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OLDHAM v. BRADFORD NORTHERN

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1951

KICK-OFF 3 p.m.

Watersheddings News and Views.

Once again we embark upon a campaign of the great game of Rugby League Football. The opening this afternoon is the 63rd season on this famous ground of Watersheddings. The old ground has witnessed some ups and downs from a playing point of view and some of the greatest players in the Rugby Union and Rugby League have graced its playing area, names that are now memories to the older patrons of our game. Of the past there must be sweet remembrance and in some cases possibly regret, but what of the future. The close season of the Rugby League has been one of the quietest on record from transfer signings by clubs; is this due to the scarcity of money or the high transfer or signing fees demanded, or is it from the lack of suitable talent coming up in the field of sport? I firmly believe that there is talent today in the field of sport that requires unearthing, and with the required expert coaching, and the will to make good by the individual concerned, together with the practical experience of knowing how to do things and when, then, and then only, will the supply exceed the demand in any form of sport. Old timers may disagree with the standard of the past players in comparison with the players of today, and it is a very moot point whether in many things, among which all our great sports may be included, such attempts at arriving at a comparison of the relative standards of skill of two widely separated generations are of real value, from whom ever they come.

Cup No. 1.

The charity match at Rochdale on Saturday last against the Hornets resulted in a good win by 18 points to 7, and our team well merited their victory. Although the game never reached the high standard which we expected there were some good moves and fast running by our team. One must take into consideration that this match is always a derby match, with keenness which at times may become excessive, but we came through the game without injuries and a fit team was reported for the match today. Our backs appeared to have that little extra speed over our opponents that mattered and we are of the opinion that our engagement of a sprinter-coach for our team will have the desired result. The Committee realise that there are certain weaknesses which no doubt will receive attention.

The receipts at Rochdale on Saturday last amounted to £430 which must be considered satisfactory under the weather conditions that prevailed. After tax and expenses are deducted from the above amount, the residue is divided between the two competing clubs, and final distribution of the amount received be paid according to R.L. Bye-law, being 60% to Junior football organisations and 40% to approved charities.

Our Visitors.

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome to Watersheddings, Bradford Northern, who, under the guidance of that Rugby League counsellor and ex-chairman of the Rugby League, Mr. Harry Hornby, the Managing Director of the Club, and very ably assisted by an astute judge and tactician, Dai Rees, who is also a Director of the Club. It is chiefly through the efforts of these two gentlemen that Bradford Northern have been placed on the "map" in the Rugby League World. The team today consists of five New Zealand players who were signed by Mr. Hornby during his visit to New Zealand approximately over twelve months ago.

after the match visit the

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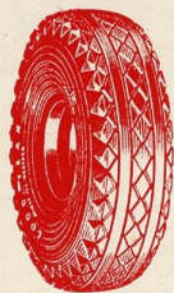
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8 OGDEN, H.	9 KEITH, J.	10 DAY, B.	
11 WINSLADE, C.	12 TOMLINSON, A.		
13 GOLDSWAIN, B. V. (Capt.)			

Reserves—MITCHELL, V. S., LEYLAND, T. H.

Referee : Mr. M. Coates, Pudsey.

Touch Judges : Mr. F. S. Rowley, Bargo (Red Flag), Mr. C. M. Moseley, Manchester (Blue Flag)

14 TRAIL, K.

12 TYLER, B.	11 RADFORD, B.
10 GREAVES, R.	9 HALEY, N.
7 GODDARD, R.	6 DICKSON, W.
5 McLEAN, J. K.	4 WARD, E. (Capt.)
3 HASTINGS, N. F.	2 HAWES, R. P.
1 PHILLIPS, J. A.	

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WHITEHAVEN

D SALFORD
BATLEY

B WORKINGTON
HALIFAX

E WIDNES
ST. HELENS

C DEWSBURY
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Pen Pictures of the Players.

PHILLIPS, full back. Developing into one of the best full backs in our game. Played Rugby Union with Wellington, N.Z.

HAWES, wing. Another New Zealand player from the Union code, from the West Coast.

HASTINGS, centre. A good centre who knows the value of a cut through, also from the West Coast, New Zealand. Ex Union player.

WARD, the Captain. Requires no introduction to the Rugby League patrons the world over. Has secured every honour the game can offer. Still a great player and tactician.

McLEAN, wing. Comes from the West Coast, New Zealand. Gained Rugby Union International honours before leaving New Zealand. A big fast winger, who knows the way to the line.

DICKSON, Out half. Also from the West Coast, New Zealand. Met with serious injury in his first game in this country, has now fully recovered, and ran into brilliant form at the end of last season.

GODDARD, scrum half. A Leeds born player, has seen service with Hunslet.

DAY, forward. Transferred to his present Club from Salford. Salford born, came over with the Canadian Forces during the last war, and teamed up with Salford.

HALEY, hooker. The only local player in the team, secured from junior league in Bradford.

GREAVES, forward. Welshman from Abertillery, the club that his manager, Dai Rees comes from.

RADFORD, forward. Another Welshman from Aberavon, a big forward who goes all out.

TYLER, forward. Comes from Coventry R.U. Another hefty player.

TRAIL, loose forward. Transferred from Hunslet to his present club. Was member of the last touring team to Australia and New Zealand.

Conclusion.

It is the sporting wish of the Committee that our members and patrons will receive a feast of good football at Watersheddings during the season, to have favourable weather, a code of good conduct on the field of play by the contesting teams. We all like our team to win, and there may be occasions when this will not come our way, then give credit and appreciation to our opponents, do not forget that there are two teams playing, and if an individual player, be it home player or visiting player, has a bad day and nothing seems to go right, the player himself knows only too well and realises this and does not require to be told about it. Rugby League is a man's game and hard knocks must be taken and given and must be played in the spirit according to the rules of the game. If the game is carried out in this spirit I think we can all say at the seasons end that we have had an enjoyable season of football at Watersheddings.

NO MATCH?

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