

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 WAINWRIGHT, A.
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D.
- 7 PATERSON, J.
- 8 ASHCROFT, K.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 WELDING, R.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 HERBERT S.
- 13 BROWN, R.
- 14 BOTTOM, S.
- 15 REYNOLDS, J.

Referee:
T. M. Beaumont (Huddersfield)

Widnes

- 1 DUTTON, R.
- 2 PRESCOTT, A.
- 3 ASPEY, M.
- 4 GEORGE, D.
- 5 JENKINS, D.
- 6 O'NEILL, J.
- 7 BOWDEN, R.
- 8 MILLS, J.
- 9 ELWELL, K.
- 10 NELSON, N.
- 11 FORAN, J.
- 12 FITZPATRICK, J.
- 13 ADAMS, M.
- 14 HUGHES, E.
- 15 SHERIDAN, B.

K. Ashall (Prescott) Red
J. Clarke (Blackpool) Orange

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OLDHAM v WIDNES



A near thing for Wigan. Martin Murphy, buried between two defenders, fails by only inches to score a second-half try in our last home match.

(Picture by courtesy of the Oldham 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

WIDNES

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

v WIGAN
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kick-off 7.30 pm

8p

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

TONIGHT we play our second successive cup-tie. One hopes that by now we are in the second round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy—the draw was made on Radio Leeds this afternoon—and, of course, we follow up our match at Huyton with the visit to Watersheddings tonight of Challenge Cup winners, Widnes, in the BBC-2 competition.

In welcoming the Chemics to Watersheddings we must offer our congratulations on their Wembley success in May and on their progress this season to the final of the Lancashire Cup.

Many fine players will wear the black and white of Widnes tonight and we think particularly of centre Eric Hughes, who played in the successful England side against Wales, and of back-row forward Mick Adams who has been called up as travelling reserve for the match against France in Bordeaux soon.

Congratulations are in order, too, for our own out-half David Treasure, who played for Wales against England, and to our physiotherapist Dennis Wright, who has retained his international appointment for the game in France.

We have more reason than most to remember Mick Adams for he was directly involved in the try—a fortunate one to say the least—that knocked us out of the Challenge Cup last Spring.

Tonight, in front of the TV cameras, we have our opportunity for revenge. Let's hope we rise to the occasion and that, whatever the result, we help to spread, via the medium of nation-wide television coverage, the gospel of Rugby League football.

A very important event for us in the near future is the match against Australia's world championship squad at Watersheddings on Tuesday, November 4.

We have done very well indeed in the last few seasons in obtaining representative matches of this nature. The Great Britain side has played here on two occasions as preparation for impor-

tant competitions and you will no doubt recall how, in 1972, an Oldham side led by Frank Foster beat the internationals before they, in turn, went across to France and won the World Cup.

The Australians and the New Zealanders have also played here but if we are to continue to have on our own doorstep the best that international RL has to offer we must make maximum efforts to ensure that we can prove, in terms of the attendance, that there is a market for it in this area.

You can rest assured that we will do everything in our power to "sell" the Aussie match. A special programme will be on sale to commemorate their visit, which coincides with our club centenary, and we are also making strenuous efforts to have the match sponsored by local firms and business houses.

We believe we can rely on your support on the night of November 4 and if you can bring along a friend, too, to watch the greats of Rugby League in the southern hemisphere then so much the better.

So make a note in your diary ... and then we can make the Aussie game a pre-Bonfire Night cracker and return to the tourists the compliment which they have undoubtedly shown to us in agreeing to play here.

Before then, in mid-October, the Aussies take on Wales in Swansea and our Supporters' Club are hoping to run a coach to South Wales for the match.

It *should* be a splendid day out but the Supporters, obviously, will only be in a position to go ahead with confidence if they have some early idea of just how many people would be interested in making the trip.

Apart from the match, it will be interesting to mix and mingle at first-hand with the Union supporters in the Valleys and to get some idea of just how they react to our presence down there.

For the real RL enthusiast, then, a trip not to miss ... but if you are interested make sure you let officials of the Supporters' Club know so that they can get on with the job of making the necessary arrangements.

Brian Batty

THE safest prediction of the future of the present World Championships is that the competition will be tossed back into the melting pot on November 11.

This is when the International Board meet in Paris and so far it is anybody's guess what shape the next championships will take.

There are reports now circulating that suggest the next time the competition is held Down Under it will coincide with a Great Britain tour of Australia and New Zealand.

There is a belief that after the English and Welsh squads have played in the championship the cream will be skimmed off and into a tour squad.

How such an arrangement would suit Australia or New Zealand I would not like to imagine from this distance.

But it does make you wonder whether such an international programme would be too much of a good thing and become too involved.

There are a few points worth pondering ...

Would the fans find themselves overfaced by such a feast — or rather

heavy diet—of international rugby and be prepared to dig repeatedly into their pockets for a considerable amount of dollars?

