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WIGAN v. OLDHAM

(Northern Rugby Football League)

SATURDAY, 13th JANUARY, 1962

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OFFICIAL NOTES...

It was grand to return to football last Saturday after a lay-off of three weeks, and it was nice to see our players carry on where they had left off. After such a long absence from the game anything can happen to a player's form, but our lads had managed to keep in full, hard training, and showed no ill effects at Liverpool. We had asked Liverpool if they would move our fixture at Knotty Ash from the 17th March in view of the terrific backlog of fixtures, and they very kindly agreed to this suggestion. As it turned out they had a reasonably good gate of £180.

We started the match off with a bang and within six minutes Billy Boston had scored his four hundredth try after a beautiful double scissors move from a pack. From then on we went from strength to strength and scored some magnificent tries at frequent intervals throughout the game. Our three-quarter line was again in wonderful form, and on this showing they must all have a fair chance of making the trip to Australia this summer. Since the signing of Alan Davies Frank Carlton has shown better form, and he finished well again scoring one try from a kick by Eric Ashton, and another picking his way between two or three men after great work by Roy Evans and Geoff Lyon. Alan Davies got a couple of tries himself, and Norman Cherrington interrupted the backs dominance with two tries.

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Altogether it was a fine win, although there is no doubt the City are still struggling, and will no doubt be in the Second Division next season. But in the conditions our handling was simply superb, and we gave a most entertaining exhibition. The match also served as a more than useful pipe-opener for the two hard games against Oldham we now have to face.

THE HALF-WAY STAGE

At the beginning of the season a great wave of enthusiasm was felt by most Rugby League supporters. The Kiwi tour of England, the Great Britain tour of Australia next summer, Two Divisions, plus the usual seasonal honours gives tremendous incentives for all players. Consequently, at the half-way stage of the season it gives us a good opportunity to take stock and look back on events so far. The Kiwis of course have now returned home after a reasonably successful tour and seem to have learned a great deal while they were over here. It was interesting to note how their play improved as the tour progressed and this was shown by the fact that they won the Test Series in France.

We are all pleased to see that the tour of Australia is now on and we are hoping that a few of our players will be lucky enough to be

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selected. It is the highest honour in the game for any player to be picked for a tour and the coming part of the season will be a testing time for all concerned.

On looking through the League table this weekend it is interesting to note the progress in the two divisions. We at Wigan are very well placed with only one defeat to date. However, there have been one or two surprises which are worthy of mention. Huddersfield for example have astounded all the critics and are making a great effort to gain First Division status as have Bramley and Hull Kingston Rovers. Obviously there are a lot of bridges to be crossed in the race for premier places, which all helps to add interest for the middle of the League clubs. Wakefield and Featherstone are well placed for the First Four, but for clubs like Leigh, Barrow and Salford it is imperative to win as many matches as possible in the remainder of the season if they are to be in the First Division.

OUR VISITORS

For our first league match at Central Park of 1962 we extend a warm welcome to our friends from Watersheddings who after magnificent away wins at St. Helens and Warrington will be keen to make it a hat-trick.

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Wigan Co-operative Society

In the early part of the season Oldham had their share of troubles, firstly the transfer of Davies to us and then the departure of Risman as coach. However, they have surely found a popular replacement in Frank Pitchford who has undoubted ability from the playing point of view. Also they have made one or two very useful signings in Smethurst, Rae, and Parker who along with Holden and Robinson are now moulding into a very formidable side. At full-back they have found a very suitable replacement in Geoff Simms who is proving a splendid goal-kicker. On the wings Patterson and Nestor are the men in possession with Lord and Noon making up the quartet. At half-back they have one of the strongest combinations in the game in Alan Kellet, a Halifax boy, and Frank Pitchford the skipper of the side. As always the Oldham pack is a strong one, with a solid front-row of Goddard, McIntyre and Robinson. Bill Payne their usual number eight, who they signed from Liverpool for £4,000, is at the moment serving a two match suspension. The second-row usually consists of Smethurst and Rae with Dave Parker, who represented Lancashire this season, at loose forward. Altogether a strong combination which is certain to give us an entertaining but tough afternoon.

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OUR "A" TEAM

We are pleased to note that our "A" team will be back in action at Oldham this afternoon. They have not played since December 23rd when we beat Widnes away which is an extremely creditable win. Below is printed the leading positions in the Combination as at the 23rd December. On Saturday St. Helens "A" were beaten and so we must have a good chance of winning the Combination Championship. The form shown by the "A" team this season is a considerable improvement on last season when we finished bottom of the combination.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
WIGAN	16	12	0	4	298	197	24
St. Helens	11	10	0	1	278	91	20
Widnes	13	8	1	4	182	139	17
Warrington	11	7	0	4	154	143	14
Swinton	12	6	1	5	173	133	13

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1—GRIFFITHS

Threequarters:

2—BOSTON
3—ASHTON (Capt.)
4—DAVIES
5—CARLTON

Half-backs:

6—BOLTON
7—PARR

Forwards:

