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12.11.46 *Castelford*

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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

RUGBY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

OLDHAM v. CASTLEFORD

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1946.

KICK-OFF 2-45 P.M

CLUB CHAT

Once again our team had to submit to defeat at Leigh on Saturday last by a very narrow margin of three points to two. Although beaten we should have won the match by the opportunities that came our way and with an overwhelming possession of the ball from the set scrums, our backs failed to take advantage of the good work of the forwards, with the result that the match was thrown away.

We have now lost six matches in succession which is too bad to be true and we look forward to the match to-day with Castleford with the anticipation of a victory. There is an old saying "Nothing succeeds like success," and if that is so, our team had a very successful run at the latter part of last season, and we even set off again this season with a wave of enthusiasm, but that little bit of something has slipped in the last six matches and our team has failed to come up to the required standard, of course we have had above our share of injuries and bad knocks which must be taken into consideration. To our supporters there is encouragement and a tonic that a new face or two, especially if they are men of good reputation, will improve the position.

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WINES AND SPIRITS

It is with this end in view that the Committee have this week signed on Ronald Anthony Morgan, of Hendy R.U.F.C., South Wales, who played a trial match at Leigh as "A. N. Other" on the right wing. Morgan comes to us with a good club reputation, and as the boy is 20 years of age, 11 st. 7 lb. and height 5 ft. 7 in. we may expect to see years of good football from this player.

There is a dearth of good players is often the cry one hears, but few people seldom ask—why?

Clubs fail to realise that accidents will happen and the wise management prepare for these eventualities and have capable reserves for all positions, but the majority of clubs never look ahead. As to our club keen anticipation has been aroused and we have made one signing as previously stated. Several men are still under observation, and our members and supporters can rest assured that no effort will be spared to secure the class men.

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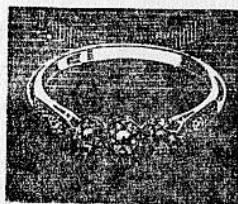
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RIGHT

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LEFT

1—GRIFFITHS, W.
5—INGLESFIELD, S. 4—HARRIS, N. 3—LARGE, E. 2—MORGAN, R. A.
7—REES, D. 6—KERWICK, E.
AMBLER, H. D.
13—AYRES, T.
11—SHAW, J. D. 12—PUGH, N.
8—OGDEN, H. 9—BROOKS, E. 10—MOORE, W. J.

Referee—
Mr. J. E. TAYLOR,
Wakefield



Linesmen—
Mr. C. C. Snowden and
T. Taylor

10—CROSSLEY 9—HALEY 8—McMANUS
12—STAINES 11—LAVENDER
13—JONES
7—LANGFIELD 6—GRAHAME
2—COPLEY 3—BASTOW 4—ROBINSON 5—A. N. OTHER
1—GUEST/BRIGGS

LEFT

CASTLEFORD

RIGHT

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OLDHAM**

THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE GAME Strength in defence is as necessary as strength in attack. Attack is positive, defence is negative, and we naturally rate more highly than man who does things than the man who prevents them from being done. The desire of the crowd is to see scores.

The attacking player—the man who gets tries and places goals—is a public hero, on a very different level in popular estimation from the defensive player who prevents scores. And even the man who is as great in defence as he is in attack is only given full credit for his defensive qualities by the discriminating few.

I repeat that defence is as important as attack and should be carefully studied and developed. Two points are of supreme importance to perfect the means of defence and to develop the quality of anticipation. Every rugby player should know how to tackle.

How often do we see men hesitate, waiting for a pass, pawing at the air, snatching at the shoulders of the man with the ball when the one thing to do is to go hard and low and bring him down. There is far too much high tackling, far too much dallying.

Certainly, there are cases in which case a defender may be in doubt as to whether to go for the man with the ball or to retain the power to go for the man to whom a pass may be given, but in nine cases out of ten the right thing is to ensure that the man in possession goes no farther.

With some players—great full backs—for instance, anticipation seems instinctive, but in the main it is the outcome of thought and experience, and it is well that young players should be instructed in the arts of combination in defence.

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There are many other points in connection with the defensive side of rugby football, and for the moment the points may be underlined: First, sound tackling—low, hard-tackling—is essential, and players who neglect it are serving their side badly. Secondly, the quality of anticipation will enable a tackler to be in the place where his tackle may be decisive in the moment of greatest danger.

LANCASHIRE CUP POOL The share-out of the Lancashire Cup Pool this year amounts to £114 12s. 9d., against £55 12s. 8d. last year.

This is a very nice dividend for each of the Lancashire Senior Clubs.

Of course, our club by virtue of going through to the semi-final have paid the sum of £176 5s. 10d. into the pool, but this is all in the game, as we gained ample reward in playing in five matches in the competition, and further, it is a little compensation and help for the clubs dismissed in the first round of the competition.

COMING EVENTS AT WATERSHEDDINGS—

NOVEMBER 23rd—
OLDHAM "A" v. WORKINGTON "A"
KICK-OFF 2-45 p.m.

NOVEMBER 30th—
OLDHAM v. WIDNES
KICK-OFF 2-45 p.m.

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R.A.C. Appointed

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OWN PARKING GROUND

HALF-TIME SCORES

The Half-time Scores in the Matches given below will be shown on the Score Board immediately they are received—

A

D

B

E

C

F

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