

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	BELLE VUE RANGERS v. SALFORD	D	SWINTON v. WORKINGTON
B	HUDDERSFIELD v. WARRINGTON	E	LEEDS v. LEIGH
C	ROCHDALE HORNETS v. BARROW	F	WALTHAMSTOW v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Saturday next, at Watersheddings

18th December

Oldham 'A'

v

Leigh 'A'

 Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

¹⁰
OLDHAM

v.

¹⁵
WIGAN

at Watersheddings

Saturday, 11th December, 1948

Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS.

The Australian Tourists of 1948 have been to Watersheddings—seen and conquered our team in the largest score of the tour so far, but I doubt if this would have been the case had we been able to keep our full complement of players on the field. It was distinctly hard luck on Joe Silva, in his first game with the first team, that injury should come his way. Bad luck must be with this club as regards scrum halves, as Silva is the third this season to be put out of action with injury. However, the injury is not as serious as first suspected, but he will be out of the game for at least three weeks. In this game also, H. Glanville, who in the first tackle of the match against Maxwell, the Australian Captain, sustained a wrist injury, which has now turned out to be a broken bone and cracked wrist; so taking all things into consideration, with the bad luck running against us, our team stood up to the test, but could not cope with the extra exertion of the Tourists in the second half. Possibly a different tale could have been told if we had kept thirteen fit players on the field.

The "gate" of this match was very disappointing, the official attendance being 14,798, and the receipts £1,868 16s. od.; a drop from the "gate" receipts when we played the New Zealand Tourists, on 25th October, 1947, the attendance being 17,239, and the cash £2,083 16s. 6d. Several causes can be put forward for this decline. In the first place, we played the Kiwis earlier in the season, and just after they had been narrowly defeated in the first Test Match at Leeds by eleven points to ten, and also that our team has been showing indifferent form this season; but then again, we had no other attraction in the town, and the day was ideal for the occasion, but there it is. In all sports a really successful side is necessary, in which one or two outstanding personalities are included. This is what the football fan is asking for. The crowds will arrive again when the fare is made sufficiently attractive.

So far as the Rugby game is concerned it is my belief that it is more difficult to-day for heights of individual brilliance or collective brilliance to be reached because of the destructive developments, and the intelligent and discriminating spectator has tired of the wearisome succession of scrums and penalty kicks. He is not amused; and when the standard of individual performance is below par, the club is losing matches, and the weather is unkind, then the turnstiles tell the tale.

To-day we welcome the famous Wigan club to Watersheddings, and we may expect the usual good game. Many have been the battles between Oldham and Wigan in the glorious past, and I trust to-day's game will live up to the reputation of the past. Our team appear to put that extra bit in upon playing Wigan (in fact I think all opponents do). Such is the penalty of greatness. Our opponents have had pretty much their own way this last few seasons as regards the result of the matches and it would not be out of our turn to record a victory. Such a thing is not impossible, and it is up to our team to go all out with good clean football and make a great effort to break this sequence of wins by the Wigan club.

Our postponed league fixture with Castleford, owing to Castleford being engaged in the final of the Yorkshire Cup, on October 30th, 1948, has now been fixed to be played at Castleford, on Tuesday, December 28th, 1948, Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

Please note that our match against Swinton, on Christmas Day, is a morning kick-off. 11-0 a.m.



TO-DAY'S TEAMS

10

OLDHAM

(BLUE)

- 2 GOALS. BARRACLOUGH, I.
1 TRY 2. TATE, L. M.
3. MITCHELL, W. S.
1 " 4. HARRIS, N.
5. SPENCER, W.
6. BATTEN, R.
7. JONES, W. G.
8. OGDEN, H.
9. BROOKS, E. (Capt.)
10. TOMLINSON, H.
11. DONEGAN, J.
12. TOMLINSON, A.
13. LEYLAND, T. H.

Reserve :

TAYLOR, J.

15

WIGAN

(CHERRY & WHITE)

1. RYAN, M.
2. RATCLIFFE, W. G. 1 TRY
3. WARD, E. H. 2 GOALS
4. ASHCROFT, E. J.
5. LAWRENSON, J. 1 TRY
6. MOUNTFORD, C. R.
7. ALTY, J. J.
8. GEE, K.
9. EGAN, J.
10. BARTON, F.
11. WHITE, L.
12. BLAN, W.
13. HUDSON, W.

Referee : Mr. F. SMITH, of Barrow-in-Furness.

Touch Judges : Mr. J. WOODWARD, of St. Helens.
Mr. V. WADDILOVE, of Leigh.