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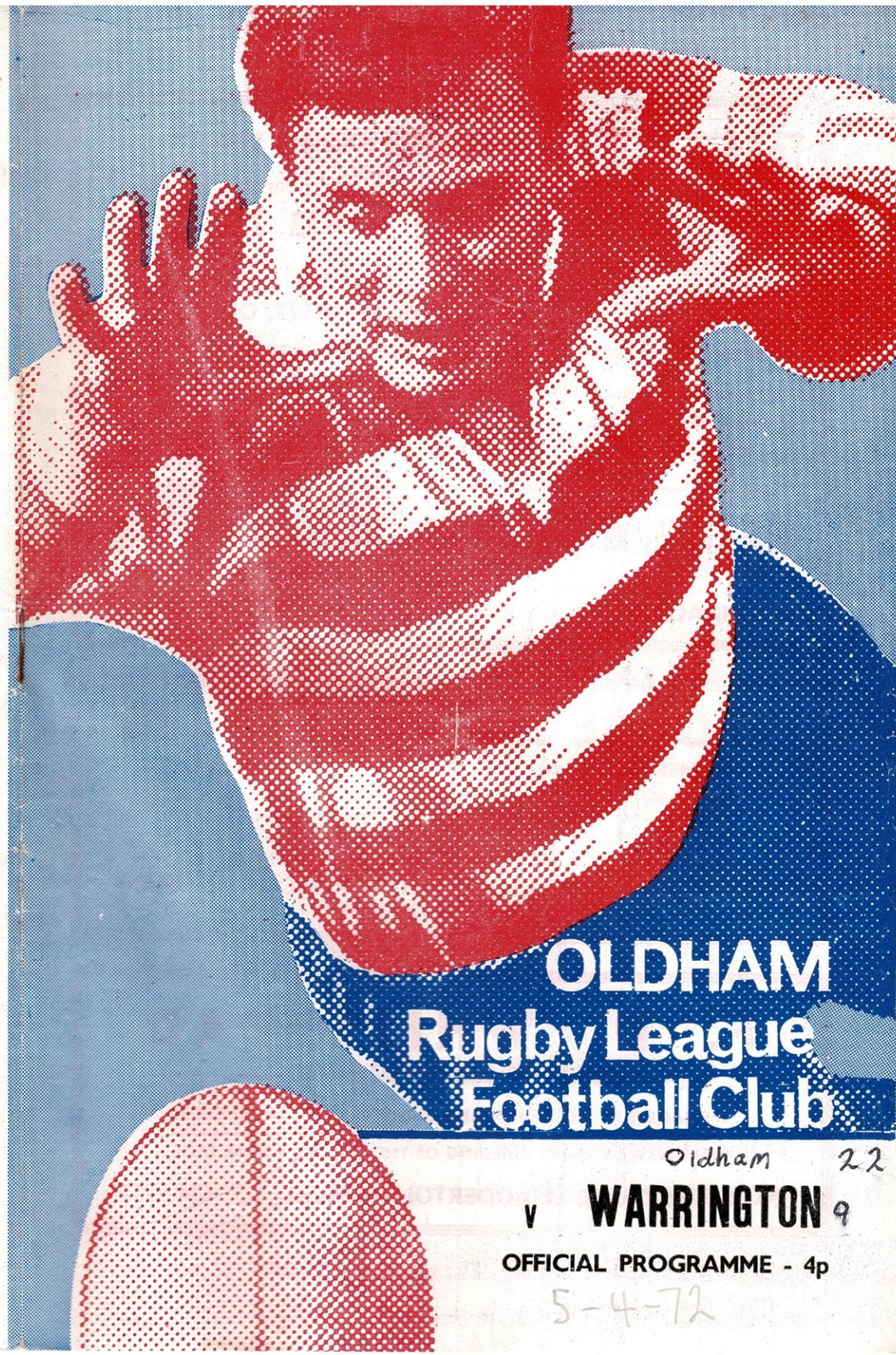
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OUR VISITORS

Oldham could not have wished for more attractive opposition with which to close the league season at Watersheddings than that provided by Cup semi-finalists, Warrington, tonight.

