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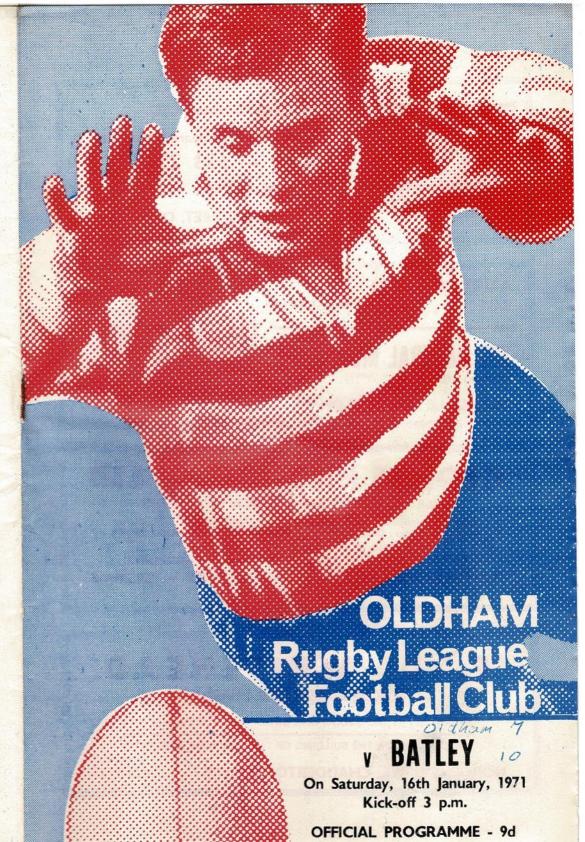
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NEWS AND VIEWS

Our 17-2 win against Huyton last Saturday has lifted us to ninth place in the League Table and we hope to continue the good work during the coming weeks!

The first round of the Challenge Cup sees us paying as visit to Headingley on Saturday, January 23rd—this is a great draw, the only thing to beat it would have been to have drawn Leeds at Watersheddings! Leeds are a terrific side and play the brand of rugby we were accustomed to in the fifties, here at Oldham. We realise we go into this tie as under-dogs, but we may yet confound the critics by pulling off the shock of the day.

It is hoped that recent signing Cliff Hill will be fully fit in time for the Cup, and the return of Wilf Briggs via the 'A' team last Saturday and the possible return of Keith Ashcroft after injury, could well see us fielding a full strength side on the day. Whatever happens, this cup-tie is certain to be one of the most attractive games of the first round, and we hope that as many of our supporters as are able will make the trip to Leeds next Saturday, to cheer on the lads!

It is interesting to note that at every home match so far this season, the Player's No.6 Player of the Match Award has been won by an Oldham player! Last Saturday was no exception, the prize again being won by our brilliant young full-back Martin Murphy.

NEW SIGNINGS

The Committee are to be congratulated on the two recent signings of young players from Amateur circles, namely: Mike Wilde, wing-threequarter, aged 21, has really been showing his paces in 'A' team trials and came to us from the local Amateur Rugby League. Gareth Owen, second-row forward, is the son of famous Stan, and at 17 is one of the best young prospects to come to our notice in recent years. We are indebted to former coach Gerry Helme, for bringing young Owen to Watersheddings from Tyldesley Rugby Union Club—the same club which Vincent Nestor played for before joining Oldham in the fifties! Both Owen and Wilde made their professional debuts in last Saturday's 20-12 defeat of Huyton.







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TODAY'S VISITORS

With the Wembley trail starting next Saturday, it is perhaps interesting to recall that today's visitor's, Batley, won the Challenge Cup for the first two years since its inception in 1897.

They won it again in 1901 but have not contested a final since! All three finals were staged at Headingley with Battley beating Saint Helens 10-3, Bradford Northern 7-0 and Warrington 16-0. Batley have also won the Yorkshire Cup once, defeating Hull 17-3 in 1912 and the Yorkshire Championship once, in 1923-24 when they also became League Champions by beating Wigan 13-7. Incidentally, Wigan visit Mount Pleasant next Saturday in the Cup.

Since the war Batley have not met with much success, but they did produce an outstanding centre in John Etty who, after 10 years with these Yorkshiremen, joined Oldham, where he enjoyed several successful seasons on the left wing before moving on to Wakefield. Whilst at Oldham he scored 43 tries in 1956/67 including two in Championship Final.

Stars of the present Batley side are Phil Doyle who represented Yorkshire last season and Stan Gittins. Full-back Gittins was signed in November 1967 from Tyldesley R.U.F.C. and he played for England U/24s versus France at Castleford in 1969 when he scored a try in England's 42-4 win.

