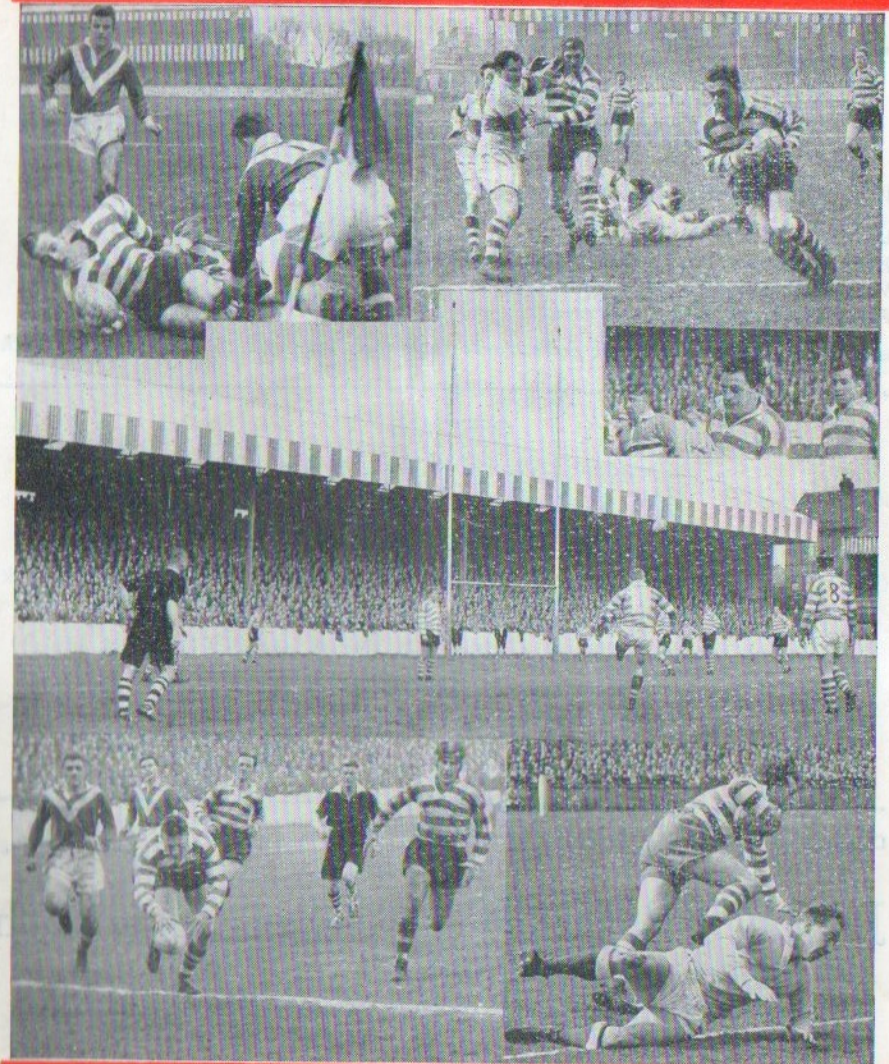


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No. 2—Saturday, 25th August, 1962

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM v. LEIGH

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Matters in the Rugby League are now shaping themselves and players are reaching match fitness by the actual participation in a competitive game. Actual matches provide the best fitness tests, as players are made to do things that their opponents compel them to do. The only drawback is the risk of injury. We have now played two matches in the Western League, won one and lost one.

Our visit to Whitehaven on Saturday last produced a disappointing display by our team and we were deservedly beaten by 18 points to 8. Our team did not strike form and even allowing for the incapacity of Keith Holden, who was a passenger practically the whole of the second half, we have no excuses to make, on the day we were beaten by a team that had more 'fire'. We visit Whitehaven again on Friday, 31st August, in the Lancashire Cup first round and no doubt our team will have profited by the experience of Saturday last.

A similar occurrence happened last season when we went to Barrow in a League match and were beaten, and a fortnight later in the Lancashire Cup came away victorious. We hope that history will repeat itself.

Tuesday evening last saw our team beat Barrow by 17 points to nil, but the game was far from interesting and we must produce better exhibitions than this in future if we are to draw the crowds to Watersheddings. This match was a win and the consolation is that, and that only.

OUR VISITORS

In the Western League today we have visitors from Leigh, and a welcome we extend to them. The Leigh Club are in the Second Division, but they possess some very capable talent and we are of the opinion that they will regain the status of a first division team next season. Misfortune last season by a large crop of injuries to class men made them have an indifferent season, hence their position today.

Today's match will be a dour encounter, as we consider that there is little in the ability of some of the teams in the first division and some in the second. They beat us both at home and away last season.

The Leigh directors are well known for their enterprise and are always on the look out and introducing fresh faces in their team. Like many other clubs their purchase of star players has not always been successful but the credit is due for the enterprise shown in placing the Leigh Club in its rightful position, amongst the leaders.

