

Oldham just win: Latics

YORK PENALTY WAS DISPUTED

A LAST-MINUTE change in the Athletic side for the match at Bootham Crescent this afternoon saw skipper Wally Taylor replace Ted West at left-back. York were also forced to make a late change, Ken Boyes replacing their star defender, Barry Jackson, at centre-half.

YORK: Forgan; Wardle, Ramsey; Patterson, Boyes, Wragg, Hughes, Farmer, Brownlee, Addison, Twissell.
ATHLETIC: Teece; Naylor, Taylor; Hobson, Murphy, Hall; Bazley, Robinson, Bourne, John, Phoenix.
Referee: Mr. W. T. Surtees (Langley Park).

York swept right on to the offensive, and Teece was soon in action as he went down to smother an Addison shot. Two bursts by John were checked as Athletic went on the hunt, then Twissell cut in from the York left wing to rap a stinging drive over the top.

Hobson sent Bazley away but Athletic's winger was smartly robbed by Ramsey. Again Athletic's wing-half prompted the attack as he raced 40 yards downfield. He found Robinson but was just a foot short of reaching the return pass 12 yards out.

Skating about

The players were sliding about the waterlogged pitch, but Bazley controlled the ball well as he nipped through to test Forgan. The York keeper held the drive and Athletic came back with Bourne pulling back a centre for John. But before the inside man could shoot it was whipped off his toe.

John, Bourne and Phoenix combined cleverly but Boyes robbed the winger just five yards out. Athletic had been well in the game but in the 12th minute they fell behind.

Teece could only get his finger to a Brownlee centre and the ball fell at Farmer's toes. He completely missed the ball with an open goal staring him in the face, but TWISSELL was backing up, and stabbed the ball home.

It was followed immediately by another mad scramble in the Athletic goalmouth which ended with Bill Naylor kicking the ball off the line.

Almost at once Athletic could have been level. Bourne hit a John pass in his stride and the ball was inches outside the upright.

Teece was in action again, cutting out a Hughes centre, and as Bazley and Phoenix switched wings the Athletic attack came back in the picture. John found Bazley, but his chip inside to Bourne was wild and Athletic's leader could only push it harmlessly into Forgan's hands.

Athletic were fighting for the equaliser and it came in the 28th minute. Hobson again prompted the move as he put Bourne through for the centre-forward to tee up a perfect chance for John.

Teece brilliant

Forgan somehow got his hands to the inside man's stinging drive, but he could only push the ball up and BOURNE ran in to head the ball into an empty net.

York swept back in a determined rush, and as Hobson tried to head back to Teece, Brownlee darted in.

Continued from Front Page

lose 3-1

IT is a long time since the crowd at Watersheddings have been treated to such a thriller. Oldham beat Wigan 21-18, but the result was never clear until the last whistle. And as it went, Sullivan was trying desperately to get over in the corner for a draw. Athletic were unlucky in their 3-1 defeat at York; Bourne was injured soon after the interval and had to go off.

Wigan four tries: Ganley six goals

OLDHAM: Ganley; Nestor, Davies, Ayres, Eddy, Kellett, Pitchford; Rowbottom, Keith, Little, Winslade, Kelly, Turner.
WIGAN: Griffiths; Boston, Ashton, Holden, Sullivan; Bolton, Thomas; Barton, Sayer, Collier, Bretherton, McTigue, Evans.
Referee: Mr. E. Clay (Rothwell).

Oldham were forced to leave Cracknell out of the side. He reported an injured thigh an hour before the game and was replaced on the right wing by Nestor. The second half of the match was televised by BBC.

Wigan took the ball from an Oldham kick-off and concentrated on forward play to get it clear. Eventually Evans sent Boston away on the right but he was pulled down short of the halfway line.

The ball flashed across to the other wing and Wigan had the overlap. Sullivan took the ball but was caught and pulled into touch.

At the scrum Oldham won possession and soon afterwards Bolton was cautioned for a tackle on Eddy. Ganley tried for a 45-yard goal but kicked wide.

Good chance missed

Oldham narrowly missed scoring in the fifth minute. Pitchford shot past Bolton and the ball ran loose. The referee ruled play on but although Kellett kicked the ball it ran dead before he could reach it, to touch down.

Now Wigan put on the pressure. First Bolton made a break but was stopped by Little, then Sullivan tried in vain to break into Oldham's quarter by a middle-of-the-field run.

It was solid forward work that got Wigan over the "25," and after Nestor had given a pass to the opposition, Oldham were penalised. From 20 yards GRIFFITHS opened Wigan's score with a goal.

Oldham were twice forced back to their own quarter, but they broke loose. A Pitchford break ended in Eddy racing into the Wigan half, where a scrum followed a Winslade mistake and Oldham were penalised.

Wigan kicked for touch on Oldham's "25," but Keith—looking well—won back the ball for Oldham.

Oldham came within a yard of scoring when a long Winslade pass left Davies in the clear. Sending Nestor away, he followed him to

take the return, but was pulled down just short of the Wigan line.

Winslade tried to crash over from the play-the-ball, but was held to concede a scrum. Wigan were penalised at it and with a difficult kick GANLEY levelled the score with a goal.

A great try

Oldham scored a try a minute later. After an all-forward move had ended with a bad pass, Wigan lost the ball. Nestor put his foot to it, went down on his knees a yard from the line and flicked the ball up for DAVIES to take and score. It was a great try, but Ganley couldn't add the goal.

Oldham were doing all the attacking at this stage and trying desperately to break through the tight cover. In the 23rd minute Wigan were penalised at play-the-ball and GANLEY kicked a great goal from 26 yards.

Two minutes later Wigan scored. In a solo run BOSTON crashed by man after man to touch down in the corner. Griffiths missed at goal.

Wigan levelled the score in the 29th minute. GRIFFITHS had missed one penalty but when Pitchford ran off-side at a 25-yard scrum he was successful with his shot.

In the 34th minute Wigan were on the board again. From a scrum ten yards out they started a rapid passing move to the left for SULLIVAN to take a Holden pass and flash over in the corner. There was no goal.

A Thomas pass sent Wigan close to Oldham's line in the 38th minute, and although a scrum was forced, the Wigan scrum-half was the key to a try. His snappy pass went to the left and SULLIVAN went over again for an unconverted try.

Half-time—

OLDHAM 2 1—7
WIGAN 2 3—13

Oldham were putting up a gallant show, but there was no doubting that in the first half Wigan were that shade superior. They were given a tough time by Oldham in the midfield exchanges but they were not making as many mistakes in attack and their finishing was steadier.

Oldham looked set for a try when Pitchford broke through at the re-

★ Continued on Back Page

SENSATIONS AT MAINE ROAD

THERE was a sensational opening to the City v. Burnley match at Maine Road, when City, with a beautiful movement by Barnes and Hayes, saw BARNES take a return pass to crash the ball past McDonald after 57 seconds.

Immediately Burnley went to the other end and through excellent inter-passing by Adamson and Pilkington, and the left-winger put in an excellent centre for CONNELLY to equalise in one minute 40 seconds.

That was the order of the play. End to end with thrills galore, and twice City near regained the lead through Barlow and Sambrook, who both flier inches over the bar.

More bright play followed before Burnley took the lead with a brilliant opportunist goal by POINTER after 24 minutes. Nine minutes later he scored Burnley's third from a good centre by Pilkington.

Half-time: City 1, Burnley 3. Burnley, the better footballing side, opened the second half flushed with the success of their 3-1 lead, and Pilkington cleverly beat the City defence before shaving the far upright when Trautmann was well beaten.

McIlroy next weaved past four defenders before firing Trautmann to make another wonder save. City had been out of the rown half only twice in 15 minutes.

