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HALIFAX

VERSUS

OLDHAM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1957.

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

PRICE THREEPENCE

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Chairman: Mr. C. E. Horsfall. **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. E. M. Lingard.
Messrs. W. Chalcraft, S. W. Heppenstall, A. Johnson, R. Marshall,
E. Rushworth, J. C. Stacey, H. Webster.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

Finance: E. M. Lingard (Chairman), R. Marshall, A. Johnson, H. Webster.
Football: E. Rushworth (Chairman), S. W. Heppenstall, H. Webster,
W. H. Chalcraft.
Ground: A. Johnson (Chairman), J. C. Stacey, W. H. Chalcraft, S. W. Heppenstall

Secretary: William Hughes.

**Representative to Rugby League Council and Northern Rugby League
Management Committee:** Mr. C. E. Horsfall.

Representative to Yorkshire County Committee: Mr. E. Rushworth.

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SPORTS CHAT

TO-DAY'S VISITORS.

OLDHAM.

Founded: 1872. **Ground:** Watersheddings.
Colours: Red and White Jerseys, Blue Shorts.
Rugby League Cup Winners: 1899, 1925, 1927 and **Runners-up** four times.
Northern Rugby Football League Champions: 1905, 1910, 1911, 1957 and
Runners-up five times.
Lancashire Cup Winners: 1907, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1924, 1933, 1957.
Lancashire League Champions: 1907, 1910, 1922, 1957.
Least Season's Leading Scorers were: **Ganley** 194 goals (a club record)
and he also scored two tries. **Etty** 43 tries; **Cracknell** 27 tries and
19 goals.
Most Appearances: Etty 46; Jackson 46; Keith 46.

* * * *

With such an impressive record as listed above and being the current holders of three cups and having commenced the season in a manner that indicates that they are all out to maintain and improve their proud position it is no wonder that we are pleased to be hosts to such renowned opponents as Oldham this afternoon.

This will be the fourth time that I will have seen Oldham in action this season. Their form against us at Watersheddings and against St. Helens was only fair, but against Huddersfield on Monday evening last their display was well-nigh perfect. They moved into action against the Fartowners with speed. Their tackling was fierce, they handled with precision and supported the man with the ball to the hilt. It is a long time since I have seen such a fine exposition of fast and accurate rugby. Everything was carried out with speed, determination and vigour. It was truly great form. However, before you get the impression that they are a team of supermen let me quickly add that the opposition allowed the men of Watersheddings to develop their fine attacking play. If given any latitude our nearest Lancashire neighbours will doubtless run riot against a great deal of opposition. They have the personnel that makes them into one of the most attractive sides to watch. Despite their glamour, it is not only as a great side that we are pleased to welcome Oldham to Thrum Hall this afternoon, but we are glad to have the opportunity of entertaining our friends from across the border and given the chance to express to them all our gratitude for the favours they have rendered to our players in the past by bringing their players along here to participate in Testimonial Matches for Daniels, Kielty and Ackerley.

Win or lose, we welcome all the Oldham Players, Committee, Officials and Supporters, to our midst and trust that as you travel back over the Pennines tonight you will take with you happy memories of your visit to Thrum Hall.

WELCOME TO THRUM HALL.

In the last issue of this programme I stated that Bill Drake, the Hull second row forward, had had a trial at Thrum Hall. Hull people informed me that I was wrong and I have to apologise for they were quite right. It was not Bill Drake that came here for a trial but his twin brother, Jim Drake. Still, whether it was Bill or Jim Drake—a good man did slip through our hands.

We had four centres out of action last Saturday. Palmer with a bruised rib; Mather with a damaged ankle; Burnett unable to get away from his R.A.F. unit; and Phillips with a bad throat.

Oldham, too, have had centre troubles. Davies, their World Cup player, has yet to play for them this season, while the other first choice centre, Ayres, is off injured. Nestor and Noon are their two reserve centres.

With the exception of Vines the Oldham pack is at full strength. Vines sustained a broken nose against St. Helens. His place is taken by Jarman who once had a trial with our "A" team.

The heaviest man in the Oldham side is Winslade who weighs 15st. 4lbs. He is 2lbs. heavier than Pearce our heaviest player.

In the six matches we have so far played this season (including today's match) we have met the League Champions twice, we have faced the League Finalists (Hull) and crossed swords with the Yorkshire Cup Winners (Wakefield) and the Yorkshire Cup Runners-up (Hunslet)—a most formidable start to the season and in between we have had a match with Castleford. For the rest of this month our task should not be quite as strenuous, although we have to face Hull K.R. and Barrow away and Leeds at home.

Congratulations to Geoff Palmer on being our first player to be chosen to play in a representative match this season. He will play for Cumberland against Yorkshire on September 11th. The match will be played at Hull. Colin Cliff is included in the Yorkshire Shadow team.

