

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	BRADFORD N. v. WARRINGTON	D	WIDNES v. ROCHDALE
B	HUDDERSFIELD v. WIGAN	E	BATLEY v. WHITEHAVEN
C	LEIGH v. LEEDS	F	ACCRINGTON S. v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC

NEXT HOME MATCHES

Tuesday, 31st August

OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL STANLEY

Kick-off 6-30 p.m.

Saturday, 4th September

OLDHAM v. WIDNES

1st Round (1st leg) Lancashire Cup
(All pay)

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

Saturday, 28th August, 1948

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS.

To-day is the opening of the 54th Season of the Rugby League at Watersheddings, and in spite of many ups and downs, and the coming and going of many Clubs, optimism abounds throughout Lancashire, Cumberland and Yorkshire.

As regards ourselves, there is optimism without doubt, and I can assure our members and patrons that the present constituted Committee mean business to secure a team worthy of the name of Oldham. This will take time, and if one could divulge the players whose services we hoped to secure, it would be good reading; but then success did not come our way, as the clubs in question were reluctant to part with their star players, and the price did not enter into the bargain.

Up to the present, four new players have come to Watersheddings in L. Anthony, front row forward from Neath; J. D. Chalmers, out-half, of Hawick; J. W. Shearman, loose forward, from Workington and W. G. Jones, scrum-half, from St. Helens. We expect good service from these players.

There is also one important addition to our staff in a Trainer-Coach, and the Committee are to be complimented upon engaging Stanley Smith, ex-Wakefield, Leeds, International winger to this important position.

Mr. Smith has the entire backing of the Committee in his efforts to secure first-class fitness of the players; and whilst at present it may not be possible to bring all our players to live in the town, it is only a question of time before this will be accomplished, when we hope Mr. Smith's efforts will bear fruit.

The "A" team boys will, as last year, be coached by Alex Givvons, and this is one of the most essential posts on our establishment.

Physical training only applies to the fitness of the body, and this is an important point, which leaves out the training of the senses, and Rugby League players have to use their brains probably more than players in other games, therefore intensive coaching must be resorted to, to bring out the best of a player's ability. Except in a few isolated cases very little of anything happens, hence many players never overcome their initial weakness. If a man cannot give or take a pass with accuracy during the commencement of his playing career, he generally ends up in the same unsatisfactory manner. If a player is a straight runner at the commencement of his career he remains one. One can only put this down to the fact that his coaching, or lack of coaching, has been neglected. All these difficulties can be overcome by coaching, coupled with the player's use of his own brains.

On Saturday last, our first team unfortunately and unexpectedly lost at Keighley in a match which, owing to the weather, was adverse to the open game but this was no excuse, as it was bad for both sides, and on the day the Keighley team were more lively and surprised their own supporters by their good exhibition and deservedly won. This is very little consolation to us, as a good start is essential and there must, and will, be an improvement, as time progresses.

Our "A" team opened their season at Watersheddings on Saturday last in a friendly game against Wigan "A" and were successful by seven points to five points. The match was played in vile weather and mistakes in handling by both sides was obvious. Having a monopoly of the ball from the set scrums one would expect our score to be larger than seven points, but having three trialists on view in the backs, our progress was retarded somewhat by the moderate display of the trialists. However, our "A" team is where we try out the new aspirants; some are a success and others fail.



Score:- 15 Pts to 11
FOR
OLDHAM

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(BLUE JERSEYS)

- 3 Goals I. GLANVILLE, H.
1 TRY 2. SPENCER, W.
3. ~~HARRIS, N.~~ MITCHELL
4. MAHONEY, J. B.
5. ~~EVANS, S.~~ BATTEN
1 TRY 6. CHALMERS, J. D.
~~TRY~~ 7. JONES, W. G.
1 TRY 8. OGDEN, H.
9. BROOKS, E.
10. ANTHONY, L.
11. ~~THOMAS, L. M.~~ ROSTRON
12. TOMLINSON, A.
13. SHEARMAN, J. W.

Reserve :

ROSTRON, T.

St. HELENS

(WHITE & RED BAND)

1. LOWE
2. LLEWELLYN
3. CONSTANCE
4. STOTT, J.
5. CHEETHAM
6. GREENALL
7. BEESLEY
8. PILKINGTON
9. FISHWICK
10. ASPINALL
11. ASTON
12. PARSONS
13. STREET

Referee: Mr. C. F. APPLETON, Warrington.

Touch Judges: Mr. J. G. EVANS, Salford.
Mr. J. GRALEY, Widnes.