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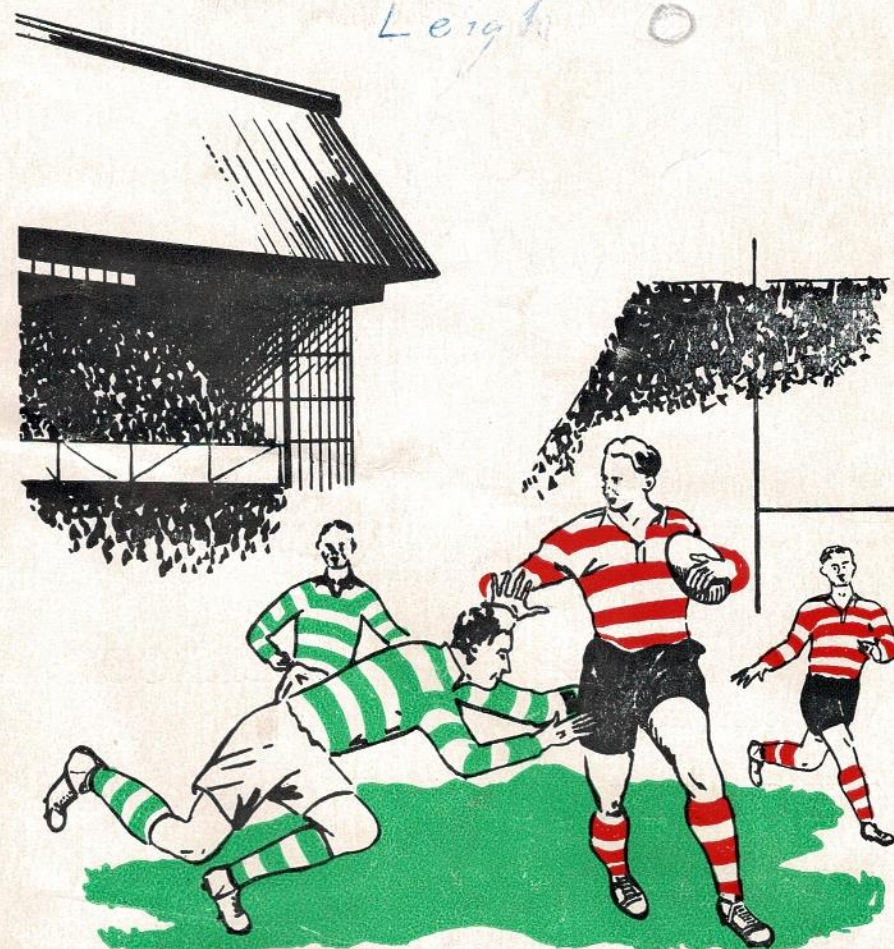
CROFTBANK MILL . . . OLDHAM

Fixtures for the Season

1955-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1956-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 11—*Rochdale	Home	3-0	22—Warrington	Away	2-30		
18—Bramley	Home	3-0	25—Swinton	Home	2-30		
20—Halifax	Away	7-0	26—Blackpool	Away	2-30		
25—Rochdale	Away	3-0	29—Widnes	Away	2-30		
28—Leigh	Home	7-0	Jan. 5—Hunslet	Home	2-30		
Sept. 1—*Wigan (Lancs C.)	Away	3-0	12—Salford	Home	2-30		
8—St. Helens	Away	3-0	19—Whitehaven	Away	2-30		
15—Wakefield	Home	3-0	26—Warrington	Home	3-0		
22—Barrow	Home	3-0	Feb. 2—Salford	Away	3-0		
29—Liverpool	Away	3-0	9—R.L. Cup				
Oct. 6—Wigan	Away	3-0	16—Widnes	Home	3-0		
13—Halifax	Home	3-0	23—R.L. Cup				
20—Barrow	Away	3-0	Mar. 2—Liverpool	Home	3-0		
27—Keighley	Home	3-0	9—York	Away	3-0		
Nov. 3—Workington	Away	3-0	16—Whitehaven	Home	3-0		
7—*Australia	Home	3-0	23—Bramley	Away	3-0		
10—Workington	Home	3-0	30—Wigan	Home	3-0		
17—Keighley	Away	2-30	Apr. 6—Leigh	Away	3-0		
24—Blackpool	Home	2-30	13—				
Dec. 1—York	Home	2-30	19—Swinton	Away	3-0		
8—St. Helens	Home	2-30	20—Hunslet	Away	3-0		
15—Wakefield	Away	2-30	22—Rochdale	Home	3-0		
			*All Pay				

*All Pay

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OLDHAM v. LEIGH

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

A good start for season 1956/57 and something to talk about, has been our lot so far. Our supporters must be enthusiastic about our victory against Bramley at Watersheddings, the opening match of the season, and especially so after our great victory against Halifax, at Halifax, on Monday August 20th. In both games our team did everything that was expected from them.

