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Oldham Won 24-14 Nov 23, 1957.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

LEIGH

FOOTBALL CLUB

LIMITED

Headquarters :
KIRKHAL LANE

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LEIGH v. OLDHAM

Saturday, 23rd November, 1957

- ★ NEWS AND VIEWS ON PLAY AND PLAYERS
- ★ CLUB CHAT ★ OFFICIAL NOTES
- ★ TO-DAY'S TEAMS, etc., etc.

Leigh Football Club Limited

DIRECTORS

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JOHN B. HARDING, Esq.
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STILL CLIMBING

Well, we did beat Whitehaven, and handsomely in the end, but not before many spectators had seen visions of defeat stealing over the new brickwork at the Chadwick Street end. For the first twenty minutes it appeared that our boys were determined to do things the hard way. Passes went astray, forwards turned back into the ruck and the usually reliable Ledgard had no luck with at least five shots at goal. It was no surprise when the visitors went ahead through a grand try by Stevenson.

Perhaps it was the 2-30 kick-off that put Leigh out of joint—perhaps Whitehaven tactics. The kindest interpretation is that it was a deliberately conceived process of attrition, wearing down the opposition for the kill.

SECOND HALF DIFFERENT

Whatever the reason for the character of the first half, the second was in complete and welcome contrast. Ledgard found his form, constructive ideas were given breathing space and attack became the keynote. For the first ten minutes of that second half Leigh certainly applied the old Rugby adage, "Give 'em hell for ten minutes after half-time and the game's as good as won."

As it was, and before Whitehaven lost a player, it soon became obvious that any speculation was on the margin rather than on the fact of victory. The forwards were in command, Fallon had a busy but successful joust with veteran Banks, Bright brought off some splendid tackles and probed intelligently, while in the centre Holden and Gullick were always ready to take the ball forward. Darbyshire, called in to replace Chadwick, celebrated with a couple of well-taken tries, and Gibson was there to take advantage of a neat kick by Fallon.

TOP FOUR ?

So we are now sharing fifth place in the League with Widnes and Wigan. On October 5th we were 16th. Wigan, of course, have scored far more points than we have, 372 against 251, while Widnes have only conceded 154 to our 179.

In terms of victory and defeat our record is identical with that of our rivals. If we can win today we may find ourselves even nearer the coveted top four.

TODAY'S VISITORS

Let us say at once that our welcome to the visiting side is today a really sincere one. We are certain that all supporters will join us in paying tribute to a club that has so dominated the Rugby League world over the past few seasons. We gladly acknowledge that the Oldham side is good, very good, and that it plays a brand of football that is most attractive and entertaining.

ABSENTEES

Unfortunately, it is one of the penalties of success that clubs must yield their outstanding players to international demands and Oldham are today deprived of the services of five of their best players who will be playing at Central Park in the match against France. We regret this, but we draw no false hopes from it. Oldham were similarly placed some weeks ago and yet, such is their reserve strength, they put paid to Wakefield.

We are not going to enlarge on Oldham's record of achievement. Oldham supporters know that record better than we do, while Leigh fans know enough of it to be chary of forecasting today's result.

NO DEFEATISM

Not that we are going into this game in a spirit of defeatism. Far from it. Despite the fact that Kindon, Owen and Chadwick are still not available, we intend giving Oldham a severe testing and we hope to produce the same kind of result that shocked Wigan fans out of their normal calm a month ago. Perhaps we can be forgiven for recalling a rather snowbound occasion last season when a full-strength Oldham left Kirkhall Lane and the Cup with very sorry memories. True, we were beaten at Oldham earlier in this season, but on that occasion we were haunted by the 'flu bug.

This should be a memorable game and one that, we hope, has attracted a very good attendance.

HOSPITAL COMMENTARY

Today's commentary is provided by —

B. Brogden, 33 Beech Walk, Leigh.

A. Savage, 22 Market Street, Leigh.

J. Monks, Deans Close, Beech Walk, Leigh.

May we ask for your generous support for the collection to be taken today in aid of this facility provided for patients in Atherleigh Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

The News Chronicle-Dispatch, chiefly through Tom Longworth, gives splendid publicity to the cause of Rugby League. On Tuesday readers of that paper saw an article by our Chairman, Mr. Hilton, giving a very full picture of the affairs of our Club.

As well as denying rumours that Micky Martyn or any other star player was on the market, Mr. Hilton repeated what has often been said in this programme concerning attendance. Here are a few phrases indicating the tone of his comments.

