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OLDHAM v WIGAN

Sat 1st September ¹²

Kick-off 3-00 pm ²⁰



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Programme 6p

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Dr. D. GADSDEN

Coach:

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Assistant Coach:

TERRY GORMAN

Physiotherapist:

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BRIAN BATTY OF THE DAILY MAIL

The most encouraging start to the season is the obvious sign that Syd Hynes has recaptured the form that earned him a regular Great Britain place.

The talented Leeds centre has had a rough time with referees and injuries in recent seasons but he believes he is a different player today.

He has shed half a stone, regained his speed and is anxious to prove his ability again.

This must be welcome news for the Great Britain selectors, particularly with a vacancy in the centre following the apparent retirement of World Cup star John Walsh.

The information will be received with far less enthusiasm in Australia where I remember Hynes playing some great rugby in helping Britain regain the Ashes.

He touched top form and proved he was fearless when he retaliated against big Artie Beetson to be sent off in the Second Test when Britain had the game won.

He tangled with Australia again in the World Cup a few months later and was dismissed in the final after a clash with Billy Smith.

But the most upsetting incident was when he got his marching orders at Wembley when Leeds lost to Leigh in 1971.

I asked Syd if he felt he could live down this murky side of his chequered past.

'As you get older you learn to think twice before getting involved and while I will still play it hard I won't be looking for any trouble,' the 29-year-old Hynes replied.

'I feel a different person now and just as sharp as when we toured Australia. It's certainly my aim to try and win a place against Australia and make a second tour.

'I just hope the selectors have not forgotten me and will give me a chance.'

If the selectors need any convincing Hynes' four-try start to the season they might care to consider his club skipper's views.

'I rate Syd the world's No. 1 centre on this form, says Alan Hardisty. 'He really looks his old self and he's got the skill and the speed to trouble the Aussies.

'I can't see how the selectors can ignore him.'

And neither can I for only a surprising slump in form or injury should affect his chances. For we need his skill and strength in the middle for what could be a perfectly balanced partnership with Salford's powerful Chris Hesketh.

Salford star Chris was another success in the World Cup and he upset the Australians so much one paper described him afterwards: 'As a killer centre.'

I would hardly think he merited such a title but they don't come any harder pound for pound these days.

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JOHN PLAYER RUGBY LEAGUE YEARBOOK 1973-74

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On the Inside with **DAVE PARKER**

It seems surprising that Tony Colloby, who said he was retiring at the end of last season with Salford, should restart the season with Barrow. Perhaps with the pending arrival at the back end of last season of Keith Fielding he thought it was time he should leave the Willows scene while still at the top. The £500 Barrow paid was exactly the amount Blackpool paid for the Cumbrian wing or centre from Workington. Colloby will now be nearer his thriving joinery business in Kendal.

Mick Rothery, a second row forward Dave Cox took across to Huyton from Dewsbury Celtic, has commenced training at Crown Flatt with a view to having trials.

Alan Childs, the Dewsbury centre injured in the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup at McLaren Field, Bramley, last season, will see a specialist next week about his hearing and balancing problems caused by the deafness. It is very doubtful if the talented Childs will play again.

Dewsbury look like going into the record books again very shortly with the benefit this season of Trevor (Dick) Lowe, their policeman-cum blindside prop. Dick, who actually is FC 49 in the Dewsbury branch of the West Yorkshire Constabulary, plays as an amateur, and it must go down in history as the first benefit for such a player.

Roy Lester, Leigh back row forward, who left the club and his family behind to seek a well paid job in Holland, has returned after only six weeks. With the Hilton Park club being so badly racked with injuries and holiday calls during the first weeks of this campaign his return will be welcomed.

Their powerful county and international winger Joe Walsh will soon be back at the club after his unfortunate stay in prison.

Leeds last week actually had the full limit of players in training — 50. It looks there as though some players are going to be disappointed before the season is out, although coach Eric Ashton is confident Leeds will be in all the major competitions, and that means 61 games on his reckoning.

