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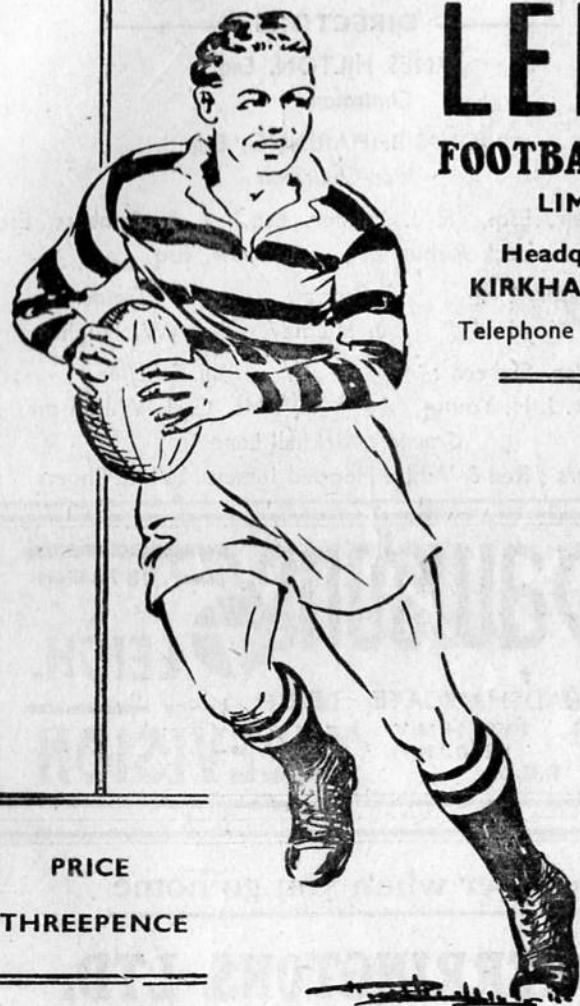
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2nd April 6-4-57
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LEIGH v. OLDHAM

Saturday, 6th April, 1957

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Twenty one today ! This is the twenty first programme I have compiled this season and, having attained my majority, I feel justified in using the personal approach for once, if only for a few lines.

I ought to be celebrating, of course. Instead I am tearing what little hair I have left and wondering just how long I can put off our printer.

You see these programmes have to be in the printer's hands by the Wednesday before the game. It is now Tuesday evening and this is as far as I've got. If that cursed penalty had not given Joe Ball the chance to match Fallon's glorious dropped goal I should have had the job finished by Sunday. I certainly should not be wondering how I was going to go straight from the replay to a meeting, arrive home about 10 o'clock, write an account of the game and have the whole shooting match delivered to Collins and Darwell's clutching hands by clocking-on time on Thursday.

Even the appearance and scoring tables can't be brought up to date, and since Oldham have visited Kirkhall Lane three times already this season there is precious little to say about the visitors.

Still, not to worry—I'm told that no one reads the programme.

WELL DONE, LEIGH !

Yes, well done Leigh, even though Barrow did win the replay at Swinton on Wednesday evening. To have won through to the semi-final and then forced the best team in the League to struggle for victory was a notable performance. There was no disgrace in defeat.

One thing is certain, the clash of Barrow and Leeds at Wembley ought to provide a game worthy of the setting.

One can, of course, cry over spilt milk and start listing the 'ifs'. If Kindon had been fit—if Hosking had been on the target with those two penalty kicks—if Chadwick had been moved to stand-off earlier in the game—if the handling had been more sure—if Foster's passes had been crisper . . . but why go on ? Leigh lost bravely to a good side.

Let us rather remember the good things that helped to make this game better than the one at Central Park. Who will forget Rea snapping up the ball near his own 25 and charging into the empty spaces of the Leigh half with the line seemingly at his mercy ? It seemed all over bar the shouting but suddenly there was Chadwick streaking in pursuit and overhauling the Barrow centre on the line.

Recall the first Leigh try scored by Ernie Hutson to celebrate his inclusion in the side on Kindon's withdrawal. Holden's feeding pass was perfectly timed and was typical of his generally sound performance.

