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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

SWINTON

Tuesday, 23rd April, 1963

Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 19—Tuesday, 23rd April, 1963

Kick-off 7 p.m.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The Easter holiday matches have given us a further headache inasmuch that we lost both our matches, at Swinton on Good Friday by 7 points to 3 points and at home to Hull on Easter Monday by the alarming score of 18 points to 3 points. We were rather unlucky at Swinton on Good Friday in losing the match, as we consider that with a little luck we could have come away victorious, but once again a team that does not take its chances deserves what comes to it. We did however play good football and although we lost, it promised better things to come, but behold, our disappointment was intense when the Hull team came along and without doubt we were deservedly beaten. One must admit that ground conditions were extremely heavy, but this is equally so for both teams.

We are concerned that the team should lose a match, but we are more concerned if they play poor football. And so we try to find the explanation for these unexpected reverses, these surprising falls from excellence to badness, from brilliance to blundering. No doubt injuries to key players has caused a disruption in the composition of the team, but again capable reserves must always be ready to fill the vacated positions. To avoid these disconcerting variations from greatness to mediocrity we must seek the causes and remedy them. How does it happen that a whole team—or a section of it—are under a blight altogether. How are we to explain that a pack of forwards who under ordinary circumstances play a bright and exhilarating game, on another day a sluggish and are dull? In every case, no doubt, there is a psychological as well as physical causes for the failure to produce their best form, and of course, one of the physical causes may be the strength of their opponents, but how can one explain the fact that a team can play bad football against opponents who are showing no outstanding powers? It may be due to the fact that a man is under-trained or over-trained or it may be due to flying in the face of

that commonsense which teaches the athlete that he must have a sufficiency of sleep and that he must be temperate in all things. A player ought to be in perfect training, he ought to do his duty to his side by taking his full measure of rest and eating and drinking wisely. It is this which makes devotion to training and the cultivation to fitness so important.

OUR VISITORS

This evening we give a welcome to our friends from Swinton, in a match that was postponed from Boxing Day last. Our game at Swinton on Good Friday was well worthy of the name of Rugby League and if this evening's game is of the same texture all will be amply satisfied, especially with a home victory.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

The nomination sheet for the election of three committeemen and three ex-officio officials for season 1963/64 is now available in the Pavilion and will remain open for nominations until midnight, Sunday, 28th April.

One name will be missing from the sheet in Mr. Arthur Cordwell, Hon Treasurer who owing to pressure of business will not be seeking re-election. Our thanks go to Mr. Cordwell for the service he has rendered the Club in an unbroken period of service from season 1939/40. He has served the Club as committeeman, was President with undoubted ability in seasons 1950/51 and 1951/52 and has been Hon. Treasurer from season 1952/53 to the present time. Mr. Cordwell will be a much missed man in the capacity of advice on financial matters and we hope that his successor, whoever he may be, will prove as capable and with efficiency as what Mr. Cordwell has fulfilled his office. We hope that Mr. Cordwell will continue to come to Watersheddings and view our matches, to enjoy same without the care and possible worries of the financial matters of the Club.

NEW PLAYER

With a view to strengthening our scrum half position we have signed Brian Fallon, scrum half from Barrow. Fallon is a very capable scrum half and a good goal kicker, and we extend a welcome to him and hope that his success will be ours in the hard fixture list ahead.

MALCOLM PRICE

What an unlucky player Malcolm Price has been. Making a satisfactory recovery from the serious accident at Rochdale on August 28th last, he was admitted to Oldham Royal Infirmary on Good Friday for appendicitis. Our latest report is that he is improving satisfactorily. Recently his wife gave birth to twins, a daughter and son, but unfortunately the little sonny is rather ill and is a patient at Booth Hall Infirmary, Crumpsall. Our sympathy goes to Malcolm and his wife in their hour of sickness.

INJURED PLAYERS

We never appear to get out of a spate of injured players. At present we have, Major, Platt, Bott, Donovan, Nestor, Jones and Hill, J. on the injured list but we are hoping to have a clearance of some of the above players for this evening's match.

SUSPENSION

One of our scrum halves, James Gaskell has received a three match suspension for being dismissed from the field against Wigan.

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- 4—CHESHIRE, J.
- 5—SIMMS, T.
- 6—CROWTHER/NESTOR, V.
- 7—FALLON, B.
- 8—MUMBERSON, A.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—JOHNSON, K.
- 11—LLOYD, K.
- 12—PLATT, D.
- 13—PARKER, D.

Touch Judges :

Mr. A. Bagnall, Rochdale (Yellow)

Mr. J. Heap, Rochdale (Crimson)

SWINTON

(Blue)

- 1—GOWERS
- 2—SPEED
- 3—FLEET
- 4—BUCKLEY
- 5—STOPFORD
- 6—PARKINSON
- 7—WILLIAMS
- 8—BATE
- 9—CLARKE
- 10—NORBURN
- 11—CUMMINGS
- 12—REES
- 13—BLAN

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NETS COULD STOP ALL ARGUMENTS

Watch out for a proposal from at least one Rugby League club when the League's annual meeting comes around, suggesting that there should be a change in the method of signalling a goal has been kicked.