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- DIVISION I**
Arsenal 1, Preston N.E. 2.
Birmingham 4, Aston Villa 1
Blackburn 3, Newcastle 0.
Blackpool 0, Tottenham H. 0
Chelsea 2, Manchester United 3.
Everton 0, Leicester 1.
- Leeds 3, Bolton 4.
Manchester City 1, Burnley 4.
West Ham 6, Portsmouth 0.
West Brom 1, Luton 1 (aband. after 70 minutes).
- DIVISION II**
Derby 3, Huddersfield 1.
Sheffield Utd. 5, Charlton 0.
Stoke 4, Fulham 1.
- DIVISION III**
Accrington 3, Notts Co. 0.
Bradford City 3, Brentford 0
Bury 0, Colchester 0.
Newport 2, Norwich 2.
Plymouth 1, Hull 1.
- Queen's Park R. 2, Reading 0.
Southampton 3, Mansfield 2.
- DIVISION IV**
Aldershot 4, Carlisle 0.
Crewe 4, Crystal Palace 1
Gateshead 4, Barrow 0.
Millwall 2, Gillingham 0.
Workington 2, Bradford 1.
- SCOTTISH LEAGUE (Div. I)**
Clyde 2, Kilmarnock 4.
Hearts 1, Celtic 1.
Motherwell 6, Queen of South 1.
Partick T. 3, Dunfermline 3.
- SCOTTISH LEAGUE (Div. II)**
Morton 2, Dundee United 1.

Another lad from Leigh ... AND THEN I SIGNED

ACTUALLY I should have been a soccer player. I played rugby at my Leigh school, but the minute I left school, I made for the nearest soccer pitch and played outside-left for Ather-ton North End.

Rugby was right outside my life until the start of last season, when my brother Jim asked me to play a game of rugby. He was playing scrum-half for the Leigh Colts, and he wanted me to turn out on the wing.

I agreed, but just about that time, Bolton Wanderers asked me to take a trial and I left rugby

No. 6
By GEOFF SIMS

again. When I didn't hear from Bolton, it was back to Leigh Colts.

Leigh had told me they wanted to give me trials, but they seemed to be slow giving me a place. I wrote them a letter, but they never bothered. The next thing I knew, I had a letter from Oldham, asking me to take trials at Watersheddings.

I promptly agreed and after five games I was signed on at a fee of £150. Just two days after turning to professional Rugby League, Bolton Wanderers asked me to sign amateur forms for them.

A LIVELY SCOUT

I am often asked why so many Leigh juniors end up as professionals for Oldham. It has been suggested that there is some kind of magic at Watersheddings.

Nothing is further from the truth. A Leigh lad, just like any lad, has the ambition to play for his own town's club—and, believe me, I was no exception.

The trouble with me was that Leigh took too long giving me a chance at the big game. Oldham have a lively scout in the Leigh area, and he didn't waste any time getting me to Watersheddings.

It was as simple as that. If Leigh had taken me on then, I would have played for them and stayed with them if they wanted me. And I know other Leigh lads at one time felt the same way.

Just two games at Oldham and I knew it was the club for me. I was treated decently; I played my trials regularly; and they didn't waste time when they had to decide on my future with the club.

I have no regrets for changing towns, and I am confident I have made greater progress with Oldham than I would have done with my home-town club.

SOCCER?

Soccer? Well, I must admit I felt a tiny tinge of disappointment when I got the letter from Bolton just after signing for Oldham.

It didn't last long. Once I got into the hurly-burly of top rugby, soccer slipped quickly from my mind and now I realise that I picked the right game—the one I could play best.

I am only 19 year old and I hope I have a long road ahead of me in the professional game. My hope is that Oldham's supporters will enjoy it as much as I am going to.



Rugby League gossip TOUR PROBE IS BAD PUBLICITY

WIGAN are among the clubs concerned about the publicity given to the recent successful Australasian tour. A writer in the club's programme on Saturday said: "We deplore the whole business and feel the present publicity is detrimental to our great game."

"The tour was a great success; the team brought back both the Ashes and a record profit; surely the matter could be left at that."

Now the ball has really started rolling, it is doubtful if it will be stopped for some time to come. I expect an appeal to be lodged against the Council's findings on Swinton's Barney Manson and Workington's Jim Brough, even the by-laws do not allow appeals against Council decisions.

NICE gesture by Leigh: Jim Ledgard, the club's former England international full-back on transfer at £600 since the start of the season, has had a nice Christmas box.

He asked the club if they could see their way to reducing the price on his head (he thinks he might still be able to help some club). Instead of reducing the fee, Leigh waived it altogether, leaving Jim a free agent.

Mr. Tom Hourinan, the Leigh secretary, said: "The board felt they ought to treat Jimmy generously after his long and good service to Leigh."

Jimmy, who is 32 years old, recently collected over £1,000 for his benefit. He cost Leigh £2,650 when they got him from Dewsbury in 1947, and since then he has scored 2,320 points.

ST. HELENS rave about their two South African stars, Tom Van Hollenhoven and Jan Prinsloo. Wakefield, who have three ex-Rugby Union players from the Dominion, are also well satisfied with the form that Ivor Dorrington, the Springbok forward, has shown so far.

But Hull can count themselves unlucky with their dip into the South African market. They got "Pin" McMillan, the centre or full-back over a year ago. Since he came to this country he has never hit the form he showed in South Africa.

Hull have decided to part with him. For a man who has yet to make his first appearance in League football they want £1,000.

ALVIN ACKERLEY, the international hooker whom Halifax suspended and put on transfer soon after his return from Australia, is stirring again. After saying he had

Only 15 'A'-teamers are to be given full pay

W HILE talk was flying round the first-team dressing-room at Watersheddings on the subject of pay increases, the "A"-team players got a shock. They were told that in future only 15 men would get the full pay; the remainder would receive a nominal £2. The announcement was not received well. One player bitterly said to me: "This is the breaking-point. Believe me, I am ready for pulling out from Watersheddings."

In the past, all "A"-team players named on the sheet got the same amount, which varies according to the result. Often there are as many as 19 players, some of whom are trialists.

Unlike the first team, an "A"-team man can be pulled out while on top form, in order to fit in a trialist or a deposited first-team man. In fact, form is not a guide in the "A" team.

"More than once I have been complimented on a good display," the unhappy player told me, "and the following week I have been out of the team to allow some other player to get a try-out."

"Even that was disappointing, but

there was the consolation of getting a pay packet. Now they have taken that away and I think it is very unfair."

I agree with the player. If form was the only guide, then the club would have some justification for dropping a man from the team. But too often this is not so.

John O'Brien several weeks ago played for the "A" team and collected two tries in a great game. The following week he had to stand down to let in Geoff Sims—certainly no fault of O'Brien's.

There have been so many more instances of players who have been left out of the side for other reasons than form. I will never forget one player who was left off the sheet last season because selectors had forgotten about him.

Few pounds involved

These players have no right to be punished, and for the few pounds involved, it is hardly worthwhile starting trouble.

If Oldham feel that any of their players are past their best and no

WD REPORTS

longer of any use to the club, they should release them or at least make them available for transfer.

As long as they do not, then I feel they have an obligation to at least pay them the same as their "A"-team colleagues as long as they train and make themselves available to play.

Mitchell's resignation

If Oldham are to continue trying out new talent, there will always be proven men sitting on the sidelines. To pay only two of these men some wages and the rest a retainer is the surest way to cause unrest.

While on the subject of reserves, I want to refer to the resignation of coach BILLY MITCHELL—a shock, it seems, to some officials, but certainly no surprise to me.

Mitchell has never been allowed fully to handle the reserves, and, despite many recommendations of players, he has had to sit by and watch the team picked without his knowledge and experience.

It is little use to Mitchell to be left with the unenviable responsibility of maintaining discipline, coaching players and working out tactics when he has so little say in selection.

And it must have hurt him very much in the past to watch a team chosen by those who spend so little time with the reserves.

Typical of lionhearted Billy Mitchell, he has agreed to stay on until Oldham find a replacement. The club could do worse than organise things so that he will not have to leave after all.

A long sleep

ALAN DAVIES had breakfast in bed last Saturday. Along with the team he was staying overnight at Keswick before the game against Workington—and for Alan it was the first time he had been to bed in 29 hours.

This column reported some time ago that Davies was starting shift-working as part of his mining engineering course, and when he was first told, Davies said he might have to quit the game. He decided to play on, but has been having a very tough time. When Oldham picked him up on Friday he had been home from work only a few hours.

There followed the long trip into the Lake District, and minutes after the coach arrived at Keswick,

Davies was in bed. He stayed there until Saturday lunchtime, with breakfast by courtesy of Manager Griff Jenkins.

