

Syd Little has come up from the Midlands ; Ike Southward has travelled down from Cumberland ; Alan Davies has cut short his annual holiday so he can turn out in this match of memories.

Many other players, too, have come from Yorkshire or South-West Lancashire and I know Nestor would like me to thank them all, on his behalf, in the programme.

The fact that so many players have been only too ready to accept the club's invitation—and, more important, their clubs have agreed to grant them permission to play—is further evidence of Nestor's standing in the Rugby League world.

He's known as a player of many positions. Out-half, wing, or centre. In either one of them Nestor has turned in sound and competent displays. And he is still performing well despite rapidly approaching the twilight of his career.

In the last three seasons, he has been regarded essentially as an out-half. Plummeted into the side's 'Suicide Spot' when Alan Kellet left, Nestor had many critics.

But throughout his time in the number six shirt, and despite the knowledge that the club were desperately keen to sign another out-half, Nestor never had any grumbles.

And when Stan McLeod was finally snapped up from Wigan last season, Oldham still found they couldn't leave him on the sidelines.

He was immediately switched to centre where he struck up a perfect understanding with wingman Geoff Sims.

Such is the versatility of the player we benefit tonight.

Nestor deserves a bumper testimonial. No one will dispute that and, as one member pointed out at last week's annual meeting, it is up to YOU—the fan—to see he gets it.

Many of you will be able to look back over the last ten years with far clearer memories than myself.

In reflecting over the last decade I'm sure you will all join with me, and the players with whom he played, in giving Nestor a big hand—and a sincere THANK-YOU.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB



VINCENT NESTOR TESTIMONIAL MATCH

Photo by courtesy of Oldham Chronicle

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 6d.

OLDHAM PAST v OLDHAM PRESENT

at Watersheddings

ON SATURDAY, 29th MAY, 1965

kick-off 5.45 p.m.

OLDHAM PRESENT

(Red and White)

selected from

DYSON, F. ✓
KENNY, V. ✓
ELLIOTT, M. ✓
CROWTHER, G. ✓
DONOVAN, J. ✓
McCORMACK, J. ✓
SIMS, G. ✓
McLEOD, S. ✓
WARBURTON, T. ✓
CANNING, J. ✓
BROOMHEAD, W. ✓
MUMBERSON, A. ✓
BOTT, C. ✓
TAYLOR, K. ✓
McINTYRE, L. ✓
WILSON, K. J. ✓
IRVING, R. ✓
MAJOR, H. ✓
SMETHURST, P. ✓
PARKER, D. ✓

OLDHAM PAST

(Blue and White)

selected from

✓ GANLEY, W. B.
✓ FISHER, R.
✓ SOUTHWARD, I.
✓ KELLETT, A.
✓ HOLDEN, K.
✓ DAVIES, A.
✓ LORD, B.
✓ STIRRUP, F.
✓ PITCHFORD, F.
✓ PAYNE, W.
✓ JACKSON, K.
✓ OGDEN, T.
✓ McKEOWN, D.
✓ DUFTY, R.
✓ ROBINSON, G.
✓ REA, J.
✓ TURNER, D.
✓ LITTLE, S. D.

The teams playing and any changes will be announced over the loud speaker

NESTOR'S NIGHT — AND HOW HE DESERVES IT!

(by Oldham Chronicle R.L. Reporter, Roger Halstead)

Ten years ... 120 months ... or 520 weeks. That's the length of time Vince Nestor has been associated with Oldham Football Club. And whichever way you look at it, the fact remains that it's one heck of a time to be playing in the same colour of jersey.

In these days when loyalty is often described as a thing of the past, I regard it as a privilege and pleasure to write this editorial for Vince Nestor's benefit-match programme.

To serve ten years with one club takes more than loyalty; it takes perseverance, tact, and determination to succeed where others have failed.

Nestor has had more determination than most. By a strange twist of fate, he was in his playing hey-days at the time Oldham had probably the finest club side in the world—and many times he had to play second fiddle to international backs at Watersheddings.

When that all-conquering side finally broke up, Nestor, alas, had left his best years behind.

Consequently, he has never received the game's top honours.

But as a pure footballer, a sincere clubman, and a credit to Rugby League professionals everywhere, Nestor is without comparison.

The Leigh lad signed for Oldham on February 21st 1955 from Tyldesley Rugby Union Club, and throughout his years at Watersheddings none has given better service.

He is respected throughout the game as a clean, intelligent footballer and a sportsman through and through.

Nestor has been around long enough in the no-nonsense world of professional rugby to learn every trick in the trade.

But I daresay the fans who have been watching him longer than I have will agree that never once has Nestor been guilty of an unsporting action, never once has he done anything to smudge his reputation either on or off the field.

Nestor is not only respected by the fans. He is respected by the players. And many of Oldham's former stars who will be turning out in tonight's game have travelled long distances to put in an appearance.