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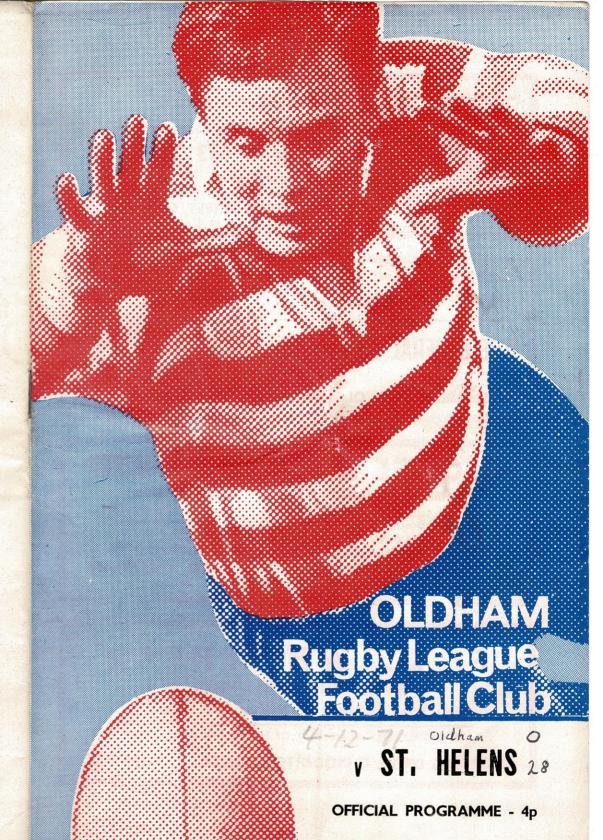
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OLDHAM v. SAINT HELENS

OUR VISITORS

When Saint Helens last visited Watersheddings in April, 1970, Oldham slumped to a disastrous 43-0 defeat, the highest home defeat in the club's history. Whilst a similar defeat is not envisaged today, Saints must be rated as favourites especially after the 50 points to 2 thrashing they administered upon Oldham in October.

Saint Helens are, of course, a very talented outfit with a first team squad resembling the Rugby League's Who's Who. At fullback is Geoff Pimblett the former Lancashire Rugby Union centre who joined Saints last January from Saint Helens R.U.F.C. Right winger Les Jones will have been with Saints five years next February and in that time he has appeared for Lancashire as well as playing for Great Britain in the first test match last September. He joined Saint Helens from Parr Juniors. In August 1968 Frank Wilson was signed from Cardiff R.U.F.C. after representing East Wales and since then he has been a member of the Welsh Rugby League team on four occasions. So consistent have Jones and Wilson been this season that Bobbie Blackwood has been unable to command a place on the wing despite the fact that he was a try-scorer in the Cumberland team which defeated Lancashire earlier this year. The centre positions seem to have been claimed by John Walsh and Bill Benyon. Twenty-four years old Walsh twice played for Lancashire last season whilst Benyon has a string of representative honours. He joined Saint Helens 10 years ago after skippering both Saint Helens and Lancashire schoolboys sides. In senior football he is an automatic choice for the Lancashire team and has also represented England, During 1971 he has played three times for Great Britain and has been substitute once. The Saint Helens half-backs Ken Kelly and Jeff Heaton are both former Lancashire schoolboy players with Kelly also appearing in the English schoolboy team before joining Saints from Knowsley Road 'C' and 'B' teams. Heaton was also signed from Saint Helens junior football but he had a spell with Huyton before returning to Saints. A Saint Helens team without a Karalius in the forwards would seem strange indeed and today it is hoped that Tony Karalius will be in the hooking position. He joined Saints in January 1967 from Widnes and this season has proved to be his best for he has appeared in both Lancashire's matches as well as in all three of Great Britain's test matches. There is an abundance of prop forwards at Knowsley Road so any two of Ken Halliwell, Graham Rees, Eric Chisnall or John Stevens could be on