Nestor on leave

VIN NESTOR—now at Catterick following a lonesome start to his military service in Devon—is home for ten days and looking forward very much to a settled spell of Rugby League football.

He was on the first-team sheet today and is hoping that he will get in some rugby over the Christmas holiday. "Just what I want," he said on Thursday night.

Nestor is in the Royal Signals and just now is working under the camp's messing officer. "He is in charge of the unit rugby team as well," said Vin, "and I am hoping he might get around to asking me to play."

OLDHAM'S committee stopped Leeds pushing through a probable transfer deal this week. The player they wanted was Colin Clift, Halifax's international loose-forward.

Colin was left out of the team against Wigan last Saturday and afterwards he whipped in a request for transfer. Leeds got wind of it and told Halifax: "If you consider letting Clift go, we are very interested."

When the Halifax committee met on Monday night, they had both Clift's request for a move and the Leeds offer before them. But Halifax were waiting to see what happened to Oldham's Derek Turner the same night.

All they wanted was a whisper that Oldham were prepared to let Turner go. If so, they had a nice double deal ready, but Oldham told them: "Turner is not for sale." That is all Halifax wanted to know, and they didn't waste any time telling Leeds that Clift was not for sale.

Derek Turner has a tip for Oldham—a player he reckons is just the man for Oldham's second-row. He is 26-year-old TOMMY SUTTON on a free transfer from Hull Kingston Rovers.

"I played with Tommy at Hull," said Derek, "and believe me he is a strong second-row player. He weighs 14st. and he uses every ounce."

Sutton sustained a back injury with Hull K.R. and has been out of the game since early last season. He has not clicked this year and was recently given permission to seek a club.

Confident of 3 wins

All set for the Christmas? Oldham's players are, and this week they have confidently been predicting three wins, despite the tough opposition.

On Christmas Day they have Swinton at home, and feel sure they will topple them. The following day there is a trip to Hunslet, and confidence is just as high. Saturday brings the much-awaited clash between Oldham and St. Helens, and the Saints are very anxious to fully avenge their Lancashire Cup defeat.

No doubt it will be a tough game, and I wouldn't like to make a forecast. But here is skipper Bernard Ganley's prediction: "Don't worry, we'll keep up the good work against the Saints."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

RUGBY LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St. Helens	17	15	1	1	459	197	31
OLDHAM	18	15	0	3	413	199	30
Swinton	17	14	0	3	349	208	28
Warrington	20	14	0	6	443	293	28
Hull	19	13	1	5	458	202	27
Barrow	19	13	0	6	386	226	26
Hunslet	18	12	1	5	409	241	25
Wakefield	17	12	1	4	345	217	25
Wigan	18	12	0	6	421	273	24
Widnes	19	12	0	7	372	248	24
Bradford	19	9	1	8	295	286	19
Keighley	17	9	0	8	276	268	18
Castleford	18	9	0	9	246	302	18
York	18	9	0	9	307	355	18
Halifax	19	7	2	10	335	336	16
Leeds	19	8	0	11	337	415	16
Hull K.R.	17	8	0	9	278	288	16
Huddersfield	19	8	0	11	310	353	15
Featherstone	19	7	1	11	265	376	15
Salford	17	7	0	10	290	311	14
Liverpool C	17	7	0	10	259	314	14
Bramley	18	7	0	11	212	282	14
Blackpool B	19	7	0	11	265	442	14
Leigh	19	7	0	11	257	279	14
Batley	19	6	1	12	251	370	13
W'kington T	19	6	3	11	205	357	13
Whitehaven	19	6	0	13	335	402	12
HOENETS	18	4	0	14	195	340	8
Doncaster	20	4	0	16	194	498	8
Dewsbury	20	3	0	17	232	501	6

DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	22	12	5	5	43	21	29
Exeter	21	13	3	5	43	24	29
Port Vale	22	11	6	5	47	32	28
York City	22	10	7	5	39	26	27
Millwall	22	12	3	7	41	31	27
Carlisle	20	9	7	4	30	19	25
Shrewsbury	22	9	7	6	37	30	25
Walsall	22	10	4	8	41	37	24
Northampton	21	9	6	6	41	37	24
Chester	22	9	6	7	41	41	24
Watford	22	8	7	7	41	35	23
Crystal Palace	22	8	7	7	43	38	23
Gillingham	21	9	5	7	36	33	23
Darlington	22	6	9	7	30	29	21
Torquay	21	7	6	8	37	38	20
Barrow	22	6	7	9	28	39	19
Bradford	22	8	2	12	34	40	18
Workington	23	4	10	9	31	41	17
Aldershot	22	6	5	11	29	47	17
ATHLETIC	21	7	2	12	31	40	16
Hartlepool	22	6	4	12	32	48	16
Gateshead	22	6	4	12	29	47	16
Southport	22	6	4	12	26	42	16
Crewe Alex.	22	5	4	13	25	49	14

CARDS-ON-TABLE MOVE WELCOMED BY SUPPORTERS

TODAY'S match against Dewsbury at the Athletic Grounds marks for Hornets the halfway stage of the League season. Their record should read five wins from 19 fixtures (only four if the worst has happened this afternoon). The figures are not only disappointing; the scoring record is most unusual.

In all games to today, the Hornets scored only 47 tries and 47 goals. Not often do we find the goals and tries at the same total, but the curiosity does not end there. Opponents had scored 74 goals and 74 tries—the same figures reversed.

No further light on last week's hectic happenings—and rumours—has been shed publicly by the directors, but apparently they have laid their cards on the table with the executive of the Supporters' Club, who recorded a vote of confidence in the directors, particularly "in recent happenings."

In a friendly and not critical mood I cannot help mentioning that by sharing their knowledge with the leaders of the Supporters' Club—knowledge which evidently convinced adequately—the board have not made their stalwarts any wiser, and recent happenings are not the only matters about which supporters are concerned.

They are worried about the poor playing record, the delay in stiffening the pack, and the seemingly unaccountable loss of form of several players who were good enough last season. There will be general approval for the step taken early in the week of signing Tom Grundy from Blackpool Borough.

Top-of-the-table bid

The Athletic Grounds customers look upon this as a new start in an all-round effort to shoot the team up the League table—and it cannot be sustained unless the players recover team spirit and team work and the officials remain alive to the needs for supplementing the reserve strength.

Judged on last season, the Hornets have their most remunerative fixtures, from the points angle, to come, but they are at a period of the year when it will require sparkling rugby and the best results to maintain the crowd average at the figure established so far.

Jim Parr, John Fishwick, John Chisnall and Norman Short are among the players who have not attained the consistent form of last season. Much of this may be due to a heavy defensive burden. On the other hand, much-criticised Les Jones has been the outstanding force in the back division for most of the season.

Also on the brighter side is the return to full strength of the hooking force of the club, with the ending of Bob Dagnall's suspension and the return to fitness of Eddie Bowden. Playing his second game against Warrington "A" since last Christmas, Eddie had the unusual experience of having five different

In the HORNETS' NEST by Touchjudge

hookers in turn opposing him in the Warrington pack—so persistently did he heel the ball to his own backs.

A surprise packet

Returning again to the records, we find that last season's top try scorers, Bert Ralph and Ray Buxton (both topped the 20 mark), have scored only five each this time. Strangely enough, the in-and-out of form Norman Short, with ten, shares leading place with John Chisnall, who has missed several games due to injuries.

Buxton, now playing centre, is recovering his liveliness in attack, and he and Jones are setting a fine example. Reg Bailey is another whose form has not suffered greatly in the general team slide.

What a surprise packet Eddie Trumble can be! He lost his place in the side after the Law Cup game and did not reappear until last Saturday, when he was recalled with Ted Cahill and Joe Mullane, both out of action and not likely to be back for some time.

Trumble has had to play centre in the "A" team mostly, but at Wilderspool he turned on a show which he could not have bettered had he been the regular full-back all season.

His runs upfield made Warrington's defence look poor, and in trying ground conditions he caught and kicked surely. Officials and supporters want to see him keep it up this time. They are tired of hailing him and almost immediately writing him off.

