

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	WIGAN v. HUDDERSFIELD	D	HALIFAX v. ROCHDALE H.
B	WIDNES v. SALFORD	E	WAKEFIELD v. ST. HELENS
C	SWINTON v. DEWSBURY	F	YORK v. OLDHAM ATHLETIC

Coming Attractions at Watersheddings

Saturday, 24th September

Oldham 'A' v. Leigh 'A'

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Saturday, 1st October

Oldham 'A' v. St Helens 'A'

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

OLDHAM

v.

LEIGH

at Watersheddings

Saturday, 17th September, 1949

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS.

Our team has fallen a little from grace with losing two league matches away, in Hull Kingston Rovers and St. Helens. After two splendid victories at home previously, against Wigan and Hunslet, our supporters fully expected the team putting up a better show. In the game against Hull Kingston the form of the team was too bad to realise that a few days previously they had given such a good exhibition, and we were deservedly beaten on the day by a better team. This lapse of form is difficult to explain, but there must be a reason for it, and one may be that of playing three matches in the short space of six days, but then again all teams must be running into condition by match experience. At St. Helens we fully expected returning as victors, but here again the form displayed by our team was not good enough, and infringements of the laws of the game by certain players cost us the match. If players continually break the laws, it is absolutely throwing the game away. It is not fair for individuals to discount the efforts of their team mates by infringing the laws of the game. We realise that infringements must occur in a game, but these must be cut down to a minimum. The referee is in sole charge whilst on the field and his interpretation of the laws must be accepted, even though at times he may be wrong, but players must play the game according to the laws in operation. This being so, the lot of a referee would be much easier, and one must not forget that good referees are scarce, and are much harder to find than good players. Therefore it is up to the players to play the game fair, clean and manly. That is Rugby League, which we are proud of.

Although there has been no recent additions to our playing strength I can assure members and supporters that the Committee are fully aware as to the weaknesses that require filling in our team, and the activity that is taking place, and even to-day we have representatives searching for the required talent.

We know what we want and what is required to make the team match winners, and many will have certain views on the point, but in football certain facts must be faced, as other clubs besides us are finding it difficult to get players to strengthen weak spots. It may also be difficult at times to find the money for transfers or signing-on bonus required by clubs or players. There is definitely an inflation in the price of players at present, and the principle cause is the scarcity of players of class. Clubs are loth to part with their star players, for they know quite well that replacement is difficult. Of course, there are times when club and player must part, and then a position arises of a so-called auction by the club of asking for "offers." This is looked on with disfavour by the Management Committee of the Rugby League, and possibly next season this auctioning of players will be contrary to rules of the Rugby League. Every club is anxious to make a good bargain and few can afford to make a bad one. Football competition for the securing of players is very keen to-day and the policy of clubs is to watch every step, and to make sure that every change is for an improvement. However, for the time being, and until such time new players of the standard required come along, and that is not far away, we will try to make good of the work we have in hand.

INJURED PLAYERS.

Our list of injured players is gradually declining and the following list of players are still out of action:

J. V. TYNAN—Badly bruised right shoulder. Will be out of the game for a few weeks.

T. ROSTRON—Broken bone in wrist. Still in plaster and will be three weeks to a month before reporting fit.

J. TAYLOR—Torn ligaments of the ankle. Injury caused in training last Tuesday. Will be fourteen days at least before reporting for action again.

J. MUNDY—Now in training. Expects to be fit for football again next Saturday.



TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(BLUE JERSEYS)

1. BARRACLOUGH, I.
2. BATTEN, R.
3. WILLIAMS, T.
4. PLATT, L.
5. SPENCER, W.
6. HEYES, F.
7. GILMORE, G. P.
8. OGDEN, H.
9. BROOKS, E.
10. TOMLINSON, H.
11. LEYLAND, T. H.
12. SUGDEN, J.
13. GOLDSWAIN, B. V.

Reserves:

DONEGAN, J.
MITCHELL, W. S.

LEIGH

(CHERRY & WHITE JERSEYS)

1. LEDGARD, J. A.
2. KINDON, W. C.
3. KERWICK, E.
4. HARRIS, N.
5. CLEWORTH, A.
6. ROWE, J.
7. RILEY, P.
8. EDDEN, H.
9. STEPHENS, T.
10. WHEATLEY, R.
11. RYAN, C. E.
12. ALDER, F.
13. PAWSEY, C. H.

Reserves:

WOOD, J.
ROUGHLEY.

Referee: Mr. L. THORPE, Wakefield.

Touch Judges: Mr. F. J. NOON, Widnes.

Mr. H. K. ROBERTS, Warrington.