Halifax have taken Spotland Rangers (Rochdale) coloured winger Vince Loft-house on trials. Loft-house is very fast, and it is surprising Rochdale and Oldham have not spotted him. He was recommended to the Thrum Hallers by their long-serving utility back Gordon Baker.

Former Oldham junior loose forward Derek Fletcher broke a finger in last week's league encounter with St. Helens, just when he was being recognised as the most promising forward at Leigh.

Both Dave Weavill and Martin Calvert, two former Huddersfield juniors, are not too happy with the state of affairs at Fartown and have seen the committee.



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Rugby Quiz

1. When did the Wigan club change into a limited company?
2. What were the results of Oldham's matches against Wigan last season?
3. How many points did Wigan's Jim Sullivan score in his career?
4. What is the record attendance for Bramley's McLaren Field ground?
5. Which eight Wigan players toured Australasia in 1950?

1. May, 1921.
2. Oldham won both games, 12-9 at Wigan and 11-6 at Oldham.
3. 6,192 consisting of 2,955 goals and 94 tries.
4. 7,600 v. Bradford Northern in 1967.
5. Jackie Cunliffe, Joe Egan, Ken Gee, Martin Ryan, Jack Hilton, Ernie Ashcroft, Gordon Ratcliffe and Tommy Bradshaw.



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OLDHAM

12

Blue & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—MURPHY M
- 2—ELLIOTT M.
- 3—LARDER P.
- 4—WAINWRIGHT A.
- 5—O'BRIEN C. 3 tries
- 6—GATLEY R.
- 7—GORMAN T.
- 8—CLAWSON T.
- 9—TAYLOR K.
- 10—ASHCROFT K.
- 11—DALEY A. try
- 12—MUNRO G.
- 13—FARRELL J.

- 14—Davies
- 15—Hall

Referee: P. GERAGHTY
(York)

WIGAN

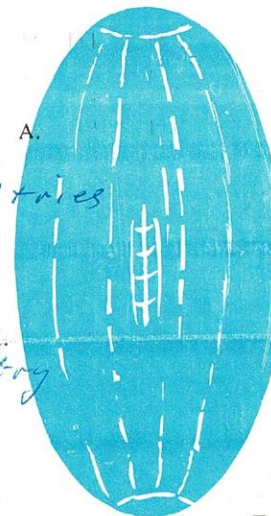
20

Red & White Hooped Jerseys
White Shorts

- 1—O'LOUGHLIN Kevin
- 2—VIGO G.
- 3—HILL D.
- 4—FRANCIS W.
- 5—O'LOUGHLIN Keiron
- 6—AYRES W. T
- 7—NULTY J. 4 goals
- 8—BENCE A.
- 9—CLARKE C.
- 10—WATTS D. 2 tries
- 11—IRVING R. T
- 12—SMETHURST P.
- 13—CUNNINGHAM E.
- 14—WHITTLE J.
- 15—HOLLINGWORTH T

Touch Judges

J. Entwistle (Manchester) Red
K. Spencer (Warrington) Orange



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OUR VISITORS . . .

Today Wigan pay their first visit to Watersheddings in the Lancashire Cup Competition since season 1965-66. On that occasion Wigan met Oldham in a quarter-final tie when Harry Major made his debut for Wigan after signing from Oldham. It was rather an unhappy debut for Major who was sent off as Wigan crashed to a 25-13 defeat. Oldham scorers that evening were Tommy Warburton (2) and Bob Irving tries whilst John Winton landed eight goals. Oldham have met Wigan since in the Lancashire Cup for both sides won their way through to the final in 1966. On their way to that 1966 final Oldham beat Swinton 16-13, Salford 7-2 and Blackpool Borough 15-5 whilst Wigan overcame Leigh 18-4, St. Helens 11-9 and Warrington 16-7. The final was staged at Station Road, Swinton and attracted a crowd of 14,193. The teams lined up as follows:

OLDHAM: Stan McLeod; Terry Dolly, Jim McCormack, John Donovan, Trevor Simms; Tommy Warburton, Tom Canning; Ken Wilson, Kevin Taylor, Geoff Fletcher, Peter Smethurst, Bob Irving and Mick Mooney. Substitutes: Peter Holroyd and Alan Ogden.

