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**SUNDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER, 1976**

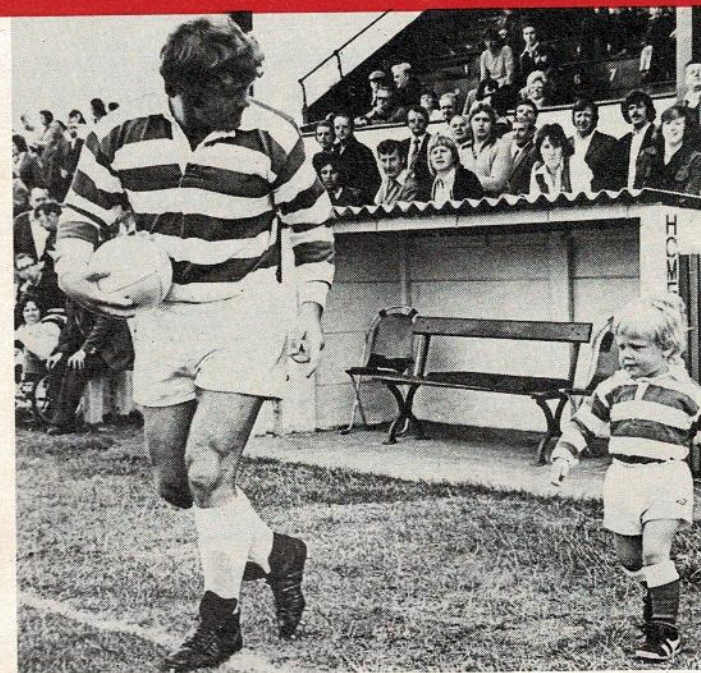
Kick-off 3.30 p.m.

# LEIGH

versus

# OLDHAM

**First Division Fixture**



"Wait for me, dad!" 3-year-old Craig Ashcroft in pursuit of father, Kevin, prior to the Leigh v. Barrow game when Craig made his first appearance as the new Leigh mascot. (Photo by courtesy of Leigh & District Weekly News)

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# Today's Visitors

## STILL LOOKING FOR A WIN

*Roger Halstead (Oldham Chronicle) talks about Oldham*

Oldham come to Hilton Park today as the only 1st division team without a league point, but a word of warning for Leigh—the two sides Oldham have met so far are amongst the two most feared in the game—Widnes and Leeds.

At Naughton Park Oldham surprised the 'Chemicals' by conceding 10 points in the first seven minutes then picking themselves off the floor to run in 17 without reply to lead 17–10 at half-time. Indeed it looked odds on that Oldham would grab a rare win at Naughton Park when David Treasure playing scrum half scored the fourth Oldham try to give his side a 20–15 lead midway through the second half but as had happened so often Widnes came back with their own brand of fierce, fast open rugby to snatch the lead—and the game—thanks to the 1,000th goal for Widnes by the reliable Ray Dutton.

And so to Leeds. Yet again Oldham led at half-time, this time 7–5, but Leeds took full advantage of the wind and slope in the second period to get well on top to take maximum points.

So Leigh can expect a good hard game today and Hilton Park fans should watch out for half back David Treasure who played splendidly in the last two games after a poor start to the season. He asked for a move and was listed at £7,000 and judging by the way he outplayed first Reg Bowden and then Peter Banner he is out to prove that he is worth every penny of that fee.

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Oldham have a lot of players presently playing in the first team who hail from this part of the world. Martin Murphy is perhaps the most famous but it is a fact that Oldham are much better off with players like Tony Peters, Gareth Owen (son of the great Stan), and Steve Herbert, all Leigh lads on their register.

## SUCCESS IS SWEET

Our success against Warrington on Tuesday night has won us an attractive home tie against Salford in the first round proper of the BBC 2 competition. The match will be played on Tuesday, September 28th and the kick-off will be at 7.25 p.m.

Victory was sweet against Warrington because it is always nice to register a win against 'Wires' and the last minute drop goal from Wilf Briggs earned the lads a handsome winning pay packet and the plum home draw already referred to.

