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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

ST. HELENS

THURSDAY, 30th May, 1963

Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME . . . 3d.

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No. 23—Thursday, 30th May, 1963

Kick-off 7 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Too late will be the cry and so it was on Monday evening last at Hull, when our players excelled themselves with an exhibition of football that amazed the Hull crowd. The remarks after the match was how a team like this Oldham outfit could possibly finish at the bottom of the table and head for relegation to division two.

Without doubt the team came back to its best form and our display reminded us of the old days. To see our team backing one another up was a revelation and had the Hull defence pulverised on several occasions. It is an unsolveable problem this variation of form, one naturally expects that what we can do once must be repeated, but this has not been the case. It would be unfair to individualise but some of our players struck top form and as a team, played the game as it should be played. A repetition of this form will see us finish the season in a blaze of glory, but then again, it is too late, but it gives one encouragement for the future.

LOOKING BACK

It is a bad omen to look back, but sometimes it pays to have a survey of what has happened and if this is adversely against one, to take stock and see what the remedy is, so that same is not repeated. And so it is to have a look back of what the past season has brought this club. Next season we are in the second division of the Northern Rugby Football League, and this decline must be from a multifarious kind of matters.

In the first place the income of new players and the outgoing of our players must have created a period of transition, and whether the replacement of departed players has been conducive to the well being of the club, as yet, remains to be apparent.

New players have been signed in :- C. H. Bott, forward ; T. Simms, wing ; A. Rowe, Forward ; M. Elliott, wing ; J. Gaskell, scrum half ; D. Platt, Forward ; R. Fisher, centre ; J. Donovan, centre ; K. Taylor, hooker ; D. Dransfield, scrum half ; J. Hill, forward ; E. Hill, forward ; J. Cheshire, centre ; and H. Major, forward.

The outgoing have been :-W. Payne, forward ; J. Edwards, centre ; T. Parker, forward ; F. Pitchford, scrum half ; K. Holden, centre ; P. Goddard, forward ; and T. Ogden, forward.

MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Mr. Arthur Cordwell has resigned from the Hon. Treasurer of the Club and one must place on record the splendid service he had rendered the Club. Being elected to the Committee in season 1939-40 he has served as committeeman, Hon. Vice-President (acting), and Treasurer, and has been the Club's representative on the Lancashire County Committee. All offices he has filled with diligence and attention. Mr. W. Howard has been disposed of the Presidency by Mr. H. Goodwin, which office Mr. Howard has held continuously since season 1953-54. To both these gentlemen we offer our thanks and appreciation of their service.

Our new President, Mr. H. Goodwin, takes over the reins of office knowing full well the heavy duties and responsibilities of leading our club back to its rightful place in the first division and we have no doubt he will be capable of any duties that must be placed upon him.

OUR VISITORS

This evening we entertain very welcome visitors from St. Helens, with their team of stars and we can be assured of an excellent match, especially so, as our opponents will be fighting for number two position in the League Table. The St. Helens Club have always been in the market for capable players in their effort to build a No. 1 team in the game.

Some of their players require no introduction to the public. In Murphy, Van Vollenhoven, Sullivan, Huddart, they have players of international class.

Then there is :-

Coslett, from Aberavon R.U. A Welsh International full back and a goal kicker of repute.

Williams, from Cardiff R.U. A brother of the famous Bleddyn Williams, of Rugby Union fame.

Mooney, a recent newcomer to the first team. Came from a Wigan junior club and has been on their register for two years.

Smith, out half is a local boy.

Tembey, a forward secured on transfer from Whitehaven.

Dagnall, hooker. A local, but secured on transfer from Rochdale Hornets.

Watson, forward. Recruited from a Midland Rugby Union team.

Goddard, forward. Whom we should all know by his service to this Club.

Major, forward. Captain of the team, secured on transfer from Widnes.

Saturday next at Watersheddings—

OLDHAM v. BRAMLEY

—Kick-off 3 p.m.

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- 4—LORD
- 5—KENNY
- 6—PYCROFT
- 7—GASKELL
- 8—MUMBERSON
- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—ROBINSON
- 11—BOTT
- 12—WHITEHEAD
- 13—MAJOR

Referee :

Mr. A. E. DURKIN
of Dewsbury

ST. HELENS (Red and White)

- 1—COSLETT
- 2—VOLLENHOVEN
- 3—WILLIAMS
- 4—MOONEY
- 5—SULLIVAN
- 6—SMITH
- 7—MURPHY
- 8—TEMBEY
- 9—DAGNALL
- 10—WATSON
- 11—GODDARD
- 12—HUDDART
- 13—MAJOR

Touch Judges :

Mr. W. H. Gandy, Widnes (Yellow)
Mr. J. H. Turner, Wigan (Crimson)

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SCHOOLBOYS CAN TEACH A LESSON

A friend, who has strong Rugby League connections, made a casual visit to a schoolboys' match and came away with some interesting facts and conclusions.

