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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

LEEDS

Saturday, 24th November

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 9—Saturday, 24th November, 1962

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. LEEDS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

At the present time we occupy the unenviable position of being at the bottom of the first division of the N.R.F.L., having played 6 matches, won 1, drawn 1 and lost 4, scoring 12 goals, 9 tries—51 points to 19 goals, 24 tries—110 points against us. This will not do and we shall have to make a great improvement to steer clear from the bottom position.

What can this indifferent form of our team be put down to?

To commence with we have had a spate of injuries especially to key position men and new players brought into the side at short notice. There is sure to be "teething" trouble where new men are introduced, the fact of dovetailing in the scheme of moves on the field, knowing one another's weaknesses, and playing together as a team takes time, and the chopping and changing of positions are not conducive to team work and team spirit. The suspensions upon Mumberson and Platt have reduced our forward strength, but today sees the finish of their suspensions when we hope for better things to come from our forwards.

Since our last home match against Wakefield on October 27th we have played two away matches, at Wigan and Huddersfield and although we only got one point out of the four, we expect to do better. Our team at Wigan did give the homsters a shock and we were unlucky in the last quarter not to come away with victory but a draw of 14 points each was our consolation. A narrow defeat at Huddersfield on Saturday last by 6 points to 5 points, in a game quite contrary to Huddersfield and Oldham games of old, was our lot, but we are confident that with all our players fit we shall be capable of lifting ourselves up the league table. After today's match, of our next six matches four are at Watersheddings, so we are hoping for the best.

OUR GAME

Once again we notice that a player has been dismissed from the field for persistent infringement of the laws of the game and we agree that players who disregard the laws can expect what comes to them. Referees have instructions to this effect. If a player cannot play the game as designed then he should not be in it, he is wasting everybody's time and

money, and he would be a good riddance. Another big nuisance to our game is players standing offside and several players persist in this throughout the game. This problem of offside will have to be tackled as it is a blot on our game and an annoyance to the watchers.

Interest and keenness go together in football. In every club there are always spectators who seem naturally to take upon themselves the role of watch dogs. They know what they want, so do we all, they know what is required to make a team certain match winners, but facts must be faced. It is difficult to find the men required to strengthen weak spots, it is difficult at times to find money for transfer fees or signing bonus to persuade clubs to part with star players. Every club is anxious to make a good bargain and few can afford to make a bad one. Football competition is very keen today and so the policy of every club is to watch every step and make sure that every change is for an improvement. Clubs who have star players are not keen to get rid of them, hence the nature of intensive scouting which goes on and the exorbitant figures which star Rugby Union men place upon themselves, well knowing the shortage of the required class men. Everybody interested in football should be keen or their interest will soon weaken and vanish. It is far better to make a good thing of the job we have in hand than be continually longing for a better one.

HEAD HUNTERS

Now that the stiff arm tackle has been banned and consequent dismissal from the field the growth of head tackling appears to be on the increase. In several matches this season it has been noticed that some players will persist in tackling an opponent round the neck or face. This can be as dangerous as the stiff arm tackle and moreover it creates bad feeling and tends to aggravate the game as a spectacle. Our game of Rugby is a vigorous game provided it is used in a fair manner, injuries to the bones of the body and frame one can expect at times but a face injury is totally unnecessary. Something will have to be done to stop these head hunters.

MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DRAW

May we remind members of the annual Christmas Draw which is now in operation. Will all members who have sold their books please return the counterfoils. Previous draws have been a splendid success and it is up to our members for a continuance of same.

MORE INTEREST — LESS TRIES

Two games—four tries! Such was the fortune of the spectators at a couple of matches played recently between four first division clubs. One match was drawn, another ended dramatically so that a replay was necessary. Of course, this kind of excitement is what the fans have been requesting for years, at least before the two divisional scheme came into effect. —(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

I happened to be present at both these drawn games—one was a league encounter—and in each instance tension was at its height for most of the afternoon. But only four touch downs! One writer hit the target when he stated that “the defences had cancelled out the attacks on lots of occasions”.

Now are sportsmen going to be satisfied with two tries a game, with the possibility of thrilling goals—from placed or dropped attempts—being thrown in? I have a doubt about this.

For years the international tournament between the Rugby Union teams of England, Wales, Scotland and France, has been anything but a feast of scoring and penalty goals have often played an important part in the results. Is Rugby League going to get to a similar stage and will people in large enough number assemble to see stirring struggles where tackling overshadows attacks? I hardly think so.

GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY

I don't doubt that we have reached a stage in Rugby League when there is a “glorious uncertainty” about the outcome of both first division and second division matches. There are some big scores, and there are surprise results—more surprises than we have seen for seasons. But while there has been a levelling-up process, out has gone the try scoring accomplishments of certain individuals.

