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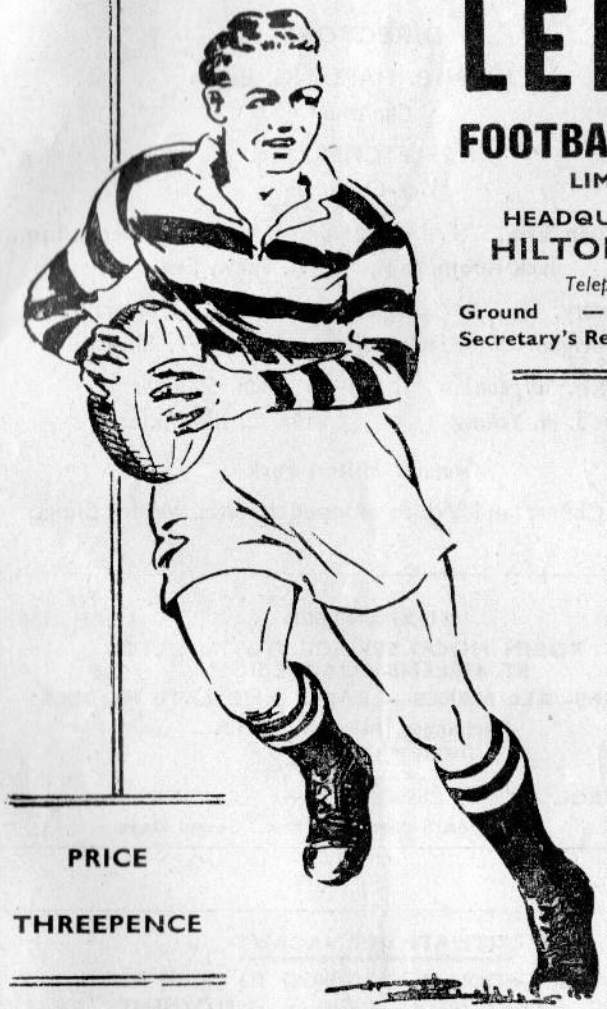

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LEIGH v. OLDHAM

SATURDAY, 24th DECEMBER, 1960

KICK-OFF 2-30 p.m.

Our Visitors

The first four race hots up and this afternoon we entertain one of the most attractive teams in the Rugby League.

Oldham our opponents today are currently second in the Northern Rugby League and quite recently they were top of the chart. They have got there by reason of some excellent performances and they are certainly one of the favourites to get into the charmed circle.

At the moment of writing they have won 13 of their League engagements and have lost on three occasions. Their scoring record is also very impressive. To start with they have scored 324 points as against 173 by the opposition. And in their ranks they have several stars—some of them who learnt their early football in the Leigh area.

Bernard Ganley, the full back has few superiors as a goal kicker. He has kicked hundreds of goals while with the Watersheddings Club, and of course he is the son of an ex-Leigh player. Bernard too has won a number of games for his club by his accurate shooting and this season he is well up the list. Because of his long service to Oldham he will be getting a testimonial this season.

The Three-quarters

In the three-quarter line—a very imposing one—there is Alan Davies who is not only a Tourist but has played in numerous representative matches. Alan is another player who had his baptism in Rugby League in the local amateur league and once again we have to recall with pride that his father also wore the cherry and white hooped jersey of the Leigh Club. Alan is a very forceful centre three-quarter who is most difficult to halt especially when he gets into his stride.

Keith Holden who was with us for quite a spell before we transferred him to Wigan, is the Oldham Club's latest capture. Like many of the other stars who Oldham officials have signed in the past few years Keith has cost the visiting club a huge fee.

And writing about huge fees we have to remember that Ike Southward also a member of this star studded three-quarter line was a very costly sign when he was obtained from Workington Town.

Ike seems to have settled his little differences with the club and is now living in his native Cumberland. The number five spot may be occupied by Patterson who has shown great promise for some time.

Fank Pitchford also has strong Leigh connections and we feel sure that most people will agree with us when we say that he is one of the most attractive scrummage half backs in the game. His partner is Alan Kellett a fast and classical chap who has been very unlucky in not having his talents recognised by the international selectors.