The week before Easter Warrington suffered a major blow to their Challenge Cup hopes when Derek Whitehead was injured in a motor car accident. Whitehead is, of course, well known up here at Watersheddings for in September 1968 he joined Oldham from Swinton. He is an excellent marksman and during his first season at Watersheddings he landed 115 goals. When Whitehead moved to Wilderspool Oldham picked up £4,500 whilst Whitehead has continued his career by being selected for Great Britain. Last season he played twice against France and this season he played in the first test against the Kiwis. Another international player on the Warrington books, who is also on the injured list, is speedy prop, Dave Chisnall. Twenty-four years old Chisnall joined Leigh from Parr juniors in 1968. He toured Australasia in 1970 playing in 14 matches including the first test against Australia. Last season he was a member of the British World Cup squad and played in the match against New Zealand. At the beginning of this season he was transferred to Warrington for £6,500 but after playing for Lancashire against Cumberland he has suffered from a troublesome shoulder injury. Despite this injury list Warrington can still field a fine combination and not all of their players are big money signings. Conrad Barton, for instance, was signed from Wigan R.U.F.C., whilst David Cunliffe joined Warrington from United Glass Blowers last August and Derek Noonan is another product of St. Helens junior football. Frank Reynolds was signed last July from Llanelli R.U.F.C. but the most exciting player of the Warrington back line is Toby Du Toit. Like Reynolds he is 26 years old and he has represented South Africa at U/23 level. He came over from South Africa in November and made his debut two months later when his two goals helped Warrington to pull off a 13-6 win at Hunslet. He has scored in most of Warrington's matches since and Oldham will certainly have to keep an eye on him this evening. Another Warrington back who is bound to cause a stir is Wilf Briggs. Although a Warrington lad Briggs began his professional career with Leigh before moving to Oldham in February 1968 in an exchange deal involving Tommy Warburton. Season 1968-69 was Wilf's best at Watersheddings for he registered 26 tries that term. Since then the relationship between Briggs and the Oldham management became unsettled, to say the least, so last October he moved to Wilderspool for £1,250. Without a doubt, the biggest personality in the Warrington line-up, is Alec Murphy who, although now 33 years old, is still one of the League's leading players. A product of St. Helens junior football, Murphy joined his home town club in 1954. He has enjoyed a

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wonderful career and at his peak was considered without exception, as the greatest scrum-half of all time. He toured Australasia in 1958 and 1962 and was also a member of the British team which won the World Cup in 1960. In June 1967 Murphy was transferred to Leigh where he took over the coaching duties with great effect. In 1969/70 Murphy returned to the international scene after a three year lapse when he played for England against both Wales and France and the same season he scored a hat-trick of tries for Lancashire against Cumberland. Last season Leigh reaped the benefit of Murphy's coaching when, against all the odds, they defeated Leeds 24-7 at Wembley. Skipper Murphy landed 2 goals and also won the Lance Todd Trophy, to crown a great season in which he also won £125 from the Player's No. 6 Awards after being placed joint second. Immediately after Wembley Murphy was transferred to Warrington for £5,000 despite pleas and a petition from Leigh supporters. Whilst at Warrington this amazing star was again selected for Great Britain in the second test against the Kiwis. This was Murphy's 29th appearance for Britain over a 13 year period, a significant indication of his skill, stamina and consistency. Warrington's other half-back Parry Gordon has also gained representative honours having played for England U/24. He previously played for Wigan R.U.F.C. and is a consistent try scorer. In season 1968-69 he crossed for 22 tries and the following season he was capped by Lancashire in both their matches against Cumberland and Yorkshire. The Warrington forwards, like their backs, are comprised of both junior and expensive signings. Brian Brady, who has gained Lancashire honours, was signed from Warrington Colts, whilst Peter Cannon is another product of the Warrington junior league and Brian Gregory is a former Wigan junior. Hooker George Herd played his amateur rugby for United Glass Blowers and he has also played for England amateurs. After trials with Salford Herd signed for Warrington last July. Experienced prop Brian Larkin began his career with Wigan but spent the happiest part with the Widnes team which did so well in the middle sixties. In January 1971 he moved to Wilderspool in an exchange deal which took former Oldham favourite Len McIntyre to Widnes. He made his Warrington debut in the cup-tie victory over Rochdale Hornets which also marked the debut of Mick Henigan, the Swinton born lad who was signed from Salford. The two stars of the Warrington pack are, however, Geoff Clarkson and Bobby Wanbon. Clarkson played three times for Yorkshire whilst a member of the Wakefield R.U.F.C. and then,

