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Northern League Match

OLDHAM

v.

WHITEHAVEN

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2nd, 1968

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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WATERSHEDDINGS, OLDHAM

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OLDHAM 2, ST. HELENS 30

Yes! that was the scoreline in last Friday's Lancashire Cup Final at Wigan, but surely it was a score which did not represent the game. To win any Cup-tie a side must have their fair share of luck or else their backs are to the wall. As it was luck was completely against us on this occasion and this counts for the Saints stampede in the second half.

Up to half time our boys certainly had the 'Saints' worried, with a Briggs drop goal keeping them 2 vital points behind throughout the first period. We were winning the ball from the scrums, we were moving better than St. Helens and when the whistle went for half-time with the score then Oldham 2, St. Helens 0, we had an excellent chance of winning.

However, as it was Fletcher stayed in the dressing room nursing a broken hand and that is where our bad luck began. The pack had to be re-organised and the Saints returned to the field determined to cash in on Fletcher's absence.

No, it didn't end there. Referee Bill Thompson, who handled his first really big match quite well, ignored a blatant forward pass when St. Helens cantered in for their first try. This proved to be the turning point because, for the first time in the game, we were behind.

At this time no team in the world could have stopped the 'Saints'. Wilson was now on the field only as nuisance value to St. Helens, because he had sustained a highly painful injury to his shoulder and arm. A word of praise for the way he stayed on the field, suffering from what must have been a very painful injury.

St. Helens began to play with confidence and it was inevitable that they would pile on the points against such a weakened team.

A supporter told me a few days after the match that he intended throwing himself off Wigan Pier but the queue was too long so he didn't wait. I was told that the pier was full at half time as well... with Saints fans!

NEW FACES

This afternoon we extend a hearty welcome to a Whitehaven team who have quite a few new faces.

An old favourite at Watersheddings for many years, Ike Southward has joined the Whitehaven ranks and no doubt he will add a certain amount of fire to the Whitehaven side with his valuable experience. Ike joined them from Workington a week ago and with him went big Bill Martin, who will also be playing for his new side today.

This incidentally is not the first match for these two players, for both

played in Whitehaven's 22-0 caning of Batley at the Recreation Ground last week. Martin won the man of the match award, so it is obvious his presence was felt immediately.

The Whitehaven half backs Cassie and Roper are certainly a formidable pair. Cassie kicked five goals from five attempts last week so his chances today must be limited or this confident Cumberland outfit could return north with a shock victory. Roper, another former Workington Town player is at present the Whitehaven Coach.

The Whitehaven Secretary, Mr. Walker, who is also a new face at the Recreation Grounds (appointed on the retirement of Ralph Watson) says he thinks the Whitehaven Club will now have a winning streak after last week's excellent performance. We certainly hope they start doing better than of late, but we hope their improvement takes a temporary lapse this afternoon.

THE SALFORD MATCH

The game at Salford on Wednesday night is best forgotten, for Oldham, Salford and Arnold Bagnall alike. Both teams tried very hard in the terrible conditions, to play football, but the conditions came out on top and both teams got bogged down in the mud.

It may be a biased opinion, but I myself felt that Oldham were always

the more capable side and even when the boys went behind 2-0 early in the second half, my money would still have gone on them.

Elliot was a very dangerous raider and everytime he got the ball it spelt danger for the Salford 'Reds'. Whitehead's equalising goal was no surprise and then, of course, there was that disputed Salford winner.

Touch Judge Arnold Bagnall judged a ball to have gone directly into touch when it was quite clearly a case of a very vital mistake, the ball dropping at least a foot in the field of play.

Perhaps the worst decision of all was the selection of David Watkins as man of the match. No one really deserved to win this award, but there were one or two more entitled to it than the Salford skipper.

OLDHAM AMATEUR R.L.

The Oldham Amateur Under 19's did exceedingly well on Saturday last, holding Barrow Under 19's to a 18-18 draw.

The replay will be played on one of the Watersheddings pitches tomorrow afternoon and the kick-off is 2-15.

Admission, which will be by programme (these will be obtainable at the ground) is 1/-.

Why not come and have a pleasant hour in the Social Club and enjoy some good Amateur Rugby afterwards?