It was obvious that it was not going to be a place for faint hearts and the game was played in a hard but sporting manner. It was a pity the game should be marred by the unnecessary incident which led to the dismissal of Warrington centre Denis Curling and the equally unnecessary action of John Taylor which resulted in his dismissal also.

Taylor is a footballer of great quality and should 'walk' into the English Under 24 side to be selected early next week. It will be a pity if the selectors take his dismissal into consideration when naming their party to play France and suspension too could cost him his place.

Everyone who knows John Taylor is aware that he is not an aggressive character. He is a most likeable fellow and an excellent Club player. His action was completely out of character and he certainly regrets his action which led to his dismissal.

Taylor played an outstanding game and for the most part kept tabs on an in-form Glenn Knight whose two tries for Warrington followed the couple he scored against Workington a few days earlier.

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Referring back to the win—there was very little between the sides—it was stated by many Leigh people that Warrington were perhaps the better side. This was perhaps so, but it is the result that matters most and on the night Leigh were the winners by 11 points to 10 and that last gasp effort by first Ashcroft and then Briggs will be remembered for some time to come.

#### HARD TIMES AHEAD

Spare a thought for the poor Leigh lads out there today who are playing their fifth game in exactly two weeks. The future is not going to be easy either because after today's game against Oldham the first team are at home on Wednesday night against St. Helens; they travel to Leeds next Saturday in a televised game and then three days later, on the Tuesday, they are involved in the 1st round proper of the BBC 2 trophy with a home game against Salford. We will try not to look forward too far but it is a fact that a few days after the Salford clash we entertain Featherstone Rovers at Hilton Park—what a thought!

#### 'VETERAN' FLETCHER

Most newspapers refer to pig farmer Geoff Fletcher these days as 'Veteran' Fletcher. Anyone who wishes to win a few bob in and around the town can bet quite confidently that the lad is 31 years of age—not 29, 30, 32 or 33, but 31. He was born in St. Helens Hospital on the 10th December, 1944.

The Rugby Leaguer columnist for Leigh this week writes "Apart from Geoff Fletcher the Leigh pack is quite young", but Geoff Fletcher does not mind comment of this kind. He has been called many things during his Rugby League career and 'old man Fletcher' is just one of them.

Presently, Geoff is player-coach to the 'A' team. He has played in all their matches so far this season and the 'A' team are enjoying a run of success only being beaten once at Rochdale by 11 points to 4.

Geoff certainly has his critics but you can guarantee a 100% effort on every occasion he takes the field and that goes a long way these days.

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## 'A' TEAM NOTES

#### LEIGH 'A' 14 points, SWINTON 'A' 2 points

The weather throughout Leigh 'A' team's game with Swinton at Hilton Park was very unfavourable for rugby with the continual rain making the ball hard to handle and the ground as slippery as glass.

But Leigh, with their pack always in command, had the mastery of the weather and their opponents. They tackled superbly, particularly in the first half before Swinton began to fade, and the Lions never really looked like scoring.

Geoff Fletcher again was an inspiration on the field and drove his team on all the time. Dave Macko, making his first appearance at Hilton Park after his spell in Australia, worked very hard and ex-Colts Les Wall and Alan Rathbone impressed with their tackling. But the star of the day was undoubtedly prop Malcolm Yates. He scored two great tries through sheer strength and had a fine game in the loose. He looks a very promising prospect for the future.

Yates scored Leigh's first try in the tenth minute after Wall had been held just short and 17 minutes later Swinton's full back Bolton pulled back two points from a penalty goal.

There was no further score until twenty minutes into the second half when Fletcher played the ball to himself and scored a cheeky try near the posts. Woods, taking over the kicking role from Alan Fairhurst, converted.

With the scoreline at 8-2, Leigh found a new surge of confidence and the ball began to do all the work. Yates scored his second try after powering his way through four defenders and six minutes later Rathbone scored a well worked try following a good pass from Macko. John Woods was fractionally wide with both goal attempts.