Remember Hosking's opportunism and the "muck or nettles" attack that followed the second try that kept Leigh within the bounds of victory.

Above all remember those bonny forwards who strove mightily in the loose with unsparing energy and endeavour. Let us pay tribute to Owen, Tabern, Robinson, Martyn, Hurt and Foster, the pack that serves Leigh so well. It is their soundness and energy that has laid the foundation for Leigh's remarkable progress since the onset of 1957.

While there was plenty of room at Station Road the gate was very satisfactory considering the time of the kick-off. Coaches from all parts of Lancashire indicated that the game had captured the interest of Rugby League followers. Judging by the remarks after the game there were few who considered their journey wasted.

Today Leigh face Oldham and there ought to be a goodly crowd. Can we not, for once, produce such a roar of welcome as will really express our appreciation of the way in which our lads have put Leigh back on the Rugby League map?

FIRST INSTALMENT

Thousands of Barrovians left Central Park last Saturday convinced that they had been robbed of victory and loudly and colourfully proclaimed the fact. Thousands of Leigh supporters did the same. Since the bandit in both cases was the referee it would appear that Mr. Coates should play Leeds at Wembley.

In our opinion Mr. Coates can look back on the game with the satisfaction of a job well done. His martinet control left no room for doubt that he intended to be boss. He was on the spot when the disputed decisions were given, and although the game was hard and vigorous it never got out of hand as it might easily have done with an official less firm than Mr. Coates. Both sides are to be congratulated on the spirit in which the struggle was waged.

They are to be congratulated, too, for providing the grand crowd with an afternoon of exciting, if nerve-racking, entertainment.

A draw was probably the most appropriate result. After all Barrow did cross the Leigh line on three occasions. They did attack with their strongest weapons, the centres and wings. They did try every trick they knew. Leigh likewise had two near misses and they, too, used the most powerful weapon in their armoury, the forwards. It was a tough, desperate battle fought to a pattern in which defences were supreme and superb.

Horne was soon aware that the Leigh cover was wellnigh impregnable in the centre of the field, the Leigh forwards saw to that. In an attempt to reach his wings he often missed out two men with those long one-armed passes, but even when Castle and Lewthwaite seemed clear there was always a Leigh forward incredibly there to help Chadwick and Kindon. Many Barrow supporters must have wondered why Horne never tried a diagonal kick to the corners.

As for Leigh, what can one say of a pack of forwards that took the ball from one "25" to the other in a series of bursts ending in shaking tackles and yet were resilient enough to be wherever danger threatened. What can one say of Owen, Martyn and Hurt who were three rip-roaring musketeers for eighty long minutes. And Foster, 24 that day and playing with all the cool skill of a veteran, bore a terrific responsibility with success.

Kindon's one chance was thwarted while Chadwick excelled in defence. In the second half he brought off three successive tackles on Castle that must have made the Barrow wingman wonder what he had met. Hosking had the courage to make the occasional sally and one particular kick for touch was a beauty that left Ball vainly teetering on the touch line.

Fallon and Harris had a rare tussle and, of course, it was the Leigh scrum half who put his side in the lead with the dropped goal—a shot from Horne's own locker. Toohey played hard, as did the centres, but it was the forwards who bore the brunt and deservedly attracted attention.

One vociferous Barrow fan was very indignant that Leigh held the ball for long spells. "Barrow play open football", he bellowed. One could not help reminding him of a certain Lancashire Cup game played at Kirkhall Lane of an evening when Barrow suited the tactics to the situation and closed the game up completely.

Incidentally, is it not time this latest effort to take advantage of the play-the-ball rule was nipped in the bud. Certain Barrow players took a mighty long time getting to their feet after they had tackled. It paid dividends, of course.

TODAY'S VISITORS

Oldham should be quite familiar with Kirkhall Lane by now. They come today as League leaders and with hopes for the Lancashire League.

We are all familiar with the high calibre of the side and we know too that they will be all out to avenge the defeat in the second round of the Challenge Cup. They can be reasonably sure that they will not have to face such atrocious conditions today.

