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OLDHAM v. HULL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 1952. KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.

Watersheddings News and Views.

Today we have the second session of the first round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup and have worthy opponents in Hull. In the first session on Saturday last our team gave a very creditable exhibition of football against opponents who are riding on top of the Rugby League world, and it was no mean feat to come away from Hull with only two points adverse against us. As a team on the day's play we were admittedly the better side and it speaks well for the defence of Hull to have kept several of our players from scoring. Attack is the best defence, the old saying goes, but credit must go also to a team that can keep their opponents from scoring. Strength in defence is as necessary as strength in attack and in some teams (and amongst some spectators) there is a tendency to underrate defence. The desire of the crowd is to see scores; the man who scores twice is a public hero and on a very different level from the man who, from a defensive point, prevents the scores, and in other words we naturally rate more highly the man who does things than the man who prevents them from being done. The majority of matches this season have been of an entertaining nature from our point of view: our midfield play has been good to watch, our approach to our opponents' line has been good, but the finishing-off movement has been lacking. This must be corrected and it is essential that more variation of tactics must be employed to overcome an iron wall of defence which our opponents sometimes put up. This matter is receiving very serious thought from our player-coach and the whole team; results alone will tell as to whether we are on the right track to improve our scoring machine.

Our Visitors.

T. HART, full-back.—Formerly a Hunslet player; came in the first team this season and has proved a good positional player, good tackler and first-class goal kicker.

K. GITTOES, wing.—Australian who signed in 1948 and has just come into his own this season; good defensive player; has scored 13 tries this season.

C. HUTTON, centre.—Formerly of Widnes; has played full-back for Lancashire; signed at the end of last season and has not missed a first team match.

R. FRANCIS, centre.—Captain and trainer-coach of the team; has had a long service in the game and still years of football in him; is the brains of the team; teenage when he joined Wigan prior to joining Barrow; capped eight times for Wales, and several war-time internationals, also Services R.U. international.

I. WATTS, wing.—A fast wing; has scored 16 tries this season; has played for Cumberland County; good handler; one of the smallest wingers in the game.

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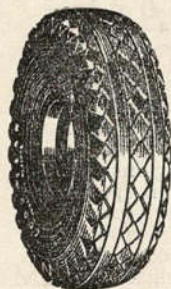
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8 OGDEN, H. 9 KEITH, J. 10 ANTHONY L.

11 WINSLADE, C. 12 DAY, B.

13 GOLDSWAIN, B. V. (Capt.)

Reserves: DAVIES, A. GOODFELLOW, H. JACKSON, K.

Referee: Mr. L. Thorpe., Wakefield.

Touch Judges: Mr. A. Kemp., Warrington, (Red Flag). Mr. A. Burge. Astley,
(Blue Flag).

13 WHITELEY

12 DRAKE 11 BEDFORD

10 COVERDALE 9 HARRIS 8 SCOTT

7 BURNELL 6 CONWAY

5 WATTS 4 FRANCIS 3 HUTTON 2 GITTOES

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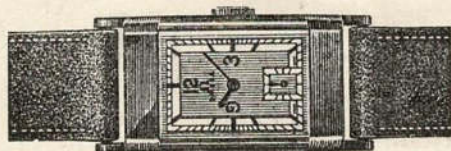
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E WIGAN
WAKEFIELD

C BELLE VUE
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B. CONWAY, out-half.—Fearless player to watch; good side-step and can play centre; another player who has run into form this season after a long period in the "A" team.

D. BURNELL, scrum.—Comes from a football family; has had service with Batley and Keighley; playing now better than at any time during his career; brother to Hunslet scrum-half.

M. SCOTT, forward.—Only twenty years old and still in the Services, has played for England and Yorkshire this season; a player who is always going; can side-step and a good handler of a ball.

T. HARRIS, hooker.—A Welshman from Newbridge R.U.; thick-set and great strength; has scored eight tries this season; has been "shadow" hooker for Wales several times. A good schemer who is always going outside the set scrums.

B. COVERDALE, forward.—A local player who signed June last from junior football; a deceptive turn of speed and lively in the loose and outstanding tackling skill.

A. BEDFORD, forward.—Another local player; played for Hull during the war at the age of 16; strong and fast player; leads the pack like a veteran although only 25 years of age.

J. DRAKE, forward.—A 20-year-old player from a York junior club; signed last season as "A" team full-back; played once this season first team full-back; has made a success as second row forward.

J. WHITELEY, forward.—A 21-year-old local player; has played emergency centre; an outstanding player for his age and a great future is predicted for this player; only a matter of time before he attains honours.

New acquisition.

Our new player, S. D. Little, ex-Harlequin, Cumberland County and R.A.F. Services R.U., created a favourable impression in his first game of Rugby League in our "A" team on Saturday last. Obviously he appeared to be in strange surroundings, but in possession of the ball and passing movements showed the quality of football that we require. We hope that Little will have a very successful career with us.

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