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Oldham Football Club, WATERSHEDDINGS GROUND.

Lancashire v. Yorkshire

Monday, Sept. 25th, 1933.

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

CLUB CHAT.

A Brilliant Victory. Only a super optimist would have openly advanced our chances of defeating Leeds last Saturday, especially when our visitors chalked up seven points in the first quarter of an hour. Certainly that score was all against the run of the play up to that period, and just for a time it looked that fortune was dead against us. Once, however, we had started our score peg moving, we never looked back, and when at half time we had got within a point of our Yorkshire rivals, we began to visualize a victory. The team that had performed so gallantly in the defeat of St. Helens the previous Monday evening, quite justified the confidence which our Committee reposed in them when they selected the thirteen en bloc. True, certain circumstances had a compelling influence in that respect owing to the number of players on the injured list; but the manner in which the team responded against Leeds was most praiseworthy. They were all over the Headingley backs in the second half, and the really brilliant forward display quite upset the visitors calculations. Very early in the second half we took the lead, and never for a moment looked like losing it; in fact it became a question as to what would be the extent of our victory. It is a long time since we saw such brilliant forward play. To have two such forwards as "Bill" Thomas and Hodgson on the injured list, and yet to be able to give the Leeds front rank such a whacking speaks volumes for our forward strength at the present juncture. Whilst every one of the half dozen did heroic work, perhaps one may be pardoned for giving a mead of praise to Ashworth. We have never seen the Cumbrian give a finer display. His display was really wonderful. Sadler also delighted the crowd, and when

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FIXTURES 1933-34.

1st TEAM FIXTURES						"A" TEAM FIXTURES					
Date	Opponents	T	F	A		Date	Opponents	T	F	A	
1933-34						1933-34					
Aug. 26	Broughton R'g'rs.	H	3-30	31	0	Sept. 2	Rochdale Hornets	A	H	3-30	19 7
Sept. 2	Rochdale Hornets	A		15	6	16	St. Helens "A"	H	3-30	33	7
9	Australians	H	3-30	6	38	23	Leeds "A"	A			
16	St. Helens	A		8	25	Oct. 7	Swinton "A"	A			
18	St. Helens	H	6-15	16	3	14	Salford "A"	H	3-30		
23	Leeds	H	3-30	24	7	21	Bright'n R'ng'rs "A"	A			
25	Lancs. v. Yorks.		5-45			28	Warrington "A"	H	3-0		
30	Widnes					Nov. 4	Widnes "A"	A			
	(1st Rd. Lancs. Cup)	H	3-30			11	Barrow "A"	H	3-0		
Oct. 3	Rochdale H. (I.C.)	A	6-0			18	Salford "A"	A			
7	Hunslet	H	3-30			25	Leigh "A"	H	2-45		
14	Salford	A				Dec. 9	Wakefield "A"	H	2-30		
21	Keighley	H	3-0			16	Barrow "A"	A			
28	Warrington	A				23	Lond. Highfield "A"	H	2-30		
Nov. 4	Widnes	H	3-0			26	Broughton R'g'rs "A"	H	2-30		
11	Barrow	A				30	Wigan "A"	H	2-30		
18	Salford	H	2-45			Jan. 6	Warrington "A"	A			
25	Leigh	A				13	Leigh "A"	A			
Dec. 2	Batley	H	2-45			20	Leeds "A"	H	2-45		
9	Wakefield	A				27	Lond. Highfield "A"	A			
16	Barrow	H	2-30			Feb. 3	York "A"	H	3-0		
20	London Highfield	A				18	St. Helens "A"	A			
	(Wednesday)	A				Mar. 3	Widnes "A"	H	3-30		
25	Swinton (Xmas Dy)	H	2-30			10	Wakefield "A"	A			
26	Hull Kingston R.	A				17	St. Helens Recs. "A"	H	3-30		
	Boxing Day	A				24	Wigan "A"	A			
30	Wigan	A				31	Swinton "A"	H	3-30		
Jan. 1	Hull Kingston R.	H	2-30			April 2	St. Helens Recs. "A"	A			
6	Warrington	H	2-30			7	Rochdale Hornets	A			
13	Leigh	H	2-45			14	York "A"	A			
20	Batley	A									
27	London Highfield	H	3-0								
Feb. 3	Hunslet	A									
10	Challenge Cup 1 rd.										
17	Keighley	A									
24	Halifax	H	3-30								
Mar. 3	Widnes	A									
10	Wakefield	H	3-30								
17	St. Helens Recs.	A									
24	Wigan	H	3-30								
30	Swinton (G.F.)	A									
31	Halifax	A									
April 2	St. Helens Recs.	H	3-30								
8	Leeds	A									
14	Rochdale Hornets	H	3-30								
14	Broughton Rangers	A									