So far this season Batley have produced some fine performances including home victories over Bramley (13-5), Hunslet (20-2) and Halifax (11-8). Away from home too, Batley have impressed, especially at Blackpool where they won 21-0, and Hunslet. At Parkside they won 35-8, scoring 11 tries but only one goal. That day wingers Marsh, 4 tries, and Hemmings, 3 tries, were the leading scorers. When Oldham visited Batley last November they came away with a 9-9 draw thanks to a late try by our player/coach Graham Starkey and three goals from Terry Garrett, his final goal coming just 6 minutes from the end. Batley, who led 9-2 after 64 minutes, scored all their points through centre Keith Toohey. Last season Batley lost here 9-7 to end a run of 19 successive league defeats for Oldham. But with Oldham playing much better this term they must be favourites to record their 11th win of the season and and gain confidence for the tough, but not impossible task at Headingley next week.





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12-TOMMY MARTIN

14-TERRY GORMAN

13-PHILIP DOYLE

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'PROFILE '70

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"Enty" is a 'grade one' coach qualified by the R.L. and is something of a Talent Scout, and while with Rochdale in a Scouting capacity was responsible for such players as David Taylor, Ray Fletcher and Gordon Worswick turning pro.

He lives in Ronald St., Clarksfield and is the father of eight children, including lan Entwistle the Swinton hooker—and was also a top class amateur player with St. Mary's and gained many honours as a Junior. As 'A' team coach he is now rendering valuable service to our Club as a professional.

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A new competition with a big kick in it and prize money to match will be the highlight of the Player's No.6 promotions for the fourth successive R.L. season.

The new competition, which has been welcomed by the Rugby League Council, will be based on a team's goal kicking ability. It will be run in addition to the now fully established Player's No. 6 Player of the Match Awards, but replaces the Spectators' Champion Award Scheme, which has been discontinued.

The goal kicking competition will take place once at each Club throughout the season. The idea will be for the two teams involved to elect a goal kicker who, during the half time interval, will each have six attempts to kick goals in the established Rugby League manner. To ensure complete fairness, goal kickers will have three attempts from each end of the ground, the positions of the ball being in all cases on the 25 yard line. One will be taken from the right touch line, one from the centre and one from the left touch line, with a repeat at the other end of the ground. For each successful kick the team will be awarded £6. If he kicks all six, the prize money will be doubled. This means that a successful kicker could win £72 for his team to share.

THE CHERRY RED & WHITE POOLS NEWS

In a few weeks time the prize money will be raised to £300 per week. A new competition will be introduced. This will take the form of a monthly draw for a Continental Holiday on the Costa Brava for two people. Other Holiday Prizes can also be won—so keep buying your tickets and who knows—you could be zooming off on a jet plane to the Mediterranean sun.

A coach will be leaving Watersheddings for Leeds at 1 o'clock on the 23rd of January. This is FREE for Pool Agents, So all Agents wishing to travel on it should hand their names in at the Pools Office in the Social Club.

Pool Results - Week 22, ending 26th December, 1970

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Date	Club	Ven.	F	Α	Date	P.E	Club	Ven.	F	Α
Aug. 8	Halifax (Charity) Huddersfield (Ch'rity)				Aug.	22 29				
22 25 29	Hunslet	home	54-	- 5	Sept.		Workington Leigh (Shield 2nd I Salford	eg) home	8-	-16
Sept. 2	Huddersfield					26	Leigh	away		
7	Blackpool	away	11-	-20	Oct.		Wigan Barrow Huyton	away	4-	_ 7
19 21	Doncaster Whitehaven	away home	14-	-10 - 2			St. Helens	home	30-	- 8
26 30 Oct. 3	Whitehaven	away	15-	- 2	Nov.	14	Barrow	home	18-	-13 -5
10 17 26	York	home	24-	-17 -10	Dec.	12	Swinton	away	34	-5
Nov. 2 14 21 29	Keighley	away home	2- 15-	-38	Jan.	26		home away	no	
Dec. 12 19 26		away home	17— 13—	-25 - 2	Feb. Mar.		Whitehaven Warrington Workington	away		
Jan. 1	Rochdale Huddersfield Huyton	home		- 4 - 2		13	Widnes	home away		
eds 23	Challenge Cup 1st Ro	home			าน้ำก	17	Salford	home	S le	Pos
Feb. 6	Keighley	away			AI	1 Sa	Times of Kick-	THOSA .	n n	n
20 27		bund					k.o. times as adver	ised, all		
Mar. 6 13 20	Dewsbury	away					A FRANCISCO	11. OH	-	
Apr. 9	Rochdale	home away			Road	n Ru	xtures are the copyrugby Football League eeds 7, and must no permission.	180 Cha	pelto	own



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