

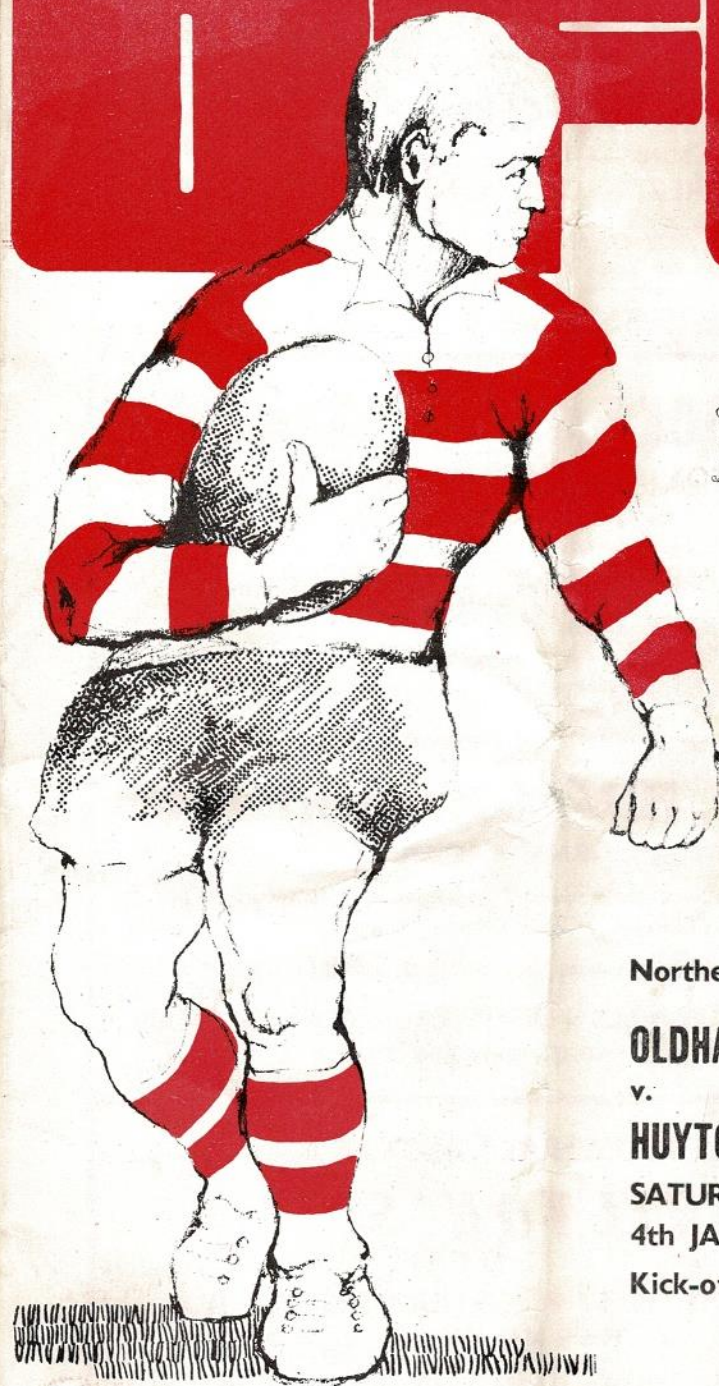


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Northern League Match

OLDHAM

v.

HUYTON

SATURDAY,
4th JANUARY, 1969

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



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POSTPONED MATCHES

We have not had much luck with recent fixtures having our last three games postponed because of frost.

The Leigh match, postponed on December 14th should, of course, have been played on New Year's Day, but again the weather beat us.

Admittedly it was much milder on New Year's Day, but the pitch was unplayable. The snow had melted, but the water was not able to get through the frost-bound pitch. In fact, the pitch was far more dangerous on New Year's Day than it was on the two occasions when the Leigh and Swinton games were called off on December 14th and 26th respectively.