The Pack

In the pack—a very strong one there are such chaps as Payne the former Liverpool City prop, McIntyre ex St. Helens and Barrow, Charlie Winslade a robust but clean player, Roger Dufty, Geoff Robinson, and Parker. Robinson was obtained from Whitehaven for a big sum while Dave Parker is spoken of as one of the best young prospects the club has had for many a long day.

So everything points to a thrilling and entertaining game and we hope that a big crowd will turn up to see what should be the match of the day.

Great Win

As far as our own team is concerned, supporters were highly delighted with the result of the fixture at Hull against the Rovers last Saturday. It took the players some time to settle down and at half time we were down by seven points.

There was a transformation in the second half and we won with a great deal to spare. The Craven Park crowd were really astounded by the excellent play of our boys and after the match many tributes were paid to the team work and spectacular stuff which was introduced on many occasions.

In this match Mick Martyn scored two tries as did Stan Owen quite a feat for a prop forward, and one which gained him many back slaps from his colleagues. The fact that the wingers—Tony Leadbetter and John Humble—scored tries shows that the ball went wingwards on more than one occasion. Yes it was a very fine win and those who listened to the B.B.C. comentary were thrilled by the Leigh fight back.

Valuable Points

Bill Hewitt was also spot on with his goal kicking. He landed five and we sincerely hope that he will continue to be so accurate in future matches. The two points were very valuable to us in the championship race and we have now moved up to the 8th position. This is quite an accomplishment in view of the fact that soon after the start of the season we had a number of key players on the injured list.

Of course we are now entering upon a vital period in the teams campaign. After todays stiff test —and it is bound to be a very severe one—we take on Warrington on Monday at Wilderspool.

The Big Match

This is always a match well worth making the effort to see and we feel sure that there will be a big following to Warrington in two days time. At the time of writing Warrington had won all their last eight fixtures and they are going all out for a championship bid this term. But our boys will be going to meet the Wires on Monday in the knowledge that we have beaten Warrington already this season. This was in the Lancashire Challenge Cup Competition when our boys staged a wonderful rally and won by a narrow margin. It was a day when Brian Fallon scored all the points. That was indeed a great Leigh victory and we are hoping to surprise the Wires once again. Wilderspool is a happy hunting ground for points as far as we are concerned. It should be a rattling good game because we have been told that the Warrington players are at the peak of their form.

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Trip to Knowsley Road

After that we face St. Helens at Knowsley Road and what a terrific encounter that should be. The Saints have recovered their form after some rather mediocre displays and they are anxious to get back into the top four.

So with Oldham, Warrington and St. Helens on our plates we have more than sufficient to deal with at the moment. Even if we come through these struggles with 50 per cent. success we will have done very well.

If we get maximum points then our supporters will be really chirping. And at the moment the directors has a little chirp in making such an important signing from South Africa in Tom Moodie.

From South Africa

Tom who is 22 is a second row or loose forward. In the past season and a half he has scored 50 tries. Tom will fly with his wife to England, and Leigh on January 16th. He is employed in the finance department of the Transvaal Government. He is one of the many players who replied to our advertisements which were inserted in the South African Press. He is a Rugby Union Player who has been a member of the Harlequins at Lusaka Northern Rhodesia and has made many appearances in the Western and Eastern Transvaal.

He is a big 'un too for he stands 6′ 2″ and has toured Northern Rhodesia with the Impalas a specially selected side of Rugby Union stars. Tom weighs more than 13 stone and we sincerely hope that Leigh people who always have a warm spot in their hearts for overseas players will give Tom and his wife a real Lancashire welcome when they arrive over here. We feel certain that if statistics are anything to go by then our new capture should have a most successful time of it during the years he is with us.

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2—LEADBETTER	2—SOUTHWARD
3—FISHER	3—DAVIES
4—LEWIS	4—NOON
5—HUMBLE	5—HOLDEN/PATTERSON
6—CHADWICK	6—KELLETT
7—BROOKS	7—PITCHFORD
8—ROBINSON	8—PAYNE
9—TABERN	9—McINTYRE
10—OWEN	10—DUFTY
11—HURT	11—WINSLADE
12—MARTYN	12—ROBINSON
13—PLATT	13—PARKER D.

