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3 p.m.

Warrington 13

versus

Oldham 20



Nº 1402

Vol. 12 No. 7

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 1958

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OLDHAM—TEAM OF TALENTS

THE visit of Oldham is always keenly anticipated by our supporters. We expect a thrilling game of open rugby and the large crowd which will pack the stands and terraces, should get more than their moneysworth this afternoon. Oldham will be strongly represented, even though they had a very important game with Widnes at Watersheddings on Wednesday night in the Lancashire Challenge cup tourney.

Writing about the Lancashire Challenge cup reminds us that for the past two seasons Oldham have won this trophy. They hope to bring off a "hat trick" of successes when they meet St. Helens in this year's final. The Oldham club have enjoyed a golden era for some time. Early after the war there were signs of the club

enjoying its former glorious years, but then there was a decline, although there was a lot of bad luck with regard to injuries, etc.

In the Lancashire cup competition—yes, the very same tournament which has been so exclusive for Oldham in the past two years—we beat Oldham 55-0 in the semi-final of 1948. Four days later we triumphed over the same team 37-0 in a league game. In the cup semi-final, Brian Bevan scored five tries and he repeated the dose in the league game. Harold Palin's total number of goals for the two matches was 13.

Of course, things have changed since then, but we recall with pride the occasion when Brian Bevan slipped into an Oldham passing movement on a very muddy afternoon at Water-

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sheddings in March 1954. All seemed lost at the time but Brian's famous try—he ran fully 75 yards—turned the game in our favour. The try, no doubt, played a very big part in the destination of the R.L. challenge cup. Had we lost that day, Oldham may have appeared at Wembley for the first time in their history.

We went on to beat York in the next round at Wilderspool (26-5), and Leeds in the semi-final (8-4) at Swinton. Came the big day at Wembley on April 24th, and we made the first-ever draw at the Stadium with Halifax (4-4).

In the memorable replay when 102,575 people turned up at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, to pay £18,650, we beat Halifax 8-4. The attendance was, of course, a world record. But thousands of our supporters, as well as very many from other areas were held up for hours on the Lancashire side of the Pennines.

There was a terrific traffic block in Oldham streets that night and scores of motor coaches and private cars were either delayed, or had no chance

whatsoever of reaching the ground at all.

We also defeated Oldham on another shocking day at Maine Road, Manchester, when a cloudburst almost caused a postponement. This was in the Northern Championship final of 1955.

Next Match at Wilderspool

October 11th

WARRINGTON "A" v.

ST. HELEN'S "A"

Kick-off 3 p.m.

The score on that occasion was 7-3. Bath's goals and an unusual try by Bevan (are they anything else?) pulled us through, although Oldham people were convinced that Rowland Barrow scored early in the game.

Oldham have come on apace, and unfortunately we have not been able

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to keep in step with the leaders, although our successes in cup competitions since the war are apt to be overlooked by some of our critics. For the benefit of all it would be as well to repeat them: R.L. Challenge cup: winners twice; Northern championship: winners three times, runners-up twice; Lancashire County championship: winners six times, runners-up once. Lancashire challenge cup: runners-up twice. In addition to this brilliant record we have figured in several semi-finals.

As we have already stated, Oldham have maintained their progress and have assembled a fine group of players. They won the Northern championship in 1957 by beating Hull in a rare thriller at Odsal Stadium. Last season they lost the semi-final play-off to Hull by 20 points to eight at Watersheddings. It was Hull's second post-war championship win after dramatic victories in the semi-finals. Don't remind us too much about that 1956 defeat at Wilderspool!

Among the many stars who twinkle at Watersheddings are: Bernard Gan-

ley (son of the former Leigh and Huddersfield player) who holds the goal-kicking record having beaten Jim Sullivan's long-standing figures, Alan Davies, son of another ex-Leigh player, and an international of many games, Dick Cracknell, who cost the Oldham club a huge sum when they signed him from Huddersfield.

Johnny Noon has won his place into the first team by sheer merit. In recent games he has proved himself to be a capable deputy for Bernard Ganley as a goal-kicker. In last week's game against Blackpool Borough, Noon scored 20 of Oldham's 44 points. Johnny Etty, played a lot of rattling good games for Batley before he was signed by Oldham who are always "scouting" for more and more talent.

Frank Pitchford is another of the Leigh lads who have made good at Watersheddings. Frank was a member of the recent successful Touring team, and is without doubt one of the trickiest scrum-half-backs in the league. Young Kellett has made a most efficient stand-off half-back. A department on which Oldham have concen-

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5-~~Sims~~ 1 TRY

4-Noon 1 TRY 3-Davies 1 TRY 2-Cracknell

1-Ganley 4 GOALS

Oldham—Red and White Jerseys, Blue Shorts

Referee

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Touch Judges

Primrose Flag, J. W. JACKSON (Barrow)
Blue Flag, V. WADDILOVE (Leigh)

ALLY NAUGHTON writes in the FOOTBALL EXPRESS

GREENALL

ALES



WHITLEY

STOUT

The Sign of Quality

trated for a long while. We remember the cleverness of Frank Stirrup and also Frank Daley, the strong man who also had a spell in the pack.