Bad luck robbed us of a good 'gate' on Boxing Day afternoon. Christmas Day conditions were excellent, but yet again overnight frost made conditions absolutely impossible and referee Eric Lawrinson, who was called in to make the decision, took little time in making his mind up.

Many people have come forward with suggestions on how to get the ground fit, but one feels that the only certain way to see a match goes on is to introduce the underground 'electric blanket' as at Leeds.

My own view is that straw is not the answer, a view which was confirmed last week when Bradford removed 80 tons of straw from their pitch only

to see it freeze as they took the straw off. Another example was at St. Helens on Boxing Day when 'Saints' had the centre of the field covered with straw, but soon after the game started conditions there became impossible and the decision to abandon the game has caused a lot of unrest.

I did not envy St. Helens Secretary Basil Lowe after the abandonment. We had a lot of trouble coping with 371. I wonder how he went on with 20,000!

NOTHING BUT BAD LUCK FOR HUYTON

Several Clubs throughout the Rugby League have had their share of bad luck this season but none more, in my opinion, than Huyton.

On behalf of the Oldham Club I extend a wish to Huyton officials and players that 1969 will be a year with better luck for them than 1968 had to offer.

They left their old ground at Knotty Ash, hoping to kick off the new season at their new ground at Huyton, Alt Park, but they were out of luck. Troubles with the stand foundations were noticed and police insisted that no games should be played on the ground until the stand foundations had been put right. Consequently Huyton have played all their first team games away from home.

Several 'home' games have been played on the ground of near neigh-

bours Widnes, while other games scheduled for Alt Park have been switched to the ground of what would have been the visiting Club.

I personally have not seen Huyton playing this season, but I am told that the football served up from time to time has been most encouraging. Their present League position is not too bright, but I am sure that when they commence to play their games at home things will begin to go the other way for them—I certainly hope so.

One of Huyton's biggest problems this season has been the lack of a recognised goal kicker and this has prompted Huyton's officials to negotiate with Warrington for Keith Affleck. Affleck could be in their side this afternoon.

MORE HISTORY OF OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Wigan, Salford, Leigh and Hunslet were among the clubs suspended for professionalism, and in 1895 the "big split" occurred, Oldham taking a prominent part in the formation of the Northern Union.

In the first season under the auspices of the new body, Oldham were again very much to the fore. Manningham were the League champions, and Oldham and Runcorn tied for first place in the Lancashire League. The deciding game was played on Broughton Rangers ground, Runcorn getting the decision by 6 points to 5. While the side played

many good games in the 1896-97 season they failed to reach the Championship class. The Northern Union Cup Competition was now established, Oldham being knocked out in the first round at Bradford by 7 points to 3. England landed a penalty goal for the losers.

Oldham did much better in this tournament during the following season, disposing of Leeds (8-3), and Runcorn (11-0) at home, and Halifax at Hanson Lane (8-3). Jack Hurst got a sensational try in the closing stages of the last named game. The Oldhamers then went to Batley, to receive their dismissal by a try to nil. Batley won the Northern Union Cup, and Oldham the Lancashire League.

The 1898-99 season will ever be remembered, as for the first time in the history of the club they won the Northern Union Cup. By 63 points to nil they dismissed Goole at Watersheddings, and Warrington next lost on the same enclosure by 14 points to nil. Oldham had afterwards to go to Bradford, finishing with 23 points to 3. Widnes at Watersheddings were vanquished by 20 points to nil, and Oldham and Leigh met in the semi-final at Wheaters Field, Broughton Rangers' headquarters. Oldham scored 16 points to 2, and qualified to meet Hunslet at Fallowfield in the final. After being behind at the interval the Oldhamers got 19 points to 9, and carried off the Cup.

