

Saturday next, September 27th, 1947

AT WATERSHEDDINGS

Oldham
v.
Halifax

KICK-OFF 3 P.M.

OLDHAM
FOOTBALL CLUB

OLDHAM
v.
WORKINGTON

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23rd, 1947

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS.

Still another league victory! and we are riding on top of the world at present—but let our motto be “modest in victory and steadfast in defeat.”

In our match against Widnes, on Saturday last, it was touch and go until the last quarter when we overcame the dour tactics of the Widnes team and eventually ran out winners by 13 points to 5.

The Widnes team, always a difficult proposition to meet, put up a good defensive wall against our repeated attacks and it was only a move by half-back Smith that enabled our out-half, Kenny, a run in for a try that turned the game in our favour.

The referee, Mr. Howgate, of Warrington, on the promoted list of referees, paid his first visit to our ground and taking the game in general we must congratulate him on his control and the laws of the game. One must remember there are no perfect referees. Even you and I may have our own opinions regarding decisions on the field of play, but the referee is the man in charge and gives his decisions from the point of view as he sees them, not from the position of the spectators.

This evening we expect a game of the season against Workington in the 2nd Round, Lancashire Cup. This 2nd round is one match only, not as in round 1, home and away, and the winners of this evening's match play the winners of Belle Vue Rangers v. Salford, which is down for decision on Wednesday evening at Belle Vue.

One noticed sat in the stands on Saturday last in our game against Widnes, Gus Risman, the player-manager of Workington, unrecognised by several people. Gus was wearing eye-glasses, obviously, his mission was just looking at the proposition his team is going to meet this evening.

Congratulations to Les Thomas in securing Test match honours in the match on October 4th against New Zealand at Leeds.

Thomas has earned this honour by his consistent play and in the game last Saturday, England v. Wales, was the outstanding player on the field, and his speed amazed the 30,000 spectators.

Thomas scored both tries for Wales and was unlucky to have another disallowed after a run of 50 yards, when he left the English backs standing.

Norman Harris, our captain, was reserve for Wales and had to be content watching the game. Both these players return to our team for this evening's match.

CUP-TIES

It appears to be coming a custom in these cup-tie matches to throw aside most of the science of the game and rely on bustling running and keen tackling.

It is difficult to understand why this should be, for it is easier to win a match by scientific methods than by devoting so much attention to stopping the other side.

This applies also in league matches and some present day players lay themselves out to spoil the efforts of their opponents to open out the game and some of the present “laws of the game” give them a maximum amount of assistance in the accomplishment of their full designs.

The “play the ball rule” has much for which to answer. It enables players to spread themselves out with the sole object of pouncing on opposing backs as soon as they are in possession of the ball. Scientific attacking movements must be checked at any cost. Diminutive backs must be overwhelmed by brute strength.

Players are themselves to blame for another innovation in the game since the days of a decade or two ago. When one kicks-off either from the centre or “25” he carefully sends the ball about a dozen yards forward in the direction of the touch line and the unfortunate recipient of the ball frequently receives a charge from one or more bulky opponents at the same time. Is there any virtue in such kicks? Do they serve any useful purpose?

Nothing is accomplished except a play the ball or a scrum, the despair of many present day spectators. Have we no team that will venture to kick the ball out in the old way? Surely it is more profitable to give a kick in the direction of the corner flag or to some part of the field where the defence has not concentrated. The short kick towards touch is sometimes justifiable when facing a strong wind, but the constant waste of time under all conditions is

Telephone MAIN 4377

Reserved for . . .



N. COX
TAXIS

23 GRANTHAM STREET, OLDHAM

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(BLUE & WHITE JERSEYS)

1. GRIFFITHS, W.
2. INGLESFIELD, S.
3. HARRIS, N. (Capt.)
4. MAHONEY, J. B.
5. LARGE, E.
6. KENNY, V.
7. SMITH, R. A.
8. OGDEN, H.
9. FROST, W.
10. MOORE, W. J.
11. THOMPSON, N.
12. THOMAS, L. M.
13. AYRES, T.

Reserves:

MITCHELL, W. S.
ROSTRON, T.

WORKINGTON

(RED JERSEYS)

1. RISMAN (Capt.)
2. MCGILVERAY
3. CARR
4. RODGERS
5. JEPSON
6. GIBSON
7. PEPPERELL
8. HODGSON
9. ACKERLEY
10. HAYTON
11. WARING
12. PARK
13. IVESON

Reserves:

ARMSTRONG
MILLER

Referee: Mr. P. COWELL of Warrington

Touch Judges: Mr. J. E. Evans and Mr. A. Bolton