USA v Australia for Davis Cup

The United States qualified to meet Australia, the trophy holders, in the challenge round of the Davis Cup lawn tennis competition at the end of the month when they took a winning lead over Italy in the inter-zone final today at Perth.

Ham Richardson and Alex Olmedo, who both won their singles matches yesterday, clinched the tie for the United States by defeating Nicola Pietrangeli and Orlando Sirola 7-9, 6-4, 13-11, 7-5 in today's doubles.

Two singles remain to be played tomorrow.

Youth and experience go together to make a team

THE statement put out during the week by Oldham Athletic manager Norman Dodgin might well have come from Spotland. The circumstances to which he pointed were practically the same as I have outlined in this column in the last few weeks in relation to Rochdale.

The one big difference is that Rochdale are operating in a division where the standards are undoubtedly higher. There are no weak teams to proffer points to sides classed as ordinary on former Northern Section standards. Therefore, Rochdale's task in attempting to secure players of the requisite ability is even more difficult.

Manager Jack Marshall and Manager Dodgin evidently think along similar lines, too, about their clubs' best hope for the future. Mr. Marshall has shown already that he wants a more youthful side than the one he found when he arrived. He has also found that he cannot do without some of the old stalwarts.

His search for younger blood took him to Scotland in midweek for a get-together with Tom Graham, Scotland's recently appointed Scottish scout, and there may shortly be some result from this journey.

A fair portion of Mr. Marshall's time, however, would be taken up

SPOTLIGHT ON SPOTLAND by CRITIC

by fully explaining to his Scottish assistant exactly where Rochdale needed strengthening most and how much they could afford to spend.

An exchange?

Rochdale could do worse than use Brian Green as their offering in an exchange deal. Brian would not be averse to trying his luck elsewhere and he might well fit in with a new club. He would certainly get a better break from spectators than he does at Spotland. He is a product of Haggate Lads and, at 23 years of age, is an experienced player with an excellent physique.

His versatility has enabled him to play in all five forward positions, both wing-half berths and at full-back in the Football League and he also had one spell at centre-half with the reserves. His ability to make a show anywhere might have been his undoing at Spotland. Had he been continuously played at centre-forward, and then thoroughly coached in that role earlier in his career, he could probably have held the position.

Brian was at Spotland as a

young amateur. He later had a short spell, while still an amateur, with Sheffield Wednesday but returned to Rochdale when he was in the Forces. He was 20 when he first signed professional forms in September, 1955, as a part-timer and he became a full-timer when he completed an apprenticeship.

If only Rochdale could discover their shooting boots or make an investment in a goal-grabbing forward they could still pull themselves away from the edge of the Fourth Division drop. Rochdale have only won three League games out of 22 but they have been against Reading (fourth), Bournemouth (thirteenth) and Accrington (eleventh).

Still to come

Still to come to Spotland in the second half of the season, after today's game against Stockport County, are Doncaster (24th), Chesterfield (20th), Mansfield (19th), Bradford City (18th), Norwich (17), Halifax (16th) and Wrexham (14th). Nothing can be achieved, however, without goals; what a difference there might have been had a goal-scoring forward been signed after those first half-dozen matches in which only four goals were obtained.

Any player on the books at the moment who could discover the goal touch would be assured of a place in the front line. Even here the luck is never with a club having a rough time as Rochdale are this season. Jim Dailey, for instance, dropped into the Lancashire League team, broke loose with two goals in one game, which is something to talk about at Spotland this season. But before he could be rushed back into the first team while he still had the habit, he developed lumbago and is still having trouble with it.

Alan Moore may not have broken the hearts of any defences yet, but he has quickly altered that dismal record of one goal having come from Rochdale wingers all season. Alan has now scored in two successive matches.

Rochdale's luck was out again at Brentford. After being in the lead at half-time, they finally lost with what was virtually the last kick of the match as they did at Swindon and Colchester. No further indication of what Rochdale require is necessary beyond pointing out the stark facts of their record this season.

IN ONLY FOUR OF THE 22 GAMES HAS MORE THAN ONE GOAL SEPARATED THEM AT THE END FROM THEIR OPPONENTS. TEN OF THE 14 DEFEATS HAVE BEEN EITHER 1-0 OR 2-1; THEIR THREE VICTORIES HAVE BEEN 1-0, 1-0 AND 2-1. TWO GOALS HAVE NOT BEEN SCORED IN ANY AWAY GAME SO FAR.

Bassey ready to risk title

MR. GEORGE BIDDLES, manager of Hogan Bassey, the world featherweight champion, said today that he expects to complete within the next week or two the final arrangements for Bassey to fight Davey Moore, of America, in Los Angeles on February 26 for the championship.

"It will be Hogan's second defence of the title and should be a hard fight, for we think that Moore is the second best featherweight in the world," he added.

Asked if there was any possibility of Bassey defending his championship in Britain. Mr. Biddles said: "Naturally, we box in a place which pays the best purse. Bassey is quite prepared to meet Percy Lewis, Charlie Hill, Bobby Neill or anybody else in England if the offer is suitable. In fact, we would not mind taking a little less than we could get in America."

Tape recorders for the blind

All Denmark's blind people may be provided with tape recorders and regular tape-recorded news bulletins, if a plan by the Social Minister, Mr. J. Bomholt Goes, is approved.

Rochdale Amateur League SO WHITWORTH BROUGHT IT OFF AGAIN

WHITWORTH have not had too good a season but are capable of giving the best club a shaking at times. They proved this against Haggate Lads, completing the double over them with an odd goal in 5 victory. It was a ding-dong struggle, with Whitworth swinging the ball about and Haggate trying to walk it through on a muddy ground.

Haggate opened the score after ten minutes and led 2-1 at the interval. Whitworth had the better of play in the second half and goals in the 57th and 70th minutes gave them victory. Whittles (2) and Bartram scored for Whitworth and Graaves netted both Haggate's goals.

Two goals were shared by Gravel-hole and Turner Bros. in an even first half. In the second half, Gravel-hole tired, with the result that Turners added five goals without reply to earn a 6-1 victory. Chisnall scored for Gravelhole and Whitehead and Thompson (two each). Burke and Lee for Turners.

Boots Social halted A. & A. Crompton's recent run of successes with a 7-1 victory. Boots scored first, then Crompton's equalised, but the home side gained a 2-1 lead at the interval. In the second half, Crompton's defence went to pieces, enabling Boots to add a further 5 goals. Wright (3), Beaumont (2), Hodson and Pearson scored for Boots and Neild for Cromptons.

Rochdale Athletic, at home to Heymain Recs., won by 7-1 after leading 4-0 at the interval. Diggle (4), Barlow, Baron and Bamford scored for Athletic and Jones for Heymain.

Tudor Rose, playing well within their capabilities when visiting Industry FC won 5-0, the scorers being Bateman (3) and Hardman (2).

In the second division E. Clegg & Son with a goal by Hallsworth in the 50th minute against Dunlop SC, gained a well-earned victory.

Leaders Bay Horse met runners-up Rochdale Athletic Reserves and after a very close game the leaders retained their unbeaten record with a 5-3 victory after Athletic had led 2-1 at the interval. This was Athletic's first defeat of the season. Crane (3), Whittle and Fenton scored for Bay Horse and Bell (2) and Charlston for Athletic.

Pattreloux FC, visiting Highams Ltd., carried too much strength in the forward line for the wooden spoonists and secured a 9-0 triumph, the scorers being Hynes and Cullen (2 each), Harter, Foxcroft, Morton, David and Bracegirdle.

In a close game at Royton, Shiloh Mills defeated visitors Ash Mill by 6-4. Scorers for Shiloh were: Wright (2), Martin, Gibbons, Walls and Robinson. Abbey (2), Sherratt and Hopkinson netted for Ash Mills.

Turners Reserves, entertaining Industry Reserves, scored after ten minutes and won by the odd goal in 3. Dean and Cumiskey scored for Turners and Kershaw for Industry.

The first final of the season will take place on Christmas morning when the Benevolent Cup Final will be played on the ground of A. & A. Cromptons at Shaw between Haggate Lads and Rochdale Athletic, the holders who have appeared in the last three finals. Haggate Lads played in the final in 1958-9 and three times since the war. Athletic have been successful twice and Haggate once.