Would the Australian and New Zealand League be able to absorb so much international rugby into their increasingly busy domestic programmes?

Who would have the difficult job of picking the British squad from the two countries?

Tours have become so profitable with even the lesser games in Australia and New Zealand attracting almost as big a crowd as we are getting for Tests in this country.

It is not only the match receipts which make the tour itinerary so important to the smaller teams but the fact that it is a way of keeping the flag flying for both countries.

The fact that Australia has just enjoyed an increase of more than a quarter of a million in gates is not going to make them any less hard-headed about the financial aspect and fixtures for tours.

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All right, Eddie, it's a try! Oldham winger Eddie Barton, having squeezed in at the corner against Wigan, looks around to see if the try has been awarded. It was—and it put us back in the game at 10-12.

—Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.

OLDHAM RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB

The Supporters' Club are running a coach to the Wales v Australia World Cup game in Swansea on Sunday, 19th October.

The coach will depart from the Social Club at 8-00 a.m. and tickets, price £2, can be obtained from the Supporters' Club Bar (behind the scoreboard) before or after tonight's game.

The Supporters' Club are also holding their 1975 Rugby Queen Dance in the Social Club on Thursday, 30th October, when the new Rugby Queen will be chosen. Tickets are 50p and the dance will include cabaret and disco.

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

by . . .

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

To commence the autumn Tuesday evening televised series for season 1975-76 Oldham have the attractive Widnes team as visitors in what is expected to be another thrill packed clash similar to the two classic meetings of last season.

Tonight's game will be the second occasion that these two sides have met in the BBC-2 Floodlit Cup which now enters its 11th season. The sides last met in the second round of season 1966-67 when Oldham won 14-11 before a Naughton Park crowd of 4,047.

One of the most entertaining matches between these two clubs in recent seasons was the League match here at Watersheddings during October 1972. Oldham were riding on the crest of a wave just then and the attendance for the game was a creditable 4,644. The Oldham section of that crowd could not be satisfied with the half-time score for it stood at 13-7 in Widnes's favour and although Oldham pulled back a little after the interval they just failed to overhaul the "Chemicals" and ended up beaten by 18 points to 17. The match was a wonderful advertisement for everything good in Rugby League with plenty of open football from two sides concentrating solely on attack. Oldham's 17 points came from tries by Mike Elliott, Norman Hodgkinson and Tommy Davies plus four Phil Larder goals. For Widnes Alan Prescott and Denis O'Neill both scored two tries whilst Alan Ashton (2) and Mal Aspey landed goals. The sides lined up as follows:

Oldham — Martin Murphy; Mike Elliott, Phil Larder, Joe Collins, Norman Hodgkinson; Tony Wainwright, Mick McCone; Keith Ashcroft, Kevin Taylor, Frank Foster, Bob Irving, Geoff Munro and Bill Churm. Substitutes: Tommy Davies (for McCone) and Frank Walker.

Widnes — Mick McLoughlin; Denis Brown, Malc Aspey, Denis O'Neill, Alan Prescott; Reg Bowden, Alan Ashton; Alan Walsh, Keith Elwell, Barry Sheridan, John Foran, Bobby Blackwood and George Nicholls. Substitutes: Paul McDonnell and Dave Macko (for Sheridan).

Statistics indicate that the present Widnes side are the best cup side in Rugby League for they are the present holders of both the Rugby League Challenge Cup and the Lancashire Cup and, in addition, were beaten finalists in the John Player Trophy last season. Surprisingly, in last season's Floodlit Cup Widnes lost to Second Division New Hunslet but, no doubt, they will be determined to put that score straight with an extended run in this season's competition.

Neither of tonight's clubs have won the Floodlit Trophy although Widnes, unlike Oldham, have reached the final, in fact, they have reached two finals but on each occasion they have met with defeat. In season 1972-73 they met Leigh at Central Park, Wigan, where they lost a thrilling match 5-0 but the following season they gained a little revenge by knocking out Leigh in the second round en route to the final in which they met Bramley. That match was staged by Widnes and was unusual in so much as it was not played under floodlights because of the power workers' dispute. It was played in the afternoon instead and resulted in a Bramley victory by 15 points to 7.

That defeat was a big disappointment to the Widnes supporters but they have had plenty to cheer about since. Oldham this evening, will be out to put an end to any further plans that the "Chemicals" have in way of celebration but it is a difficult task for any team to defeat this super-fit Widnes machine which is always in top gear for cup-tie action.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

THOMAS MICHAEL BEAUMONT (Born 17-6-40). Height: 5ft. 9ins.; Weight: 12½ stones; Hobbies: Gardening and all sports; Occupation: Pattern weaver. Married with two children. Passed Referees' Exam. in 1969 and promoted to Grade 2 in 1972. Has twice refereed the Yorkshire Senior Competition Cup Final. Is interested in Rugby League coaching.