—(says CYRIL BRIGGS)

In certain parts of Lancashire they have been talking about the present method of having two touch-judges behind the goal-posts. The men who favour the change from the present system are in definite agreement that only one judge should be at the rear of the bar.

To add weight to the idea of one man to flag a goal—or otherwise—the reformists quote the case of the Widnes-Featherstone Rovers game at Naughton Park on Monday evening when Terry Clawson the Featherstone forward, and his colleagues claimed that he had kicked a goal from a penalty award.

RELEGATION?

One touch-judge signalled a goal, but the other judge, and later referee Mr. D. S. Browne, of Dewsbury, adjudged that there had not been any score.

And so Featherstone had to be content with a draw. Now if the loss of that point is going to make the difference to them of First Division or Second Division football next season, then some hard things are going to be said.

It could mean relegation, and at the same time it could mean that the players will have to try still harder to get away from the danger zone.

Now the circumstances were most unusual. Clawson's kick was taken from a spot six yards in his own half. It was a dropping shot which is often very puzzling to spectators. What a controversy it created.

Widnes, whether lucky or unlucky, gained a point, and that point may win them the championship. Hard luck to the other leading teams especially if the ball did go over the bar and the goal was not allowed.

CONFUSION

First of all, let me say that the light at the time of the Clawson shot was not at all good and therefore added to the confusion.

Now if we have only one man behind the posts to decide whether a goal has been kicked or not, it has to be realised that this is not the complete answer to the case. Over the years spectators have argued this or that way about a shot and goals which ought to have been allowed have been ruled out.

Yet in other instances where the ball has gone under the bar or outside the uprights, a score has been allowed. Now it is not so bad when a disputed goal does not decide the issue, but when a point either way can make the difference between defeat and victory, then something should be done to satisfy everyone.

This season it has been particularly noticeable that drawn games have happened with far more frequency than last term. This has been due to the levelling-up of teams and also the two division scheme.

CAN OVER-RULE

So goal-kicking becomes even more important. Even if one touch-judge is sent behind the posts to say "aye" or "nay", the referee can still over-rule him.

How can we prevent such arguments? I say that a solution must be found. It may seem fantastic, but what about some method of goal nets?

Surely we have sufficient ingenuity among sports outfitters to invent a contraption which need not be elaborate, simple to operate, but effective all the same.

Over the years soccer managed without nets. Then, because there were too many arguments, nets became a "must". If you think my idea far-fetched, then tell me just how you would feel if your pet team lost at Wembley because of a disputed goal? It could happen you know.

ON RIGHT SIDE

We are often told that the quickness of the hand often can deceive the eye. I think we can change the word "hand" to "foot".

In a cup tie last week a ball travelled so fast that a touch-judge signalled "touch in goal", although even the defending side admitted that the ball had landed a yard on the right side of the flag.

Soccer friends of yours might say that "goals" are scored in their game, but the ball has hit the net, bounced out again, and been disallowed. Here I must reply by saying that this extraordinary happening rarely occurs. The folk who would supply the nets for Rugby League could make sure that the rapid paced ball could be accommodated.

The Rugby League authorities should aim for less disputes. It will pay in the long run.

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 | Patterson | 15 | 3 | 10 |
| Lord | 22 | 6 | | Jones | 5 | | 1 |
| Holden | 13 | 5 | | Lloyd | 2 | | |
| Price | 5 | 1 | | Rae | 2 | | |
| Simms, T. | 28 | 14 | | Gaskell | 11 | 1 | |
| Noon | 22 | 7 | 27 | Platt | 11 | 3 | 1 |
| Pitchford | 5 | | | Crowther | 1 | 1 | |
| Robinson, G. | 29 | 1 | | Wood | 2 | | |
| McIntyre | 29 | 5 | | Johnson | 1 | | |
| Goddard, P. | 16 | | | Fisher | 15 | 1 | |
| Bott | 25 | 1 | | Elliott | 7 | | |
| Parker, D. | 16 | 2 | | Ogden | 6 | | |
| Smethurst | 21 | 1 | | Hill E. | 1 | | |
| Mumberson | 26 | 4 | | Major, H. | 7 | 1 | |
| Nestor | 15 | 1 | | Donovan | 8 | 1 | |
| Kellett | 8 | 1 | | Cheshire | 2 | | |
| Pycroft | 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 | Feb. 2 | WIDNES | Away | 0-3 |
| 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 | | | 30 | WIDNES | Home | 8-3 |
| 15 | BARROW | Away | 15-13 | Apr. 6 | WIGAN (R.L. Cup) | Home | 0-18 |
| 22 | ROCHDALE H. | Home | 22-7 | 9 | WORKINGTON | Home | 5-3 |
| 29 | LEIGH | Away | 17-24 | 12 | SWINTON | Away | 3-7 |
| Oct. 6 | WORKINGTON T. | Away | 15-44 | 15 | HULL | Home | 3-18 |
| 13 | HUDDERSFIELD | Home | 9-8 | 19 | BRAMLEY | Away | 9-13 |
| 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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