Without making excuses, Leigh will have a hard task made harder by the two games against Barrow.

Whatever the outcome Oldham are welcome visitors and we are sure to be well entertained.

MEDAL FOR SALE

The following letter has been received from Mr. R. Molineaux, 46 Seddon St., Radcliffe, Lancs.

Dear Mr. Hilton,

I have in my possession a medal which I understand was presented to Mr. Herbert Eckersley to commemorate the formation of the Leigh R.L.F.C. This medal was left to me by my father who in turn received it from Mr. Eckersley who lived with us for some time at Blackpool.

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- 2—CHADWICK
- 3—ATHERTON
- 4—HOLDEN
- 5—KINDON
- 6—TOOHEY/HUTSON, W.
- 7—FALLON
- 8—ROBINSON
- 9—TABERN
- 10—OWEN
- 11—ECKERSLEY
- 12—MARTYN
- 13—FOSTER

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- 3—DAVIES
- 4—AYRES
- 5—ETTY
- 6—DALEY
- 7—STIRRUP
- 8—JACKSON
- 9—KEITH
- 10—VINES
- 11—LITTLE
- 12—WINSLADE
- 13—TURNER

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Touch Judges :

F. S. Rowley (Oldham)

T. W. Geering (Warrington)

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Now it is my intention to dispose of this medal as it has no sentimental value to me. I am writing to enquire if the club or some member would like to purchase it, as I should prefer to dispose of it to be preserved rather than for it to be melted as old gold. I understand it has a gold value in the region of £3 10s.

If anyone is interested I could arrange to see them at a home match at Leigh as I come over occasionally. We were originally a Leigh family and still have friends and relatives there.

Yours faithfully,

R. Molineaux.

FOR THE RECORD

(excluding Cup Semi-Final Replay)

GAMES PLAYED

	Home				Away				Total			
	P	W	L	D	P	W	L	D	P	W	L	D
League	16	12	3	1	14	5	9	—	30	17	12	1
Cup	4	3	1	—	2	1	—	1	6	4	1	1
Charity	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Friendly	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	21	16	4	1	17	6	10	1	38	22	14	2

POINTS SCORED

	LEIGH				OPPONENTS							
	Points				Total							
	Pen.	Con.	Gls.	Tries	H	A	Total	Pen.	Con.	Gls.	Tries	Pts.
L.	57	60	117	115	355	224	579	38	47	85	80	410
Cp.	13	6	20	14	56	26	82	28	2	10	9	47
Ch.	1	—	1	1	—	5	5	1	1	2	2	10
Fr.	1	6	7	8	38	—	38	—	—	—	—	—
	72	72	145	138	449	255	704	47	50	97	91	467

L.—League. Cp.—Cup. Ch.—Charity. Fr.—Friendly.

GOALS

	League			Cup			Others			Total		
	P	C	T	P	C	T	P	C	T	P	C	T
Ledgard	34	37	71	6	2	8	1	—	1	41	39	80
Hosking	23	23	46	7	4	11	1	6	7	31	33	64
Fallon (1 drop)												

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APPEARANCES AND TRIES

	League (30)		Cup (6)		Others (2)		Total (38)	
	Apps.	Tries	Apps.	Tries	Apps.	Tries	Apps.	Tries
Atherton	16	7	6	—	1	1	23	8
Barton	3	—	2	—	1	—	6	—
Baxter	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Bright	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chadwick	7	3	3	—	—	—	10	3
Clarke	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Crook	11	2	2	—	2	1	15	3
Davies	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Dickens	7	—	2	—	1	—	10	—
Eckersley	10	2	—	—	—	—	10	2
Fallon	27	9	6	1	1	—	34	10
Foster	26	1	6	—	1	—	33	1
Freeman	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gibson	21	8	6	1	—	—	27	9
Holden	26	11	2	2	2	—	30	13
Hosking	15	3	4	—	1	—	20	3
Hurt	20	3	4	1	1	—	25	4
Hutson, E.	5	5	2	1	—	—	7	6
Hutson, W.	8	5	—	—	—	—	8	5
Kay	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Kindon	26	31	6	2	1	2	33	35
Kitchen	4	1	—	—	2	4	6	5
Ledgard	18	—	2	—	1	—	21	—
Martyn	23	10	6	3	2	—	31	13
McFarlane	8	4	—	—	1	—	9	4
Morgan	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Murphy	4	—	—	—	2	1	6	1
O'Brien	2	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Owen	23	3	6	2	2	—	31	5
Reakes	2	2	1	—	1	—	4	2
Rhoden	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Rigby	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Robinson	20	1	4	—	—	—	24	1
Tabern	23	2	4	—	1	—	28	2
Toohy	16	2	4	1	—	—	20	3