Both teams are noted for their first class football and there will undoubtedly be a first-class game. It will be the first final to be played by the league on this ground and it is hoped there will be a good attendance as the receipts all go to the Injured Players' Fund, which pays out a weekly benefit to players injured in league games.

Results of last Saturday's games.—First Division: Railway Street 2, Walsden FC 7; Whitworth FC 3, Haggate Lads 2; Gravelhole 1, Turner Bros. 8; Boots Social 7, A. & A. Crompton 1; Industry FC 0, Tudor Rose 5; Rochdale Athletic 7, Heymain Recs. 1.

Second Division: Shiloh Spinners Ltd. 6, Ash Mill 4; Dunlop SC 0, E. Clegg and Son 1; Highams Ltd. 0, Pattreloux FC 9; Turner Bros. 2, Industry FC 1; Bay Horse 5, Rochdale Athletic 3.

Bright's rally stunned Norden YCOB

NORDEN YCOB did not deserve to lose their away game with Bright's, but credit must go to the home team for their splendid rally which brought them a 5-4 win. Norden were on top for most of the game and after leading 1-0 at the interval they led 4-2 with only twelve minutes left for play. Then came Bright's rally and goals in the 78th, 84th and 87th minutes gave them the points. Woolfenden (2), Hicks, Wilcock and Ruddy scored for Bright's and Drury (3) and Tattersall for Norden.

Wardle Parish were surprisingly defeated at home by YMCA Old Boys, the only goal of the game being scored by Kay twenty minutes from the end.

Shawforth had an easy home win over Milton, who tried hard. But they were no match for the home team who won by ten goals scored by Lumb (6), Dawson (2), Povey and Linger to one scored by Hamer.

Whittle's defeated Facit Parish by 5 goals to 1 and but for some excellent work by the Facit defence they would have won by a much larger margin. Williamson (2), Stafford (2) and Whittaker scored for Whittle's and Lord for Facit. St. Aidan's had to fight hard for

Rochdale SS League

their win over Sacred Heart and it was not until well on in the game that they got on top. An even first half ended 1-1 and, after being level again at 2-2, Sacred Heart went into the lead. A spirited rally by St. Aidan's brought them three goals in seven minutes and another goal near the end gave them a 6-3 victory. Kenyon (2), Muldowney (2), Walsh and Shaw scored for St. Aidan's and Hammond, Hudson and Naven for Sacred Heart.

All Saints had their best win of the season, defeating Newhey St. Thomas's by eight goals scored by Lythgoe (2), Astin (2), Gill (2), Allwork and Birchall to two scored by Ingham and Winterbottom.

Thornham won their important home game with St. Aidan's Res., the "B" division leaders, and are now only one point behind with four games in hand. They were full value for their 6-1 win. Butterworth (2), Emmerson (2), Hughes and Broadbent scored their goals, Hancock replying.

St. Peter's held Milnrow Parish until the 61st minute, when the

visitors opened the scoring. Later Milnrow took command and two further goals gave them a well-deserved 3-0 victory. Butterworth (2) and Sutcliffe were the goalscorers.

Cutgate Bapts. proved the better team in their home game with Syke Meths. and after leading 4-1 at half-time, they eventually won by six goals, scored by Linger (3), Aughey, Harris and Taylor, to one by Cockcroft.

St. Patrick's led Spotland Meths. 3-1 at half-time at Ings Lane, but soon afterwards Spotland were on level terms. They again drew level after St. Patrick's had made the score 4-3 but in the last ten minutes the visitors got two more goals to win 6-4. The goalscorers were Simpson, Mullaney, Broadbent, Starkey, Kershaw and McGregor for St. Patrick's, West and R. Clegg sharing the Spotland goals.

Buckley Hall defeated Thornham St. James's by 5-4, the winning goal coming four minutes from the end. Moores (3), Bullock and O'Sullivan scored for Buckley Hall and Ogden (2), Mellor and Clegg for St. James's.

Goals by Bellew, Collins and Croke gave St. Gabriel's a 3-0 home win over West Street Bapts.

BENEFIT MATCH ON BOXING DAY

THE tragic death of a local footballer during a match earlier this season has brought swift action from the Oldham and District Sunday Schools Amateur League. They are to stage a representative benefit match in aid of the man's dependants at Boundary Park on Boxing Day.

Athletic's board of directors readily agreed to stage the match even though the Athletic Reserve side have a game the same day. The kick-off for the representative game will be at 10.45 a.m., with admission charge 6d.

The teams are:—
Kilroy (St. Aidan's); Lewis (Hope); Hinchcliffe (Millgate); Elise (Glodwick); Saggerson (Emmanuel); Perrin (Hope); O'Neill (George Street); Byron (Edge Lane); Heathcote (Emmanuel); Woods (Eaves Lane); Kenworthy (Emmanuel).

Taylor (George Street); Ince (Westwood); Holburt (Hope); Shuttleworth (Emmanuel); Beswick (St. Aidan's); Docherty (Roundthorn); F. Jackson (Westwood); Hawcroft (St. Thomas's); Roebuck (St. Thomas's); Perrin (Royton Cong.); Crabtree (Millgate).

IT is many years since Couthill Grammar School's first eleven have enjoyed such a successful season as this. To date they have won nine of their 12 games and drawn the remaining three. Among the victims of this powerful Couthill combination are the strong North Manchester, Chadderton and Manchester Grammar School sides.

What is the secret of the success? Added to their undoubted ability, the players have been attending extended training sessions in their own time and there have been regular tactical talks in their lunch breaks. The policy has paid dividends on the field.

Representative honours have been earned by inside-left E. Holden (Lancashire Grammar Schools XI), inside-right B. Guest (Manchester and District Grammar Schools XI), and centre-half J. Gates (Manchester and District Grammar Schools XI).

ROUND LOCAL SOCCER LEAGUES

THE young Haggate Lads side are still finding the going tough in the Oldham Amateur League's top division. At Chadderton last week they shocked the home side by scoring in the opening minutes—but the United soon got over their surprise. At least, the 9-1 victory suggests so.

IT was a day of "respectable" scores all round the local leagues last Saturday. The only side to reach double figures were the all-powerful Hope Congregational, who crashed in twelve on their visit to the King Street Presbyterians. In the second half the Hope keeper only touched the ball twice and, naturally enough, kept his goal intact.

Chadderton's nine at the expense of Haggate was the next highest score, though St. Thomas's, Leesfield, finished in a rush and made their half-time 2-1 lead into 7-2 victory over Emmanuel Reserves in the Sunday School League's second division.

THE report that Bardsley were short of a goalkeeper gave secretary Eric Richardson a headache, for four turned up wanting to play. This gave him the hard task of weeding out the best, the final choice going to Len Garlick, former Waterloo star, who proved his worth on Saturday.

Bardsley are team-building at the moment and they look like finishing the season with a flourish. Last week they invited all past and present players to a supper dance and social at the club's expense and nearly 60 took advantage of the offer, which can only help to cement the club spirit more firmly together.

LATEST news of former Chadderton player Kevin Morris is that he has now established himself in the Swindon Town reserve side.

This promising 18-year-old has already been chosen as the side's penalty expert and, playing right-half against Bournemouth recently, he scored two goals (one penalty) in the 3-1 win.

Cup final for J. Stott's trophy

The final of the J. STOTT'S CUP will take place on Boxing Day (11 a.m.) on the Block Lane ground, Chadderton. The teams competing are Buckley and Taylor's and J. Stott's. Both are unbeaten so far this season and Stott's are top of Division I and Buckley and Taylor's top of Division II.

This is the first time this trophy has been competed for, having been presented to the league only this season. Thus it is remarkable that the team from the firm of J. Stott's (Engineers) should be in the first final. The cup will be presented by a member of the firm after the game.

In the Buckley and Taylor's side at inside-left will be Fred Ogden, who was for many years the first-choice goalkeeper for Oldham Athletic.

Seel Park Notes

ANOTHER GAME THROWN AWAY

LAST Saturday, Mossley were away to Altrincham, who fielded one or two reserves due to injuries. This was a good chance for Mossley to collect a couple of points, but once again the game was thrown away.

