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THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

WIDNES

Saturday, 30th March

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 15—Saturday, 30th March, 1963

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIDNES

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Congratulations to our team on the fine football they have shown during the last month or so. To win at Leigh, Workington and Hull Kingston is an achievement in itself and to beat a worthy Featherstone at Watersheddings by twenty-odd points, shows that consistency has now been obtained and we hope they will carry on the good work.

Our advance in the R.L. Challenge Cup rounds has been a big surprise to many people and both the wins at Leigh and Workington were accomplished by good football. The jubilation of our players after the Workington match was something to be seen—a happy gang of sandboys—even some of the Workington boys celebrated with our team, and they admitted that they had been well and truly beaten on the day. In this match we suffered the usual knocks that are flying around, and as a result we were minus the services of Kellett and Parker at Hull Kingston on Saturday last, but the substitutes put that little extra in that counts and we played as a team and very deservedly came away victors. Our only blot on this victory was the dismissal from the field of our second row forward, Don Platt, a most unfortunate happening in view of the hard matches ahead.

Although our team are doing well at present, the committee consider that with the heavy programme ahead our reserve strength requires strengthening and with that end in view, we have signed J. Cheshire, centre three-quarter from Salford F.C. We trust that Cheshire will have a successful time with us and justify the confidence we have placed in him.

OUR VISITORS

We welcome Widnes to Watersheddings today and we realise that we have a big task on hand in tackling the leaders of the first division, but we have the confidence and team spirit to record another win.

PROTECTING PLAYERS

There have been numerous accidents this season, no doubt many unavoidable. Many players pass or kick a ball when opponents are quite an appreciable distance away from them.

The referee sees the pass and then follows the progress of the game, only to find later that the man whom he saw part with the ball has been knocked out by an opponent.

If the free touch judge would keep his eye on what happens after the kick or pass, he could then give interesting information to the referee, who should be compelled, when he finds a man has been knocked out under these circumstances, to consult the touch judge.

Many players are knocked out unfairly after the referee has taken his eye off the play. The proceedings as outlined above would stop all this kind of thing. Retaliation would soon become a thing of the past, and scientific, as apart from robust, players would receive the protection to which they are entitled.

RUGBY LEAGUE FAULTS

It is deplorable to look at the attendances at recent Rugby League matches. The weather cannot always be at fault.

We consider that offside and scrummage difficulties do incalculable harm to the game. The ball should go in the scrum the first time, if it fails to do so, someone has broken the rules. The culprit should be cautioned and if he repeats the offence he should be sent off the field, and suspended for at least six matches. If the half back and forwards are honest, it is the simplest matter possible to get the ball in first time. The half back should stand close to the mouth of the tunnel and from knee height throw the ball in, with a downward movement. What is there to prevent the ball going in?

Many instructions have been issued by the Rugby League Authorities on this subject and of making the game more attractive. It is up to the clubs and referees to see that the laws of the game are carried out, otherwise they are aiding and abetting by failing to put a stop to dishonest play. Clubs and referees must be strong enough to take action in the matter.

RUGBY UNION — A STRONGER OPPONENT

The upward surge in Rugby UNION interest in most Rugby LEAGUE areas continues. It is a phenomenon which is difficult to understand, especially when in almost every case players of the XV aside have to pay their own expenses and provide their own tackle. On the other hand, amateur Rugby League teams are subsidised by the Rugby League and by some of the senior clubs. —(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

I have referred to this Rugby Union boom from time to time, but there are no signs of it abating, in fact from what a survey shows, the threat to amateur Rugby League is likely to continue. This week I made a check in Lancashire and found to my amazement that Rugby Union teams—not clubs—were now outnumbering those of Junior Rugby League sides. One town where in pre war years there were only a couple of sides, there are now almost 20.

SOCCER SOUNDED WARNING

Rugby Union Clubs are springing up everywhere, especially in the industrial areas where Soccer reigned supreme. One leading county soccer official sounded the warning note four or five years ago at an annual meeting of an important league. The representatives did not take a great deal of notice at the time, now his words are being quoted almost chapter and verse.