Reserves : Howard, Fallon, Brophy, Walmsley.

Referee : Mr. G. PHILPOT (Leeds)

Touch Judges :
Mr. W. G. Greenalgh (St. Helens) Mr. K. R. Rathbone (St. Helens)

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takes something to master—don't we know ourselves because many of us suffer from lots of complaints in the medical book. So it will take Tom some time to get acclimatised. Then of course he has to get used to the complicated Rugby League rules and that wants some doing even by a Rugby Union player in this land.

We have been in touch with a number of Rugby Union players from South Africa and we will keep you in touch either through the programme or Press about future negotiations. Things have brightened up considerably in the camp and if only some of the luke-warm supporters would turn up more regularly we should be pleased.

Dwindling Support

Public support for sport has dwindled over the past few seasons not only in Rugby League but in soccer as well. Clubs in the Northern League are more dependent than ever on the pools but when you get such crack teams like Leigh and Oldham in opposition we feel sure that this is a sporting occasion which deserves at least eight to nine thousand people in attendance on the terraces and stands. Some while ago we heard critical remarks about officials taking joy rides instead of doing their job—or at least one of them—in searching for new talent.

The signing of such players as Don Platt, John Humble, Tony Leadbetter etc. show that the officials have been around and about. It is very difficult these days to try and persuade Rugby Union players to "turn". If they do consider some of the overtures then they almost want the moon to come north. Promising talent these days is hard to come by but we feel sure that we are getting our share of the talent which is available these days.

Future Programme

Looking further ahead we find that the programme of matches after the holidays is not so stiff and there should be more points in the bag for home games at least. Halifax and Leeds have to be met before the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

This match takes place on February 11th and we are hoping that we get a home draw.

Incidently Mr. W. Fallowfield the Secretary of the Rugby League has informed us about Cup Final Tickets. What a rush there will be if Leigh got there this time ! We have been very very close on several occasions and with a bit of luck this really could be Leigh's year in one competition or another.

Here's what Mr. Fallowfield says about Rugby League Cup Final Tickets.

Cup Final Tickets

The entertaining game which was seen at Wembley last May is possibly responsible for the fact that at the moment more seating tickets have been sold from the League Offices than there were at the same period last year. (Total sales are up by 8 per cent. and over £17,000 is in the kitty).

Rulings on Points of Play

Ball hits Referee at kick-off. Scrum down where ball touches Referee if play is irregularly affected (Section 9, para. 20) Player kicking-off deliberately kicking short. Scrum or kick again depending on who played the ball (Section 7, paras. 2 and 3).

Penalty kick hits opponent standing on mark. Ball is judged not to have reached mark and a scrum is formed.

Scrum wheels through 180o. It is in order for the loose forward to detach himself from the pack and pick up the ball as it emerges from the scrum. It is in order for a back to pick up the ball once it emerges from the scrum provided he was not offside when the ball was in the scrum, i.e. he must keep behind his own forwards (Section 11, para 3 (c).)

League scoring lists up to and including Saturday, Dec. 17th.

Goals

Fox (Wakefield T.)	78
Fraser (Warrington)	75
Owen (Halifax)	69
Ganley (Oldham)	69
McKeown (Whitehaven)	66
Blan (Swinton)	65
Griffiths (Wigan)	61
Jones (Leeds)	61
Rhodes (St. Helens)	59
Ledgard (Dewsbury)	57
Wilson (Bramley)	51
Dyson (Huddersfield)	50
Lunn (Castleford)	49
Yorke (York)	47
Fallon (Leigh)	46
Lawton (Batley)	45
Clawson (Featherstone)	44
Bateson (Hull)	43

Tries

Rosenburg (Leeds)	23
Vollenhoven (St. Helens)	21
Greenough (Warrington)	20
Boston (Wigan)	18
Murphy (St. Helens)	17
Hardisty (Castleford)	17
Stopford (Swinton)	16
Southward (Oldham)	15
O'Neil (Workington)	15
Bevan (Warrington)	15
O'Grady (Warrington)	15
F. Smith (Wakefield T.)	14
Fox (Wakefield T.)	13
Prinsloo (St. Helens)	12
Sullivan (Wigan)	12
Kellett (Oldham)	12

Forthcoming attractions at Hilton Park

December 31st

LEIGH 'A'

v.

