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Vol. 13. No. 6

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ANOTHER BIG GAME

THE annual Wilderspool clash with Oldham is always of a keen and exciting character. Usually the result is in doubt until the late stages. Oldham come today without one or two of their stars, but all the same, they are formidable opponents. It may be that Ike Southward the expensive signing from Workington Town, will be playing. Ike has been out of action for some weeks because of an eye injury sustained against Blackpool Borough. He has made a good recovery and without doubt he is one of the outstanding wingers of the day.

Alan Davies has played in many representative games. He has captained Lancashire this season and on Saturday last he was in the Great Britain team which lost to the Australians. Alan is also a leading centre and

a forceful one too when he is able to use that long stride of his to advantage. He hails from Leigh and has been with Oldham since he was 17 years of age.

Alan is one of the several Oldham players who have made the Australian trip since the war. He belongs to a footballing family. His brother, Gwynne, is now showing some nice touches at full-back with Leigh, and looks like filling a spot which has caused the Hilton Park selectors a few headaches since Jim Ledgard dropped out of favour.

Alan's father also played for Leigh. He was the scrum-half, and most old-time Warrington fans will remember him by his nick-name "Cocky". One of our pre-war forwards has cause to remember this sprightly scrum-half of those times, because he was rudely

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awakened (or put to sleep) for his pains in roughing up the Leighite.

Another player who has shone at Watersheddings (and elsewhere) is Bernard Ganley, the full-back with the golden boot. He has shot Oldham to victory after victory even when defeat has been on the horizon. Bernard has led the league scoring list for the past two seasons. In 1956-7 he landed 194 goals, finishing only three behind the leader, Lewis Jones of Leeds. Then, in the following year, he went one better by notching 224, and last season was "tops" again with 192. So it is a case of no chances today otherwise he will be turning the opportunities into two points.

If Southward is unable to turn out, then we may get our first glimpse in the first team at Wilderspool of the speedy Irishman, Sean Quinlan, while Geoff Sims, another Leigh junior, is on the left. Centres Vin Nestor and Johnny Noon have also been showing good form, especially last week against Workington Town, who were beaten 28-2.

Alan Kellett is described by many as one of the outstanding stand-off half-backs in the league and he has been freely discussed as a Test prospect. He is one of Oldham's many "finds" since the war. If "certain affairs" at Watersheddings can be cleared up, we may see Frank Pitchford, the dynamic scrum-half, on duty. If not, then Frank Stirrup, the coach, may take over. This is not the first time that he has had to don his old

gear because of emergency. He also turned out against Workington at Watersheddings last week.

Ken Jackson is an outstanding prop, who made the trip to Australia on the last occasion, but met with an injury which troubled him for some time. Now he is fit again and is playing great stuff. Jack Keith goes on for ever and ever. He has been one of the Oldham's faithful servants for very many years, and is still a clever hooker and skilful chap in the loose.

Charlie Winslade, tall, well-built and a fine forager, makes up the second row with tough boy Roger Duffy. Will we see Geoff Robinson the ex-Whitehaven forward at No. 13? Maybe. Our club were interested in Robinson when he was transfer-listed by Whitehaven and we made great efforts to obtain his services but he preferred to go to Watersheddings, and join another Cumbrian, Ike Southward. Incidentally, Geoff works alongside Charlie Winslade for the N.C.B. near Swinton.

It is three weeks since we had a first-team home game. On that occasion we defeated Wigan—the second time this season—and there was a fine attendance to see this success. It was a keen struggle, and while Wigan were unfortunate to have Bolton injured, we were value for the victory. It is interesting to point out that the gate was a big improvement on the corresponding fixture of last season. This time we took £500 more at the turnstiles, which shows that interest has been developing for some time. Let us hope it continues.

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Since the success over Wigan we won at Salford and also at Dewsbury. On each occasion there was very little between the teams, but in the second half we showed our superiority. It was good to see Martin Regan hitting his best form at Dewsbury and we wish him every success in the future. Martin was brought in at full-back when Albert Naughton had to be drafted to the centre. Incidentally, from general reports received, Eric Fraser our captain was not among the failures in the Test match at Swinton. Remember he was playing behind a beaten team. Eric landed four goals—more than half of the Great Britain total.

The wins against Wigan, Salford and Dewsbury enabled us to keep up our unbeaten Lancashire League record. Dewsbury are members of the Lancs League—simply to make up the even numbers.

There's better news about the "A" team. Manager Mountford has been spending extra time with the juniors and the effort has paid off. They were unfortunate to lose the services of a Rugby Union trialist at York. He

broke his arm in two places and that meant an overwhelming defeat. But the boys picked up smartly the following week to beat Salford at Wilderspool. Unfortunately, there was a nasty mishap to popular Derek Clarke. He sustained injuries to his jaw and was taken to a Liverpool hospital.

Derek is out and about again and we hope that he will soon be in action. One of his first jobs when he was discharged from the Broad Green Hospital was to trip down to Wilderspool and see his pals in action. That's enthusiasm for you. Another good win was recorded. We beat Widnes, who fielded a strong side, by 16-3. Several members of the Widnes team have had first-team experience. What is more, the Widnesians beat us at Naughton Park on August 20th by 31 points to 23. And this afternoon Widnes reserves are playing in the final of the Lancashire Challenge Shield against St. Helens "A".

