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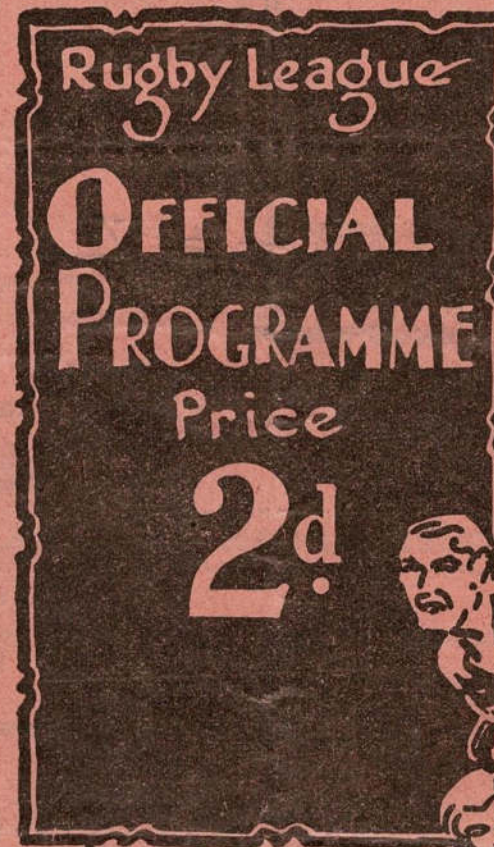
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OLDHAM v. WIDNES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1952

KICK-OFF 2-15 p.m.

Watersheddings News and Views.

A very happy holiday home fixture list was completed by three good wins but this was discounted somewhat by our heavy away defeat at Bradford. Our victories against Keighley and Swinton were convincing by the scores registered and although the win against Workington on Boxing Day was by the only try of the match our display was an encouragement to our supporters and the enthusiasm at the end of the match was in keeping with our display. It was a very hard match and it speaks well for the condition of our players to put all they had into the game against the Champions of 1950/51. Although we were forced to make changes in the team owing to injuries, the substitutes filled the bill admirably and we can record this match as one of our best wins of the season. On Saturday last at Bradford our lack of finish and the inability to round off good passing movements, plus the "open or blind side" of our pack being unprotected, gave our opponents the opportunity to score tries which should by all intents have been stopped. In the open play we were the equal if not better than Bradford, and some of our passing movements deserved a try, but then a team that does not take its chances cannot complain if the other side gains the match. Missed chances are a source of annoyance to the supporters and the players that miss the opportunity do not require being told; the realisation of same is often apparent by the subsequent effect on their play.

Although we were losing by four points to three at half-time we had hopes and confidence of better things to come during the second half, and we missed at least three opportunities of scoring tries near the corner flag. Had these matured and the probability of conversion of goals, the final result would have been in keeping with our play. Too many infringements were committed by our side and were turned to good account by a very able goalkicker in Phillips, the Bradford full back. Four goals were scored against us through infringements. This must be avoided in future games; no team can afford to infringe the laws of the game. That is part of the duties of the referee to see that the laws are carried out according to the book, and although supporters may complain of the abilities and duties of the referee at any match, he carries out his duty to his best ability and his decision must be final. You cannot please everybody—the perfect individual has not been born.

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2 WARHAM, J. 3 MITCHELL, W. S. 4 DAVIES, A. 5 O'GRADY, T.

WARHAM, J. 6 DAVIES, F. 7 STIRRUP, F.

8 OGDEN, H. 9 KIETH, J. 10 JACKSON, K.

11 WINSLADE, C. 12 ANTHONY L.

13 GOLDSWAIN, B. V. (Capt.)

Reserves: PLATT, L. GOODFELLOW, H. THURLOW, S.

Referee: Mr. H. Squires, Ossett.

Touch Judges: Mr. J. Woodward, St. Helens, (Red Flag). Mr. F. T. Hill, Warrington
(Blue Flag).

13 WORTHINGTON.

12 LAMB / WOODWARD 11 HIGGINS, DR. WITT

10 WILCOX. 9 HAYES. 8 NAUGHTON.

7 ANDERSON 6 FLEMING / HAZELHURST.

5 HILL, J. 4 JOLLEY, H. 3 SHAW. 2 DAWSON

1 SALE.

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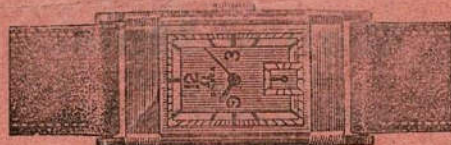
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E KEIGHLEY
SWINTON

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Attendances.

The attendance at our three holiday matches fell considerably below expectations, especially against Swinton on Xmas Day and Workington on Boxing Day. For the three matches 23,236 spectators were recorded and various reasons can be put forward for this: lack of transport on Xmas Day and Boxing Day, our loss of form on the previous five matches, the standard of individual performance being below par, and when the weather is unkind—then the turnstiles tell the tale. Of the remaining twelve league matches we have to play, six are at home and six away, and in our home matches we hope to recoup the deficiency of our holiday games, plus we hope for a successful run in the Challenge Cup.

Wembley Final Tickets.

We regret to inform late applicants that all our allocation of tickets for the Wembley Final has been disposed of a considerable time ago.

Our Visitors.

Today we entertain Widnes in the return League match, having played at Widnes on September 22nd, when we had our third defeat by nine points to nil, a very unfortunate match for us in having two players dismissed from the field. Two days after this match we played our visitors at Watersheddings in the second round Lancashire Cup and were successful by seventeen points to nine. A repetition of this victory will satisfy us, but we suppose our opponents will have something to say about this.

NO MATCH?

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