

Oldham

17

- 1 BLAIR, J. *4 goals*
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 MURPHY, M.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, T. *try*
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D. *try*
- 7 McCONE, M.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR K.
- 10 McCracken, W.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 WELDING, R.
- 13 BROWN, R.
- 14 LUND, S.
- 15 REYNOLDS, J. *try*

Referee:
D. Watson (Wakefield)

Whitehaven

1

- 1 CHARLTON, P. *1 dg*
- 2 EILBECK, P.
- 3 GRACEY, M.
- 4 McGUIRE, J.
- 5 ROSE, B.
- 6 CASSEY, A.
- 7 SMITH, B.
- 8 PRINGLE, J.
- 9 THOMPSON, E.
- 10 McPHARLAND, J.
- 11 COTTIER, J.
- 12 McALONE, F.
- 13 GAINFORD, T.
- 14 MATHER, G.
- 15 MORRIS, R.

J. Casey (St. Helens) Orange
R. J. Percival (Warrington) Red

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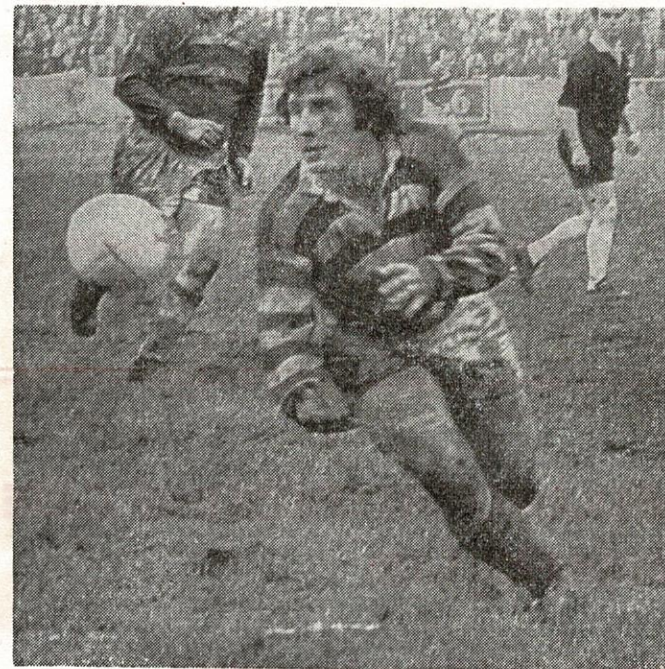
OLDHAM

17

v

WHITHEAVEN

1



Kevin Taylor, our long-serving hooker, in action against Rochdale in the Challenge Cup-tie at the Athletic Grounds last Sunday.

(Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.)

OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

The Man of the Match

WHITEHAVEN

was

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldham's Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote — YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted — plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

WE resume our Second Division programme today after the cut-and-thrust atmosphere of the Challenge Cup and, in so doing, welcome Whitehaven to Watersheddings.

The Cumbrians always provide tough opposition and though they are at their best when playing at their Recreation Ground home, you can never discount them in any match—more so when they need every possible point they can pick up to retain their outside chance of a return to the First Division at the first attempt.

Our own promotion hopes were boosted considerably by our 18-4 win at Leigh. It is always a good result to win at Hilton Park but, considering that Oldham played out the second half with only 11 men, following the dismissals of Johnnie Farrell and Phil Larder, it was indeed a very accomplished performance.

It was also one which helped us to retain an interest in the Second Division championship. We have narrowed the gap on leaders Huddersfield to two points, with five games still to play, though with Hull K.R. handily placed in third position, with games in hand, and Huddersfield enjoying a better points average than ourselves we will probably need to win all our games to be in with a chance of the Rose Bowl.

There is no doubt that this can be done for of the five games left to play three are here at Watersheddings—against Whitehaven today, Leigh in two weeks' time, and Barrow on April 5—and only two on opponents' grounds.

The away matches are at Batley and Hull. The trip to the Boulevard is always a tough one, but not beyond our capabilities by any means.

Still, championship or not, the real prize for our league competition this season is promotion and whilst one must guard against counting chickens before they are hatched it does seem that we are well on the way to booking our ticket for top-flight football again next season.

Promotion, if it is achieved, will also bring with it another reward—namely, an appearance in the end-of-season knock-out competition.

This, like the Challenge Cup and all the other knock-out tournaments, can be a real money-spinner if the side is successful—and we do need the money, make no mistake!

That was why we felt we had to raise the price of seat tickets for Wednesday's replay against the Hornets. Our chairman, Mr. Arthur Walker, has already outlined the reasons for this in the local Press.

In no way was it an attempt to exploit our fans, members and supporters. We feel and hope that you will all appreciate that. The fact is that we need every penny we can lay our hands on because of the very real financial hardships that most sporting organisations are having to withstand in these hard, economic days.

It was a chance we had of making some real money and as administrators of the club, armed with the knowledge of the club's financial state, we felt we were left with no alternative — **FOR THE SAKE OF THE CLUB, MARK YOU**—to put up the prices.

