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SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 7—Saturday, 13th October, 1962

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HUDDERSFIELD

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

It has happened once again, the distressing fact of having over 40 points scored against us, and of all clubs it had to be Workington, who have always considered Oldham their bogey team. For the first twenty minutes of the game at Workington we had visions of another victory, so well did our team play, and were definitely on top, but what happened after that period requires some explanation and what is the cause. To have ten tries recorded against us makes Workington look a good team, but we made them look good in the manner they slipped tackles when two or three of our men were attempting to bring a man down, the ball was slipped away and the defence was thrown to the wind. It made try scoring look easy, so easy in fact, that our opponents scored 33 points in thirty-eight minutes.

The last time we had over 40 pts. scored against us was at St. Helens on May 2nd, 1959, in the play-off for the first four of the league, we lost by 42 points to 4 points, with a better record than we now possess.

One must take into consideration that our team is much depleted by the absense of such players as Noon, Kellett, Pitchford, Pycroft, Price, Rae, and Smethurst, quite a formidable list of good players and who require some replacing. We are not alone with this long list of injured players, several other clubs appear to have been hit by the injury bogey.

MALCOLM PRICE

Better news has been received regarding Malcolm Price, who was discharged from hospital on Wednesday, last. He is improving very slowly and will have to attend hospital for dressings and further treatment, but there is some improvement, endorsed by his being allowed to go home. Our appreciation and thanks go to the medical staff and the nursing staff at the Manchester Victoria Memorial Jewish Hospital, for their care and attention. The have, as usual, done a wonderful service by their care and attention in the life of Malcolm Price. In fact words cannot express the work of the surgeon, the matron and the nursing staff, we say once again, THANKS.

OUR VISITORS

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Huddersfield team to Watersheddings, as we are always assured of a good game. They come as one of the leading teams in the Rugby League, after a period of transition of team building. Last season's Wembley finalists, they were narrowly beaten by 12 points to 6 points by Wakefield Trinity, but achieved championship honours a week later by beating Wakefield Trinity at Bradford by 14 points to 5 points.

They are still playing attractive football and in their 8 matches of the Eastern Division have scored 211 points against 44 points. We hope that today's match will be no exception to our meetings in the past and that it produces good football and we hope for victory to our team, but we shall have to be right on top form to accomplish this. Last season we lost our home match to them by 12 points to 5 points.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

May we once again appeal for members to join the Supporters Club and especially to act in a working capacity. The old saying that many hands make work light, and so it is with the Supporters Club. There are many little duties to be performed and we desire some active members to assist in the work of a good organisation. We are sure that the duties are very interesting. Contact any of the canteens during the match, or the Secretary of the Supporters Club, Mr. N. Kent, 79 Falcon Street, Oldham.

MEMBERSHIP 1962/63

Our membership once again shows a decline from last season. The total of voting members this season is 1309 against 1686 the previous year. We have privilege members of Juveniles 232 this season against 264 and Old Aged Pensioners 526 against 600.

TERMINATION OF PLAY

Overseas, a timekeeper is appointed for each match and this duty is not performed by the referee. Play in each half is terminated by the ringing of a bell at the appropriate time and play exactly ceases when the ball next goes out of play. Clubs in the Northern Rugby Football League are now requested to forward their views on this method of timekeeping.

Needless to say the Oldham Football Club have decided against a special timekeeper, the referee should be the sole keeper of playing time and he is allowed to take injury time into consideration.

THE CASE OF THE TOUCH JUDGE

Apart from the ever-changing rules in the Rugby League game, I'm afraid that the lot of the average supporter is not getting any easier.

—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

This season has been one where the thinking cap has had to be worn almost every minute of the day and kept at a jaunty angle to prevent some angry moments.

The two divisional scheme with its preface of zone championships and consequent play-offs, plus the dropping of the traditional "first four" competition, has not only caused a lot of extra discussion on stand and terrace, but some unparliamentary words about the constant tinkering.

What a far cry to the time when the Northern Union had 15 players and minors were scored when a team had to field the ball behind its own lines and conceded points accordingly.

ANNOYING FACTS

I'm on the side of the spectator these days in many of his moans. There are so many annoying facts about the game that quite a lot of people are becoming frustrated and I shouldn't be at all surprised if that is not one of the reasons why those attendances are not too satisfactory.