WIGAN: Ray Ashby; Billy Boston, Eric Ashton, Keith Holden, Trevor Lake; Cliff Hill, Frank Parr; Danny Gardiner, Colin Clarke, John Stephens, Laurie Gilfedder, Geoff Lyon and Harry Major. Substitutes: David Stephens and Tony Stephens.

Wigan went on to win the cup 16-13 after leading 11-4 at half-time in a most entertaining game, the last game, incidentally, to be played before the introduction of the controversial 'four tackle' rule. This win for Wigan gave Billy Boston and Eric Ashton a full complement of medals and as both had also represented their country both in World Cup matches and on Australian Tours it was a memorable occasion for these two fine players who could then say that they had won every honour available. Wigan's scorers in this game were Billy Boston, Eric Ashton, John Stephens and Laurie Gilfedder, tries, whilst Gilfedder also landed two goals. Oldham's try was scored by John Donovan and Tommy Warburton kicked five goals.

This afternoon Oldham will be attempting to pull off their first win in this competition since 1963 when they reached the final. Since that Lancashire Cup Final of five years ago Oldham have fallen at the first hurdle against Swinton twice and Salford twice. The winners of this afternoon's match are rewarded with a bye into the semi-finals and an away match probably against St. Helens which has to be played before September 30th. The final this season will be staged on October 13th. In addition to this, all the first round winners of both the Lancashire and Yorkshire Cups plus the side losing by the narrowest margin in the Lancashire Cup will enter the new Captain Morgan Rum Trophy so both sides will have plenty of incentive to do well this afternoon.

Wigan Statistics

Colours: Red and White hooped jerseys, white shorts.

Ground: Central Park.

Founded: 1872.

League Champions: 1908-09, 1921-22, 1925-26, 1933-34, 1943-44, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52 and 1959-60.

Championship runners-up: 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1923-24, 1940-41 and 1970-71.

First Division Championship runners-up: 1963-64.

Challenge Cup winners: 1923-24, 1928-29, 1947-48, 1950-51, 1957-58, 1958-59 and 1964-65.

Challenge Cup runners-up: 1910-11, 1943-44, 1945-46, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1965-66 and 1969-70.

Lancashire Champions: 1908-09, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1920-21, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1925-26, 1940-41, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1949-50, 1951-52, 1958-59, 1961-62 and 1969-70.

Runners-up: 1909-10, 1921-22, 1924-25, 1928-29, 1930-31, 1933-34, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1959-60 and 1968-69.

Lancashire Cup winners: 1905-06, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1928-29, 1938-39, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1966-67 and 1971-72.

Runners-up: 1913-14, 1914-15, 1925-26, 1927-28, 1930-31, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1945-46, 1953-54, and 1957-58.

Floodlit Cup winners: 1968-69.

Runners-up: 1969-70.

League Leaders' Trophy winners: 1970-71.

Attendance record: 47,747 v. St. Helens (league) in 1958-59.

Goal kicking record: 178 by Fred Griffiths in 1961-62.

Try-scoring record: 64 by Brian Nordgren in 1949-50.

Point scoring record: 172 goals, 18 tries, 398 points by Colin Tyrer, 1969-70.

Record win: 116-0 v. Flimby & Fothergill (Cup), 1921-22.

Record defeat: 3-58 v. Leeds (league), 1972-73.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	18—Leeds	A
	25—Dewsbury	H
Sept.	1—Wigan, Lancs. Cup	H
	8—Bramley	H
	15—Player's Competition	
	22—Wakefield	A
	26—Castleford	H
	29—Wigan	A
Oct.	6—Whitehaven	H
	14—Dewsbury	A
	19—AUSTRALIA	H
	27—Featherstone	H
Nov.	2—St. Helens	A
	11—Widnes	H
	25—Wigan	H
Dec.	1—Featherstone	A
	8—St. Helens	H
	16—Warrington	A
	23—Leigh	H
	26—Rochdale H.	H
	30—Whitehaven	A
1974		
Jan.	1—Salford	A
	6—Hull K.R.	H
	13—Leigh	A
	20—Warrington	H
Feb.	2—Challenge Cup (1)	
	10—Bramley	A
	16—Wakefield	H
	23—Challenge Cup (2)	
Mar.	2—Leeds	H
	9—Challenge Cup (3)	
	17—Widnes	A
	23—Chal. Cup (Semi-final)	
	31—Hull K.R.	A
Apr.	7—Castleford	A
	13—Salford	H
	15—Rochdale H.	A

