

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	WARRINGTON v. NEW ZEALAND	D	ROCHDALE v. SALFORD
B	HALIFAX v. WIGAN	E	SWINTON v. KEIGHLEY
C	LEIGH v. LEEDS	F	OLDHAM ATHLETIC v. STOCKPORT COUNTY



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd, 1947

Oldham v. Castleford

KICK-OFF 2-30 P.M.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

OLDHAM
v.

WORKINGTON

SATURDAY, NOV. 15th, 1947

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

Gordon Whittaker Ltd., Printers, Oldham.

CLUB CHAT.

Our team appear to be slipping from the high position it held earlier in the season and we have now lost three league matches in succession, Castleford and Widnes away, and Liverpool Stanley at home.

This sort of business will not do, and our efforts must be considerably improved to hold our own with the best.

Of course, last week at Widnes, we were short of three regular first team forwards owing to suspension, and Frost, hooker, owing to injury, and without being disrespectful to their deputies, we had enough of the ball from the fixed scrums to have won the match many times over. If a team does not take its chances, then it deserves what is coming to it.

Opportunity is a great thing and must be taken at the fullest advantage, then there can only be one result.

Commenting on the suspension of our three players who were sent off the field against Liverpool Stanley; for two of the players, it was the first time they had been dismissed from the field, and for this first time offence received three matches.

It is evident that the Disciplinary Committee mean business, and to clean the game, by the severity of their decision.

Our game is not a parlour game, and one is entitled to use vigour, provided it is used in a legitimate manner.

There are times, however, when ones patience becomes exhausted by unfair tactics employed, and retaliation often takes place, with the result that when found out the official in charge has no option on his decision, that is what he is there for.

WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR GAME?

At the second test match last Saturday, at Swinton, between Great Britain and New Zealand, it has been reported that Great Britain secured the ball from the scrums 53 times to 16.

It is hard to believe that there would be 69 scrums formed in a game, to say nothing of two or three attempts to put the ball in correctly.

The game is of 80 minutes duration so one can visualize what time is taken up in the above match by forming scrums.

I copy a report from the Leeds R.F.C. programme which is the opinion of Mr. G. H. Ibbitson, late Secretary Manager of the Leeds club, and now a Director:—

"In the report of attendances of 44 Rugby League matches covering three Saturdays, Oct. 4th, 11th and 18th, and including one Test Match and one International, the total attendances were 422,683, whereas in nine Association Football matches only, there were no less than 232,785 spectators, these latter being club games.

Why is it that Rugby League games are not attracting their fair share of the sporting public? We suggest the following reasons:—

(1) There is not enough attention being paid to the schools game and to junior football.

(2) There would appear to be too many scrummages and consequently too many stoppages.

(3) The present "play the ball rule" tends to prevent open play by the spreading of so many players across the field.

(4) There are too many clubs in the league, and too many results appear to be foregone conclusions. The league should be sub-divided into two or three divisions.

(5) The number of players on each side should be reduced from thirteen to twelve, thus favouring more open play. Consider how the thirteen aside game is faster than the fifteen aside game."

The Leeds programme submit the above suggestions as a basis of thought, and if some effort be made by all connected with our game to ensure and promote attractive football, then Rugby League football must progress, otherwise the game will continue to play second fiddle to other sports.

To confirm Mr. Ibbitson's argument, at the Test Match, at Swinton, last Saturday, the official attendance was just over 29,000, and at Maine Road, Manchester, in the league match between Manchester United and Huddersfield Town the attendance was 67,000. We ask why?

In my opinion, the root of unfair tactics emanate from the scrums, and not one spectator in a thousand can see what actually happens when a scrum is formed, let alone hear.

Cut the scrummages down to an absolute minimum and let the spectators see more of the ball, the elimination of "play the ball rule" and you will still see more of the ball.

I understand that the "Kiwis" upon their return from France are desirous of trying the "line out" in preference to the scrum, and there would be nothing lost in this exhibition game.

This touring team from New Zealand have proved that possession from a scrum is not a deciding factor in the result of the game, and has been proved by our own team even at Widnes last Saturday, for with a constant monopoly of the ball we could not win.

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(BLUE & WHITE)

1. BARRACLOUGH, I.
2. INGLESFIELD, S.
3. HARRIS, N. (Capt.)
4. MAHONEY, J. B.
5. LARGE, E.
6. KENNY, V.
7. SMITH, R. A.
8. MOORE, W. J.
9. MUNDY, J.
10. TAYLOR, J.
11. AMBLER, H. D.
12. PUGH, N.
13. AYRES, T.

WORKINGTON

(RED JERSEYS)

1. RISMAN, A. J.
2. JEPSON, G.
3. Mc GILVRAY, J. R.
4. RODGERS, J. H.
5. CARR, J. H.
6. GIBSON
7. PEPPERELL, A. J.
8. HODGSON, E.
9. ACKERLEY, A.
10. HAYTON
11. WAREING, J.
12. PARK, D.
13. SHEARMAN, J. W.

Reserves:

MITCHELL, W. S.
ROSTRON, T.

Referee: Mr. W. HEMMINGS, of Halifax

Touch Judges: Mr. G. BATTERSBY, of Barrow.

Mr. C. C. SNOWDEN, of Cheadle Hulme.