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In 7 games the winning margin was 20 points or more. The narrowest margin was the 4 points by which tonight's visitors beat Wakefield.

WEMBLEY, 1957

May we remind all those who make the trip to Wembley an annual event that the Challenge Cup Final will be played on May 11th. This may mean that once again a capacity crowd will attend the game and that even tickets for the standing enclosures may all be sold in advance. If you wish to avoid disappointment, apply now for your tickets.

Applications, with a stamped addressed envelope should be sent to the Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

A limited number of seating tickets at 25/–, 15/–, 12/6, and 7/6 are still available. Standing enclosure tickets at 3/– can also be obtained.

IT WOULD BE . . .

. . . possible to pick a fair side from players born in Leigh but playing for other clubs. Start with tonight's Oldham side, for example.

. . . encouraging for the Programme Organiser to receive written suggestions for the improvement of the programme. Then he would know that it is read, even if only by a few.

. . . disastrous if somebody dropped the record of "The Entry of The Gladiators". Or perhaps it might be a good thing.

. . . an attraction if we could see some curtain-raisers between schoolboy teams. Are the youngsters still playing our game ?

. . . a blessing if the Rugby League would call all referees together and instruct them in the uniform application of the play-the-ball. When it is properly applied it should give a chance to both sides to secure possession.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Hello there,

There can only be one topic for me tonight. Congratulations to our boys—and to Hunslet—for their grand display of ripsnorting rugby. It did the heart good and produced more hoarse voices than Leigh has known for a long while.

And tonight the players should know that we are behind them to a man. Come on Leigh supporters, let's make ourselves heard for once in a while. Let us put aside niggling criticisms and selfish grumbles. Tonight our team has a chance to pull off the victory of the season and with our help they'll feel all the more confident. Whether we are winning or losing let there be a continual roar of support.

Leigh may be in blue tonight, but let there be no blues on the terraces.

S.W.

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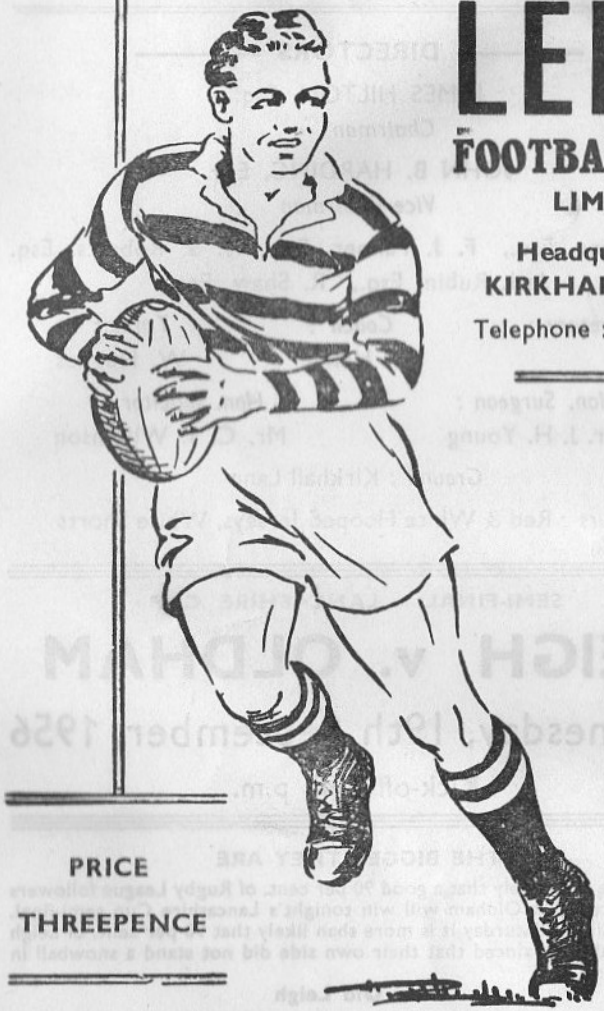
19-9-56

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



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Colours : Red & White Hooped Jerseys, White Shorts

SEMI-FINAL — LANCASHIRE CUP

LEIGH v. OLDHAM

Wednesday, 19th September, 1956

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

THE BIGGER THEY ARE

It is more than likely that a good 90 per cent. of Rugby League followers are convinced that Oldham will win tonight's Lancashire Cup semi-final. Indeed, until last Saturday it is more than likely that 90 per cent. of Leigh fans were also convinced that their own side did not stand a snowball in hell's chance.

