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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

WARRINGTON

Saturday, 4th May, 1963

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 20—Saturday, 4th May, 1963

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

There is no doubt that we have got into a groove and the injury problem is playing havoc with the composition of our teams. Since losing to Swinton on April 23rd at home we have lost a further two matches away from home at Bramley and Castleford and our position in the league at the present time looks very bad indeed, and a tremendous effort will have to be made by all, if we are to avoid second division football at Oldham next season.

We doubt if there is another team in the game that has had so many injured players and especially first team players, key men.

Our home matches including today's match are as follows :-

Saturday, 18th May—HALIFAX

Tuesday, 21st May—HULL KINGSTON

Thursday, 30th May—ST. HELENS

and BRAMLEY—Date to be arranged.

Away matches are as follows :-

Monday, 6th May—ST. HELENS

Thursday, 9th May—WARRINGTON

Wednesday, 15th May—FEATHERSTONE

Monday, 27th May—HULL

We shall have to win all our home matches and a share of points in away matches to steer clear from the dreaded bottom two positions in the league table. Much will depend on how other clubs fare who are just above us in the League, but we cannot depend on what other clubs do.

INJURED PLAYERS

The list of injured players goes on indefinitely and no sooner we get one player fit another player takes his place.

Geoff Robinson is still unfit with a badly bruised calf.

Peter Smethurst with ligament trouble of the knee.

Alan Kellett still feels a soreness with a damaged shoulder.

Ken Platt has a damaged chest bone.

Charlie Bott has a damaged ankle.

Michael Elliott has a groin strain.

Trevor Simms who had a suspected fracture of the collar bone. This has now turned out to be a badly bruised shoulder and we expect an early recovery.

Harry Major has had considerable trouble with ligaments of the thigh, but this is now responding to treatment and we expect an early resumption for playing.

OUR VISITORS

Today we entertain the Warrington Club and welcome them to Watersheddings and we can expect a game worthy of the name of Rugby League. Our opponents reached the semi-final of the Challenge Cup and were narrowly beaten by Wakefield a fortnight ago, but then again cup-tie football and league football are in a different category, for Warrington played at Wakefield on Saturday last and recorded a runaway victory, so today we had better look out and put that little extra into our efforts to stop the 'Wires' progress, and two points to us would be more than welcome.

In the Warrington ranks will be two of our ex-players in Charlie Winslade and Bill Payne, we hope, and with a little luck we may have Harry Major, late of Warrington in our ranks.

THE OLD BRIGADE

It is amazing how the composition of teams alter after a period of greatness and one has only to look back six years to visualize the great team we had at Oldham. In season 1956/57 we won three out of the possible four cups, and it was memorable from several points. How that great team has disappeared and where are the boys today?

The following are still in football as follows :-

Don Vines and Derek Turner, with Wakefield

Alan Davies and Frank Pitchford, with Wigan.

Charlie Winslade, with Warrington.

All the above were transferred from this Club.

The following have retired from football :-

Jack Keith—Now resident in his native Leeds.

Ken Jackson—Still resident in the town.

Sid Little—Now a director of a midland engineering firm and resident in the Potteries.

Alan Jarman—After a period with Halifax, lives in Rochdale.

Dick Cracknell—Representative and lives in Huddersfield.

Frank Daley—A hotel keeper in Wigan.

Bernard Ganley—Resident in Leigh, Secretary to a large firm of builders, BBC Commentator at Rugby and Soccer.

Frank Stirrup—Trainer-Coach to Rochdale Hornets.

Dennis Ayres—Resident in Frodsham. Executive position with a large firm of contractors.

John Eddy—After a period with Wakefield Trinity, now resident in Chippenden. A welfare officer for the County of Wiltshire.

So a great team disappeared from the Rugby League, but its record can be written down in Rugby League history as one of the finest teams that ever represented this Club.

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	23	SWINTON	Home	4-17
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15	27	CASTLEFORD	Away	4-23
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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- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—HILL, E.
- 11—MAJOR
- 12—RAE
- 13—PARKER, D.