Turning up a trifle late at a recent match because of traffic conditions which were extraordinary, I had to stand among the crowd instead of commanding a seat in the Press Box. What I heard among the people who pay to shout and cheer, was interesting from many angles.

There was, of course, a difference of opinion among them. They either cheered or jeered the "ref." and it was surprising what was said about play, players and also the officials of the clubs.

If the amateur critics and commentators had been asked to take the platform they would have become very much tongue-tied, but giving them the freedom of the terraces, they held forth as if they were qualifying for a spot at Speakers' Corner.

WEIRD IDEAS

Now I watched very keenly when points were made clear to me. Of course, there were some pretty weird interpretations about this and that, but in the main, the people who keep the game alive, have some legitimate grumbles.

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- 5—SIMMS, T.
- 6—NESTOR, V.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—MUMBERSON, A.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—GODDARD, P.
- 11—SMETHURST, P.
- 12—ROBINSON, G.
- 13—RAE, J.

Referee :

Mr. J. P. HEBBLETHWAITE
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- 1—DYSON
- 2—SENIOR
- 3—STOCKS
- 4—CHADWICK
- 5—BREEN
- 6—DEIGHTON
- 7—SMALES
- 8—ROWE
- 9—CLOSE
- 10—NOBLE
- 11—KILROY
- 12—BOWMAN
- 14—RAMSDEN

Touch Judges :

Mr. R. Syers, Warrington (Crimson)
Mr. E. P. Cunningham, Widnes Yell.)

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Presentation

Birthday

A winger and a "crack" one at that, constantly lay offside. The referee did not spot him because his back was turned and there was so much hectic stuff going on among the forwards, that the official had his hands full.

Now what incensed some of the people in the crowd was the fact that the winger was only a yard or two from a touch judge !

"Offside" is not considered serious enough for a touch judge to dash on to the field of play. In fact, there is a feeling in official quarters that the more the flag wagggers keep off the field the better. But the winger and one or two of his pals were PERSISTENTLY offside, and as such should have been warned about the consequences.

I believe that the Rugby League game is now becoming too much of a task for one man to control; that touch judges must be given more authority; that they must be feared by the players as much as they are in soccer.

At the present time touch judges are considered only part and parcel of the Rugby League act and not as important as their soccer counterparts.

CAN'T SEE ALL

From time to time new rules are tried out—we have certain changes happening this very day—why not have a match or two when more authority can be vested in those men who run the line.

They must see quite a lot which escapes the notice of the referee. I will always remember a touch judge telling me that he saw a non-fashionable team lose because the referee had not spotted a clear knock on.

I suppose that many of our touch judges can, if they examine their consciences, tell similar tales of disagreements with the referees.

What is the use of providing flags for the men on the line if they are afraid to wave them?

I believe in the rule that the referee should be the sole judge in most matters, and that he is the man who makes the decisions, But surely he can be helped in his task. No man can expect to see everything—that's why we get so many different versions in the Press.

NOTE: These are the views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Oldham Officials.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962

(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	11	2	20	Nestor	8	1	
Lord	12	6		Kellett	2		
Holden	7	3		Pycroft	4		
Price	5	1		Patterson	8	3	1
Simms, T.	13	6		Jones	4		1
Noon	10	5		Lloyd	1		
Pitchford	5						
Robinson, G.	12	1					
McIntyre	13	1					
Goddard, P.	11						
Bott	13						
Parker, D.	10	2					
Smethurst	8	1					
Mumberson	11	2					

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	26	SWINTON	Home	
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	29	WARRINGTON	Home	
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	Jan. 5	ST. HELENS	Away	
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	12	HALIFAX	Home	
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	19	FEATHERSTONE R.	Away	
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			26	HULL K. R.	Home	
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7	9	R.L. Challenge Cup 1st Round		
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24	16	HULL	Away	
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44	23	ST. HELENS	Home	
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home		Mar. 2	R.L. Challenge Cup 2nd Round		
20	LEEDS	Away		9	FEATHERSTONE R.	Home	
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home		16	WARRINGTON	Away	
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away		23	HULL K. R.	Away	
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home		30	WIDNES	Home	
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away		Apr. 6	BRAMLEY	Home	
24	LEEDS	Home		12	SWINTON	Away	
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away		15	HULL	Home	
8	WIGAN	Home		20	BRAMLEY	Away	
15	CASTLEFORD	Home		27	CASTLEFORD	Away	
22	HALIFAX	Away					

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