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- MICK HOGAN
- JOHN DAVIES
- MICK STACEY
- WILF BRIGGS
- JOE WALSH
- JOHN TAYLOR
- CLIFF SAYER
- DAVE CHISNALL
- KEVIN ASHCROFT
- GEOFF FLETCHER
- ALLAN ROWLEY
- PAUL GRIMES
- DENIS BOYD

*Substitutes:*

- JOHN WOODS
- CLIVE JONES

Half Time: .....pts.

Final Score: .....pts.

T.	G.	Pts.

FULL BACK  
  
RIGHT WING  
RIGHT CENTRE  
LEFT CENTRE  
LEFT WING  
  
STAND OFF  
SCRUM HALF  
  
FRONT ROW  
HOOKER  
FRONT ROW  
SECOND ROW  
SECOND ROW  
LOOSE FORWARD

(Two Substitutes can be allowed at any time in the game  
and may themselves be replaced, but once only)

*Referee:*  
K. SPENCER (Warrington)

*Touch Judges:*  
E. Lea (St. Helens)  
J. E. Lloyd (Warrington)

## OLDHAM

*Colours:* Red & White Hooped Jerseys  
White Shorts

- MARTIN MURPHY
- MICK ELLIOTT
- EDDIE BARTON
- KEITH JACKSON
- STEVE LUND
- JOHN BLAIR
- DAVID TREASURE
- TERRY RAMSHAW
- KEVIN TAYLOR
- BRIAN HUGHES
- BOB WELDING
- KEVIN FLANAGAN
- TERRY PETERS

*Substitutes:*

- JOHN PATERSON
- STEVE HERBERT

Half Time: .....pts.

Final Score: .....pts.

T.	G.	Pts.

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## SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Today sees our second home league match of the season and we welcome as visitors the players, officials and supporters of the Oldham Club. Oldham will be looking for their first league win of the season so everything seems set for a very interesting match.

### SUPPORTERS' SHOP

Today, as usual, the Supporters' Club Shop will be open before the match. There are a large stock of programmes on sale and various souvenirs including a Supporters' Club Badge at 35p. Why not pay the Shop a visit?

### MATCH DRAW

Match Draw tickets will be on sale today as usual at various points around the ground price 5p. Prizes £15, £5, £3, £2 and 5 prizes at £1.

The match draw which takes place at home matches, is an important source of revenue for the Supporters' Club.

The match draw as it is in its present form was started at the beginning of the 1975/76 season. During the 1974/75 season the total profit on match draws was less than £30. Draw tickets were then only sold on the ground on match days. With the present draw tickets are sold by members of the Committee prior to the match as well as on the ground on match days.

Last season tickets were limited to 1,000 for each match. The draw was a great success making a profit of over £300. This season has seen the number of tickets on sale increased to 1,500 with a proportional increase in prizes and so far this has proved very successful. Many thanks for your support.

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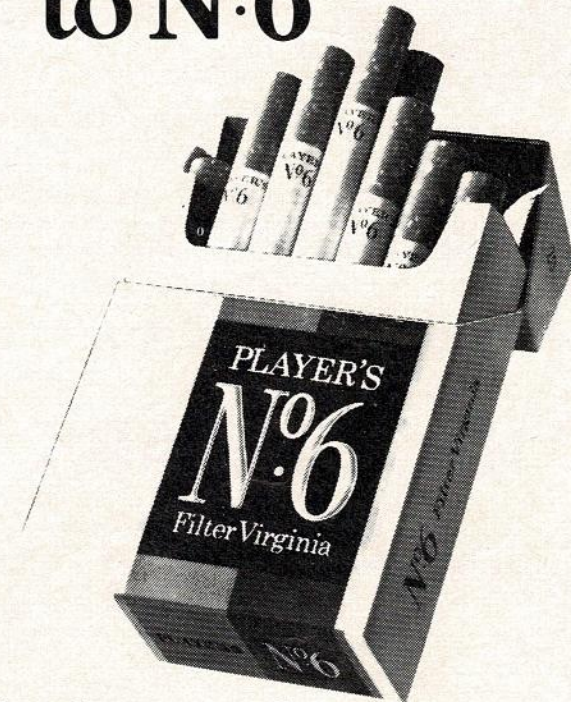
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## CLUB NOTES

After being on the transfer list at his own request for just two weeks, Leigh's promising young forward Maurice Platt has settled his differences and wants to stay with the club. Platt, one of the stars of the Leigh Colts side a couple of years ago, was taken off the list after talks with coach Kevin Ashcroft at last Monday night's training session. Maurice is now fully prepared to work hard and fight for the first team place he has lost.