Last Saturday's win over near neighbours Widnes by our "A" team was significant by the fact that Bruce Douglas, our latest Australian signing, played his second game. Those sup-

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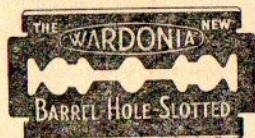
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porters who assembled to see what turned out to be a most interesting match, were very pleased with Douglas's performance. This time he was in the pack and he used his height and weight to advantage. He is showing great promise, and has settled down quicker than expected.

Another interesting character in the Warrington pack was Ray Robinson, who is on trials here. Ray was trans-

Next game at Wilderspool

October 31st

Kick-off 3 p.m.

Lancashire Combination

WARRINGTON "A"

v.

SWINTON "A"

ferred last season to Barrow almost at the same time as Walter Delves. Ray was unable to hit his best form with the Barrovians because he had to travel the long distance to the Furness district even for the home games. He prefers to live in St. Helens. Therefore,

he was unable to do himself justice. He is on the Barrow transfer list. In Saturday's game he gave a very good account of himself.

The Australian Tourists who had their headquarters at Stockton Heath for the first-ever occasion, have now departed. But before doing so, Managers, Jack Argent and Ernie Keefer came down to Wilderspool and presented to Dr Tom McClelland our chairman, a framed picture of the Kangaroo team for exhibition in the board-room.

The Australian Managers spoke in glowing terms of the many kindnesses which had been shown to them and also members of the party during their several weeks' stay in the district. Mr Argent and Mr Keefer said they would carry away with them happy memories of their association with the Warrington club and its directors. The staff had been very helpful and the facilities at Warrington had always been at their disposal. Injured players had been able to use the Warrington "hospital room" and its modern equipment, and there were many instances of help and guidance.

Dr McClelland said the remarks of

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the Managers were deeply appreciated. They at Warrington always liked to make visitors at home, and they felt sure that what they had done for the Australians had been some compensation for the hospitality shown to Warrington players who had been members of the Touring parties in the past. After the presentation, the health and success of the respective organisations was drunk—quite a memorable day.

And now for the big day—next Saturday when we oppose St. Helens in the final of the Lancashire Challenge

PROGRAMME PRIZE

The programme may be worth 10/-. Watch for the number on the scoreboard at half-time. Mr L. Hockenhull will hand the winner a voucher, value 10/-. to be spent with any of our advertisers.

Cup tournament at Central Park, Wigan. But first of all, an explanation. We were not able to supply all demands for stand tickets for the final. The reason is simple. The clubs (Wigan, Warrington and St. Helens) have to divide the tickets and therefore the

local allocation was soon sold to the shareholders and stand members. Even then we were not able to meet our commitments. We have, however, a number of paddock tickets. These are priced at 3/6 and can be obtained at the office at any time. The advantage of holding one of these tickets is that you will be able to get on to the ground quickly—and what is more you are assured of a place!

There is bound to be a big attendance next week. The British Railways request us to point out that they are running two "specials" from Bank Quay Station next Saturday. They depart at 1.45 and 1.56. The fare is 2/6 with 1/3 for under-16's. The big point which the Railway people wish to make is that **RAIL TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE.**

If you will obtain yours now, it will give the officials some idea about the numbers likely to travel to Wigan. The two "specials" may seem to be inadequate to carry the large number of passengers. But it is up to the travelling public to help the railway officials. So don't say you haven't been warned!

It should be stated that there is an ordinary train at 1.20 but this is usually well filled with passengers. This train

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will call at Earlestown and Newton-le-Willows. But the big point is get to Wigan as early as possible—even if it means making a morning trip.

As this is our last programme before the final, we take this opportunity of wishing the boys every success in the final. This is the only trophy our club hasn't obtained since the war.

And finally . . . there is adequate accommodation at the three bars for patrons. And if you haven't taken out a weekly sweep ticket, why not?

SATURDAY'S R.L. GUIDE

Tour match

Barrow Australia

Batley Castleford

Blackpool B. Swinton

Doncaster Halifax

..... Hunslet

Huddersfield Wakefield

Hull K.R. Bramley

Leeds Keighley

Rochdale H. Whitehaven

Salford Dewsbury

St. Helens Hull

Warrington Oldham

Wigan Liverpool C.

Workington T. Bradford N.

York Leigh

MONDAY

Hull K.R./Hull Australia

Leading League

Scorers

GOALS — Rhodes (St. Helens)

74, Lowdon (Workington) 71, Ganley (Oldham) 70, Langton (Hunslet) 64, Owen (Halifax) 56, Jones (Rochdale H.) 53, Dyson (Huddersfield) 50, Fallon (Leigh) 49, Fox (Wakefield T.) 47, Wilson (Bramley 45, Yorke (York) 44, Bateson (Hull) 43.

TRIES—Vollenhoven (St. Helens)

21, Prinsloo (St. Helens) 18, Greenough (Warrington) 16, Bevan (Warrington) 15, Smith, F. (Wakefield T.) 15, Boston (Wigan) 14, Lowton (Workington T.) 13, Ashton (Wigan) 13, Jones, E. G. (Salford) 13, Wicks (Huddersfield) 12, Stephenson (Whitehaven) 12.

Charity games not included.

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