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Chat with Challinor

A LOT of thought has been given in Rugby League recently to the minimising of stoppages in play. One of the main factors behind the introduction of "instant treatment" was the desire to keep the game flowing and thus increase entertainment value for the paying customer.

Regular readers of this column are well aware that, in principle, I think "instant treatment" is a very good idea indeed.

And there is another way in which teams could not only conserve a lot of energy and hard work but also help to reduce stoppages — by refraining from giving away penalties for what I will call silly offences.

Some time ago a time and motion study was performed at a Rugby League match and it revealed many interesting facts. It showed just how much time was wasted in the giving away of penalties.

It also revealed that one of the two sides involved, in being penalised 15 times, lost a total of 300 yards in ground throughout the match and had to make more than 50 extra tackles.

On top of that the team also conceded six points from three successful shots at goal ... and as 15 penalties to one side is not unusual the study proves beyond reasonable doubt just how much time, effort, and ground is lost whenever an offence is committed.

We were guilty, against Wigan last Sunday, of giving away some silly penalties and there are two particular pet hates of mine which I am always trying to discourage in the Oldham team.

One is the "stealing" of the ball in the tackle. The rule is often misunderstood but the fact remains that, whatever the circumstances, it is only rarely that a player will get away with it.

So I tell the Oldham players: "Forget it. What's the point in trying to take the ball from an opponent if you're going to be penalised for doing it?"

Another thing I hate to see is the creeping up of players behind the referee's back into an offside position. You must have seen it many times and often the culprit is penalised long before he has had the opportunity to take advantage of his stealing of ground.

In simple terms it just is not worth the risk and my instructions to the Oldham players are always to line up with the referee even if they believe he has gone further back than the laws of the game state.

The time and motion study surely proved that a side that is not incurring the wrath of the referee must possess a tremendous advantage over its opponents.

Of course, many coaches and I suppose even some spectators do their own study, on a variety of the game's aspects, whenever they watch a match.

Scrum counts, tackles are logged, and penalties are noted — all providing valuable information which can be put to good use.

I frequently count myself the number of tackles made by individual players and at St. Helens it used to be the policy to record everything that could be recorded and put the facts before the next meeting of the board of directors for discussion.

These facts and figures, done properly, can be very revealing but, particularly in relation to tackles, I feel they should be used only as a guide for the coach and not necessarily as a "black and white" proof of who is doing what.

There are too many other factors involved for that but without doubt the tackle-count, taken over a period of matches rather than as an isolated case, does produce interesting trends.

I have done this sort of study not only at St. Helens but also at Oldham and with the Great Britain team and a very interesting point to emerge is that the scrum-half is invariably highly-placed in the number of tackles made.

At St. Helens, Kel Coslett and John Mantle were usually high up in the order because of their work rate but Jeff Heaton topped the lists scores of times — and the same sort of thing applied with Great Britain and applies with most teams, Oldham included.

So don't get the idea that it's the forwards alone who do the bulk of tackling. Spare a thought for the little scrum-half ... and next time your side gives away a penalty remember the findings of that time and motion study and think just how much they are sacrificing and how much more difficult they are making life for themselves.

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Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

FIXTURES 1975-76

1975

Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup)A
 17—WarringtonA
 24—KeighleyH
 31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) ...H
 Sept. 7—FeatherstoneA
 14—Lancashire Cup—round 2
 21—WiganH
 28—Players' No. 6
 Oct. 5—KeighleyA
 12—HuddersfieldH
 18—LeedsA
 26—WakefieldA
 Nov. 2—DewsburyH
 9—Players' No. 6—round 2
 16—SalfordH
 22—HuddersfieldA
 30—LeedsH
 Dec. 14—St. HelensH
 21—BradfordA
 26—SwintonH
 Jan. 1—SalfordA
 4—CastlefordH
 11—Hull K.R.H
 18—DewsburyA
 25—WidnesH
 Feb. 8—St. HelensA
 15—Challenge Cup (1)
 21—WiganA
 29—Challenge Cup (2)
 Mar. 7—WakefieldH
 12—CastlefordA
 21—WidnesA
 28—FeatherstoneH
 Apr. 7—WarringtonH
 11—BradfordH
 16—Hull K.R.A
 19—SwintonA

F. A. 1975

29- 2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...A
 —Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield) ...H
 13-12 20—WiganA
 17-19 Oct. 4—SwintonH
 5-27 18—WarringtonH
 10-24 25—LeighH
 —Nov. 14—SalfordA
 29—RochdaleA
 Dec. 6—SalfordH
 13—St. HelensA
 20—HuytonH
 27—BarrowH
 1976
 Jan. 10—SwintonA
 23—WidnesA
 31—RochdaleH
 Feb. 7—St. HelensH
 21—WiganH
 Mar. 5—WarringtonA
 13—LeighH
 20—WidnesH
 27—BarrowA
 Apr. 3—HuytonA

12- 7
 29-10
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