

HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A	BATLEY v. WARRINGTON	D	ROCHDALE HORNETS v. ST. HELENS
B	BELLE VUE RANGERS v. SALFORD	E	SWINTON v. WORKINGTON
C	HUDDERSFIELD v. BARROW	F	OLDHAM ATHLETIC v. NEWCASTLE

Saturday next, at Watersheddings

14th January, 1950

Oldham

v.

Swinton

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

OLDHAM

v.

WIGAN

at Watersheddings

Saturday, 7th January, 1950

Kick-off 2-15 p.m.

Official Programme - 2d.

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS.

Our match at Belle Vue, on Saturday last, against Belle Vue Rangers, did not result in the manner which we expected, and we were deservedly beaten by nineteen points to six points. It must be admitted that Belle Vue were no doubt the best team on the days play, and this heavy defeat requires some explanation, if it is possible to give one, and it is a case of analysing those "off days." Our team has had a gruelling time during the holiday fixtures and we have had just above our share of injuries to players in vital positions. A team playing five matches in nine days going without injuries must have a lucky charm, and then too much football often creates the danger of staleness. Has any scientific observer been able to decide how much Rugby football a man can play without getting stale? There is no one more conscious than the player when he is becoming stale—slow in thought, heavy of foot, and the legs feel like lead when staleness is advanced, then it is better for him and the team that he should take a rest. However, we hope that after this last few days rest, our team will step into the fray full of life and vigour for to-days encounter.

If there is a club in the Rugby League that has the worst of the weather in its home matches, then surely we must have the record. Our fixture list is not of our selecting, and may we say far from being a good one as a money spinner. Several of our home games have been a financial failure from the exchequer point of view. Our "derby" match of Monday last, against Rochdale Hornets was completely ruined by the weather, both from a playing point and a financial one. The receipts of £437 would have been doubled had the weather been kind to us; and the football served up in a sea of mud and rain was not conducive to new adherants to our game.

OUR VISITORS.

To-day we entertain Wigan, a name that is a household word wherever the game of rugby is played. If there has ever been a team in the Rugby League that spells consistency, then here it is to-day. Other teams may have their brief spells of ascendancy in our game and show flashes of brilliancy for a season or two, but we must give credit to the Wigan club, who are always round the top of the tree through their remarkable ability to play Rugby League Football as it should be played, although even they are not always successful in winning all their matches; even the best of teams must be beaten sometimes.

We at Watersheddings always look forward to the visit of Wigan, as we realise that we are assured of a good "gate", as other clubs also do when Wigan are the visitors. Every club appears to pull that little extra on the field when Wigan are their visitors, and the game resolves itself into a cup-tie struggle. However to-day is the day we have been looking forward to and we hopefully look for a similar result as our meeting on August 31st last, when we were successful by nineteen points to nine points.

COMING EVENTS.

On Saturday next, we have also a box-office attraction in visitors from Swinton. Our old original fixture of playing Swinton, at Oldham, on Christmas Day and away on Good Friday, appears to have been thrown overboard by the authority who decides the fixtures. It is not the fault of either Swinton or this club that our time honoured fixture was not carried on. Both clubs had agreed on the holiday fixture, but we hope to renew our application, subject to our good friends from Swinton agreeing, when every effort will be made for the holiday fixtures to be fulfilled as of yore.

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

OLDHAM

(BLUE & WHITE)

1. BARRACLOUGH, I.
2. BATTEN, R.
3. WARD, K.
4. MITCHELL, W. S.
5. WARHAM, J.
6. HEYES, F.
7. MORGAN, W. G.
8. OGDEN, H.
9. DEAN, J.
10. TOMLINSON, H.
11. FEARNLEY, A.
12. LEYLAND, T. H.
13. GOLDSWAIN, B. V.
(Capt.)

Reserves :

SUGDEN, J.
WILLIAMS, T.

WIGAN

(RED & WHITE)

1. RYAN, M.
2. RATCLIFFE, G.
3. CUNLIFFE, J.
4. ASHCROFT, E. J.
5. NORDGREN, B. C.
6. MOUNTFORD, R. C.
7. BRADSHAW, T.
8. GEE, K.
9. EGAN, J.
10. BARTON, F.
11. SLEVIN, E.
12. LARGE, J.
13. BLAN, W.

Reserves :

BROOME, J.
SILCOCK, N.

Referee : Mr. M. COATES, Pudsey.

Touch Judges : Mr. F. S. ROWLEY, Barrow.
Mr. V. WADDILOVE, Leigh.