While the Rugby League and the senior clubs have poured money into the amateur movement, and those amateur clubs who have reached the first round proper of the Rugby League Challenge Cup, have enjoyed a windfall, the introduction of promising players has not in any way been satisfactory. The income of bright young players from the amateur Rugby League ranks has not been sufficient to meet demands from the senior clubs, who have had to invade Rugby Union fields even as far as South Africa.

ONE OPINION

What is the reason for this sudden turn from Rugby League to Rugby Union? I enquired from a Rugby Union stalwart who has an open mind on professionalism. He said "Rugby League has been too parochial in its

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attitude, even when it was started. The Rugby Union has had a stodgy time especially in the years before the war, but with so many men in the Services being introduced to our game here or abroad, they have in the main not lost interest in the Rugby Union code on their demob.

"That is one aspect of the Rugby Union boom. The greatest asset we have over Rugby League and Soccer as well, is the social side. Why in one week an important Rugby Union official opened five new club houses. They were situated in the same county, which reveals the true state of the present surge in interest.

"A player can enjoy clubhouse facilities after the game. You don't have the same thing in Soccer or Rugby League. We have dances and general get togethers and there is an excellent spirit.

"Of course, takings at the bars are enormous. But we do not waste the money. The cash goes to buying new grounds, or helping the younger players with their travelling expenses. The teams are keen to win, but there is not the win-at-all-costs attitude which often knocks the word 'sport' out of Soccer and Rugby League.

"Amateur Rugby League players are too often spoon fed. They are helped in buying equipment and they don't seem to appreciate what is done for them. Unfortunately, the players cannot meet socially after the games because the fixtures are played very often on public parks."

Many of these Rugby Union points can be refuted, but the fact is that Rugby Union is stronger than ever!

SCHOOLBOY NOTES

Today's curtain raiser (weather permitting) is a county cup game against St. Helens. Our visitors have always a good senior team and we are hoping for an entertaining game of rugby league football. Playing No. 7 for St. Helens will be D. Murphy, a talented player with a wonderful eye for an opening, for whom a great future is predicted, he has represented Lancashire twice. B. Highcock the loose forward, also a county player, is a strong forceful runner and a fine athlete.

Our two county players, G. Eckersley and I. Entwistle, both showed good form in the County match at Wigan on March 9th. Entwistle, the Lancashire hooker having much the better of his more experienced opposite number from Yorkshire, and Eckersley had a sound game at full back.

The Oldham Junior town team travel to Warrington on Monday next April 1st, to play in the inter-town cup competition. These boys are all under twelve years of age and are confident they will go forward to the next round. The team will be chosen from the following :- Dicken, (Beever St. Jnr. School), Lowther (Fitton Hill Jnr. School), Deauville, Lees (Yew Tree Jnr. School), Fletcher, Fudge, Smith, Robinson and Williamson (St. Hilda's Jnr. School), Sweeney, Turner, Mielczarek, Curley, Broadbent, and Kerrigan (St. Patrick's Jnr. School).

The expenses involved in running our various schoolboy teams is considerable, but we believe it is money well spent. Today, (by kind permission of O.F.C.) we are taking up our first collection this season, before the senior game and at half time. Please give as generously as you can to this collection.

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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.	17	3	31	Pycroft	8	1	
Lord	22	6		Patterson	14	3	10
Holden	13	5		Jones	5		1
Price	5	1		Lloyd	1		
Simms, T.	27	14		Rae	2		
Noon	19	6	25	Gaskell	9	1	
Pitchford	5			Platt	10	3	1
Robinson, G.	26	1		Crowther	1	1	
McIntyre	26	5		Wood	2		
Goddard, P.	16			Johnson	1		
Bott	23	1		Fisher	12	1	
Parker, D.	14	2		Elliott	6		
Smethurst	19	1		Ogden	6		
Mumberson	23	4		Hill E.	1		
Nestor	14	1		Major, H.	5		
Kellett	6	1		Donovan	5		

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	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition						
15	BARROW	Away	15-13				
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7				
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24				
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44				
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8				
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23				
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15				
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14				
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.				
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6				
24	LEEDS	Home	8-10				
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	19-12				
8	WIGAN	Home	0-19				
15	CASTLEFORD	Home	2-10				
22	HALIFAX	Away	14-16				

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