WHITEHAVEN 'A'

kick-off 2-30 p.m.

January 7th 1961.

LEIGH

v.

WORKINGTON TOWN

kick-off 2-30 p.m.

FIXTURES and RESULTS 1960-61

1960		*First Team*	F	A
Aug.	6	Widnes (CC)	A 32	28
	13	Salford	A 17	4
	17	Wigan (7-0)	H 9	25
	20	Hull K.R.	H 15	9
	27	Workington T. (L.C. 1st round)	H 37	15
	30	Oldham (6-45)	A 12	9
Sept.	3	Castleford	A 11	19
	6	Warrington LC.	A 9	8
	10	St. Helens	H 13	28
	17	Blackpool B.	A 7	10
	21	Salford	H 18	3
	28	Whitehaven	A 16	9
Oct.	15	Wigan	A 17	15
	17	St. Helens LC.	H 2	15
	22	Leeds	H 5	20
Nov.	5	Keighley	A 18	2
	12	Halifax	H 15	9
	19	Workington T.	A 2	11
	26	Castleford	H 36	10
Dec.	3	Blackpool B.	H 16	5
	10	Liverpool C.	A 10	2
	17	Hull K.R.	A 31	12
	24	Oldham	H	....
	26	Warrington	A	....
1961				
Jan.	2	St. Helens	A	....
	7	Workington T.	H	....
	14	Rochdale H.	H	....
	21	Halifax	A	....
	28	Whitehaven	H	....
Feb.	4	Leeds	A	....
	11	R.L. Cup—1st Round		
	18	Swinton	A	....
	25	R.L. Cup—2nd Round		
Mar.	4	Keighley	H	....
	11	Liverpool C.	H	....
	18			
	25	Widnes	A	....
	31	Barrow	A	....
Apr.	1	Widnes	H	....
	3	Warrington	H	....
	8	Rochdale H.	A	....
	15	R.L. Cup—Semi-Finals		
	22	Barrow	H	....
	—	Swinton	H	....

1960		*'A' Team*	F	A
Aug.	6	Widnes (CC)	H 10	17
	13	Salford	H 21	3
	20	Wigan	A 7	7
	24	Swinton	A 6	0
	27	Whitehaven (L.C.C.S.)	A 5	28
Sept.	3	St. Helens	H 5	6
	10	Halifax	A 16	11
	17	Blackpool B.	H 8	4
	24	Barrow	H 11	3
Oct.	1	Oldham	H 9	16
	8	Blackpool B.	A 0	5
	15	Huddersfield	H 25	3
	22	Salford	A 7	5
	29	Hull	A 10	2
Nov.	5	Halifax	H 14	11
	12	St. Helens	A 16	29
	19	Workington	H 12	14
	26	Warrington	A	P
Dec.	3	Huddersfield	A	....
	10	Hull	H	....
	17			
	24	Oldham	A	....
	31	Whitehaven	H	....
1961				
Jan.	2			
	7	Workington T.	A	....
	14	Rochdale H.	A	....
	21	Wigan	H	....
	28	Whitehaven	A	....
Feb.	4	Warrington	H	....
	11			
	18	Swinton	H	....
	25	R.L. Cup—2nd Round		
Mar.	4			
	11	Liverpool C.	A	....
	18			
	25	Widnes	H	....
Apr.	1	Widnes	A	....
	8	Rochdale H.	H	....
	15	Liverpool C.	H	....
	22	Barrow	A	....

Kick-off Times : Kick-off 3 p.m., except from November 8th to January 22nd inclusive, when kick-off will be 2-30 p.m.

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