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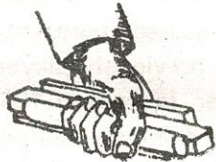
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- 1—MARTIN MURPHY
- 2—MIKE ELLIOTT *1 try*
- 3—PHIL LARDER *5 goals*
- 4—MICK SIDDALL
- 5—NORMAN HODGKINSON *1 try*
- 6—CLIFF HILL
- 7—MICK McCONE
- 8—KEN WILSON
- 9—KEVIN TAYLOR *1 try*
- 10—FRANK FOSTER
- 11—BOB IRVING
- 12—BILL CHURM *1 try*
- 13—JIM REYNOLDS

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- 2—CONRAD BARTON
- 3—DEREK NOONAN
- 4—DAVE CUNLIFFE
- 5—TOBIAS DU TOIT *3 goals*
- 6—WILF BRIGGS
- 7—PARRY GORDON *1 try*
- 8—BRIAN LARKIN
- 9—GEORGE HERD
- 10—BOBBY WANBON
- 11—BRIAN GREGORY
- 12—GEOFF CLARKSON
- 13—MICK HENNIGAN

Substitutes:

- 14—PETER CALLON
- 15—FRANK REYNOLDS

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after signing for Wakefield Trinity in December 1965, he represented Yorkshire at Rugby League. Eventually he was transferred to Bradford Northern and then on to Leigh where, last season, he won both Lancashire and Challenge Cup winners medals. Last August he followed Alec Murphy to Warrington for a £6,000 fee. Bobby Wanbon was born in Port Talbot and, not surprisingly, he began to play rugby union. He played for Aberavon as well as gaining representative honours for both Glamorgan and Wales. In January 1968 he turned professional for Saint Helens and whilst at Knowsley Road he made five appearances for the Welsh rugby league team. Because of the strength of the Saint Helens pack, Wanbon was unable to command a regular place in the first team so he consequently applied for a transfer and moved to Wilderspool last September.

The league record of the Wires is not so impressive as their cup progress but they have just completed a run of 17 games without defeat and they have scored good wins at Featherstone (27-8), Workington (10-4) and York (20-15). In the Challenge Cup Warrington disposed of Batley (30-7) in Round One before being called up to visit Castleford in Round Two. An 8-8 draw at Wheldon Road was followed by a thrilling 11-5 replay win before a crowd of 12,131. In the quarter-final Warrington won 14-7 at Bramley and so in 10 days time they take on Saint Helens in the semi-final.

Tonight Oldham will provide stiff opposition for them which will be a good test for their cup-tie and a rousing finish to the Watersheddings season.

RUGBY LEAGUE QUIZ

- 1—Which is the biggest crowd Warrington have ever played before?
- 2—Which Club plays at Wheldon Road?
- 3—Which player has won the Lance Todd Trophy twice?
- 4—Who are the Airelie Birds?
- 5—How many points did Oldham acquire last season?

- ANSWERS
- 1—A crowd of 102,569 watched the 1954 Cup Final Replay between Warrington and Halifax, a World Record.
 - 2—Castleford played at Wheldon Road.
 - 3—Gerry Helme (Warrington) has won the Lance Todd Trophy twice in 1950 and 1954.
 - 4—Hull are nicknamed the Airelie Birds.
 - 5—Last season Oldham won 12 and drew 7 matches earning a total of 31 points.