8—BARTON
9—SAYER
10—McTIGUE
11—CHERRINGTON
12—LYON
13—EVANS

OLDHAM
(Red & White)

Full-back:

1—SIMS

Threequarters:

2—PATTERSON
3—LORD
4—NOON
5—NESTOR

Half-backs:

6—KELLETT
7—PITCHFORD

Forwards:

8—GODDARD
9—McINTYRE
10—ROBINSON
11—RAE
12—LLOYD
13—PARKER

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PROGRAMME PRIZE

Don't forget to listen for the winning programme number which will be announced at half-time. The lucky winner at the Whitehaven match was Mr. H. Leyland, of 7 Cygnet Street, Wigan. The prize can be collected at the office after the match.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

We now have tickets available for the Great Britain v. France match to be played at Central Park on Saturday, 17th February, and these can be purchased in any quantities. Prices are as follows:

DOUGLAS SIDE STAND—Centre	7/6
Ends	5/-
NEW STAND	5/-
RINGSIDE SEATS	3/6

Admission to the Ground and Paddock on the day of the match will be 2/6.

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WIGAN PLAYERS RECORDS ————— Season 1961-62

FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including Saturday, 6th January, 1962)

	Appear- ances	Tries		Appear- ances	Tries
Ashton, E.	20	12	Entwistle, T.	12	4
Barton, J. T.	16	2	Evans, R.	18	4
Bolton, D. R.	20	5	Gregory, J.	1	—
Booth, B.	1	—	Griffiths, W. F.	20	5
Bootle, J.	10	6	Jones, A.	2	2
Boston, W. J.	20	26	Lyon, G.	13	2
Carlton, F.	21	17	McLeod, S.	2	1
Cherrington, N.	19	5	McTigue, B.	20	2
Collier, F.	18	2	Parr, F.	9	3
Davies, A.	10	11	Sayer, W.	20	2
			Stephens, A.	1	—

Total number of Tries: 111

GOALS SCORED

Ashton, E.	1
Bootle, J.	9
Griffiths, W. F.	87

Total number of Goals: 97

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FIXTURES AND RESULTS — 1961-62

	1961	FIRST TEAM	F. A.	"A" TEAM	F. A.
Aug.	12—	Warrington (W.Cup)	H 26-10	Warrington (Friendly)	A 18-12
	19—	Huddersfield	A 19- 9	St. Helens	H 11-23
	23—	Blackpool	H 31- 5		
	26—	Hunslet	H 44-11	Leigh	A 18- 8
Sept.	2—	Workington (L.Cup)	A 30-18	Workington (L.Shield)	H 36- 5
	4—			Leigh (6-30)	H 32-22
	6—	Leigh	A 20- 0		
	9—	Swinton	H 6-13	Swinton	A 8-46
	12—	Blackpool B.	A 33- 8		
	16—	Leigh	H 25- 6	Leigh (Friendly)	A 5-21
	21—	Widnes (L.Cup 2 Rd.)	A 5- 9		
	23—	Liverpool City	H 45- 0	Liverpool City	A 32- 7
	30—			Widnes	H 18- 5
Oct.	7—	New Zealand	H 28- 6		
	14—	Rochdale Hornets	A 28- 8	Rochdale Hornets	H 18- 5
	21—				
	28—	Swinton	A 7- 4	Swinton	H 16- 5
Nov.	4—			Blackpool B.	H 15-12
	11—	Workington Town	A 16-10	Warrington	A 29-10
	18—	Barrow	H 39- 3	Barrow	A 19-10
	25—	Whitehaven	A 26- 6	Whitehaven	H 26-11
Dec.	2—	Rochdale Hornets	H 22- 5	Rochdale Hornets	A 5-11
	9—	Whitehaven	H 31-11	Whitehaven	A 5- 7
	16—	Halifax	A 7- 4	Salford	H 24- 5
	23—	Widnes	H Post.	Widnes	A 22-10
	25—	Salford	A Post.		
	26—	St. Helens	H Post.		
	30—			St. Helens	A Post.
Jan.	1—	Warrington	H Post.		
	6—	Liverpool City	A 39- 0	Oldham	A
	13—	Oldham	H	Oldham	H
	20—	Oldham	A	Salford	A
	27—	Halifax	H	Workington Town	A
Feb.	3—	Workington Town	H	Widnes (Friendly)	H
	10—	R.L. Cup 1st Round...			
	17—	Hunslet	A		
	24—	Wakefield Trinity	A		
Mar.	3—	R.L. Cup 2nd Round...		Widnes (Friendly)	A
	10—	Wakefield Trinity	H	Liverpool City	H
	14—	Widnes	H	Barrow	H
	17—				
	24—	Barrow	A	St. Helens (Friendly)	H
	26—	Hull K. R.	H		
	31—	Hull K. R.	A	Blackpool	A
April	4—	Widnes	A		
	7—	Huddersfield	H		
	9—	Warrington	H		
	14—	R.L. Cup Semi-final...		Warrington	H
	20—	St. Helens	A		
	21—	Warrington	A		
	23—	Salford	H		
	28—	St. Helens	H		
	30—	Salford	A		