

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. WIGAN	D	LEIGH v. BELLE VUE RANGERS
B	SALFORD v. WIDNES	E	HUNSLET v. ST. HELENS
C	ROCHDALE HORNETS v. HALIFAX	F	TRANMERE v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC



Next Match at Watersheddings

Saturday, 5th February

Oldham 'A'

v.

Wigan 'A'

 **Kick-off 3-0 p.m.**

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

5
OLDHAM

v.

8
BARROW

at Watersheddings

Saturday, 22nd January, 1949

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS.

At last we are having a first-team match at Watersheddings; the last match played at home was on Christmas Day against Swinton when we received an unexpected defeat, and the misfortune still followed us with the holiday fixture on Boxing Day against Salford being postponed owing to the hard state of the ground, which was a serious set-back to the finances of this club; however, we hope to play this match during the light evenings, or if both clubs have a vacant Saturday, then we may mutually arrange to stage the match on a Saturday.

Three matches away from home in succession has resulted in two losses and one win, our first away win of the season, and this against our old friends Rochdale Hornets.

We were very unfortunate to lose against Castleford after having the lead for seventy-five minutes of the game and were just pipped on the post, losing nine point to seven, a very unlucky defeat indeed. In the match at Widnes, on Saturday last, under conditions that were not conducive to good football, we lost by three penalty goals to nothing. It is obvious from the scores that have been registered against us that our defence has been tightened up, but our attack is not penetrative enough. More direct drive and more straight running is required. There are ups and downs in this game of football, and it cannot be said that this comes about in a large measure due to team changes. There is and must be, luck in football as in other games, and whilst one may hear from supporters of the side losing matches that are out of luck, you very seldom hear from those teams well placed in the league that good fortune has got them there. They put it down to skill. Luck is not the controlling factor a majority of people make out. Bad luck in a major position is another word for bad play, and blinding oneself to faults is a very stupid business.

DEPARTURES AND ?

Since our last appearance at home there have been two departures from our playing staff in Norman Thompson, who has been transferred to Dewsbury, and Jonathan Pilkington to Wakefield Trinity. Pilkington only joined this club during the present season, and inability to secure a place in the first team caused this player to seek a transfer. This also applies to Thompson, who has rendered good service to the club.

We consider we are justified in allowing these players to be transferred owing to the fact that we have several young forwards who are justifying their inclusion in the first team.

It is with regret that we have announced that our centre, Norman Harris' has made a request to be placed on the transfer list, and this the Committee have agreed to. It is not the club's wish, but Harris feels that a change would be beneficial to him. This player has rendered good service to the club, and has been with us three years last December; has gained an international cap in our code, and is selected to play for Wales, at Swansea, against England, on February 5th next.

February 1st is the last day for registering players for the Rugby League Challenge Cup, and every effort is being made to strengthen the weak positions in our team before that date.

News of our war-time guest player, Alan Laird, comes from New Zealand. Laird was one of the lucky players to tour Australia, with the New Zealand Kiwis last June. He did not play in any Test Matches against Australia, but played loose forward against New South Wales and Queensland. Laird is now one of the premier loose forwards in New Zealand, and has certainly put on weight, as he now scales 13 stones 10 pounds.

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For the Kiwi's tour of Australia, Laird was a late choice, and had two days to prepare for the trip, owing to Ken Mountford, who toured England with the Kiwis, being injured. He is reputed to be as fast as any winger, and is rated very high amongst the loose forwards in the Dominion, on his showing in Australia. Laird is tied down by the ban on Colonial Rugby League Players, otherwise he would have been a great acquisition to our team had he been available.



TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(RED & WHITE)

1. BARRACLOUGH, I.
2. SPENCER, W.
3. PLATT, L.
4. MAHONEY, J (Cap.)
5. TATE, L. M.
6. BATTEN, R.
7. SILVA, J.
8. OGDEN, H.
9. FROST, W.
10. TOMLINSON, H.
11. TOMLINSON, A.
12. SUGDEN, J.
13. LEYLAND, T. H.

Reserve :

DONEGAN, J.

BARROW

(BLUE & WHITE)

1. JONES, J.
2. LEWTHWAITE, J.
3. PARKER, R.
4. LONGLEY, A.
5. TRELORE J. L.
6. HORNE, W.
7. TOOHEY, A. E.
8. LONGLAND, F. H.
9. WOODS, W. W.
10. GRAINGER, J.
11. AYRES, R.
12. SCOTT, F.
13. ATKINSON

Referee : Mr. W. STOCKLEY, of Leigh.

Touch Judges : Mr. V. WADDILOVE, of Leigh.
Mr. A. KEMP, of Warrington.