Ken Jackson is another Tourist, and a rattling good prop, while Jack Keith's whole-hearted play in scrum and loose have won him all-round praise. Roger Dufty, who joined Oldham from a famous Rugby Union club, has fitted in quite well as a prop after a spell in the second-row. Charlie Winslade has given great service to Oldham. He is a tearaway player who uses every ounce of his unbounding energy right to the end of the hottest game.

Syd Little played in the World Cup series in Sydney in 1957, but could not make the trip this year because of business reasons. He is playing as well as ever. Derek Turner, another World Cup man of 1957, is one of many grand loose-forwards turned out by the Hull Kingston Rovers club. Names which come to mind are Jack Feetham (later with Salford) and Alex Dockar.

After the disappointment over "the Wally McArthur business", we have secured Wigan's international wing-threequarter Terry O'Grady, who was a member of the 1954 Touring team.

Terry, who is 24, was with Oldham for several seasons and has played against us on frequent occasions. We hope that our supporters will give him the encouragement which all new signings should get.

Also on our books is Paddy Lannon, the former Liverpool City player who has had a lot of experience in the game. He played his first game with the

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senior team on Saturday last when we gathered two Lancashire League points lost last season to Salford. The directors are alive to the need for strengthening our playing personnel, as had been shown in recent weeks. The acquisition of Nat Silcock certainly shook a lot of people.

May we offer our congratulations to Mr A. H. Catterall, a member of our board, who has been appointed President of the Lancashire Schools

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You are reminded that the LITTER ACT came into force on the 7th August.

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Rugby League. Mr Catterall has been keenly interested in Boys' R.L. movement for many years. He donates the "Catterall cup" which is awarded annually for competition between Oldham and Warrington schoolboys' teams. Mr Catterall also donates prizes to the teams.

Finally, may we request your full support to the collection which is to be taken this afternoon for the Hospitals Broadcast Committee's funds. Weekly broadcasts from Widderspool Stadium are made to the General Hospital, the Chest Unit, the Infirmary and the Blind Society's Institute. Commentaries are also made on sporting matters each Wednesday. The equipment, plus rental of lines from the G.P.O. costs quite a big figure, and we are sure that the sporting public of Warrington and Oldham will assist in continuing this excellent service.

Ron Rowbottom, the Oldham prop forward who was obtained from Widnes, is the last remaining member of the Widnes Wembley cup final team of 1950 who is still in action. Ron has shown exceptional form this season and is down in today's probable team.

INDIVIDUAL SCORERS

			G. T. Pts.
Gilfedder	....	....	14 4 40
Fraser	....	....	20 0 40
Bevan	....	....	0 12 36
Greenough	....	....	0 8 24
Edwards	....	....	0 5 15
Regan	....	....	0 4 12
Gaskell	....	....	0 3 9
Silcock	....	....	0 3 9
Fryer	....	....	4 0 8
Naughton	....	....	0 2 6
Horton	....	....	0 1 3
Thompson	....	....	0 1 3
Arnold	....	....	0 1 3
Crosby	....	....	0 1 3
D. Clarke	....	....	0 1 3
Manniex	....	....	0 1 3
Major	....	....	0 1 3

As both St. Helens and Oldham wear red and white jerseys—Oldham have hoops and St. Helens one broad band—it will be necessary for a change of colours, for the Lancashire challenge cup final.

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 Rugby League with
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LONDON MIDLAND

Lancashire County Matters

THE Lancashire County Committee meeting at the Grand Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday night decided a majority vote to stage the Lancashire Challenge Cup final between Oldham and St. Helens at Station Road, Swinton, on Saturday, October 25th. In the event of a draw the game will be replayed at Wigan. The Wigan and Swinton grounds were the only venues put forward.

The replay would take place, if necessary, on October 29th, and if this does happen, then the county game between Lancashire and Yorkshire fixed for the same day will be postponed.

The Committee decided that the county game—it is to decide the championship—will take place at Kirkhall Lane, Leigh, under floodlights (kick-off 6.45).

Regarding the Lancashire cup final, it was decided that the prices of stand tickets would be 10/6 and 12/6, with ringside seats at 5/-, ground 3/6 and 2/6 and 1/- for boys and pensioners.

The President of the Committee, Mr Jack Edden of Swinton, stated that the

Station Road ground was capable of holding 48,000 and the facilities were second to none. The capacity had never been fully taxed. It was decided that the President's wife should present the cup to the winning team, and also the medals to winners and runners-up.

Referee for the match will be Ron Gelder of Wakefield.

Mr Frank Devonald of Widnes, the Secretary-Treasurer, announced that there was a credit balance of £563 after expenses had been met for the game against Cumberland at Central Park, Wigan and the visit to Hull for the Yorkshire fixture.

The gate at Wigan of 10,818 (£1,076) was the best for some time.

Members stated that while the display against Cumberland could not have been bettered, the form of certain players in the game with Yorkshire, which was lost, was disappointing.

The committee is to present £100 to the West Lancashire Amateur League to enable the organisation to meet its big travelling expenses bill. A similar sum is also to be devoted to the East Lancashire League.

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