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the team sheet this afternoon. Halliwell is a very experienced forward who was signed from Warrington for £1,000 at the beginning of this season. He is a much travelled player having also served Swinton, Barrow and Salford in his 10 years professional career. Graham Rees, too, has done a fair amount of travelling since Salford signed him in 1961. This former Maestag R.U.F.C. player who made 8 appearances for Glamorgan was with Salford two years before moving to Swinton and then 5 years later to Saint Helens. He has played three times for the Welsh Rugby League team and was Great Britain's substitute in the 1967 test series against Australia. Eric Chisnall joined Saint Helens five years ago from Pilkington Recs. and he, too, is a Lancashire County player. John Stephens, the Lancashire Schoolboy rugby union star began his career with Wigan in 1962 before moving to Saint Helens last Christmas for a £4,000 fee. He has represented Lancashire, England U/24 and the full England team as well as being substitute for Great Britain. He was selected to tour Australasia in 1970 but withdrew because of injury. Second-row forward Eric Prescott was previously with Widnes ICI R.U.F.C. and not surprisingly he is another Lancashire County forward. His partner in the second-row John Mantle, as well as being an excellent all-round athlete, has been and still is an outstanding forward both in Union and League codes. Whilst with Newport R.U.F.C. he represented Wales on eight occasions including the 1964 tour to South Africa. In January 1965 he turned professional with Saint Helens and in 1966 toured Australasia with Great Britain. He has also represented Wales at rugby league and this season played in the first two test matches for Britain against New Zealand. Loose forward Kel Coslett is another former Welsh Rugby Union star. He was captain of the Welsh schoolboy team and went on to play for Llanelly, Aberavon and Carmarthenshire. In 1962 he represented Wales against England, Scotland and France and during that summer was signed by Saint Helens. The following season he played in all Saints' 45 matches and only failed to score in one match. He has represented the Welsh Rugby League several times. Last season he landed 189 goals but looks set to break that record again this season for he has already topped the 100 mark.

Following today's game with fourth in the table Saints, next week Oldham entertain league leaders Bradford Northern, so it looks as if it is going to be a very hectic fortnight for the Oldham staff and players.



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World Cup referee, Mr. Billie Thompson, kindly volunteered to make the 13 week draw of £250 in our '200' Club during the interval of our Player's No. 6 Top Try Scoring Match against Leigh. We would like to thank Mr. Thompson for his help.

THE WINNING NUMBER WAS 79.

There are still 6 numbers free, so if you would like to join, payments are 25p per week. There are two weekly prizes of £5 and a £250 prize every thirteen weeks.

Payments can be made at the Pools Office in the Social Club, or to C. Farnworth, F. Halliwell, A. Taylor, or E. Schofield.

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R.L. CLEAN UP

The Rugby League Disciplinary Committee are very concerned about misdemeanours by players on the field of play. It feels very strongly indeed and we are in complete agreement that a lot of this misconduct arises out of unnecessarily high tackling.

In an endeavour to counteract this, referees have been instructed to adopt a 'get tough policy' with offenders. Initially it will probably mean that there will be more dismissals, but if it accomplishes an improvement in the standard of tackling it will eventually provide better entertainment for you, the paying customer.

SOCIAL CLUB NOTE

Anybody wanting to book a meal in the Social Club up to two weeks before Christmas would be advised to do so immediately to avoid disappointment. It is also advisable that if you are thinking of attending one of our Christmas and New Year Dances, etc., tickets should be purchased now, as these are strictly limited.

Next Matches at Watersheddings -

OLDHAM 'A' v WIGAN 'A'
WEDNESDAY, 8th DECEMBER, KICK-OFF 7-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v BRADFORD NORTHERN SATURDAY, 11th DECEMBER, KICK-OFF 3 p.m.

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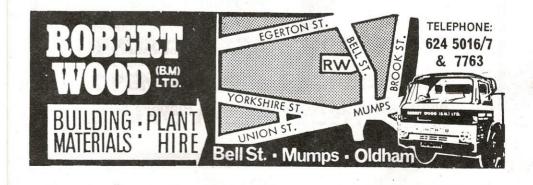
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'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven. F A
	21 Barrow 28 Swinton	
	11 Workington 8 Huyton 5 Widnes	A 25— 5
Oct.	2 Wigan 9 Wigan 9 Salford	Н
Nov.	6 Workington 7 St. Helens	A
	8 Salford 7 Rochdale	H
Jan. 2	1 Barrow 8 Swinton 2 St. Helens	H
Feb. 1	2 Warrington 9 Widnes	H
Mar. 1	8 Leigh	Н
	1 Huyton	A H
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