Just before half-time, Mossley took a goal lead with a first-time volley by Quigley from a centre by Whitehead. In the second-half, Mossley went on the defensive instead of attacking; this meant that Altrincham got on top, and within about 15 minutes they equalised.

Soon afterwards they took the lead, and a few minutes later they were awarded a penalty for hands. Although the referee was on the spot, it took him much too long to make up his mind, and play went on a full 30 seconds before he decided to blow his whistle. This was one of the many strange decisions made during the game.

Just before the end of the match, Dimond headed a goal from Taylor, which made the final score 3-2 for Altrincham.

On Christmas Day, Mossley are at home to Buxton, who are managed by Mossley ex-player and manager, Jack Boothway. On Saturday, Mossley are at home again to Witton Albion.

ROUND THE AMATEUR RUGBY LEAGUE

ONE of the most popular cup finals in the town will be early this season. It is the under 17's Howell Cup final and it will be played between Shawside and Greenacres on Boxing Day. Oldham Football Club is allowing the use of the Watersheddings ground. For years the Howell Cup final has been pushed into the fixtures and, because of weather conditions and ground shortage, it has often been played late.

At the start of this season league chairman Major John Howell told clubs the competition would have to be staged at a time when interest in rugby was high.

A glance at the professional fixture card told the league that on Boxing Day there would not be any professional rugby or soccer in the town. "That's our day," said secretary Jack Mitchell.

An application to Watersheddings got the stamp of approval from the committee and the under 17's have the ground to themselves in the afternoon.

Said Mr. Mitchell: "We are just charging supporters 6d. for admission and we hope they will come along and see a final that I can guarantee will be very attractive."

WATERHEAD, who last week were wondering where the money would come from to pay rates and tax on their changing-room may get some help from the

Saturday sports mailbag

NO NEED FOR WHITEWASH

I FEEL I must take A.G.W. to task over the two excuses he offers in his attempt to whitewash Athletic over the transfer of Thompson. A.G.W.'s reasons are (1) that Athletic did not want to stand in his way; and (2) that Thompson will lose the "local boy" tag.

An important person at Boundary Park told me at the time of the Peter Neale transfer that the club were all set to transfer Thompson strictly for cash (no player-exchange involved), but that Thompson refused to go!

Regarding the local-boy tag, this excuse is the most ridiculous I have ever heard. Tom Finney, Nat Lofthouse, Bill Eckersley, etc.—all English internationals—have managed to surmount this tremendous handicap.

I regard A.G.W. as Athletic's public relations officer, not a newspaper critic.

I consider Mr. Dodgin's remark, "We will take some hammerings," as defeatism of the highest order. In fact, if Mr. Dodgin looks back at some of the season's results he will find his prophecy has already come true.

I deplore the meanness that makes the team travel to places like Exeter and Gillingham to play football the same day rather than stay overnight and pay hotel expenses.

I think the best plan for the sake of the club and the town would be for the football pool that subsidises the present inefficient management to cease, then the club would have to stop "telling the tale" continually and get down to showing some real results! DISGUSTED.

Two Chelsea men play for Plymouth

Walley Bellet and Len Casey, the Chelsea defenders, signed for Plymouth Argyle shortly after midday today, three hours before the home match against Hull City, in which both played.

They travelled to Plymouth late last night, after the Plymouth manager, Mr. Jack Rowley, visited Chelsea to bid for their transfers. The joint fee is around £12,000.

Bellett, who is 24, graduated through the Chelsea junior teams and played in 20 League games last season. Casey, who is 23, was signed from Leyton, the London amateur club.

Oldham Parks Committee on Wednesday granted the application of Oldham and District Lawn Tennis League for the use of four courts in Alexandra Park for two weeks starting July 11, for the championship games.

ATHLETIC WILL BE A NURSERY

HAVING read Mr. Dodgin's policy for Oldham Athletic's future, may I say the best policy to take out is one with a leading insurance society against falling off of support.

Between the lines in this statement, Athletic will be a nursery club for bigger clubs: as soon as a youngster hits the high spots, he will be transferred to settle debts, with Athletic trying to get out Division IV season after season.

No supporter will stand this, because what we want is a winning team and we want to get to a higher division as soon as possible with experienced men.

Until something is done through buying quick, then the crowds will continue to stop away. I am picking my matches this season—on fine days at that, although before this season began I was a wet-or-fine supporter.

Nothing is being done only switching, and swapping of players and position, which comes to no good. If we get a player, he is spoiled, so let us hope we don't spoil Ray John after last Saturday's display.

We were told we could stick in Division II, the year after a good Division III side took us back. Now a Division IV founder-member, we are going to concentrate on youth, and from what I've seen of youth up to now, either the training system is wrong or something is lacking.

One Saturday when we have a home match, no-one will be there except the players; then the directors will finally think there is something going wrong. Who will get the blame? Only the supporters, I suppose. JIMMY LATICS.

IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS

IT was with a feeling akin to revulsion that I read in Wat Sheddings Survey of Mr. A. Worth's statement that "Quin can go in the first team any time for me"—and in the same paragraph I also read the assurance that Eddy would be preferred against Wigan.

What sort of tact is this, W. Many people think that Eddy still the best left-winger on C. ham's books, and statements such as this can only do harm to the players and the club.

One is left bewildered by the logic used. It would appear that E is to be a chopping-block, to be used only when a tough match is in the offing, surely a tactic when only the best is good enough?

Too many irresponsible things have been said by committeemen the recent seasons—e.g., "Keith apology" over the loss of speakers last season.

It becomes abundantly clear that the committee should be reminded that they hold a position of trust that they are servants of members who elected them, and tact and discretion are essential qualifications for their position. RUGBYITE

Irish boy favourite for billiard title

Patrick Morgan (Belfast) is favourite to retain his title in boys' billiards championship which begins at Burroughes Hall, London on December 29.

Morgan who has several substantial breaks to his credit, including one of 84, meets Howard McCar (Nottingham) in the first round.

The Japanese camera industry to make a sales drive in Britain. Western Europe following a decline in their exports to the United States.

Rugby Union Notes

Referee didn't turn up so player took over the whistle

IT is a coincidence that as the first team skipper, Ron Gallier steps down from the side for several weeks for domestic reasons, vice-captain Eric Barrass returns to the side after a long lay-off. Certainly Gallier's forward play will be missed, but it will be interesting to see if Barrass, who has not played for the first team since the middle of October, can bring some much-needed life to the senior side.

needed life to the senior side.

In the run-out he had with Borough side last week, Barrass certainly brought the best out of his threees, and the side won Salford against Schweitzers 35-6.

An interesting feature of game was the good show put up by R. Lumb who when the appointed referee did not turn up stepped down from the Oldham side and took game.

At Heaton Moor the first team lost 11-6, after having a lead of six points some quarter of an hour from the end. This was a disappointing display, and despatches to Bennett and Garrett, who should have won this game.

I. Hilton, brought in at centre showed promise, and Williams S. Woodhead also played well.

The "A" team beat Heaton Moor "A" at Keb Lane 17-6. Despite the conditions, both sides tried to play open rugby, and it is significant that Oldham scored five tries. Hanley and B. Buckley were the stars of a good threequarter line and Lees (promoted to the first team today) the best of a hard-working pack.

The Extra "A" had a good win 20 points to nine at Heaton Moor. After a scrappy start, this developed into a good game. G. Perry, brought in from the Colts, had an excellent game in the centre. C. Hamer and F. Bradley were the pick of a superior in line-out play.

It is not often Extra "A" have the privilege of playing against an international, but on Saturday Heaton Moor fielded D. I. McIl. The old Scottish international, despite his years, is still a tactician.

The Colts, enthusiastically led by B. Cuttle, lost to Manchester at Keb Lane, 6-0. They did well to hold the strong Manchester side, had in P. Maybury the outstanding player on the field.

Next Saturday the first team without a game, but on Friday it is the annual Boxing Day fix against Old Aldwinians. K.

players from the game, particularly when they leave school."

Certainly the number of rugby players who quit the game after schooldays is large and some of the trouble is due to the inability of the small under 17's league to accommodate them.