"Our problem is to fight against the terrific apathy that has come over our townspeople . . . if the public will come along and support us again we will not be behind anyone in bidding for the 'class' players . . . we have now at Kirkhall Lane one of the best teams ever to play there and our lads are right on form . . . the opportunity to support is here and now . . . we are prepared to meet and to satisfy all criticisms, but we take a poor view of critics who stay away . . . THERE ISN'T A SINGLE SUPPORTER TO WHOM WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO EXTEND THE SATISFACTION OF AN EXPLANATION OF HIS QUERIES. CAN'T WE ALL REALISE THAT WE HAVE A GOOD TEAM AND A FINE CLUB? IT'S FUTURE ABSOLUTELY DEPENDS IN EVERY DETAIL UPON THE CONTINUED LOYAL



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3. GULLICK GIBSON
4. HOLDEN McGILLICUDDY
5. DARBYSHIRE
6. BRIGHT
7. FALLON
8. ROBINSON
9. TABERN
10. CROOK
11. CALLAGHAN, E.
12. MARTYN
13. FOSTER (captain)

Res.: **ATHERTON,**
McGILLICUDDY,
CLAYTON, DICKENS

Referee: **J. P. HEBBLEWAITE (York)**

Touch Judges: **W. FITZHENRY-Red Flag** — **T. W. GEERING-Blue Flag**

OLDHAM ✓

1. STIRRUP
2. CRACKNELL CAPT.
3. NESTOR NOON
4. NOON AYRES
5. ETTY
6. DALEY NESTOR
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WHAT ABOUT IT REF?

Last week we asked should the referee penalise a player carrying the ball when he deliberately dodges behind one of his own players in order to avoid being tackled. The answer? NO!

A player in possession of the ball is entitled to make use of a colleague, the referee, or even a goal post in order to avoid being tackled. BUT, the player being used as a shield must make no attempt to interfere. Thus, a player carrying the ball can never be guilty of obstruction.

Now here is another problem concerning obstruction.

A defending player catches the ball in his own in-goal area. He kicks ahead, but is prevented from following up by an opponent who blocks him while he is still in-goal. Should the referee award a penalty. If so, where.

TEAM SHEETS

The Secretary still has over a hundred team sheets available for distribution early in each week. These give both the first and "A" teams for the coming Saturday and are intended for display in pubs, clubs, barbers' shops, snack bars and any other places where large numbers of people are likely to see them. They are no use in the Secretary's office. Can you help to distribute them? If you think you can, Mr. Hourigan will be glad to hear from you.

LUCKY ATHERTON

Once again a subscriber from Atherton has won first prize with his first venture on the pool organised by the Development Association. With takings up again at £260, this prize was £52.

This gradual increase in interest in the Development Fund is heartening to all concerned, but it is still not enough.

FOR THE RECORD

Player	Apps.	Tries	Player	Apps.	Tries
Atherton ...	4	—	Hewitt ...	5	0
Bright ...	11	3	Holden ...	15	7
Callaghan, B. ...	2	—	Hurt ...	9	1
Callaghan, E. ...	5	—	Hutson, E. ...	3	1
Chadwick ...	10	—	Hutson, W. ...	3	—
Clarke ...	2	—	Kay ...	1	1
Clayton ...	1	—	Kindon ...	9	7
Crook ...	6	—	Ledgard ...	10	1
Darbyshire ...	6	5	McFarlane ...	7	2
Davies ...	2	—	Martyn ...	12	13
Dickens ...	3	—	Owen ...	8	1
Fallon ...	17	4	Reakes ...	4	3
Fisher ...	1	—	Rhoden ...	1	—
Foster ...	16	2	Rigby ...	2	—
Gibson ...	8	3	Robinson ...	15	4
Gullick ...	9	3	Tabern ...	14	2

GOALS—Ledgard ... 39
Fallon ... 11
Darbyshire 9

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Today's Collection.

Earlier in the season we announced in the Press that the Supporters' Club would only assist in collections on the ground for charities or causes which are directly concerned with the Football Club and its activities. In accordance with our policy, a collection will be made by members of the Committee at half-time today for the Hospitals Relay Fund. We trust you will give generously to help give some pleasure to less fortunate supporters than ourselves, who are in hospital and not able to enjoy their Saturday afternoons with us at Kirkhall Lane.

Jimmy Ledgard Testimonial Fund.

As you are no doubt aware from the Press notices, the above fund was launched at a joint meeting of representatives of the Football Club, Players and Supporters's Club. Quite a

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number of good suggestions were put forward, including a testimonial match, a dance, a competition, two draws, and the production of a booklet outlining Jimmy's football career. Work on these projects is proceeding, and a Testimonial Dance, which Jimmy and the players will attend, has been arranged for Friday, February 28th, at the Casino Ballroom, Leigh. Dancing will be from 8 p.m. - 1 p.m., and the price of tickets, 5/- each.

Supporters' Club Membership.

We are very pleased to announce that up to date, the sale of our membership cards and diaries has reached the impressive figure of 3,350—this is the second highest since the Football Club was re-formed, the highest being season 1953/54 with a total membership of 3,699. There are still a few of our diaries left and these can be obtained at the snack bars on the ground, or from members of the Supporters' Club Committee. Why not get one now and give yourself the chance to win two stand or two ground tickets, which are given away each home match throughout the season on the No. in the Ball.

Nos. in the Ball.

This week's winning numbers are—

- 1540 Two stand tickets for today's match have been forwarded to Mr. W. Taylor, 8 Wardley Road, Tyldesley.
- 2325 Two ground tickets for today's match have been forwarded to Mr. K. Sephton, 285 Leigh Road, Hindley Green.

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