To-day's Curtain-Raiser is played between the Under 17 Teams of Ovenden and St. Malachy's. A collection will be taken on behalf of the funds of the Junior League.

Keith, the Oldham hooker, resumes today after missing two matches through a back injury.

The Leigh district has been a happy hunting ground for the Oldham scouts. Daley, Davies, Ganley, Pitchford and Stirrup all come from this area.

Of today's team two only of the Oldham players are local products: Jackson and Jarman.

In Etty and Cracknell, Oldham have the costliest pair of wing three-quarters playing today. Both are Yorkshiremen with Etty being selected for the present Yorkshire side. Their acquisition depleted the Oldham coffers to the tune of £7,000.

John Helliwell is making satisfactory progress following his hip injury. He has now been allowed to get up from his Royal Infirmary bed, and hopes to get home this week-end.

Jack Wilkinson is making better progress than expected since he had his cartilage removed. He hopes to commence light training next week.

I have no report yet of how Turnbull's operation turned out. He had his cartilage removed at Dundee Royal Infirmary on Tuesday last.

David Fairbank badly sprained his ankle on Saturday last. He will be out of action for a fortnight.

LAST MINUTE LAPSES.

Two points were lost against Hunslet by a try scored by their centre, Stockdill, in the last minute. We were leading up to this juncture but weak tackling cost us the match. Similarly, against Wakefield after a wonderful rally, we threw away the chance of appearing in the second round of the Yorkshire Cup by another last minute slip.

And, of course, you all will recall the last minute try scored by John Etty against us when we played Oldham at Thrum Hall last season. This try enabled the Watersheddings men to return home with both points after appearing to have lost the match.

We have played well up to a point this season and then good work has been thrown away by unaccountable mistakes. We cannot afford to have any more slips like the ones against Hunslet and Wakefield. If we stiffen our midfield play then we shall win many more matches than we shall lose. Our form has been very good only to be spoiled by unexplicable happenings.

We do not anticipate that we shall give Oldham any easy points today. Our players will make every effort to make up for the lost matches. Although the champions are in top gear I now predict that this afternoon's match will again be a very close affair and one that will keep the spectators on their toes for the full 80 minutes.

A meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of the Rugby Football League will take place in Leeds on Thursday next, September 12th. Moyser's dismissal at Wakefield will come before the Committee on this date.

After his service in the Army, during which period he has played rugby all over Africa, Jimmy Lawton returns to this country next month prior to being demobbed in December.

We are seeking permission from the Rugby League to organise a Joint Testimonial Fund for Jack Wilkinson and Ken Dean in Season 1958-59. By that time both will have qualified for their Testimonial. Jack Wilkinson was signed in September, 1947, and Ken Dean in November, 1948.

Oldham once did us a very good turn by selling us Higgs, Higgins and Johnson, at a very moderate fee. Higgs and Higgins helped the Thrum Hall side to win the Cup at Wembley in May, 1931.

With Asquith being unfit owing to a groin injury, John Burnett today gets an opportunity to stake his claim to the right wing berth. If this converted centre threequarter fills the bill he will certainly solve a problem for us and we do not see any reason why Burnett should not make this flank his own. John is stationed with the R.A.F. at Sutton Coldfield and a week ago ran second to Segal in the 220 yards during the R.A.F. championships at Gloucester. His partner at centre will be either Palmer or Riley. It is as yet undecided which of these two will play left and right centre.

* * * *

I do not think that I shall be very far wrong when I forecast that of the two left wing threequarters that will go to Australia next summer that they will be chosen from the following three players: Etty (Oldham, Sullivan (Huddersfield), and Freeman (Halifax).

* * * *

DID YOU KNOW—

That if a player grounds the ball at the base of one of the goal-posts in the field of play that it is no try. Recently, I saw an incident like this and thought that the referee was wrong in disallowing a try. However, the International Board only a few months ago ruled that it is no try when a player grounds the ball at the foot of the post. Australia and New Zealand have always awarded a try under these circumstances but they will now have to conform with the ruling of the International Board.

* * * *

NEXT HOME MATCHES.

Sept. 14th: HULL "A" Sept. 21st: YORK; Sept. 28th: LEEDS.