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he does get properly acclimatised to our game he will be a rare handful. Our backs were also fine. They may not have been so brilliant individually as some of the Leeds back division, but taken all round they were far ahead of Leeds in combined movements. Foote did some wonderful work behind the scrum, and Reynolds combined with him splendidly. Bardsley frequently tricked the opposition, and nothing but praise is due to the youngster Whitworth, who as Bardsley's colleague in the centre gave a fine display, and scored a really fine try. That was just the thing that was required to give him confidence. Had his confidence not been lacking he would have scored in the first half when he handed on to the wing much too soon. Tommy Rees also had a good game, and, in addition, to his fine goal kicking, he got in several fine runs. We were somewhat disappointed with the play of the Leeds back division. True they were behind well beaten forwards; but neither Busch nor Ralph played up to their great reputation. Foote and Reynolds saw to that. Ralph took the ball very badly at times; and O'Rourke was also guilty of dropping a few passes. All round Leeds were decisively beaten, and their officials readily admitted that fact when the game was over.

The Australian Although it may appear somewhat late in the day, we **Visit.** cannot let the opportunity go by without a reference to the visit of the Australian team to our ground. What a wonderful time we had! Even though we got such a "hammering" as no team from overseas has ever given us previously, we shall nevertheless long retain memories of their visit. As to the game we were well and truly beaten. Their backs were far too big and fast for our rear division, and they fully

Next Saturday's Next Saturday we are due to entertain Widnes in the Cup Tie. first round of the Lancashire Cup, and on our present form we should just about win.

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8. Silcock (Widnes)
9. Armitt (Swinton)
10. ~~Liptrot~~ (St. Helens Rees.)
11. Arkwright (St. Helens)
12. Prescott (Leigh)
13. Beswick Swinton)

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emphasised the old saying that "a good big 'un" can always lick a good little 'un." Our visitors revealed speed and resource which even surprised their two managers and their colleagues who witnessed the game, and since that occasion they have now improved beyond all recognition from what was seen of them in their first two games, when our Press critics were perhaps a little "too previous" in weighing up form. Our forwards strove valiantly against the Aussies, but when the ball became loose, there was always danger for us. Still, our crowd enjoyed the game, and we are very grateful that they turned up in such great force and gave our overseas visitors such a rousing welcome. Practically the whole of the Australian visitors were at Oldham, their party numbering 33, and we are pleased to know that they were delighted beyond measure at the glorious time they spent here. The letter of appreciation which they sent to our President, Mr. James Parkinson, bore ample testimony to that effect. There has been a suggestion of a second game. The "Aussies" would be delighted if that could possibly be arranged.

Even with We met with our first League rebuff of the season when the "Saints." we visited the Knowsley Road ground to meet the "Saints" of St. Helens last Saturday. We would not have minded that defeat so much had our players not had such bad luck in the matter of accidents. Both "Bill" Thomas, our captain, and Hodgson were so badly damaged that they were unable to turn out on the Monday, and Williams had to quit the arena at half time, suffering from concussion. On his return journey his face gave one a very vivid reminder of the hard state of the ground. Sadler also received a very nasty bang on the hard surface early in the first half, and he was more or less in a semi-dazed condition the

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remainder of the game. That will show that our team laboured under difficulties. Still at half time, we were only one point behind and had the sun and wind in our favour for the next half. Unfortunately, however, we had to play the whole of the second half without Williams, and that gave the "Saints" a great advantage, of which, naturally, they made full use. Half the St. Helens points were scored in the last quarter, and though they deserved to win by reason of their superior back play, the final score certainly flattered them. We had to make drastic changes on Monday evening in the return game, consequent upon injuries received in Saturday's encounter, but despite that fact we achieved a notable victory, and thus cried "quits" with the Saints. As we had such a number of players on the damaged list, the Committee had no option but to select the Monday's team en bloc for the match with Leeds. Our forwards again played a great game; whilst Tommy Rees and Bardsley each did brilliant individualistic feats.

To-day's If the two teams—Lancashire and Yorkshire turn out **County Game.** this evening as officially announced in this programme, we should see a fine display of football. Last season we got a trouncing at Wakefield; so that we Lancastrians have something to rub off the slate. Both counties have been easily beaten by the Australians this season, so in that respect they start level. The Tykes threequarter line contains the names of three players who played for England in the last test at Sydney, and judging from the clever manner in which Smith scored on our ground on Saturday, he will be a most dangerous customer if plied with the ball. There is every prospect of a fine struggle.

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