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CLUB COMMENTARY

We wish all our Supporters and friends from Oldham a Happy Christmas and may the holiday fixtures provide a feast of bright and attractive football in keeping with this festive season.

Oldham play the open style of football and today's match should lack nothing in the way of thrills and excitement. Our post-war encounters so far leave the spoils equally divided with each side claiming five wins with one match drawn.

If our visitors are to maintain their challenge for "top four" honours it is essential that they win today. They are at present sixth in the league table with 22 points from 18 matches and following their grand win at St. Helens they will be fully confident of success.

Our holiday fixtures provide us with a severe test to our "top four" bid for honours. From the five matches it would appear essential that we secure a minimum of 6 pts. to keep well in the running. We shall undoubtedly have our usual good following at St. Helens and Warrington for our hardest matches and just a gentle reminder that the right kind of vocal support can mean so much to a team away from home!

Liverpool Stanley made a request to us for assistance to solve their lack of front row forwards which has been sorely handicapping their team building efforts. We immediately offered the services of Eric Parr and Keith Johnson on loan providing the players were agreeable. So far only Eric has agreed to go. Keith is still thinking matters over. There is a possibility that Alf Edge may change his mind about retiring and also play for them.

1961

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Holiday "A" Team Fixtures. The fixtures on Christmas Day versus St. Helens "A" and Boxing Day versus Warrington "A" have been re-arranged to kick-off at 11-00 a.m. Trevor Allan will appear in both matches provided no unforeseen accident occurs in training. He stepped from the boat looking very bronzed and fit and is looking forward to his first game. While aboard ship he has indulged in daily physical training, running, swimming and a spot of wrestling.

Albert Christy is home on leave and will most probably play on Christmas Day morning.

A feature of today's programme is an article by Mr. S. H. Yates of the sports staff of the "Liverpool Echo" on Captaincy. We are indeed grateful to Mr. Yates for his excellent contribution following our request and look forward to the pleasure of reading further interesting articles in future issues.

For next Saturday's programme we have requested Alf Beacroft of "The People" to write an article and Tom Reynolds of the "Daily Herald" will be writing in the New Years Day programme.

OUR VISITORS

Oldham are showing improved form this season and in spite of a few sad relapses are in a challenging position in the league.

The leading personality of their team is undoubtedly their captain Bryn Goldswain who joined Oldham from Hull Kingston Robers last season. Capped several times for Wales, Bryn is a schoolteacher by profession and

also a Grade I Rugby League Coach. Since Ratchford took over from Barraclough at full back he has taken on the role of goal-kicker.

Taking a well earned benefit this season is their centre Wilf Mitchell who has been associated with the Club for over twelve years. His partner Alan Davies, who signed at the commencement of this season from the local Dootson's Park team, seems to have gained a permanent place in the team at 17 years of age.

Byrne and Platt, the two wingmen, are strong and forceful runners who seize on every opportunity. Platt was originally playing at centre but has moved to the wing position to accommodate Davies.

Always a strong forward team today's pack is no exception. They are a particularly good scrummaging pack and Keith, their new hooker, seems to have taken over where Edgar Brooks left off.

Frank Stirrup, the ex Leigh and Salford utility player, has not recovered from injury and has yet to play for his new Club. We are given to understand that Oldham paid a four figure fee for Frank.

Playing Record v. Oldham from 1946 Home

Date	Res.	For			Against		
		G	T	Pts.	G	T	Pts.
October 2nd, 1946	L	—	2	6	1	3	11
November 9th, 1946	W	—	1	3	1	—	2
April 7th, 1948	W	2	2	10	1	1	5
December 18th, 1948	D	—	—	—	—	—	—
August 20th, 1949	W	4	3	17	4	1	11

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- 13—DAY

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Date	Res.	Away			For	Against		
		G	T	Pts.		G	T	Pts.
September 24th, 1946	L	1	2	8		4	4	20
May 17th, 1947	W	2	3	13		2	1	7
March 6th, 1948	L	3	3	15		3	4	18
October 23rd, 1948	L	—	—	—		4	1	11
September 17th, 1949	L	3	2	12		2	3	13
October 21st, 1950	W	3	2	12		2	—	4