Poor Old Leigh

And, reading the form book, who could blame them ? Leigh had made a disappointing start in the League programme. Even their win in the Second Round against Blackpool was dismissed by the press as undistinguished and uninspired. They had used 23 players in 8 games and the backs had been shuffled as often as a pack of cards. Poor old Leigh. They could wave farewell to the Lancashire Cup when they met Oldham.

No Weaknesses

Oldham, said the prophets, were the team of the season. They were unbeaten. Their victims included Halifax, St. Helens and Wigan. With Ganley, Etty, Keith, Cracknell, Stirrup, Pitchford, Little and the rest they were indeed a side without a weakness. Even international O'Grady could not get into the side.

The Case Is Altered

Let us be honest and admit that the above was a reasonably fair interpretation of form until last Saturday. The issue—never so clear cut to the dyed-in-the-wool Leigh fans—is now more uncertain. That Oldham only just beat Wakefield at home and that Leigh shook Hunslet with ripsnorting rugby to record a handsome victory are facts that must make the prophets revise their forecasts.

No Under-estimation

It is certain that Oldham will not under-estimate the probable strength of Leigh's challenge. They have known the taste of cup defeat at Kirkhall Lane and they have seen honours slip out of their grasp when all seemed over bar the shouting. They know that an unbeaten side brings out the best in opponents seeking the honour of being the first to prove that the gods have feet of clay.

What of Leigh ?

As for Leigh, surely every man must have gained in confidence from the Hunslet victory. If they doubted it before, they now know that tries can be scored, that moving the ball will bring results and that they are capable of reaching the heights. Even Hunslet's injuries cannot take away that assurance. The Leigh players have every incentive to run themselves into the ground in search of victory : they are the cup holders, they face an unbeaten side, and they have won their last three games.

Fans Can Help

Here then is an opportunity for Leigh supporters to make the welkin ring. In the second round tie the handful of Blackpool followers seemed to make more noise than all the rest put together, even though their side was losing. What a refreshing change it would be to hear waves of encouragement flowing from home fans for the full 80 minutes. Let the cheers rattle the windows in Gordon Street and cause passers by in Leigh Road to look up in wonder. Let it be a real cup tie.

CLUB NEWS

We are glad to announce that Councillor James Hilton, the Chairman of the Leigh Football Club, is now back home after a short spell in hospital.

:: :: ::

Before the Hunslet game silent tribute was paid to the memory of the late Albert Worrall who played for Leigh from 1921 to 1938. The directors take this opportunity of formally recording their regret at his death and extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Worrall and her son and daughter.

:: :: ::

Sustaining a double fracture of the jaw in the Keighley game, front row forward Freeman is home again after hospital treatment. He can still only take food is liquid form.

:: :: ::

There was quite a long casualty list after the Hunslet game. John Crook's eye injury necessitated stitches and Ernie Hutson had to leave the the field because of a badly blistered heel. Preece of Hunslet had a frac-

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5—KINDON	5—ETTY
6—HOLDEN	6—STIRRUP
7—FALLON	7—PITCHFORD
8—BARTON	8—JACKSON
9—TABERN/DICKENS	9—KEITH
10—OWEN	10—VINES
11—CROOK/HURT	11—LITTLE
12—MARTYN	12—WINSLADE
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M. COATES (Pudsey)

Touch Judges :
R. Welsby (Warrington) J. R. Rathbone (St. Helens)

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tured jaw, Snowdon had concussion and Burnell, the scrum half, had to retire early in the game with damaged knee ligaments.