Are we not to see the sensational runs by the wingmen?; is combined football of any kind going to be a thing of the past or are we to see unorthodox methods which have little chance of success? I cannot answer all these points, but I think if Rugby League is to make any real progress then club coaches have a testing time ahead. Most teams are now almost of

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- 11—BOTT, C.
- 12—SMETHURST, P.
- 13—LORD, B.

Referee :
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LEEDS (Blue and Amber)

- 1—THORNETT, K. W.
- 2—RADCLIFFE, E.
- 3—PICKUP, F.
- 4—JONES, L.
- 5—COWAN, R. C.
- 6—REES, A.
- 7—EVANS, C.
- 8—ROBINSON, D.
- 9—SIMMS, B.
- 10—FAIRBANK, J.
- 11—NEUMANN, L.
- 12—DEVEREUX, D.
- 13—SHAW, B.

Touch Judges :
Mr. C. A. Moseley, Stretford (Yellow)
Mr. H. Ostle, Aspatria (Crimson)

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one standard (in their own sections) and I'm afraid that we see the same attacking methods tried over and over again with the same negative results.

It seems remarkable that I should be writing in this strain after being one of those who advocated the sorting of the bad from the good. Yet we are now finding with the absence of the "chopping blocks", that exciting try movements are at a premium.

The next question I want to ask is whether the club coaches can face up to the present problem? Of course we are bound to see many offensive movements nipped in the bud or stopped at a vital moment. So to a certain extent we will have to model our opinions on the effectiveness of tackling rather than on attacking prowess.

PROLIFIC SCORING TO END?

We may get down to the same low scoring of soccer games, except with pro rata scores. It will take a lot of getting used to when at one time we were prepared to wager with our friends that so and so was certain to get three or four tries in an afternoon. Now the prolific scorers may have to be content with three or four tries in a month or maybe two months.

It is however a sober thought that we may witness more endeavour by the players. There may be no instances of non-tryers which often spoilt our sport in a game where one team was almost scoring at will. I sincerely hope that Rugby League does not get to the point whereby there is more brawn than skill about the proceedings. Clubs may spend far too much time over-emphasising the importance of defensive work and forgetting that negative stuff is so dreary. Didn't it start that obnoxious thing—the slow hand-clap?

OUR VISITORS

Today sees an early return visit from Leeds and we give them a welcome to Watersheddings. In our match at Leeds on October 20th, we were badly beaten by 23 points to 5 points so we have an early opportunity to avenge this defeat, but our team will have to be in top form to achieve this. We trust that the game will be cleanly conducted and that at the final whistle everybody will have complete satisfaction of a good afternoon's sport.

JACKPOT SCHEME

No doubt many of our members and patrons will have noticed the "Jackpot Scheme" we are running at our first team matches. This scheme is operated very successfully on various grounds in the Rugby League. What other clubs can do surely we can. The first prize is £30, 2nd prize £10, 3rd prize £5 and five other prizes of £1 each. The tickets are 1/- each and the winners will be announced at half time. Tickets can be bought from the kiosks and other persons inside the ground. The more we get contributing the larger will go the prize money, so try your luck and possibly you may go home with more money in your pocket than when you left. Who knows?

POOLS ORGANISATION

We still desire more agents for our Pools Organization. In this scheme you make money for both yourself and for the Club. Why not become an Agent and sell your tickets to your workmates.

Application to become an Agent can be made to the Organizer, Mr. J. Foley, at 2 Clegg Street, Oldham, Telephone Main 2927, or to the Pools promoters at the above address any evening (Tuesday and Wednesday excepted) from 7-30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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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.	16	2	30	Kellett	2		
Lord	18	6		Pycroft	4		
Holden	9	3		Patterson	10	3	1
Price	5	1		Jones	5		1
Simms, T.	18	8		Lloyd	1		
Noon	12	6		Rae	2		
Pitchford	5			Gaskell	4	1	
Robinson, G.	16	1		Platt	3		
McIntyre	17	2		Crowther	1		
Goddard, P.	15			Wood	1		
Bott	18			Johnson	1		
Parker, D.	10	2		Fisher	3		
Smethurst	12	1		Elliott	3		
Mumberson	14	3		Ogden	1		
Nestor	9	1					

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	9-8	Mar. 2	R.L. Challenge Cup 2nd Round		
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23	9	FEATHERSTONE R.	Home	
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15	16	WARRINGTON	Away	
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14	23	HULL K. R.	Away	
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.	30	WIDNES	Home	
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6	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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