

Monday, 27th December

At Watersheddings

OLDHAM

V.

SALFORD

Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

Saturday, 1st January

At Watersheddings

OLDHAM 'A'

V.

ROCHDALE HORNETS 'A'

Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

**OLDHAM
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**OLDHAM
V.**

SWINTON

at Watersheddings

Christmas Day, 25th Dec., 1948

Kick-off 11-0 a.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

Gordon Whittaker Ltd., Printers, Oldham.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS.

At last we have earned a league point away from home, and without doubt it was a very well earned point, in fact, with a little luck it would have been two points. Our team appears to be on the up grade, in spite of the several injured players out of action, and we hope that we have turned the corner and are now in for a successful run.

At Leigh, on Saturday last, the team played with spirit and enthusiasm that has been lacking for a long time, but consideration must be taken into account, in view of the continual changing of the team owing to injuries, that a team playing together get to understand one another in the finer arts of the game. One can never lose sight of the value of experience. For players to talk together is a great thing; to play together is of greater importance, and it is only doing things under the testing conditions of match play that men learn what to do and how to do it. Take the leading teams of the Rugby League of the present time. The consistency of the composition of their teams is noticeable, hence the value of playing together and the success attained.

INJURED PLAYERS.

Our injured players are progressing; but slowly.

J. B. Mahoney, suffering from strained ligaments will, we hope, be fit in three weeks time.

J. Silva, a torn muscle, will possibly be fit in a fortnights time.

W. Mitchell, "jumped" collar bone, we expect to be fit early in the new year, and has resumed training.

J. V. Tynan has now got his leg out of plaster and is hobbling about. Quite a time must elapse before this player is ready for action.

J. Glanville. Plaster has now been removed from broken wrist bone, has resumed training, and will be fit in about fourteen days.

STANDARDISATION OF RUGBY LEAGUE RULES.

The Rugby League Rules appear to differ from those of our Colonies, Australia and New Zealand, and one would think that a clearing up of these important matters would have been dealt with before the Australian Tourist Managers left this country for home, and more so, seeing that the Australian Board of Control Secretary has also been in this country during the earlier part of the Kangaroos tour.

One very important ruling of the Australian Rugby League is a forward pass, the player receiving the ball is judged to be offside, and a penalty kick is awarded. Strictly speaking one may agree with this, as a player, according to our rules, can be off-side from a kick.

Controversy will also take place regarding the unsatisfactory scrimmage methods which, no doubt is a bugbear on our game.

In conversation with one of the pioneers of touring teams, Mr. A. F. Kelly, who is resident in this town, and who came over with the first professional team from New Zealand in 1907-1908, known as Baskerville's team, they commenced their tour with the forward formation of two, three, one down, and were very successful in getting the ball from the scrums; but midway through the tour the then-styled Northern Union made them alter their formation, much to their detriment in securing the ball from a set scrum. One can visualise that the formation of two, three, one down, would no doubt minimise scrum infringements, as the two men in the front row would act as hookers, and to swing in the pack would be impossible; the loose forward would pack on the open field side or the narrow side in arrangement with his scrum half.

One can also realise that the ball would come quicker from the pack in having only to pass the second row men into the hands of the scrum half.

To all our Readers, Supporters, Players and Friends
we extend
The Compliments of the Season.



TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(RED & WHITE)

1. BARRACLOUGH, I.
2. TATE, L. M.
3. PLATT, L.
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 :

MUNDY, J.

SWINTON

(BLUE JERSEYS)

1. MORGAN, D. R.
2. ECCLESTON
3. WINKWORTH, K.
4. MYERS, J.
5. COBURN, C.
6. WARRY, V.
7. TURNER, G.
8. STODDARD, J.
9. OSMOND, F. F.
10. ATHERTON, R.
11. KNOWLES, J. C.
12. ARMITT
13. TUCKER, R.

Referee : Mr. N. T. RAILTON, of Liverpool.

Touch Judges : Mr. H. MULLERY, of Leigh.
Mr. A. RUTTER, of Warrington.