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at 7.0 p.m.**

**OFFICIAL
PROGRAMME**



**v.
OLDHAM**

TUESDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1957

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

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BLACKPOOL BOROUGH RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB LTD.

BLACKPOOL BOROUGH

V.

OLDHAM

TUESDAY, 1st JANUARY, 1957

Kick-off 2.30 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE VISITORS

To-day we welcome to the Stadium what is probably the best Rugby team in the four home counties. There will be many to differ with this point of view, but if we acknowledge the fact that in all branches of sport professionals are superior to amateurs, then we do narrow it down to the fact that in professional Rugby circles Oldham are looked upon as the team of the year. Already Lancashire Cup-holders and leading club in the Rugby League, many of us with the best interests of the game at heart are hoping that this will be Oldham's Wembley year, so that they can exhibit before a national audience the wonderful brand of Rugby of which they are capable. They have achieved these heights as a result of placing their faith in speed as distinct from the type of power-rugby which took St. Helens and Halifax to the top during the past season. Speed in passing, in playing the ball, and backing up, has brought its reward, which it will do to any side which will work hard enough at it until the side runs like clockwork. Occasional lapses Oldham may have, as against Liverpool City and as against ourselves last year, but there is no doubt about it—this is Oldham's finest-ever side, and one of the greatest the Rugby League has ever seen. It has taken many years of hard work, and we should extend our compliments to their Committee-men and their coach, Griff Jenkins, on their accomplishments.

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Although this programme goes to press before the teams are made known, the personnel will probably include at full back Bernard Ganley, who is a Bachelor of Science as well as being a first-class goal kicker. He is a Lancashire County player. On the right wing is Dick Cracknell, son of the former Swinton and Huddersfield player. He was transferred some two seasons ago from Huddersfield to Oldham for a sum of £4,000, and has been worth every penny. He has represented Great Britain, and only the brilliance of Billy Boston keeps him out of the present Test side. In the centre will almost certainly be Alan Davies, the present Great Britain Test centre. He is the son of Cocky Davies, the old Leigh player, and was signed on from the Leigh district when only 17. He is more or less permanent choice for the County and is a centre of undoubted class. On the other wing is John Etty, a Yorkshire County player, who was transferred at a big figure from Batley two seasons ago. A lovely runner, this boy. At stand-off half will be the Captain of the side, Frank Stirrup, a former Leigh and Salford player. At scrum half will be Frank Pitchford, a coal miner from the Leigh district, who has also gained County and International caps. A bright future has been forecast for this player and he may well be a World Cup choice next summer.

Oldham have a wonderful pack of forwards, who are almost as speedy as the backs in their passing, yet at the same time they can hold their own against the mightiest of power packs when it comes to a battle of strength. At open side prop is Ken Jackson, signed from a local junior club. This is a great player who at one time very nearly came to Blackpool, but Oldham stepped in at the crucial moment and decided that they had something on their own doorstep that was as good as anything in South Wales or points beyond. At hooker is old favourite Jack Keith, who displaced Jimmy Mundy on the Oldham team. Jack hails from a Leeds junior club. At blind side prop is Don Vines, who was signed by Oldham from Abertillery Rugby Union side last season. He is prominent in weight-lifting circles and is very fast in the loose for a front row forward. In the second row is Test forward Sid Little, a Cumbrian who at one time played with the Harlequins. An outstanding player is Sid, and for our money another World Cup choice next summer. With him might be Charles Winslade, another former prominent Rugby Union player signed by Oldham from Maesteg, South Wales. To complete the side, at loose forward is Test player Dereck Turner, signed last season from Hull Kingston Rovers.

We look forward to an outstanding exhibition to-day from this great side.

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6—BRENNAN 7—DUNN

13—FEARIS 1 TRY.

11—ARMITT 12—STANDISH

8—WRIGHT 9—MUNDY 10—GRUNDY



10—7pts.

10—VINES 9—KEITH 8—JACKSON

12—WINSLADE 11—LITTLE

13—TURNER

7—PITCHFORD 6—STIRRUP

5—ETTY 4—DAVIES 3—AYRES 2—CRACKNELL

1—GANLEY

OLDHAM 15pts.