That brings us to another matter concerning the need for extra revenue—our Sunday shopping club. We were extremely disappointed at the way our planning application was rejected by the local authority.

You all know that, as a members' club, we are an organisation established by the people for the people. We feel we can rightly claim to be one of the town's leisure amenities, as surely proven by the thousands of Oldhamers who travelled to Rochdale to cheer us on last Sunday and came again on Wednesday for the replay.

Oldham, at present, seems very anxious to sell itself as a desirable place in which to live and work. Perhaps the local authority doesn't appreciate that one of the assured ways to achieve that end is to provide local residents with a top-class, professional sporting organisation.

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'Hoots, Mon, They must be Daft!'

A Personal View
By Bob Pemberton

Are official timekeepers really necessary? I ask this question after the Salford incident when spectators rushed on to the pitch as soon as the hooter was sounded and the referee was unable to end the game according to the laws.

Salford were beating Castleford by a slender margin at the time, so the game was ordered to be replayed. What a farce!

A number of matches I have seen—and there must have been many more—have not been finished officially because spectators have rushed on to the field to congratulate the winning team before waiting for the dead ball that should follow the hooter.

In the cases I have seen the margin between the teams has been sufficiently wide for the referee to be able to ignore the intrusion. He has just accepted the fact that it was a waste of time to do anything about it.

In the "old" days referees were able to blow the whistle for full-time when it was strategically wise to do so after a stormy game. Now he may have 60 yards to go before escaping to the dressing room.

"Hoots, mon, they must be daft!" exclaimed a friend of mine from Aberdeen when I explained to him that for over 70 years our referees were entrusted with the task of keeping time as well as controlling the game, but that we followed Australia's lead in appointing time-keepers.

Perhaps the referee did add too much extra time on occasions, he also had the advantage of being able to bring the match to a premature close on a bitterly cold day when there could be only one winner and the players, as well as spectators, were praying for an end to the misery. That was common sense, but our official timekeepers have no mandate to use this commodity. (I am sure they have plenty of it!)

They have to stop their watches when the referee signals (didn't we have enough signals already?) and start them again on being given the all-clear. I have known even two honest-to-goodness gentlemen in the stand, holding stop watches of very reliable make, to read them wrongly, so what benefit do we get from their presence?

If we MUST have time-keepers then they should be given the onerous task of waiting for the first dead ball after the end of 40 minutes before sounding the hooter. The game would be over officially and no one would be worried by a pitch invasion; the referee not hearing the hooter because of crowd noise, or whether a quick-thinking player would drop a goal after the siren had gone.

Let's throw the hooter into the dust bin, I say, but if the wise men of the Council decide that scrapping this infernal machine would be a retrograde step, then they should make this small amendment and everyone will be happy.

OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

In the early part of the season Whitehaven looked set for promotion with a series of excellent victories but in recent weeks they have slipped somewhat and they find themselves down in seventh position with promotion having apparently slipped through their fingers.

They have won 11 matches with excellent away wins at Hull Kingston Rovers 10-5, Workington Town 10-3 and Huddersfield 14-10 and they have also beaten Huddersfield at home by 9-3. Whitehaven's biggest victory was the 30-0 home win over Doncaster but in the corresponding away match at Tatters Field the Dons defeated Whitehaven 13-10 which must have been their most disappointing league result of the season so far. Although Whitehaven have lost seven league matches they have all been narrow defeats and all by a 10 or less points margin with the biggest defeat coming at Barrow who won 20-10. As can be seen from these results, with a little more good fortune Whitehaven would have been well up the Championship table and in any event they will provide Oldham with tough opposition this afternoon.

Even if promotion is not gained this season Whitehaven can look back with some satisfaction to their excellent run in the John Player Trophy when they reached the semi-final before losing to the eventual winners Bradford Northern. Whitehaven had the good fortune to be drawn at home in every round of that competition with a first round game against the Castleford based junior club Lock Lane. Of course, Whitehaven had no trouble in dealing with those opponents who were eventually beaten 32-6. The second round took lowly Doncaster up to the Recreation Grounds and although the Dons extended Whitehaven, and, in fact, held

them to 7-4 at half-time, the home side ended up as 14-4 winners. In the quarter-final Warrington visited Whitehaven and they began brightly with Alan Whittle, Parry Gordon, John Bevan and their pack on top and setting a gruelling pace but gradually Whitehaven came into the game. Gordon Cottier and John Pringle began to dominate proceedings and with more possession it was Warrington's turn to defend. Four minutes from the finish full-back George Mather attempted a drop kick which was off target but Barry Smith followed up to score and so clinch victory by knocking out the holders of the trophy. In the semi-final Whitehaven entertained Bradford Northern who lost prop Colin Forsyth early in the match with a broken arm. Northern struggled until a flash of genius from Mike Blacker set them on their way to an 18-6 win and eventual cup winning success.

In the other three cup competitions Whitehaven have been knocked out in the opening round losing at Huyton 22-15 in the Lancashire Cup and then falling 15-4 at Halifax in the first round of the Floodlit Cup. In the Challenge Cup Leeds were drawn to travel over to Cumbria where they won 16-7 but judging by the tremendous victory by Leeds at Salford last week it would appear that Whitehaven did extremely well to restrict Leeds to such a score-line.