There have been no enquiries for our other transfer listed forward Clive Jones.

Prop Steve Breheny, on offer at £500, has gone to Blackpool Borough on loan. Borough initially wanted Breheny on a four-match loan basis but in view of the fact that we signed the player from them last season the Leigh Board feel that the loan period should be reduced to two matches.

The first round of the Player's No. 6 Trophy will be drawn at Salford on Tuesday, September 21st, at 1.00 p.m. The draw should appear in the local press the same evening. First round matches will be on the weekend of October 23rd-24th, 1976.

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# LEIGH v. ST. HELENS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1976

Kick-off 7.30 p.m.

# LEIGH 'A' v. WARRINGTON 'A'

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th, 1976

Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

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First  
Team

## FIXTURES

'A'  
Team

### AUGUST 1976

15	Widnes (Charity)	A	24-37
22	Whitehaven (Forshaws Lancs Cup 1st Rd)	H	41-13
29	Wigan (Forshaws Lancs Cup 2nd Rd)	A	16-14

### SEPTEMBER

5	Barrow	H	18-8
8	Widnes (Forshaws Lancs Cup semi-final)	H	16-24
10	Castleford (Fri)	A	12-28
14	Warrington (BBC 2 Preliminary)(Tues)	H	11-10
19	Oldham	H	
22	St. Helens (Wed)	H	
25	Leeds (Sat)	A	
28	Salford (Tues)(BBC2 1st Rd)	H	

### OCTOBER

3	Featherstone R.	H	
10	Widnes	A	
17	Bradford N.	H	
23/24	Player's No. 6 1st Rd		
31	Featherstone R.	A	

### NOVEMBER

6/7	Player's No. 6, 2nd Rd		
14	Leeds	H	
19	Salford (Fri)	A	
28	Rochdale H.	H	

### DECEMBER

5	Rochdale H.	A	
12	Widnes	H	
27	Hull K.R. (Mon)	A	

### JANUARY 1977

1	Warrington (Sat)	A	
9	Castleford	H	
16	Oldham	A	
23	Salford	H	
30	St. Helens	A	

### FEBRUARY

6	Warrington	H	
12/13	Chall. Cup 1st Rd		
20	Workington Town	A	
26/27	Chall Cup 2nd Rd		

### MARCH

6	Hull K.R.	H	
13	Wigan	A	
20	Wigan	H	
27	Wakefield Trinity	A	

### APRIL

3	Wakefield Trinity	H	
8	Workington Town (Fri)	H	
17	Barrow	A	
24	Bradford Northern	A	

### AUGUST 1976

14	Widnes (Charity)	H	Post.
18	Rochdale (Shield)(Wed)	H	23-16
27	Rochdale (Shield)(Fri)	A	4-11

### SEPTEMBER

4	Barrow	A	27-27
11	Swinton	H	30-14
18	Oldham	A	
25	Warrington	H	

### OCTOBER

2	Rochdale (Shield replay)	A	
9	Widnes	H	
16	Open		
23	Huyton	H	
30	Open		

### NOVEMBER

6	Huyton	A	
13	Open		
20	Salford	H	
27	Rochdale	A	

### DECEMBER

4	Rochdale	H	
10	Widnes (Fri)	A	
18	St. Helens	A	
25	Open		

### JANUARY 1977

1	Open		
8	Open		
15	Oldham	H	
21	Salford	A	
29	St. Helens	H	

### FEBRUARY

4	Warrington (Fri)	A	
12	Open		
19	Workington	H	
26	Barrow	H	

### MARCH

5	Open		
12	Wigan	H	
19	Wigan	A	
26	Open		

### APRIL

2	Swinton	A	
9	Workington	A	