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OLDHAM

- 1—MURPHY
- 2—ELLIOTT
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- 4—McCORMICK
- 5—WHITEHEAD
- 6—BRIGGS
- 7—CANNING
- 8—WILSON
- 9—TAYLOR
- 10—SMITH, C.
- 11—IRVING
- 12—McCOURT
- 13—HUGHES

Substitutes :

- 14—SMITH, G.
- 15—DICKMAN

Referee :
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WHITEHAVEN

- 1—DONNELLY
- 2—BUCHANAN
- 3—SOUTHWARD
- 4—MARTIN, R.
- 5—WHALLEY
- 6—CASSIE
- 7—ROPER
- 8—MESSENGER
- 9—McFARLANE
- 10—MARTIN, W.
- 11—GAINFORD
- 12—BOWMAN
- 13—HUNTER

Substitutes :

- 14—SHIMMINGS
- 15—PULLIN

Touch Judges :
R. WELSBY, Warrington
W. SILCOCK, Wigan

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Every weekend scores of people are being turned away because the club is full, and no wonder it is full with the standard of entertainment which we are making available for your enjoyment.

A pleasing note as far as I am concerned is that every artist who appears at our Club always pays tribute after-

wards to our audience. This is certainly a fine tribute and we thank you our members for playing your part in the success of the Club.

Just to announce a couple of acts who are appearing at the Club in the very near future.

Tomorrow we have a comic who really needs no introduction at all to our members, he is the fabulous Eddie Grant.

Next Wednesday for your entertainment we present the Bunny Lewis Show. Tickets for this show have nearly all been sold. If you have not already got your ticket, get it today from the Social Club. Price 3/6 each.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES					'A' TEAM FIXTURES				
Date	Club	Grd.	F	A	Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 10	Blackpool (friendly) ...	home	37...	27	Aug. 31	Workington 'A'	home		
17	Huddersfield	away	14...	19	Sept. 7	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	away	.....	.....
19	Blackpool	home	29...	5	14	Rochdale 'A' (Shield)	home	.....	.....
24	Featherstone R.	home	22...	24	21	Wigan 'A'	away	.....	.....
28	Rochdale H.	away	14...	22	Oct. 12	Rochdale 'A'	home	.....	.....
31	Workington T.	away	10...	29	19	Widnes 'A'	away	.....	.....
Sept. 6	Rochdale (Lancs. Cup)	away	17...	5	26	Salford 'A'	home	.....	.....
9	Blackpool B.	away	44...	10	Nov. 2	Whitehaven 'A'	away	.....	.....
14	Hunslet	away	22...	14	9	Wigan 'A'	home	.....	.....
21	Wigan	home	4...	9	16	Warrington 'A'	away	.....	.....
28	Doncaster	away	26...	10	23	Whitehaven 'A'	home	.....	.....
Oct. 5	Huddersfield	home	15...	13	30	St. Helens 'A'	home	.....	.....
12	Featherstone R.	away	12...	23	Dec. 14	Leigh 'A'	away	.....	.....
19	Widnes	home	17...	9	21	Widnes 'A'	home	.....	.....
25	Salford	away	2...	4	28	Warrington 'A'	home	.....	.....
Nov. 2	Whitehaven	home	.....	.....	Jan. 4	Huyton 'A'	away	.....	.....
9	Wigan	away	.....	.....	11	Huyton 'A'	home	.....	.....
16	Warrington	home	.....	.....	18	Salford 'A'	away	.....	.....
23	Whitehaven	away	.....	.....	Feb. 1	Leigh 'A'	home	.....	.....
30	St. Helens	away	.....	.....	8	St. Helens 'A'	away	.....	.....
Dec. 7	Hunslet	home	.....	.....	Mar. 1	Workington T. 'A'	away	.....	.....
14	Leigh	home	.....	.....	8	Barrow 'A'	away	.....	.....
20	Widnes	away	.....	.....	21	Swinton 'A'	away	.....	.....
26	Swinton	home	.....	.....	Apr. 7	Rochdale 'A'	away	.....	.....
28	Warrington	away	.....	.....	12	Barrow 'A'	home	.....	.....
Jan. 4	Huyton	home	.....	.....	19	Swinton 'A'	home	.....	.....
11	Huyton	away	.....	.....					
18	Salford	home	.....	.....					
Feb. 1	Leigh	away	.....	.....					
8	St. Helens	home	.....	.....					
Mar. 1	Workington T.	home	.....	.....					
8	Barrow	home	.....	.....					
15	Doncaster	home	.....	.....					
Apr. 4	Swinton (G.F.)	away	.....	.....					
7	Rochdale H. (E.M.) ...	home	.....	.....					
11	Barrow	away	.....	.....					

Times of Kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m. Evening k.o.'s as advertised. All 1st & 'A' team matches.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM 'A' v WIGAN 'A'

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