A GRADELY DO

Leigh 40 Hunslet 17

This was the stuff to give the troops. The stay-at-homes certainly missed a treat. A game that started with Hunslet monopolising the ball for 15 minutes and doing precious little with it flared into a thriller when Leigh, at their first opportunity, opened the scoring with a grand try by Ernie Hutson.

From then on it was all action with Leigh in command. Owen, Crook and Barton repeatedly stampeded the Hunslet cover, while Martyn was irrepressible in a magnificent display of power rugby. Foster, too, was at his cool best and Dickens showed several flashes of inspiration. On this display the pack could not be faulted. Their backing up was at times bewildering.

Behind the pack Fallon, with more of the ball than he has seen for some time, was a live wire and notched two tries to open his scoring account. His new partner, Billy Hutson, showed that he is indeed a stand off half of promise. Fallon and Hutson can make a name for themselves as a first class pair of half backs. In the centre Atherton repeatedly broke through. Apart from one occasion, when a large section of the crowd thought that he ought to have passed to Hutson who appeared to have a clear run to the line, the ex-Orrell R.U. man had a good game. Gibson, too, was more fiery than usual and is only handicapped by lack of weight. With Gullick back in action there is no reason why the directors should not regard the centre problem as solved.

On the wings Hutson ran forcefully to score twice, and Kindon brought the house down with a try that began when he wriggled his way through a ruck of Hunslet jerseys and then left everybody standing with a 40 yards dash to the posts.

Ledgard was his usual efficient self, missing only one shoot at goal, field ing well and generally doing all that was asked of him.

For Hunslet, Burnell, till he left the field, Gunney, who was here, there and everywhere, Clues, although he is not the Clues of yore, and Talbot who stepped in at scrum half were notable.

Outstanding is the memory of Barton, seemingly startled to receive a hard pass from Foster directly in front of him and bursting through a ring of Hunslet players into the clear. Faced by the full back he kicked ahead along the ground and we had the glorious spectacle of this huge forward cavorting in full flight for the touch down for 40 yards. It was a near thing and the crowd loved it.

This was a hard and robust game. That five players left the field with injuries was in no way due to underhand tactics. Indeed, both sides are to be congratulated on preserving the spirit of the game and for providing spectators with an afternoon of thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

FOR THE RECORD

In 9 games, 6 of them League matches, Leigh have scored 153 points from 27 tries, 14 penalty goals and 17 conversions, 31 goals in all. They have conceded 17 tries, 8 penalty goals and 11 conversions, a total of 89 points.

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In League fixtures 15 tries, 20 goals (9 penalties and 11 conversions) have produced 85 points against 76 points from 14 tries 7 penalty goals and 10 conversions.

In 8 appearances Ledgard has notched 52 of the 85 points, his 26 goals being equally divided between penalties and conversions. In League games only he has kicked 20 goals, 11 of them conversions.

In his only appearance in the senior side Hosking converted 6 tries and kicked a penalty goal in the game with Albi.

17 of the 27 tries have been converted.

In League matches Kindon heads the try scorers with 5 in 4 games. Atherton, Fallon and E. Hutson have 2 each. Crook, Gibson, Holden and Hurt also scored.

In all games Kindon has scored 8 tries, Kitchen 4, Hutson Atherton and Holden 3 each and Crook and Fallon 2 each. Gibson, Hurt, Martyn and Murphy have one each.

Appearancss :—9. Martyn, Owen. 8. Foster, Holden, Ledgard. 7. Crook, Fallon. 6. Atherton, Kindon, Murphy. 5. Gibson, Kitchen, Tabern. 4. Barton, Dickens, Hurt. 3. Baxter, E. Hutson, O'Brien. 2. Freeman, McFarlane. 1. Hosking, W. Hutson, Reakes.

STILL MORE POINTS

The spate of points in League matches shows no signs of declining. 586 coming from 15 games on Saturday. This was an average of 37.8 per game.

Wigan's 44 was the day's highest score, but 9 teams scored 20 or more and 6 of these had at least 30.

The highest combined score was 58 (Wigan v Liverpool City), the lowest 23 (Hull v St. Helens). Only 6 teams failed to reach double figures.

There have been no drawn games so far this season.