But that section has its troubles. They have not got a ground of their own and depend on the open-age section to let them vacant grounds—usually on the sad basis of Saturday to Saturday.

"A central organisation covering all sections," said the official, "would make things easier and the movement of players, the allocation of grounds and the financial position could be stabilised."

WATERHEAD played Royton last week—and they hadn't a forward in the side. Reserve backs made up all the positions in the pack.

Unlucky Waterhead have never had so many injuries among the big boys. The count on Saturday was seven out with knocks, two on trials with professional clubs and another one working.

"The boys did all right," said secretary Pickering, "but you can't do very much without weight."

Waterhead lost but then found out that Royton had played a professional. They protested to the League and on Wednesday Royton were ordered to forfeit the points for the game.

Hornets win game of cautions and penalties

ROCHDALE THROW AWAY CHANCES

WAINWRIGHT failed to pass a fitness test, and Vizard came in at inside-right for Rochdale. In the last nine matches at Rochdale the result has been a draw. Stockport ex-Bolton inside man Holden was absent through injury, and his place was taken by Mulvey, while Samuels played at left-half in place of Clempson.

ROCHDALE: Jones; Whiston, Powell; McGilgan, Aspdon, McGlennan; Brown, Vizard, Finney, Spencer, Moore.
STOCKPORT COUNTY: Lea; Betts, Webb; Porteous, Murray, Samuels; Wilson, Jackson, Smith, Mulvey, Clarke. Referee: Mr. A. Holland (Barnsley).

Rochdale had an early scare when Wilson cashed in on a mistake by their defence and was left five yards out with three forwards waiting and a sharp centre needed.

Wilson put the ball too near the goalkeeper and Jones brought off a wonderful save. A long curling free kick seemed to have Jones in trouble but the goalkeeper saved brilliantly.

Rochdale were not having too happy a time but the Stockport attack was a little lifeless and the home side survived.

Green tried Rochdale's first shot of the match after 15 minutes, and very nearly got a goal with it. The ball beat Lea and then sailed inches over the crossbar.

Spencer should have had Rochdale in front when a short, sharp pass caught the Stockport defence out of position, but Spencer shot badly and Lea saved.

After 30 minutes JACKSON put Stockport in front when he was left unmarked by a Rochdale defensive error.

Kick-and-run tactics

This early goal did not produce any change in the quality of the play. Passing was scrappy and there was no cohesion in either forward line.

McGlennan had a good attempt at bringing Rochdale on level terms with a long shot, but Lea brought the ball down well.

Brown could have made a goal for Rochdale, but, with the whole of the Rochdale forward line lined up to bring off an equaliser, he hesitated in centring.

Rochdale continued to use kick-and-run tactics, and it nearly came off when centre-forward Green had the ball fisted off his head by Lea.

But despite keen struggling by centre-forward Green, there was no effect on the score at half-time.

Half-time:—

ROCHDALE 0
STOCKPORT COUNTY ... 1

Within minutes of the restart, Rochdale full-back Aspdon kicked the ball off the line with Jones completely beaten.

Samuels took a free-kick just outside the penalty area and Clarke picked up the pass to flick it across the goalmouth.

Stockport continued to give the 'Dale plenty of trouble, and Wilson was just about to slam a shot in when he was blown up for offside.

The few chances that Rochdale did get they wasted. McGilgan put a free-kick straight into the goalkeeper's hands and Green, from a good scoring position, kicked the ball so wide that it was well on its way to the corner flag.

Final:—

ROCHDALE 0
STOCKPORT COUNTY 2

Late scorer: Wilson, Stockport County.
Attendance: 4,031. Receipts £382.

Rugger trial was a farce

The second England trial—it will undoubtedly go down in the annals of the game as the "first England farce"—was played in impossible conditions on a swampy pitch often in cold, biting rain, at Taunton today and ended in a draw with neither side able to score.

Play was utterly farcical and between almost every scrum a halt was called for several forwards to have slime wiped from their eyes.

Continued on Back Page

ATHLETIC

He got his boot to the ball but Teece pushed it round the upright. In the next minute, Athletic's keeper again saved brilliantly as he went full length to hold a Farmer drive.

The 40th minute saw York go ahead again with a penalty from WRAGG. Brownlee broke clean away and fell heavily as a slide-tackle from Murphy halted his rush. It seemed a fair tackle, but the official waved aside Athletic's appeals, and Wragg crashed the ball in off the underside of the bar.

The goal was followed by a let-off for York as Robinson raced out to the left and pulled back a centre which left Forgan helpless. But as the ball skated across the empty goal, John and Bourne were just inches from touching it, and Ramsey turned it behind.

Half-time:

YORK 2
ATHLETIC 1

Considering the conditions this had been a good half with Athletic unlucky not to be on level terms. The forward line was looking more dangerous than on any other time this season.

A long clearance by Forgan sent Brownlee clear, and as Naylor slipped head over heels the York leader was left with a clear shot at goal. But Teece held the stinging drive.

In the next minute, it was Bourne's turn to get his sights on the goal. From 25 yards he sent in a shot which Forgan did well to turn over the top.

From the flag kick, John flicked in a drive but again Forgan saved.

Bourne was injured and Brownlee went away again to drive just over the top. Bourne was led from the field, and though he resumed for a moment he eventually limped to the dressing room.

It was a blow, for Athletic had been fighting hard for the equaliser, and only a flying Murphy tackle halted Addison as he darted through. Then Hughes was presented with a golden chance just ten yards out, but he put his shot well outside the far post.

A good run from John and Phoenix caught the York defence on the wrong foot, but from 12 yards Phoenix shot over the top.

Another fall

Another fall on the slippery surface—this time by Taylor—let Hughes through, but Teece went down at the winger's feet to save in fine style. Athletic's four-pronged attack was not making any headway now against the stubborn York defence, and at the other end Taylor saved a certain goal as he got his boot to a Farmer shot and deflected the ball to safety.

Hobson went up with the attack to make up the number, and it almost brought Athletic a goal as John beat Forgan to the centre. But Ramsey was there to whip the ball away for a corner. This time Murphy went up into the attack, but just failed to get his boot to Phoenix's flag kick.

In ...the ...84th ...minute, ...York increased their lead with another goal violently disputed by Athletic defenders. Teece pushed up Farmer's shot and fell on it on the line. He was hustled into goal by BROWNLEE. The referee was on the spot and ruled that the ball had crossed the line.

Final:—

YORK 3
ATHLETIC 1
Attendance: 6,252.

November car output

Car output in November—a month of four working weeks—was 79,322, the Board of Trade announces. In October (five weeks) 99,358 were produced, and in November last year (four weeks) 83,965.

TOM GRUNDY, transferred from Blackpool during the week, made his debut in Hornets' pack against Dewsbury at the Athletic Ground this afternoon.

HORNETS: Trumble; Smith, Jones, Buxton, Unsworth; Chisnall, Fishwick; Scholes, Dagnall, Grundy, Thomas, Bailey, Parr.
DEWSBURY: Popplewell; Taylor, T. Callaghan, M. Clark, J. Clark; Boustead, O'Donnell; Kirk, Lockwood, Lumb, Bratt, Cox, E. Callaghan.
Referee: Mr. J. Senior (Bradford).

The kick-off was nearly five minutes late and the crowd the smallest of the season. From Dewsbury passing after only half a minute, JONES intercepted and ran in a try at the posts, to which he added the goal points.

An interception also ended a home passing movement, but Dewsbury did not go far from it. The visitors were heeling from the scrums and showing willingness to throw the ball around.

Taylor made headway, only to fall to a tackle by Parr. A swift home raid swept into the visitors' quarter, where Trumble was tackled in going through from Chisnall's pass. But in the next minute FISHWICK beat three men in a tricky run for a try which JONES goaled.

There was a caution for Pratt and Grundy before J. CLARK kicked a penalty goal for Dewsbury. The visitors' pressed, but their passing was bad.

Thomas was prominent with two strong bids, and then weak tackling by Smith, following a poor pass by Bailey, let in M. CLARK from a try which J. Clark failed to goal. Chisnall was injured as he turned inside and ran into a tackle. He had to be helped off. Hornets' defence was shaky, and it was fortunate for them that Callaghan ran offside when the visitors were within three yards of the line.