Referee :
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WARRINGTON (Primrose and Blue)

- 1—CONROY
- 2—THOMAS
- 3—CHALLINOR
- 4—PICKAVANCE
- 5—GLOVER
- 6—GREENHOUGH
- 7—EDWARDS
- 8—PAYNE
- 9—DICKENS
- 10—BRINDLE
- 11—WINSLADE
- 12—GILFEDDER
- 13—DELOOZE

Touch Judges :
Mr. W. Fitzhenry, Wigan (Yellow)
Mr. J. H. Turner, Wigan (Crimson)

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THAT MAN — THE OBSTRUCTIONIST

Almost every week now, we see or hear about a player being obstructed whether he has either kicked the ball ahead, or has had a chance of reaching the ball before an opponent. The rule states that the referee should award a penalty kick to the non-offending side and in the event of certain circumstances, a try should be allowed, even if the ball has not been touched down. —(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

A game can be lost or won by a bad piece of obstruction. The saving of five points can happen if the man who has been badly impeded, only sees his side awarded a penalty kick—and even then the shot does not meet with success.

Of course, it is nothing new. We have seen this sort of unsporty tactic happen year after year, season after season. How can it be avoided? How best can we deal with the offender? Perhaps a change in the law would stop full backs and others running deliberately into the path of the man who looks to have a very good chance of scoring.

DOES NOT MEET THE CASE

It is obvious that a mere kick does not always meet the case. Perhaps if the offender was sent to the side—like the law in water polo—and only allowed to return to action after a score has been made, we would see less obstruction. There is an obvious snag here. The blatant piece of obstruction could happen in the last few minutes of a game and the unsporty action on the part of a player could win his side the game, even if he was sent to the side line or the “sin bin”.

Even if a “warning list” was taken and the offender punished by a period of suspension after two blatant pieces of obstruction, I don’t think this would meet the case. Of course, the obstructionist loses a lot of prestige with the followers of the team which has suffered. But perhaps if all players were warned that they COULD be sent off if they offended, and FOUR points awarded instead of a penalty try, or a goal-kick, we would see less cases of “pure” obstruction.

MORE DUTIES FOR REF

It would place more responsibility on the shoulders of the referee, who has more than his share of technicalities to settle especially with the speeding up in play or when conditions are bad through the weather. How does the rival code Soccer deal with the sharp practices? Years ago a well known player conceded many fouls. A number of complaints reached headquarters. And so a small committee investigated the complaints by watching the player over a period of months. The outcome was that the series of fouls suddenly stopped.

I realise that a penalty try sometimes gives the offending side quite a lot to grumble about. The players on the side which has been penalised, appeal that the player who had been impeded would not have reached the ball either before an opponent, or before it went over the dead line or into touch.

Because the obstruction business is getting a little out of hand, perhaps we could have a “black book” kept of the culprits. Those bad marks would have to be brought up when international or county games were on hand. I’m sure that this would meet the case.

PREVIOUS “CONVICTIONS”

A player would not want a record of “previous convictions” mentioned when the selectors were choosing representative teams. It might even debar the obstructionist from a trip to Australia and New Zealand, or a Test appearance in this country.

Something must be done to stop the rash of unfair tactics. We, or at least the sports writers, are constantly appealing for less unorthodox play. But when a “grubber” kick is attempted and a defence is thrown into a panic, the kicker gets a shoulder in his chest, just because he tried something unusual.

Now I’m not blaming the refs one bit. They are always keen to spot unfair methods. I feel that the law as it stands is not severe enough. Obstruction to me, is as nasty as a deliberate trip. Off a man goes if he is caught doing that sort of thing. Tripping was brought to a sudden halt by the introduction of severe measures. We have more or less stopped the “head hunter,” but the obstructionist still thrives, and often gets winning money in the bargain. Agree?

R.L. QUIZ

1. Who was Lance B. Todd?
2. How many seasons did A. J. (Gus) Risman play (Salford, Dewsbury, Leeds, Workington, and Batley)?
3. Can you name the clubs for whom the following played :-
(1) J. Sullivan, (2) J. Parkin, (3) Ernest Ward, (4) K. Gee, (5) A. Ellaby, (6) H. Bath?
4. Who was the unlucky Welshman with four Final appearances but was on the losing side each time?
5. Has the R.L. Challenge Cup Final ever ended in a drawn game?

Quiz Answers—

1. New Zealand "All Blacks" centre three-quarter signed by Wigan, 1908. Secretary-manager of Salford from 1929. Died in car accident returning from Oldham on 14th November, 1942, aged fifty-nine years. 2. Twenty-seven seasons (aged forty-three years when he retired). 3. (1) Wigan, (2) Wakefield T., (3) Bradford N., (4) Wigan (5) St. Helens, (6) Warrington. 4. Dai Morgan Davies. 1928 and 1933 for Warrington, 1935 for Huddersfield, and 1937 for Keighley. (5) Two Finals. 1910 (Leeds v. Hull) and 1954 (Warrington v. Halifax).

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