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# **OLDHAM**

FRIDAY, 11th April 1969

Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

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## **OUR VISITORS**

WE WELCOME our friends from OLDHAM and look forward to an entertaining game. One face we shall miss is that of Gerry Helme, their coach who is recovering from a heart-attack. To Gerry we extend uor best wishes for a swift and sure recovery. Mr. Stringer their Secretary has kindly forwarded the following pen-pictures of their players who may be on view tonight:—

OLDHAM Pen-Pictures—

Dereck Whitehead—Signed from Swinton beginning of season for £4000. Playing well at present. Excellent goal-kicker. (Martin Murphy is at present out with a broken nose.)

Mike Elliott—His best season since signing from Blaina, South Wales, several years ago.

Jim Crellin—Signed from Workington few weeks ago for £2,500.

Already a firm favourite at Oldham. Now moved into the town.

Phil Larder-Signed from Sale R.U. Club last season.

Tom Davies—Scrum-half, playing on the wing with tremendous success. Scored a fifty-yard try at Leigh two weeks ago. Very fast. Good defence.

Wilf Briggs—Stand-off. Signed from Leigh when Tom Warburton joined the Leigh Club. Oldham got £5,500 plus Briggs for Warburton. Briggs has scored 21 tries this season.

Tom Canning—Has made the scurm-half position his own recently despite our signing of Smith from Barrow. Canning is playing very well at present.

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## CASE'S BEER

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Ken Wilson—Prop. Former Gloucester R.U. player. Solid scrummager.

Kevin Taylor—The best uncapped hooker in the game. Picked up from Junior football several years ago.

Geoff Fletcher—Another player unlucky not to be capped. Former Leigh player. Great forward and captain. Only 24 years of age.

Bob Irving—International second-row-forward. 21 years last Saturday. Signed from Huddersfield junior football.

Charlie McCourt—Signed from Whitehaven. Good strong runner and fine cover tackler.

Ray Clarke—Joined Oldham when Arthur Hughes joined Warrington. Fitted nicely into the Oldham pack.

#### BARROW SUPPORTERS' CLUB

The new Social Club is fast becoming a favourite rendezvous for its members and guests. Its congeniality and quality beverages are becoming household words and the increasing applications for membership are recommendations in themselves.

Entertainment on Friday and Sunday evenings are now established facts, but on the other evenings members find amusement with the juke-box and 'bandit.' A more recent innovation is the T.V. which gives coverage of Saturday afternoon sport when there is no live entertainment at Craven Park. The Club should prove popular on Saturday 17th May for the Rugby League Cup-Final.

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#### ON THE HOME FRONT

Tonight sees the last Home Game of the 1968-69 Season. When one reflects on this period two matters seem to arise above all others:— The irregularity of the fixture list and the vagaries of the Barrow team. The period until Christmas seems long-past and forgotten. Hoping for something better in the New Year the team started disasterously by losing to Whitehaven on New Year's Day. From then there was an unfortunate hiatus in the fixture list due to bad fixture planning and inclement weather. Luck changed dramatically when an away game with Warrington brought victory and the two succeeding games saw a high standard of play. Was this flattery to deceive? For we saw the team plummet in their return game with Warrington. Seemingly shaken by this latest inept display the heat was really turned-on against lowly Backpool. A half-a-century of points—Barrow's highest score this season — was well meritted, though many would say it was probably the poorest 'Seaside' team seen at Craven Park.

Of personalities there can be no doubt that Dennis Jackson and Tom Brophy Stand out. In saying this is not to detract from the marked improvement in many others.

Let us hope we finish the Home season on a winning note and then perhaps we shall look confidently forward to 1969-70.

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- 8-MURPHY
- 9-EVANS
- 10-IRVING
- 11-RIDGEWAY
- 12-SANDERSON
- 13-WHITEHEAD
- 14—SHUTTLEWORTH
- 15-ROWLEY

#### OLDHAM

- 1-WHITEHEAD
- 3-CRELLIN

- 7—CANNING

- 11-DALEY
- 12-McCOURT
- 13—CLARKE

- 2-ELLIOTT
- 4-BRIGGS
- 5-BUCKLEY
- 6-MURPHY
- 8-WILSON
- 9-TAYLOR
- 10-FLETCHER

- 14—DAVIES
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#### THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE

Referee Mick Naughton is another official who has gravitated to controlling the game following an injury which finished his playing days. A hooker, Mick played trials with Widnes but his main playing was centred on the junior team St. Marie's. He was their hooker when they met Halifax in the first-round of the Cup in 1957. In that game he was up against Alvin Ackerley and Mick makes no secret who won most of the possession. In his own words "I hardly saw the ball" and a score of 48-0 against reflects the position.

A smashed knee ended his playing days with St. Marie's and from then he turned to refereeing. As an official he suffered many friendly jibes from players, often being reminded that he was one of the worst nigglers in the game.

Mick Naughton was 24 when he first took up the whistle as a junior league referee but his injured knee continued to plague

him. The ultimate was a cartilage operation just prior to moving into the professional sphere and now at 32 he is fit enough to be still playing.

His refereeing was taught by that professor of the game, George Phillips and under his tuition he gained the polish which accompanies his control of the game today.

Referee Naughton's outstanding match was the Hull K.R. v. Leeds in his first season. He refereed this season's Floodlit Competition betwen Leeds and Salford and had one or two controversial decisions.

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| IRVING       | 23   | 1       | 49   |  |
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| TOMLINSON    | 9    | a Horiz | 18   |  |
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