Club Record. League and Cup 34. All games 37.

FIXTURES and RESULTS 1956-57

1956	First Team	F	A	1956	'A' Team	F	A
Aug. 11	Widnes (C.C.)	A	5 10	Aug. 11	Widnes (C.C.)	H	20 0
18	York	A	5 10	18	Oldham...	H	23 16
20	Keighley (7-0)	H	21 11	25	Swinton	A	5 10
25	Swinton	H	7 10	Sept. 1	Lancs. Cnty Shield		
29	Oldham (7-0)	A	0 20	8			
Sept. 1	Lancs. Cup			15	Warrington (F)	A	8 17
8	Bramley	A	12 8	22	Wigan (F)	H	16 18
15	Hunslet	H	40 17	29			
22	Wakefield T.	A	18 37	Oct. 6	Blackpool B.	H	51 0
29	Bramley	H	34 5	13	Wigan	A	8 21
Oct. 6	Blackpool B.	A	43 14	20	Rochdale H.	H	20 2
13	Wigan	H	11 17	27	Liverpool C.	A	16 11
20	Rochdale H.	A	13 18	Nov. 3	St. Helens	A	...
27	Liverpool C.	H	20 11	10			
Nov. 3	Wakefield T.	H	28 17	17	Workington T.	H	61 2
10				24	Rochdale (F)	A	...
17	Workington T.	A	10 15	Dec. 1	Whitehaven	A	...
24	Halifax	H	30 5	8			
Dec. 1	Whitehaven	H	21 10	15	Oldham (F)	A	14 6
8	Keighley	A	17 23	22	Widnes	A	...
15				25			
22	Widnes	H	...	26	Warrington	H	...
25	St. Helens	H	7 7	29	Salford	H	...
26	Warrington	A	...	1957			
29	Salford	A	8 32	Jan. 1	St. Helens	H	...
1957				5	Salford	A	...
Jan. 1	St. Helens	A	14 18	12	Barrow	H	...
5	Salford	H	22 8	19	Blackpool B.	A	...
12	Barrow	A	11 12	26	Swinton	H	...
19	Blackpool B.	H	43 9	Feb. 2			
26	Swinton	A	24 21	9	Warrington (F)	H	...
Feb. 2	Halifax	A	18 8	16	Barrow	A	...
9	R.L. Cup 1st Rd.		17 11	23	Wigan (F)	A	...
16	Barrow	H	13 15	Mar. 2	Rochdale H.	A	...
23	R.L. Cup 2nd Rd.		5 0	9	Wigan	H	...
Mar. 2	Rochdale H.	H	35 5	16	Workington T.	A	...
9	Wigan	A	...	23	Liverpool C.	H	...
16	Workington T.	H	20 11	30	Widnes	H	...
23	Liverpool C.	A	31 11	April 6	Oldham...	A	...
April 6	Oldham	H	...	13	Oldham (F)	H	...
13	Hunslet	A	...	19	Whitehaven	H	...
19	Whitehaven	A	...	20			
20	York	H	...	22	Warrington	A	...
22	Warrington	H	...		(F)—Friendly		

Kick-off Times. Sat. Aug. 18th to Frid. Nov. 16th, 3 p.m.; Sat. Nov. 17th to Frid. Jan. 18th, 2-30 p.m.; Sat. Jan. 19th to end of Season, 3 p.m.



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