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HALIFAX

- 1.—OWEN
- 2.—BURNETT
- 3.—PALMER
- 4.—RILEY
- 5.—FREEMAN
- 6.—DEAN
- 7.—KIELTY
- 8.—THORLEY
- 9.—MOYSER
- 10.—PEARCE
- 11.—HENDERSON
- 12.—CLIFFT
- 14.—TRAILL

Referee:

T. W.
WATKINSON
(Manchester).

Touch Judges:

E. Lester
(Red Stripe)

C. B. Watson
(Blue Stripe)

OLDHAM

- 1.—GANLEY
- 2.—CRACKNELL
- 3.—NESTOR
- 4.—NOON
- 5.—ETTY
- 6.—MOAT
- 7.—PITCHFORD
- 8.—JACKSON
- 9.—KEITH
- 10.—JARMAN
- 11.—WINSLADE
- 12.—LITTLE
- 13.—TURNER

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(For the match with Hull K.R.)
Saturday, 14th September, 1957.

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Return from Hull, 5-0, 6-35, 8-35
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PLAYERS' RECORDS.

Player	No. of Appearances	Goals	Tries	Points
OWEN	5	17	—	34
ASQUITH	4	—	3	9
MATHER	4	—	—	—
PALMER	4	—	1	3
FREEMAN	5	—	10	30
DEAN	5	—	—	—
KIELTY	4	—	—	—
THORLEY	5	—	—	—
MOYSER	5	—	1	3
HELLIWELL	3	—	—	—
HOLMES	2	—	—	—
CLIFFT	5	—	—	—
TRAILL	5	—	1	3
RILEY	2	—	—	—
BROADHURST	1	—	—	—
PEARCE	3	—	—	—
MAGEEN	2	—	—	—
HENDERSON	1	—	—	—
18	65	17	16	82

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ON OPPOSITE FLANKS.

JOHNNY FREEMAN

(Halifax).

Johnny Freeman was signed by Halifax in December, 1954. He came to us from the Cardiff International Athletic Club. We did not see very much of him for the first couple of seasons as a shoulder injury kept him out of action. Last season he showed his tremendous possibilities by scoring 48 tries and establishing a new try-scoring for Halifax beating the previous record of 47 tries which Billy Williams created in 1908-09. Johnny is 23 years of age, stands 6ft. and weighs 13st. He is a machine tool worker and is employed by A.D.A. Ltd. During the summer keeps himself fit by playing tennis. He is a rabid boxing fan especially of his cousin Joe Erskine.



* * * *

DICK CRACKNELL

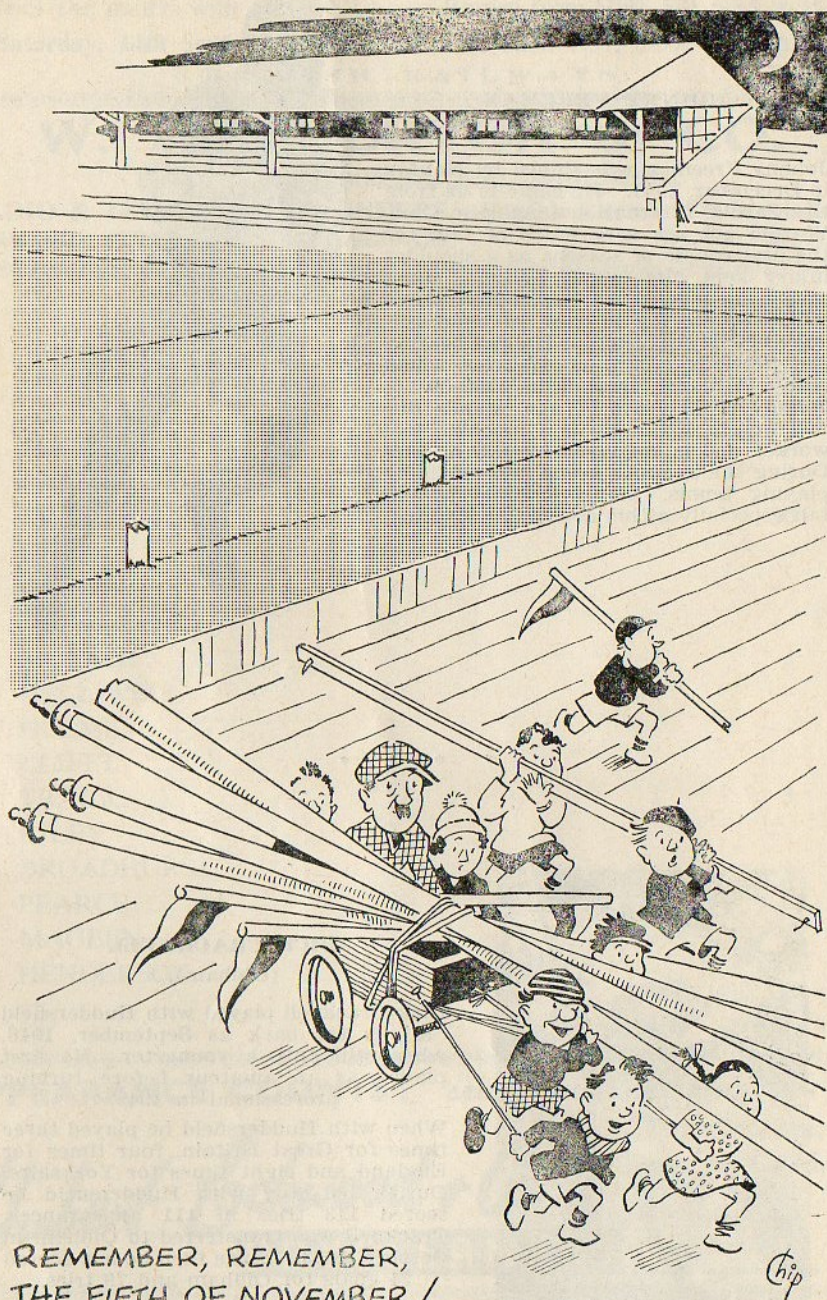
(Oldham).