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

1973		
Aug.	11—Rochdale	H
	18—Barrow	H
	25—Workington	A
	29—Rochdale	
	(1st leg Shield)	H
Sept.	8—Rochdale	
	(2nd leg Shield)	A
	22—Barrow	A
	29—Wigan	H
Oct.	13—Swinton	H
	20—Swinton	A
	27—Workington	A
Nov.	3—St. Helens	H
	9—Widnes	A
	17—Huyton	A
	24—Wigan	A
Dec.	1—Barrow	H
	7—St. Helens	A
	16—Warrington	H
	22—Leigh	A
Jan.	4—Salford	A
	12—Workington	H
	18—Warrington	A
	23—Salford	H
	26—Swinton	H
Feb.	9—Huyton	A
	23—Huyton	H
Mar.	2—Barrow	A
	9—Huyton	H
	13—Leigh	H
	16—Widnes	H
	23—Rochdale	A
	29—Swinton	A
Apr.	6—Workington	H

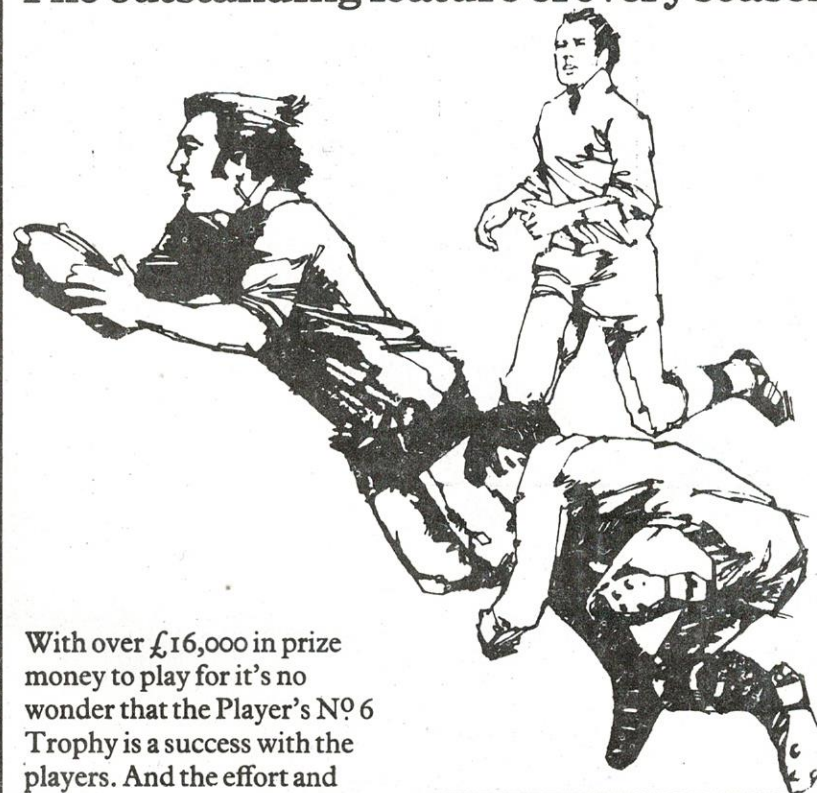
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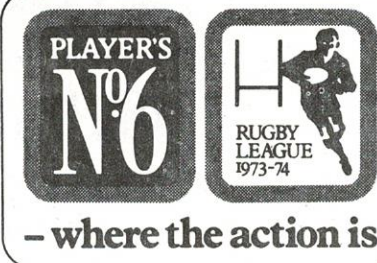
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