M. Clark again took advantage of slack passing by Hornets, and then Bailey made a brilliant run from over 40 yards but ignored the support of Unsworth, who was unmarked.

Chisnall returned, but resumed on the wing with Smith at out-half. Frequent penalties slowed down play and Hornets did not look as sprightly as in the opening period. J. CLARK kicked a penalty goal to reward a long Dewsbury raid.

HORNETS 2 2—10
DEWSBURY 2 1—7

Hornets restarted without Chisnall. A long kick by Parr put them on the attack, but their handling was bad until Buxton took a pass from BAILEY who again made the break and flashed over near the posts.

JONES kicked the goal and also improved the next try by SMITH, who supported good work by Fishwick and Unsworth, and had an almost clear run, with Dewsbury players waiting for the whistle for what looked like a forward pass.

Bailey was cautioned at a time when Dewsbury were again piling on pressure. Then four players were lectured following a bit of free-for-all.

The game was deteriorating into a scramble. Bailey did more good running but did not get in a pass, and Thomas on the wing was brought into play before T. Callaghan was hauled out for a caution.

Hornets' five forwards were hard-pressed and a further Dewsbury threat came from M. Clark who went near before sending a short pass to J. Clark who was tackled as he took the ball.

Next the visitors' forwards were solidly behind a play-the-ball almost on the home line. Bailey helped to run play to a safer distance and the way he was tackled brought one more caution to a game of cautions and penalties.

Final:

HORNETS 4 4—20
DEWSBURY 2 2—10
TAYLOR try for Dewsbury.

'Saints' fall behind

Championship leaders St. Helens were without Test forward Karallus, who missed his train to Barrow.

On a mudbound pitch St. Helens were five points in arrears in as many minutes. WOOLVERIDGE scored a try near the posts which DAWES converted.

BARROW had more of the ball and might have had a bigger lead had Daws not missed three penalties from favourable positions.

JONES STARRED IN 'A' TEAM

QUINLAN, the Irish wing three-quarter, was included in the Oldham "A" team at Wigan, and Stirrup was at full-back.

Three minutes after the start CUNLIFFE kicked a penalty goal for Wigan "A." Jones troubled Wigan with some well-judged cross-kicks, but a clever thrust by Gentles, Wigan's South African scrum-half, brought a try, scored by CHISNALL, which Cunliffe failed to improve.

Collingwood added a second try when Birtles punted past Stirrup and CUNLIFFE added a goal. Sims shot wide of a penalty award for Oldham "A" and later another shot by him rebounded from one of the posts.

Jones made the best individual effort for Oldham "A" with a brilliant breakaway.

CUNLIFFE kicked another penalty goal for Wigan.

Wigan "A" 3 2—12
Oldham "A" 0 0—0

Early in the second half Needham was tackled close to the corner-flag after a brilliant dash. He made another strong run and kicked to the Wigan line but Cunliffe saved.

Quinlan, who had been badly neglected in the first half now received his first pass of the game, but he was well tackled by Chisnall.

Chisnall then made two fine efforts for Wigan "A" but the Oldham team was now showing much better form and did the bulk of the attacking. Needham and Quinlan caused the Wigan defence trouble several times.

Hatherall scored a try for Oldham "A" and SIMS kicked a goal. BOOTLE responded with a try for Wigan.

MCGUERRIN, BOOTLE and HALLIWELL, added tries for Wigan "A."

Final:

Wigan "A" 3 6—24
Oldham "A" 1 1—5

HAT-TRICK BY GERRY DUFFY

Rossendale started with ten men because centre-forward Cookson had not arrived but after a few minutes reserve player Hawksworth took his place.

Chaytor missed goal by lobbing the ball over the bar, but after eight minutes Reserves did go ahead. Walker put across a low ball to STRINGFELLOW who beat Bland with a soft shot from close range. Springfellow nearly scored a second when his shot beat Bland, who had come well out for his goal line, but luckily for Rossendale, Buchanan raced back to kick off the line.

Bland was injured but quickly recovered.

From a corner, Stringfellow was on the mark again, but this time Bland saved.

Reserves went further ahead when DUFFY raced away after a mistake by the centre-half and easily tapped the ball past the outcoming Bland.

Seconds before half-time, Rossendale reduced the arrears with a goal from right-winger O'LOUGHLIN after a mistake by Norris.

Reserves 2
Rossendale 1

Rossendale, still with ten men, fought back, and after 61 minutes equalised through the left-half, WILLIGHAN, who beat Norris who had come out to gather the ball. Four minutes later, Reserves were back in the lead when DUFFY hammered home a penalty kick following a foul on Springfellow.

Willighan got in a shot from 20 yards which Norris just managed to tip against the crossbar and scramble to safety. But when Willighan tried another shot, Norris could only touch the ball on to the post and GREAVES, running in, put Rossendale on level terms again.

Final:—

Reserves 4
Rossendale 3
Late scorer: DUFFY.

★ Continued from Front Page

OLDHAM RUGBY

start but the scrum-half mistakenly gave the ball to McTigue.

WIGAN MADE A SIMILAR BLUNDER A MINUTE LATER AND FROM IT OLDHAM SCORED. COLLIER WAS GOING DOWN IN A TACKLE AND TRIED A BACK PASS. IT WAS KELLETT WHO TOOK IT TO RACE 25 YARDS TO THE POSTS. GANLEY KICKED THE GOAL.

Oldham made their way to the Wigan quarter from the kick-out but twice lost possession. Both times Keith hooked the ball and fumbled to put Wigan on the attack in Oldham's half.

A third scrum followed and again Keith hooked. Pitchford decided to kick and found touch ten yards inside Wigan's half. Wigan won the scrum and made a break down the right.

Play was held up while the referee talked to Keith and Turner after a tackle on Evans.

Two minutes later Wigan had a try disallowed. Holden took the ball to burst through from close in but the referee ruled he bounced the ball going over the line.

The referee pointed for an Oldham try after a great burst by Little, Davies and Nestor that ended in Ganley going over, but when he looked round the touch-judge had his flag up because Nestor had stepped into touch.

Oldham were going all out for the lead and Etty was sent away on a strong run up the wing. He was held by Ashton and tried a one-handed inside pass that went to a Wigan man instead of Ayres.

In the 55th minute, Ashton was penalised for a deliberate forward pass. Ganley made a gallant kick at goal, but, from 45 yards, the ball fell just short.

A MINUTE LATER OLDHAM TOOK THE LEAD. KELLETT MADE A CRACKING BREAK AND PASSED TO AYRES. THE BALL SHOT INSIDE AGAIN AND DAVIES WENT OVER AT THE POSTS. GANLEY GOALED.

Right after the try Keith left the field with an injured arm, but returned a minute later.

In the 62nd minute Wigan were penalised for scrum feeding. From 45 yards GANLEY increased Oldham's lead to six points with a goal.

Now it was Oldham's cover defence that was putting up a great display. With a constant supply of the ball Wigan piled on the attack. The defence mustered to pull down Sullivan in a great run but they couldn't stop EVANS going over a minute later from a Collier pass. GRIFFITHS kicked the goal.

IN THE 68th MINUTE GANLEY LANDED HIS 100th GOAL OF THE SEASON. THE CHANCE CAME FROM A WIGAN OBSTRUCTION.

Final:—

OLDHAM 6 3—21
WIGAN 3 4—18
Estimated attendance 18,000.

Charlton hurt after scoring

Stan Crowther, Chelsea's mid-week signing from Manchester United, figured prominently in the move which brought his new club a five-minute goal against his former team.

A Crowther pass was flicked on by Greaves to BRABROOK who cut in and scored. Tough-tackling Chelsea held their own against United's close-passing forwards until GOODWIN scored an equaliser.

CHARLTON put United ahead after a brilliant run by Quixall.

Charlton went off three minutes before half-time after a collision with Crowther.

Half-time: Chelsea 1, United 2. Attendance: 45,000.

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Tranmere Rovers Res. 9, Mossley 1

Oldham Youth League Under 21s

Darker 3, Royton Scouts 1.

Townfield 2, Platt's 0.

St. Mary's 6, Limehurst 1.