He wondered why referees in senior games have so much trouble with the scrummagers, whereas among the lads, referee and scrum halves appeared to have no complaints.

The hookers, so I'm told, were never called out for a lecture; the ball seemed to go into the tunnel as if attracted by a magnet; there were very few penalties for "feet up" or wrongful feeding. How is it that the lads can follow the official guide while their fathers, brothers and uncles often make the scrummaging business a mere shambles?

It is quite possible that the boy stars, and especially those who are in the under 11's leagues, have never heard of "sharp practices". It is only when they qualify for the amateur leagues and begin to play against some of the experienced players that they wander from the path of Rugby righteousness.

CURTAIN RAISER

Before I deal with the professional angle to the laws of the game, let me say that if the Wembley authorities would only allow a "curtain raiser" on cup final day, we would gain more prestige for the game and also win more converts.

There MUST be some Southern lads attending the final who would like to try their hand, or foot at Rugby League. It has been mooted before, but the teachers are not quite satisfied with the refusals.

Perhaps if the Rugby League Council would accede to the requests by the teachers and allow a schools Rugby League authority to be established on a par with soccer, then we might get something done with this boys' game before the cup final.

I think that if we are to get improvement in scrummaging and it gets no better, the Rugby League must take extraordinary steps off the field of play.

HELP CLEAN-UP

Most clubs these days have expert coaches. Certainly they ought to be able to help in the scrums clean-up plan. If not, why not?

My idea would be for the Rugby League to insist that reports of bad scrummaging must be reported forthwith. The referees could give instances of lack of co-operation by some team's forwards in one direction or another.

Steps to impose heavy fines on clubs guilty of bad scrummaging would have its effect in the dressing rooms. The coaches would see that there was no suggestion of jiggery pokery, in fact the men in charge of the teams would be likely to have a strong hint or two from the board-room if more than one complaining letter was received from headquarters.

I think there would be less sloppy stuff in the packs if the respective forwards were ordered to form up, that is to say lock together and only "get down" when ordered to do so by the referee. There would be no clash of heads if the referee warned the packs beforehand.

44 STOPPAGES

This week I saw a game where there were 44 scrums. While this may not seem to be an extraordinary number as far as some games are concerned, there were frequent penalties for this or that offence. Even so, 44 stoppages means a scrum every two minutes. Not so good when we are yelling for more continuity of play.

For the past 30 or 40 years bad scrummaging has lost the Rugby League game thousands of supporters and thousands of pounds. If the schoolboys can provide a lead, then let us play the game their way.

RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ

1. When and where, was the Northern Rugby Football Union founded?
2. How many founder clubs are still members?
3. On what date were the opening matches played?
4. When was the present title of Rugby Football League adopted by the Northern Rugby Football Union?
5. It was once planned to construct a railway line across the centre of a Rugby League Ground. Where was it?
6. Has Rugby League football been played by an American team?
7. When was the first Rugby League match played in France?

ANSWERS. 1—On Thursday, 29th August, 1895, at a meeting in the George Hotel, Huddersfield, Yorkshire; 2—14; 3—Saturday, 7th September, 1895. All clubs' fixtures except Huddersfield and Oldham; 4—On June 14th, 1922, at the annual meeting held in Huddersfield. The Northern Rugby Football League, which is the body responsible for the weekly fixtures of the professional clubs, remained unchanged; 5—Fartown, Huddersfield; 6—The American All Stars toured Australia and New Zealand in 1953. Played 26, Won 7, Lost 17, Drawn 2; 7—December 31st, 1933. Australia v. England, at Paris.

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	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	30	WIDNES	Home	8-3
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			Apr. 6	WIGAN (R.L. Cup)	Home	0-18
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	9	WORKINGTON	Home	5-3
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7	12	SWINTON	Away	3-7
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24	15	HULL	Home	3-18
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44	19	BRAMLEY	Away	9-13
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8	23	SWINTON	Home	4-17
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23	27	CASTLEFORD	Away	4-23
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15	May 4	WARRINGTON	Home	10-15
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14	6	ST. HELENS	Away	8-22
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.	9	WARRINGTON	Away	5-21
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6	15	FEATHERSTONE	Away	8-30
24	LEEDS	Home	8-10	18	HALIFAX	Home	0-12
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	19-12	21	HULL KINGSTON	Home	11-8
8	WIGAN	Home	0-19	27	HULL	Away	15-5
15	CASTLEFORD	Home	2-10				
22	HALIFAX	Away	14-16				
Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	0-3				

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