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SEASON 1950-1951



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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CLUB

OLDHAM v. YORK

SATURDAY. AUGUST 26th, 1950

KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.

Watersheddings News and Views.

The first week of the 1950/51 Rugby League season has seen an early rush of fixtures which prevails at this time of the year, in an effort to rally the supporters whilst the weather is good and the days long. Our opening has been one of near things and one point out of a possible four must seem poor reward for the wholehearted effort that has been put in by all our players under the leadership of Goldswain. Cumberland was visited last Saturday and as usual the Whithaven team proved to be a very hard nut to crack on their own ground. The team can only be described as useful, but with that wholehearted enthusiasm for Rugby, which seems to permeate the West Cumberland area they managed to share the points with us, in spite of our team having most of the play. It was good to be amongst such solid rugby people and there is no doubt that clubs in areas such as Whitehaven will make good progress and mainly through their own loyal efforts.

On Monday our match with Warrington proved to be a real full blooded affair we expected, and it was good to hear the vocal encouragement given to the team in their valiant effort to overcome the loss of such a player as Ward at half-time. What excitement when Leyland went over for his try at the corner and again when Hayes dropped his goal from well out in the field. Either of these efforts was worthy of winning the match but unfortunately it was not to be and another splendid dropped goal by Palin, who had kicked without any result from penalties caused us to retire defeated by eight points to seven points. Although it was natural that disappointment should be felt at the result there was much for our supporters to enthuse about, in particular the crisper handling of the team and the willingness to give the ball air and less of the bullocking tactics which have come into the game of recent years. Besides Ward (knee injury), Heyes received a cut eye which necessitated stitches after the match, but in both cases the happening was pure accidental and one of the risks in this vigorous game of ours.

There were one or two incidents that justly called for criticism and you can rest assured that the message given in last Saturdays programme will be carried out at Oldham.

AFTER THE MATCH VISIT THE

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44

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RED & WHITE

1 RATCHFORD, W.

2 WARHAM, J. 3 BATTEN, R. 4 MITCHELL, W. S. 5 PLATT, L.

6 HEYES, F.

7 SILVA, J.

8 ANTHONY, L.

9 BROOKS, E.

10 TOMLINSON, A.

11 LEYLAND, T. H.

12 GOLDSWAIN, B. V. (Capt.)

13 DAY, B.

Reserve—TOMLINSON, H.

Referee:

Touch Judges:

Mr. T. Armitage, Huddersfield

Mr. H. Hyde, Manchester (Red)
Mr. J. Woodward, St. Helens (Blue)

13 HODGSON.

12 ~~SIMPSON~~

11 ~~COCKER~~ PARKER

10 SIMPSON.

9 JENKINS.

8 HOLLINGWORTH.

7 BILTON.

6 BENSON.

5 HANSHAW.

4 THORNTON.

3 TAYLOR.

2 MCLELLAN.

1 KELLY.

2

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HALF-TIME SCORES

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

A SALFORD
v.
HUDDERSFIELD

D BRADFORD
v.
WARRINGTON

B WIGAN
v.
ITALY

E WIDNES
v.
ROCHDALE

C HALIFAX
v.
LEIGH

F OLDHAM ATHLETIC
v.
BARROW

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The Warrington team was almost identical with the side that won the Rugby League Challenge Cup at Wembley in May of this year and on Monday evening it was more than well held by the sterling efforts of our team. Keep up the good work, keep the ball moving and see that somebody is always up in support and victories will soon be your way.—Well played boys.

To-day we have as our visitors the men from the Minster City of York and we hope that they have a good game and a pleasant visit to Watersheddings. For many years York have had a very hard battle to keep the Rugby League flag flying in their town and they are finding it very difficult to climb back to the position they held in the days when their pack of giants were known as the "Dreadnoughts."

Fate has already struck them a hard blow, for in the final practice game Jack Smith dislocated an ankle and will be out of the team for some weeks. With their present liabilities York cannot go into the transfer market with prices as they are and although there is a solid rugby core in the city it looks as if their battle is going to be a long and arduous one as in several other cases. Nothing would please us at Oldham more than to see a team like York hitting the high lights and we wish their directors every success in the efforts they are making to lift the Club from their present misfortunes.

General.

That is the greatest need in the Rugby League and one which will have to be faced before there is any chance of success for a Two Division Scheme. The difference between the top few clubs and those lower in the league is too marked, and yet these clubs are entirely dependent on the two or three good gates they get when visited by the star clubs. To the person who can devise an acceptable scheme whereby we can see a levelling up of the Clubs, there must surely be everlasting fame. The Clubs most in need of players are more and more pushed out of the market for experienced players, as the present transfer fee asked for some, at times, is more than is taken in a season by some Clubs. Capital has already been found and spent and they are left with their only alternative of making do.

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