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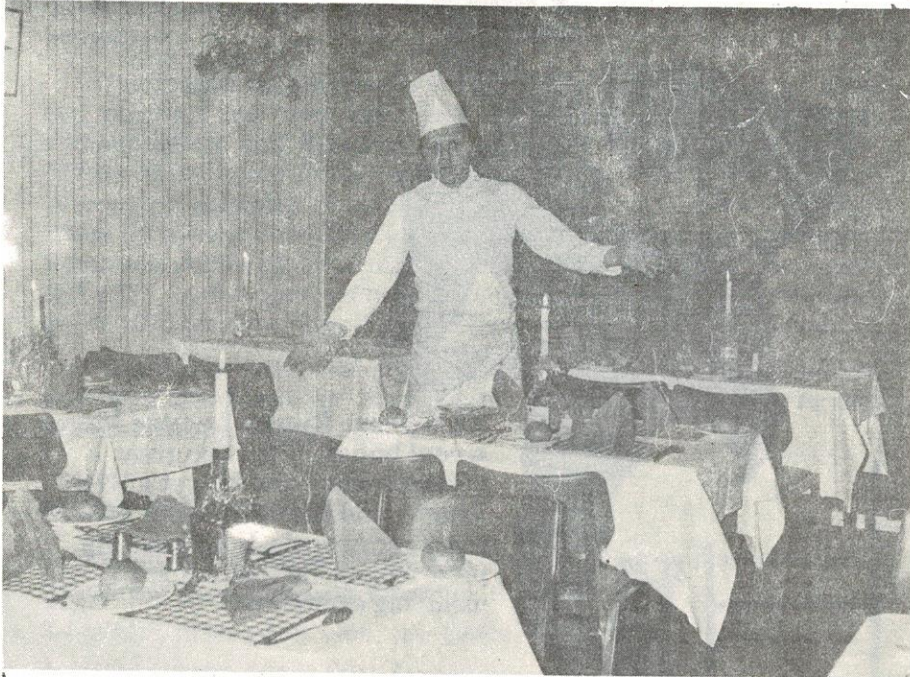
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 8	Swinton (Lancs Cup)	A	7—10	
21	Barrow	H	13—13	
25	Swinton	A	2—20	
28	Hunslet	A	13—14	
Sept. 1	Leeds	H	12—16	
8	Wigan	H	7—23	
11	Leeds	A	12—49	
15	Rochdale	A	2—28	
19	Huyton	H	29—9	
24	Widnes	A	19—7	
Oct. 2	Featherstone	H	17—21	
8	Wigan	A	13—28	
16	St. Helens	A	2—50	
23	Blackpool	H	19—24	
30	Widnes	H	13—7	
Nov. 6	Hunslet	H	31—0	
13	Whitehaven (P.C.)	A	0—5	
30	York	A	8—9	
27	Leigh (P.Comp.)	H	5—11	
Dec. 4	St. Helens	H	0—26	
11	Bradford	H	9—13	
18	Bradford	A	14—7	
27	Rochdale	H	9—13	
Jan. 1	Barrow	A	19—9	
8	Swinton	H	7—12	
15	Whitehaven	A	12—9	
22	Featherstone	A	17—14	
29	St. Helens	H	6—8	
Feb. 5	Bramley	H	15—14	
11	Warrington	A	12—15	
26	Blackpool	A	33—0	
Mar. 4	Doncaster	H	44—5	
11	York	H	32—14	
18	Doncaster	A	27—9	
22	Rochdale	A	9—2	
25	Whitehaven	H	27—13	
Apr. 1	Huyton	A		
5	Warrington	H	21—9	
8	Bramley	A		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Ven.	F	A
Aug. 21	Barrow	A	13—9	
28	Swinton	H	7—22	
Sept. 11	Workington	H	17—2	
18	Huyton	A	25—5	
25	Widnes	H	14—5	
Oct. 2	Wigan	A	44—11	
9	Wigan	H		
29	Salford	A	12—20	
Nov. 6	Workington	A		
27	St. Helens	A		
Dec. 18	Salford	H		
27	Rochdale	A		
Jan. 1	Barrow	H		
8	Swinton	A		
22	St. Helens	H		
Feb. 12	Warrington	H		
19	Widnes	A		
Mar. 18	Leigh	H		
Apr. 1	Huyton	H		
3	Warrington	A		
8	Rochdale	H		
15	Leigh	A		

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