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SATURDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1956



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NOTES

No welcome to Oldham would be complete without a special greeting to fellow Cumbrians connected with the club in an official capacity such as Joe Couithard, Fred Ashworth and genial Jimmy Parkinson, all of whom have played a big part in putting Oldham back on its proper pedestal in R.L. football. Not since the days of Sloman and company have they enjoyed such success from a playing point of view. Not since 1933 had they won a major R.L. trophy until they beat St. Helens two weeks ago in the final of the Lancashire Cup. To the players who took part in that final we extend hearty congratulations on a fine effort.

Back in 1933 Fred Ashworth was in his prime, and "Basher" in form was a force to be reckoned with. To-day, not only is he on Oldham's Committee he is also President of the Lancashire County R.L. Well done, Fred!

Last season we won the corresponding game, but lost badly at Watersheddings in the return at the end of the season.

Our opponents to-day are without doubt the outstanding team of the moment, yet not unbeatable as the lowly Liverpool City have shown. They are well equipped from full-back right through to hooker.

Ganley is a very good goal-kicker and I have no doubt honours would come his way if he could tighten up his defence.

Wingers Etty and Cracknell have represented Yorkshire, while Davies at centre has County and International honours, and I'd say scrum half Pitchford is well in that running for that berth in the Great Britain team to play Australia at Wigan on November 17th.

It will be interesting to see how up and coming Sol Roper fares against No. 1 scrum half. The Oldham man will certainly get not change out of Sol, and indeed will do well to hold his own. There should be an interesting duel between two good packs of forwards. Town six are playing very well at present. Indeed we can thank our forwards for three successive away victories at York, Swinton

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and St. Helens, victories which were a talking point in R.L. circles, and which completely dumbfounded the "dismal Jimmies" who didn't give us an "earthly" in either one.

In each instance the home officials congratulated the Town team on their splendid performance and on the high quality of their football. Every man played his part well. Stan Thompson showed some of his old form and was bang on the target with his goal-kicking. His six successes out of eight attempts—the other two hitting the upright—was a very highlight of the Swinton match. Billy Ivill made a welcome re-appearance at York, played very well indeed and scored a try. He turned on a repeat performance at Swinton.

Ike Southward did his level best to reach Swinton in time to turn out but did not arrive until the interval, but Ike reached Knowsley Road in time to take his place against St. Helens, and we hope to have him again to-day to give us another demonstration of those power bursts and crash tackles which blotted Carlton right out of the game.

Bill Wookey and Skipper Eppie Gibson were also in rare form as were Harry Archer and Sol Roper. The experiment of playing Norman Herbert at open side prop continues with success. His display last week earned praise from the maestro himself, Alan Prescott. Duggie Holland has also settled down well on the blind side, and his vigorous forward play has earned the admiration of friend and foe alike.

Cec Thompson and Brian Edgar, gluttons for work and punishment, have never played better.

And what of the veterans, Jack Richardson and Billy Ivison? They are playing extremely well, better in fact than many so called good young 'uns half their age, and setting a splendid example to the rest of the team.

Can we keep up the good work and win again to-day? The boys say "Yes". So what more can we ask than a good day, for what should be a feast in football entertainment.

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(NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

		POINTS				POINTS	
		F. A.				F. A.	
Aug.	22—Whitehaven	A	8 15	Dec.	22—Blackpool	H	
"	25—Widnes	A	13 6	"	25—Barrow	A	
"	27—Wigan	H	0 24	"	26—Barrow	H	
Sept.	1—Salford	A	9 14	"	29—Wigan	A	
"	3—Halifax	H	2 11	Jan.	1—Hunslet	H	
"	8—Wakefield	A	15 9	"	5—Blackpool	A	
"	15—York	H	5 19	"	12—Wakefield	H	
"	22—Hunslet	A	11 29	"	19—Salford	A	
"	29—Keighley	H	28 4	"	26—Rochdale	H	
Oct.	6—Salford	H	7 4	Feb.	2—Warrington	H	
"	13—York	A	19 15	"	9—R.L. Cup, 1st Rd.		
"	20—Swinton	A	24 16	"	16—Bramley	A	
"	27—St. Helens	A	11 9	"	23—R.L. Cup, 2nd Rd.		
Nov.	3—Oldham	H		Mar.	9—Whitehaven	H	
"	10—Oldham	A		"	16—Leigh	A	
"	17—Leigh	H		"	23—Widnes	H	
"	24—Warrington	A		"	30—Liverpool	A	
Dec.	1—Bramley	H		Apr.	6—Halifax	A	
"	8—Liverpool	H		"	19—Rochdale	A	
"	15—Keighley	A		"	20—St. Helens	H	
				"	22—Swinton	H	

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