Dick Cracknell played with Huddersfield "A" as far back as September, 1946, when still only a youngster. He first played as an amateur before turning professional in 1949.

When with Huddersfield he played three times for Great Britain, four times for England and eight times for Yorkshire. During his stay with Huddersfield he scored 113 tries in 111 appearances. Cracknell was transferred to Oldham in October, 1953. Since then he has scored 24 goals for Oldham and 79 tries.

Cracknell stands 5ft. 10ins. and weighs 12st.





REMEMBER, REMEMBER,
THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER!

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES, 1957-58.

17-OLDHAM	...	...	away
21-CASTLEFORD (7-0)	...	...	home
24-HULL	...	...	home
28-HUNSLET (6-45)	...	...	away
31-YORKS. CUP, 1st Round.	...	...	
Sept. 7-OLDHAM	...	...	home
14-HULL K.R.	...	...	away
21-BARROW	...	...	away
28-LEEDS	...	...	home
Oct. 5-KEIGHLEY	...	...	away
12-BARROW	...	...	home
19-YORK	...	...	away
26-BRADFORD NORTHERN	...	...	home
Nov. 2-LEEDS	...	...	away
9-DEWSBURY	...	...	home
16-DONCASTER	...	...	away
23-YORK	...	...	home
30-CASTLEFORD	...	...	away
Dec. 7-WAKEFIELD T.	...	...	home
14-DEWSBURY	...	...	away
21-BATLEY	...	...	away
25-HUDDERSFIELD	...	...	home
26-HUDDERSFIELD	...	...	away
23-HUNSLET	...	...	home
Jan. 1-WIGAN	...	...	home
11-HULL	...	...	away
18-HULL K.R.	...	...	home
23-WAKEFIELD T.	...	...	away
Feb. 1-DONCASTER	...	...	home
8-R.L.C.C. 1st Round	...	...	home
15-KEIGHLEY	...	...	home
22-R.L.C.C. 2nd Round	...	...	away
Mar. 1-BRAMLEY	...	...	away
8-WIGAN	...	...	away
15-FEATHERSTONE R.	...	...	home
22-BRADFORD NORTHERN	...	...	away
29-	...	...	
Apl. 4-	...	...	
5-BRAMLEY	...	...	home
7-ST. HELENS	...	...	home
8-FEATHERSTONE R.	...	...	away
12-BATLEY	...	...	home
19-ST. HELENS	...	...	away

"A" TEAM FIXTURES, 1957-58.

1957. 17-HULL	...	...	home
Aug. 24-CASTLEFORD	...	...	away
31-HUDDERSFIELD	...	...	home
Sept. 7-FEATHERSTONE	...	...	away
14-HULL K.R.	...	...	home
21-YORK	...	...	home
28-DONCASTER	...	...	away
Oct. 5-LEEDS	...	...	home
12-BATLEY	...	...	away
19-BRADFORD	...	...	home
26-DEWSBURY	...	...	away
Nov. 2-CASTLEFORD	...	...	home
9-HUDDERSFIELD	...	...	away
16-DONCASTER	...	...	home
23-HULL K.R.	...	...	away
30-DEWSBURY	...	...	home
Dec. 7-LEEDS	...	...	away
14-WAKEFIELD	...	...	home
21-KEIGHLEY	...	...	home
28-HULL	...	...	away
1958. 4-KEIGHLEY	...	...	away
Jan. 11-BATLEY	...	...	home
18-BRADFORD	...	...	away
25-FEATHERSTONE	...	...	home
Feb. 1-YORK	...	...	away
15-HUNSLET	...	...	away
Mar. 1-	...	...	
8-BRAMLEY	...	...	home
15-WAKEFIELD	...	...	away
22-HUNSLET	...	...	home
29-	...	...	
Apl. 5-BRAMLEY	...	...	away

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