honour is well deserved.

Mr. Rigby, together with the other touch judge, and of course, Mr. E. Clay of Leeds, the referee will be presented to the Duke of Edinburgh.

We should be pleased if supporters will pay extra attention to this afternoon's loud speaker announcements.

A number of amateur league games are to be played at Hilton Park during the next few days and we would like as much support as possible for this very important cause.

Cup Final Tickets

All seating tickets for the cup final have been sold. Standing enclosure tickets at 3/- each are still available from our office. The supply is small.

League Final Tickets

The League Championship final will be played at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, on Saturday the 21st May, and seating tickets at the following prices are still available from either the League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7, or the Secretary, Bradford Northern R.L.F.C., Odsal Stadium, Bradford 6.

Old Stand (Covered) 15/-;
New Stand (Covered) 12/6;
New Stand (Uncovered) 8/6;
Track 6/-

Postal applications should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

As this is the final official programme for the season, the Chairman, Directors and staff thank the shareholders, members and supporters for their encouragement during the 1959-60 term and hope that they will be back again in their places when the new season commences in August.

FIXTURES and RESULTS 1959-60

1959	First Team	F	A	1959	'A' Team	F	A
Aug.	8 Widnes (CC)	H	17 11	Aug.	8 Widnes (CC)	A	12 48
	15 Salford ...	H	25 12		15 Salford ...	A	10 17
	17 Workington...	A	12 5		22 St. Helens ...	H	22 10
	22 Featherstone	A	15 29		29 Rochdale ...	A	7 19
	26 Wigan (7-0) ...	H	22 22		(L.C.C.S.)		
	29 Blackpool ...	H	12 12	Sept.	5 Swinton (F) ...	A	13 20
Sept.	3 Blackpool (Replay)		13 7		12 Barrow ...	H	29 6
	(L.C. 1st Rd.)				19 Hull K.R. ...	A	13 15
	5 Hull K.R. ...	H	36 15		(R.L.C.)		
	9 Warrington ...	H	2 27		26 Widnes ...	H	25 7
	(L.C. 2nd rd)			Oct.	3 Huddersfield	A	10 13
	12 Barrow ...	A	13 40		(R.L.C.)		
	19 Bradford ...	H	19 10		10 Blackpool ...	H	28 21
	26 Widnes ...	A	5 24		17 Rochdale ...	A	20 8
Oct.	3 Huddersfield	H	19 12		24 Workington...	H	33 0
	7 Australia ...	H	18 17		31 Blackpool ...	A	9 14
	10 Blackpool ...	A	30 15	Nov.	7 Wigan ...	H	2 11
	17 Rochdale ...	H	11 7		14 Barrow ...	A	22 18
	24 York ...	A	20 27		21 Hull K.R. ...	H	36 8
	30 Blackpool ...	H	14 8		(R.L.C.)		
Nov.	7				28 Swinton ...	A	23 12
	14 Barrow ...	H	12 12	Dec.	5 Rochdale ...	H	7 9
	21 Rochdale ...	A	6 10		12		
	28 Swinton ...	H	14 14		19 Liverpool ...	A	24 8
Dec.	5 Huddersfield	A	19 0	1960			
	12 Dewsbury ...	A	24 9	Jan.	2 Huddersfield	H	34 12
	19 Liverpool ...	H	22 0		(R.L.C.)		
	25 St. Helens ...	A	10 14		9		
	26 Warrington...	H	10 12		16 Oldham... ..	H	P
1960					23 Warrington ...	H	20 6
Jan.	1 St. Helens ...	H	4 12		30 Halifax ...	A	P
	2 Salford ...	A	30 10		(R.L.C.)		
	9 York ...	H	22 10	Feb.	6 Halifax ...	H	9 7
	16 Oldham... ..	A	0 22		(R.L.C.)		
	23 Wigan ...	A	10 12		13 Swinton (F) ...	H	13 15
	30 Dewsbury ...	H	37 4		20 Whitehaven	A	P
Feb.	13 Blackpool (C. 1st)	A	10 2		27 Wigan ...	A	P
	20 Whitehaven	H	12 12		27 Warrington ...	A	26 12
	27 Whitehaven R.L.C.	H	8 11	Mar.	5 Whitehaven	H	14 5
Mar.	5 Whitehaven	A	11 20		12		
	12 Featherstone	H	18 10		19 Liverpool ...	H	15 5
	19 Liverpool ...	A	8 2		19 Oldham... ..	A	...
	26 Swinton ...	A	5 26		26 Swinton ...	H	19 13
Apr.	2 Hull K.R. ...	A	15 16	Apr.	2 Warrington (F)	H	6 7
	8 Widnes ...	H	13 17		9 Widnes ...	A	4 12
	15 Workington...	H	16 0		16 Salford ...	H	15 0
	16 Bradford N. ...	A	19 17		23 St. Helens ...	A	2 18
	18 Warrington	A	12 10		30 Workington...	A	...
	Oldham... ..	H	...				
	19						

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