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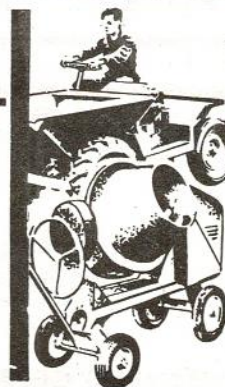
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RE-ARRANGED GAME

The game against Warrington at Wildespool, postponed on December 28th, has been re-arranged and will now be played on Wednesday next, January 8th, 1969, kick-off 7-30 p.m.

QUERY CORNER ?

To test the knowledge of some of our long serving members and supporters we have for today's game a query for you.

You all know that our present Chairman is Mr. Percy Carter and our present Captain is Geoff Fletcher.

Can anyone tell us who were the President and Captain of the Club at the turn of the century, season 1900-1901?

Two tickets for the next home game will be given to the first correct entry opened.

PLAYER'S No.6 AWARD SCHEMES

Players in the running for the title of the Player's No.6 'Player of the Year' are as follows:

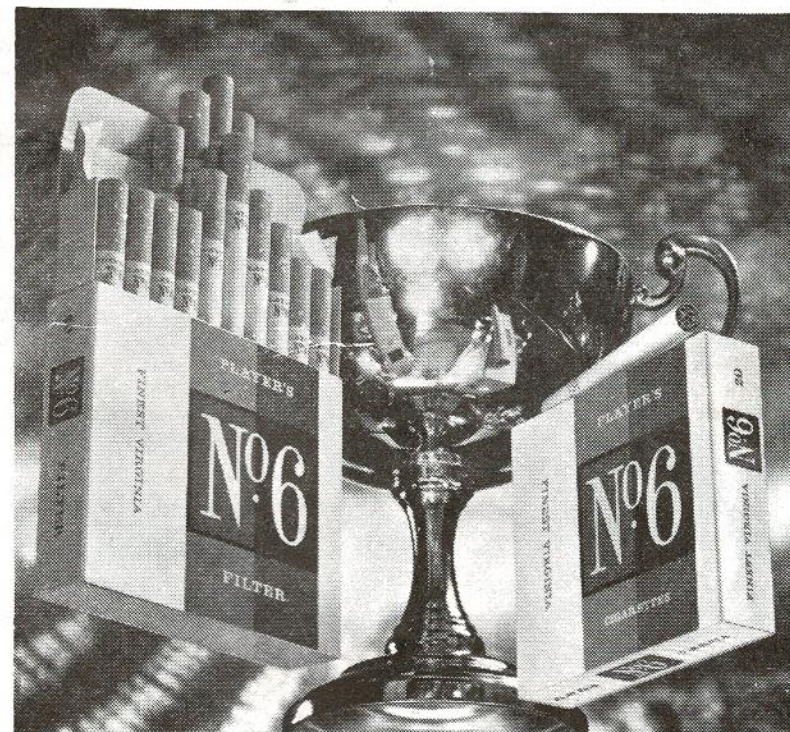
Player & Team	Pts.
P. Charlton—Workington ...	18
J. Wolford—Bramley ...	18
J. Boylan—Widnes ...	16
G. Brook—Doncaster ...	15
A. Hardisty—Castleford ...	15
P. Lowe—Hull K. R. ...	14
B. Seabourne—Leeds ...	14
C. Davidson—Hull ...	13
C. Kellett—Featherstone R. ...	13
S. Gittins—Batley ...	12

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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. 11	Wigan	away	3...50		Jan. 4	Huyton 'A'	away	.....
15	Warrington	home	14...10		11	Huyton 'A'	home	.....
30	St. Helens	away	.....		18	Salford 'A'	away	.....
Dec. 1	Whitehaven	away	15... 6		Feb. 1	Leigh 'A'	home	.....
7	Hunslet	home	30...13		8	St. Helens 'A'	away	.....
14	Leigh	home	.....		Mar. 1	Workington T. 'A' ...	away	.....
20	Widnes	away	5 26		8	Barrow 'A'	away	.....
22	Whitehaven	home	17... 7		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

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