Our victory at Halifax was a dear one, inasmuch as we lost the services of Vince Nestor with a dislocation of the collar bone. It is unfortunate that we shall be minus the services of this up and coming player for several weeks.

Referring to our Bramley match we wish to congratulate the Bramley team on their open style of football, and the manner in which they played the game. One is confident that results at Bramley will be on the upgrade with the style of football they are putting over.

It is obvious that we have a large away following, judging by the cheers and handclaps at Halifax on Monday, August 20th. The Halifax Club are always delighted when we are visitors. The gate receipts for this match were over £1,600—a very good send off for the season. This match will long be remembered by our supporters as it was in the last minute that victory was achieved, and if we had not won, we should have been one of the unluckiest teams to ever play football.

Congratulatory messages and letters arrive upon the display of our team, and one received from an ex-player from Halifax, congratulates the team on their display at Halifax and the movements leading to the last try as a masterpiece of rugby skill. This writer, however, has two items he would like to point out, and which has been brought up many times. Why do some Clubs repeatedly play with a new ball, which, on the bounce is most difficult to all players, these should not be used in a match until they are seasoned. Also during atrocious and wet weather, why don't they change to a dry ball during the game instead of continuing with the same ball—just like playing with a lump of lead.

This writer has got something here, and it is worth taking up with the Authorities that be.

"A" TEAM FOOTBALL

The fixtures of Lancashire "A" teams is down at its lowest at present and several "A" teams have vacant Saturdays. The complications which Club Secretaries have, and are up against in arranging these fixtures, are very difficult indeed.

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OLDHAM (BLUE & WHITE)

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- 2.—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3.—AYRES, D.
- 4.—DAVIES, A.
- 5.—ETTY, J.
- 6.—STIRRUP, F.
- 7.—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8.—JACKSON, K.
- 9.—KEITH, J.
- 10.—VINES, D.
- 11.—WINSLADE, C.
- 12.—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13.—TURNER, D.

LEIGH (RED & WHITE)

- 1.—LEDGARD
- 2.—KITCHEN
- 3.—ATHERTON
- 4.—MURPHY
- 5.—HOLDEN
- 6.—BAXTER
- 7.—FALLON/O'BRIEN
- 8.—OWEN
- 9.—TABERN
- 10.—CROOK
- 11.—HURT
- 12.—MARTYN
- 13.—FOSTER

Referee: Mr. H. Philpot, Leeds

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Gregory, Widnes (Red). Mr. T. W. Geering, Warrington (Blue)

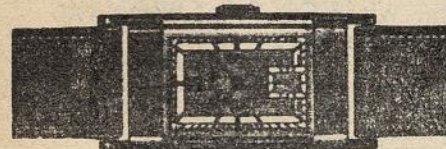
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A ruling authority should make the "A" team fixtures, and we at Oldham care not who it is, so long as there is centralization and control from one body. In recent years many Clubs have expressed the wish to revive the Rugby League Combination. Attempts have been made to do so and all have failed.

Something is definitely wrong with "A" team football and the sooner it is sorted out the better it will be for the game.

If the "A" team competitions were controlled, say by the Northern Rugby Football League, it should be a practical proposition to organize County "A" team competitions and a Rugby League Combination in accordance with a fixture formula which would be comparatively simple to devise. Only the Clubs can effect any amendment to the present constitution.

The central control of all first and second team football has other advantages. The Management Committee of the N.R.F.L. do not appoint referees for Lancashire "A" team football, it is felt that if they appointed the referees, more efficient referees of the younger class would attain graded status, and our control of the professional game would be centralized and under one authority, that is, the Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League.

OUR VISITORS

This evening we have attractive visitors in the Leigh Club, who are always welcome at Watersheddings.

The past few seasons have provided some thrilling encounters between the Clubs, and although our visitors have not off with a "flying start" this season, having lost two matches out of three, we can expect a dour match, and our team will have to keep their form up to record victory.

Congratulations to our team on their splendid exhibition at Rochdale on Saturday last under conditions that made handling difficult. The result proves that no matter what the conditions are, the handling of the ball will pay dividends. Mistakes in handling a wet ball are bound to happen, but the public like to see the ball passed, and it is the only way to attract the crowds to watch our game.

BRIEFS

Bearing upon the result of our match at Wigan on Saturday next we have provisionally arranged to play the French R.L. Champions on Monday, 10th September. Further notice will be given regarding all arrangements.

We still have some seat tickets left for the Wigan Cup-tie, at Wigan, on Saturday next. They can be bought from the Pavilion Office.

SATURDAY NEXT AT WATERSHEDDINGS

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