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Hello Supporters,

May I take this opportunity on behalf of myself, officials and members of the Supporters' Committee, of extending to all Supporters, of every team, the 'Compliments of the Season'. To our own Supporters, our team and Directors may I send you a very special New Year Wish. A wish I know, that will be repeated in every house this festive season, where Rugby will be talked. A very short one, but what a wealth of meaning and hope. So when glasses are filled this Xmas and New Year—I know you will all join with me in saying

"TO WEMBLEY 1951"

May I also, on behalf of you all extend to Mr. and Mrs. TREVOR ALLAN a very sincere welcome to Leigh. May their association with us be of a long and happy duration, and may they never have any cause to regret leaving their own country and friends. I know you will take them to your hearts and I am certain they will make many good friends amongst you all.

As you are all aware, we have now been granted the permit to proceed with the erection of an Asbestos Wall from the eaves downwards for the full length of the Stand. But the cost is almost £1000, but we are determined to fulfil our pledge to you, that we will erect a Covered Accommodation—second to none. As you know we are running Whist Drives, Dances, Concerts and Draws in an effort to raise more money to complete the job.

But with the present trend of rising prices and rising costs in labour, even all our worthy efforts are not enough, so your Committee have decided to launch a **50,000 Shillings Fund** which we sincerely hope will be

raised by the end of the Season, and we are arranging to have an indicator erected on the Covered Accommodation showing our progress week by week.

This fund will commence on NEW YEARS DAY when we entertain St. Helens, so we beg of you to contribute ONE SHILLING in the collection on that day, to start us off with a great effort towards our objective.

Quarterly Meeting.

May I remind you of the quarterly meeting to be held on Thursday, January 4th, 1951 at 7-30 p.m. in the Leigh Church Institute, when we shall have the privilege of hearing some interesting accounts of the recent Australian Tour by Messrs. Jas. Hilton, J. Egan and J. Ledgard. Supporting them on the platform will be your own President Mr. Eustace Collier, Trevor Allan, George Beatty and Jeff Burke, so I can assure you of a real entertaining night. So don't forget to come along.

Happy watching this Xmas and New Year, and may your own festivities be made happier by our teams Victories.

Supporting-Leigh yours,
STANLEIGH.

CAPTAINCY by **S. H. YATES** (Liverpool Echo)

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Not only did they buy the Leagues most able hooker and forward specialist, but they obtained also the man who had all the qualities desired in one undertaking the coaching of a first class side.

In addition, and by no means least in order of importance, they acquired the leadership of a man, whom I consider is without peer as a club captain.

Leigh were quite happy under the captaincy of Jimmy Ledgard and I think it speaks volumes for the sportsmanship of the popular full back that he was so spontaneously ready and willing to step down in favour of a player who has led his club, county and country with the greatest possible distinction.

Joe I know, appreciated this Ledgard tribute.

If you breeze quickly through the skippers of the teams in the Rugby League today, you will find very, very few, who have any right to be included with some of the great captains of the past.

It is one thing to be a great player. The records are full of them, but it is quite another to be a great captain. Joe Egan is both.

A nominal head is of no use to a side, just as a player who allows the captaincy to get him down does neither the team nor himself justice. The ideal captain is not the man who can give praise when all is going well, but the man who can also criticise constructively and helpfully, without upsetting temperamental players, when things are going wrong; the man who by personal example and lightning strategy can turn a situation to his side's advantage.

The person who coined the phrase that "forwards have no brains" could never have heard of Joe Egan. He is the thoughtful type of player, who revels in responsibility and while one man cannot make a team, the right man can bring out the best that is in it.

For any organisation to prosper there has got to be the right leadership from the top. Who will deny that Leigh are well blessed in this all important qualification?

Enthusiasm for the team is not enough. A captain who allows his enthusiasm to run away with his diplomacy often does more harm than good. There have been several instances of players of international rank threatening to refuse to play under certain captains, whose ideas of man management were certainly not their greatest claim to leadership.

Egan will see that every player pulls his weight, but he will do it with the minimum risk of causing offence. That is one of the reasons I would look no further than Joe Egan if I were asked to nominate the greatest skipper in present day football.

He has done big things for Wigan. He may yet do greater things for Leigh.

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