(CHERRY AND WHITE JERSEYS, BLACK SHORTS)

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Linesmen :

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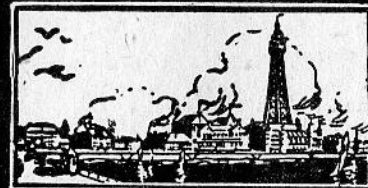
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OFFICIAL FIXTURES, SEASON 1956-57

FIRST TEAM				Points	
				F.	A.
1956					
Aug. 18—Hull Kingston Rovers			Home	24	7
" 22—Castleford	....	....	Away	30	12
" 25—Salford	....	....	Away	12	9
" 30—Barrow	....	....	Away	5	30
Sept. 1—Whitehaven (Challenge Cup)	....	....	Home	15	12
" 8—Warrington	....	....	Away	21	25
" 15—Rochdale Hornets	....	....	Home	16	27
" 19—Barrow	....	....	Home	8	30
" 22—Hull Kingston Rovers	....	....	Away	2	44
" 29—St. Helens	....	....	Home	5	58
Oct. 6—Leigh	....	....	Home	14	43
" 13—Doncaster	....	....	Away	19	12
" 20—Warrington	....	....	Home	18	5
" 27—Dewsbury	....	....	Away	17	14
Nov. 3—Doncaster	....	....	Home	11	3
" 10—Wigan	....	....	Away	8	22
" 17—Dewsbury	....	....	Home	21	7
" 24—Oldham	....	....	Away	8	60
Dec. 1—Halifax	....	....	Home	15	19
" 15—Wigan	....	....	Home	9	18
" 22—Workington Town	....	....	Away	3	19
" 25—Whitehaven	....	....	Away	14	29
" 29—Liverpool City	....	....	Away	17	13
1957					
Jan. 1—Oldham	....	....	Home	....	....
" 5—Workington Town	....	....	Home	....	....
" 12—Liverpool City	....	....	Home	....	....
" 19—Leigh	....	....	Away	....	....
" 26—Whitehaven	....	....	Home	....	....
Feb. 2—Castleford	....	....	Home	....	....
" 9—Rugby League Cup, Round 1	....	....	....	....	....
" 16—Batley	....	....	Away	....	....
" 23—Rugby League Cup, Round 2	....	....	....	....	....
Mar. 2—Widnes	....	....	Away	....	....
" 9—Swinton	....	....	Home	....	....
" 16—Halifax	....	....	Away	....	....
" 23—Batley	....	....	Home	....	....
" 30—Swinton	....	....	Away	....	....
April 6—Rochdale Hornets	....	....	Away	....	....
" 19—Salford	....	....	Home	....	....
" 20—Widnes	....	....	Home	....	....
" 22—St. Helens	....	....	Away	....	....

SUPPORTERS' SNIPPINGS

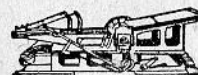
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS. With this greeting must go thanks to all who have helped in any way during the past year. The year past has not been too unkind to us, but it could have been kinder. However, things do look rather rosier for us than in the past.

WHAT HAS THE NEW YEAR IN STORE FOR US? Only a true prophet can tell us that, but such individuals are hard to find. We can only hope for an increase in the successes so far enjoyed and a great increase in the support at First Team matches. This latter matter is not a measure for conjecture, but a matter for the supporters themselves. The task of persuading a friend to come along to matches should not be so hard as it was. After all, the team has progressed considerably since our early days and, given the support that it deserves, can progress even further in this present season. THIS SHOULD BE A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION FOR ALL OUR MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS!

WHAT HAS THE NEW YEAR IN STORE FOR THE GAME AND THE RUGBY LEAGUE ITSELF? If the present inept, hide-bound, conservative management of the League continues, then the answer can only be—very little indeed! If there is to be any improvement at all, then five things have to be attended to very promptly. FIRSTLY, there must be a clear-out of the dead wood in the Rugby League top brass, and the immediate introduction of men with new and popular ideas. SECONDLY, there must be an end to the sub-standard refereeing which the supporters and clubs have to suffer each week. The standard of refereeing in the League is appalling and must not be allowed to continue, and the first thing to start on is a uniformity of decisions. THIRDLY, the TWO DIVISION system must under no circumstances be shelved, and a more competitive structure must be evolved forthwith. FOURTHLY, a new look must be given to International and representative matches in order that they can regain the prestige that they formerly held. FINALLY, much more consideration must be given to the more lowly clubs in the League, without whose existence the more mighty clubs could not survive.

"COME ON THE BOROUGH!"

F.W.G.



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