Oldham will be favourites to continue their run of recent good league results this afternoon by defeating Whitehaven but they must not be overconfident for, although they won 10-2 up in Cumbria earlier in the season, Whitehaven will give Oldham a hard time and nothing but a top class show from Oldham will be good enough to secure the vital league points.



A scene from the Rochdale-Oldham cup-tie at the Athletic Grounds last Sunday. Oldham's Mike Elliott and Bill McCracken close in on Hornets scrum-half Peter Gartland in the opening stages of the match.

(Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.)

Congratulations

AFTER Wednesday's fantastic Challenge Cup second-round replay against Rochdale Hornets, it would be remiss of us not to take this opportunity of congratulating all concerned for their success in seeing Oldham through to the third round.

As you all know we meet Widnes, here at Watersheddings, next week-end and below you can find details of the match, concerning tickets, etc.

We have ample revenge to gain against the Chemics, always a hard, dour cup side, because they knocked

us out of the Lancashire Cup when they won in the first round at Watersheddings at the beginning of September.

The score was 14-9 ... but Widnes booked their passage to round two, on their way to lifting the trophy, only with a try in the last minute.

Needless to say, everyone at Watersheddings will be determined to make no mistake this time—and judging by the tremendous display our boys produced against the Hornets we must be in with a very fine chance, indeed.

3rd ROUND CHALLENGE CUP

TICKET ARRANGEMENTS

Admittance to seats will be by ticket only, price 75p.

Tickets will be on sale after today's match and the following times:

Monday, 3rd March, Tuesday, 4th March, Wednesday, 5th March, Thursday, 6th March, Friday, 7th March—9-30 a.m. till 9-30 p.m.

Saturday, 8th March—9-30 a.m. till 12 noon.

Members are requested to claim their tickets by Wednesday at 7 p.m.

HOW THEY STAND

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Huddersfield	21	16	0	5	388	173	32
Oldham	21	15	0	6	312	160	30
Hull K.R.	18	13	1	4	395	166	27
Swinton	20	13	1	6	293	192	27
Workington	20	12	0	8	249	217	24
Barrow	19	10	2	7	249	171	22
Whitehaven	18	11	0	7	201	138	22
Hull	21	9	1	11	270	243	19
Huyton	20	9	1	10	231	243	19
Leigh	19	8	1	10	205	240	17
Blackpool	21	7	1	13	220	292	15
N. Hunslet	21	6	2	13	240	350	14
Batley	21	4	1	16	169	368	9
Doncaster	20	1	1	18	110	579	3

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FIXTURES 1974-75

Aug. 17—Rochdale (Law Cup) Home	27-15	Aug. 24—Blackpool	Away 28-2
" 24—Blackpool	Home 17-13	" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.)	Away 13-10
Sept. 1—Widnes (3-15 p.m.)	Home 9-14	Sept. 7—Blackpool	Home
" 8—Blackpool	Away	" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.)	Away
" 14—Huddersfield	Home	Oct. 5—Rochdale	Home
" 20—Hull K.R. (7-30 p.m.)	Away	" 12—Wigan	Away
" 28—Player's No. 6 (1st Rnd.)		" 19—St. Helens	Away
Lancs. Cup, Rnd. 1	Home	" 26—Huyton	Away
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) ...	Away	Nov. 2—Swinton	Home
" 12—Hull	Home	" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) ...	Away
" 18—Whitehaven (7-00 p.m.) ...	Away	" 23—Widnes	Home
" 26—Huyton	Home	" 30—	
Nov. 3—Swinton	Away	" 14—	
" 9—Player's No. 6 (2nd Rnd.)		" 21—	
" 16—Workington	Home	" 26—	
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.)	Away	" 28—Huyton	Home
" 30—Batley	Home	Jan. 4—	
Dec. 8—Workington (2-30 p.m.) ...	Away	" 11—	
" 14—Hull K.R.	Home	" 18—Barrow	Home
" 21—		" 25—Swinton	Away
" 26—Huddersfield	Away	Feb. 1—	
" 29—Huyton (2-30 p.m.)	Away	" 8—St. Helens	Home
Jan. 4—New Hunslet	Home	" 15—Leigh	Home
" 11—Doncaster	Home	" 22—Salford	Home
" 17—Barrow (7-00 p.m.)	Away	Mar. 1—	
" 25—Swinton	Home	" 8—	
Feb. 1—		" 15—Leigh	Away
" 8—Challenge Cup (1st Rnd.)		" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.)	Away
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.)	Away	" 29—	
" 22—Challenge Cup (2nd Rnd.)		Apr. 5—Barrow	Away
Mar. 1—Whitehaven	Home	" 12—Warrington	Home
" 8—		" 19—Wigan	Home
" 15—Leigh	Home		
" 23—Batley	Away		
" 30—Hull	Away		
Apr. 5—Barrow	Home		
" 12—			
" 19—			

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