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OLDHAM

V

St. Helens

SATURDAY, 3rd JANUARY, 1970 Kick-off 3 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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TODAY'S VISITORS

We have much pleasure today in welcoming the Saints, who nowadays seem to be taking all before them.

Their win over Wigan at Central Park on Boxing Day, by 53 points to 11 points, shows the measure of their recent successes, and we anticipate a first class game this afternoon.

St. Helens have got together a very useful side this season, with players such as Benyon, Barrow, Myler, Watson and Coslett bringing along the younger members of the team. They must be recognised as one of the best attacking forces in Rugby League at the present time, and we are sure to see some sparkling football in today's match.

WATERSHEDDINGS COMMENTARY

In the home game against Wigan on December 13th, Oldham played constructive football in the first half, moving the ball about freely and backing up well; so much so that the teams turned round with Wigan leading by a solitary point (8-7). It was pleasing to see our skipper, Ken Wilson, back in action after his long enforced lay-off through injury, and he gave a real captain's display in this match, scoring two tries himself.

However, in the second half, Wigan came with some real powerhouse stuff, and emerged worthy winners by 23 points to 15 points, cashing in on Oldham's many mistakes with real attacking flair.

At Swinton on Boxing Day, the story was almost exactly the same. At half-time Swinton were leading by 5 points to 2 points, but in the second half Clarke won almost all the set scrums, and consequently the Swinton three-quarters had a field day, the final score being Swinton 28, Oldham 2.

Our lads must learn to steady up on attack — too many moves have broken down lately by slack passing and dropped passes, which invariably are returned to the opposition. On defence, far too many tackles are weak and half-hearted, and play is allowed to move upfield, with only young Martin Murphy left to stop the onslaught. This he does admirably match after match, but he really deserves much more support from the other players. Come one Oldham, get stuck in and let us see some of the stuff of which we know you are capable!

PLAYING STRENGTH

We are hoping that the acquisition of George Swanston on a month's trial from the Swinton Club will eventually solve one of our problems — the left wing spot. George had a fair game against his old Club on Boxing Day, but with very limited chances to show his ability because of the Swinton monopoly from the set scrums in the second half of the game. His centre partner, local boy Terry Garrett, also had a fair game, and whilst inexperienced at the moment, we are confident this lad is going to be a good 'un, with a few more senior outings behind him.

Players who have secured promotion from our "B" team to the "A" team recently are Stephen Baldwin, David Dowd and Brian Reddyoff. Also showing up very well in matches is young Geoff Munro, loose forward, who signed professional forms with us on December 21st. Geoff is a nicely-built lad, and already showing signs of becoming a very good forward.

Tony Eccles, the Failsworth schoolboy who recently played for Lancashire Schoolboys, has now joined our "B" team and is due to play in the match this afternoon v Seedley Rangers here at Watersheddings.

Another "B" teamer, Derek Fletcher, younger brother of Ray Fletcher, is also eligible to sign, and Derek will very shortly become a professional for Oldham.

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- 9—TAYLOR, K.
- 10—DUNN J.
- 11—IRVING, R. A.
- 12—McCORMACK, J.
- 13—CLARKE, R.
- 14—MULLARKEY, J.
- 15—GARDINER, R. B.

Referee :

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Touch Judges :

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- S. Wall, (Leigh)
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OLDHAM JUNIOR SCHOOLS HALF-TIME SEVENS COMPETITION

This competition got under way at our last home match, v Wigan on December 13th, when Oldham Parish Church beat St. Patrick's by 12 points to nil. We were more than satisfied with the show put on by these youngsters, and the tremendous applause from spectators at the finish was really heart-warming! The boy who took everyone's eye with his speedy running and all-out effort was Gary Heap of Parish Church who scored a "hat-trick" of tries, the other try being scored by Stephen Badby. Well done indeed boys, a very worthy effort all round!

Today's half-time entertainment will be provided by two teams selected from the Town Junior Schools Team, and is not actually part of the Competition proper. No doubt young Gary will be showing us his paces again today!

At next Saturday's game it is expected that the two teams entering the first round will be Hathershaw and St. Mary's, so come along and give these lads your support and encouragement.

RE-ARRANGED MATCH

Next Saturday, January 10th, will bring the Huddersfield team to Watersheddings in the game re-arranged from December 6th, when we were unable to play because of severe freezing both on the ground and on the terracing. Kick-off will be at the usual time of 3 p.m.

The following Saturday, January 17th, we play the return game at Fartown, and I am asked to let everyone know that the Supporters' Club will again be running a coach to Huddersfield for this match. Details from the canteens around the ground or at the Social Club during the week.

In concluding these, the first programme notes of 1970, let me take this opportunity of wishing our members and supporters a Happy and Prosperous New Year. To our players, I would wish a more successful second half of the season, and I am sure that if we all pull together this can indeed be achieved!

Yours truly,

LEN ROBINSON

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES					"A" TEAM FIXTURES				
Date	Club	Grd.	F	A	Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969					1969				
Aug. 9	Blackpool	home	32	15	Aug. 23	Warrington	away	6	13
	(Charity)					(Shield, 1 Rd., 1 leg)			
16	Swinton	home	24	28	30	Workington	home	20	8
	(L.C. 1st Rd.)				Sept. 6	Rochdale	away	P	
19	Salford	home	11	20	13	Wigan	home	12	22
23	Warrington	home	8	15	20	Huyton	away	18	5
27	Bradford	away	9	25	27	Warrington	home	6	11
30	Workington	away	7	28		(Shield, 1 Rd., 2 leg)			
Sept. 6	Keighley	home	41	10	Oct. 4	Workington	away	P	
8	Blackpool	away	33	6	11	Warrington	home	15	26
13	Wigan	away	10	40	17	Salford	away	10	35
20	Huyton	home	37	7	25	Barrow	home	8	4
22	Rochdale	home	12	2	Nov. 8	Leigh	home	23	8
26	Warrington	away	8	10	15	Widnes	away		
Oct. 4	Workington	home	8	10	22	St. Helens	home		
11	Keighley	away	9	20	Dec. 13	Wigan	away		
24	Barrow	away	19	26	20	Huyton	home		
Nov. 1	Whitehaven	home	20	10	1970				
8	Leigh	away	4	14	Jan. 3	St. Helens	away		
15	Widnes	home	5	7	10	Swinton	home		
22	St. Helens	away	10	41	17	Swinton	away		
Dec. 6	Huddersfield	home	P		24	Barrow	away		
13	Wigan	home			Feb. 14	Leigh	away		
20	Huyton	away			28	Salford	home		
26	Swinton	away			Mar. 14	Widnes	home		
28	Batley	away			20	(Fri.) Warrington	away		
1970					28	Rochdale	home		
Jan. 3	St. Helens	home							
17	Huddersfield	away							
24	Barrow	home							
31	Whitehaven	away							
Feb. 7	(Chal. Cup 1st Rd.)								
14	Leigh	home							
21	(Chal. Cup 2nd Rd.)								
27	Salford	away							
Mar. 7	Bradford	home							
14	Widnes	away							
23	Blackpool	home							
27	Swinton	home							
28	Rochdale	away							
Apr. 11	Batley	home							

Times of kick-off
All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m.
Evening k.o. times as advertised.
All 1st and "A" team matches.

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