BRIEFS

May we correct some of our friends, the press, in stating that the recent addition to our team, Charlie Bott. It is not often that we like to give a player's age, but Charlie is 19 years of age and not 21 as has been reported. Charlie has settled down to our game and is proving his worth and the committee's confidence in him by placing him in the first team, and a very good job he is doing. He is now residing in the town and is employed in metallurgy in the aircraft industry. Living in apartments at the moment, he will team up with one of his rugger friends, who has received a teaching post at a Secondary Modern School in Oldham, in a flat during September.

Pleased to see Roger Dufty still in the Barrow team. Roger appears to have done very well for himself since joining Barrow. Now resident in Barrow, he is Physical Education Instructor at Messrs. Vickers Shipyard and is in control of 1,200 apprentices.

An innovation from Australia comes that the State Teams are now numbered back and front, we wonder if this idea will catch on in this country. An innovation which we tried to copy from the Australians is that the scorer of a try carries the ball back. It was tried for a few weeks, but the idea fizzled out. We consider that this should operate in our matches today. Many are the times when spectators are in doubt as to who has scored a try, especially when several players are over the line in a bunch. Even the press are in doubt sometimes.

Saturday last saw our 'A' team commence its season with a big victory over Whitehaven 'A' by 27 points to 8 points and we hope that this points to better things to come for they were disappointing last season.

Please note that our match against Rochdale Hornets at Rochdale on Tuesday next, is a 6-30 kick-off. Also our Western League match scheduled for Saturday, 1st September against Whitehaven at Water-sheddings, will now be played on FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31st, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

CROWD'S REACTION TO COMPLAINERS

Hardly a season passes without a threat of this or an objection to that. Rugby League has its own brand of protest marchers, but I'm afraid that the spate of pre-season complainers has been such that the sporting public have become tiresome, and care little about the outcome.

—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

Before one or two players put pen to paper and become so angry about my generalisations, let them tarry a while and have second thoughts. I realise that an individual has a right to protest and that everything which happens in this country almost makes you take a lunge at the front door, but the public is not as sympathetic about the worries of sports personalities, simply because they have many problems of their own.

Years ago a certain team which shall be nameless—if you put two and two together let it be of your own construction—told its officials on the very day of an important match that they wanted more money and if they didn't get it they would stage a lightning strike. There was the extra proviso that they would win the game.

Things went well for the players; they won the game against odds; collected their extra wages and felt very proud of themselves. But the idea did not work again. If it had done then the players would now be in the film star salary class.

A few days ago I interviewed a former Welsh Rugby Union player. Work was very hard to get in the late twenties so much so that anyone who turned to the Rugby League game had to play desperately hard to keep his place in the team and produce enough wages to retain wife and family on a reasonable standard. A poor display meant the dole, a couple of bank notes and a gloomy future.

REMEMBER THE DAYS

I'm relating what happened in the days when a pair of football boots meant a hard toe cap and white laces. Soccer boots were the same as those worn by Rugby men. There were no fancy studs. Footwear was the same. Jerseys came in two sizes—too big and too small. Infra red lamps and all

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- 8—MUMBERSON, A.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—GODDARD, P.
- 11—ROBINSON, G.
- 12—BOTT, C.
- 13—PARKER, D.

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- 4—LEWIS
- 5—EVANS
- 6—SMITH
- 7—BROOKS
- 8—BISHOP
- 9—TABERN
- 10—OWEN
- 11—KIRK
- 12—MARTYN
- 13—NEWALL

Touch Judges:
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Mr. J. H. TURNER, Wigan (Crimson)

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Presentation

Birthday

the other equipment which goes in an orthopaedic department were unheard of. If one got a rub down before a match it was because the trainer had time or the player had a few extra aches and pains.

Changing facilities were extraordinarily bad. There were no after the match tubs. It was a matter of a swill down, with water which coincided with the seventh word. There were dressing rooms which were glorified hen pens.

Players had to endure all kinds of hardships and even take a nap on the floor of a corridor packed train. Happily things have changed dramatically over the years. Carefully laundered jerseys, neatly brushed boots, studs that really help the side step, shoulder pads to protect that suspect part of the body, and lots of other things to make things happier for all concerned.

I know that the lot of the supporter has changed. Yet is it on the same improved scale as the player? No. Had it not been for the men who stood in hail, snow and rain in the early part of the century and then even later, there would have been no players to air their grumbles. Rugby League would have gone overboard.

CRACK OF THE WHIP

Don't mark me down as a stooge of the Boardroom. I have been embroiled in far too many controversies for that. Fortunately, through a second sense, or some jolly good judgement on the part of Sports Editors on the unfairly criticised 'subs', I have not yet had a libel writ slung at me. I have given players a good crack of the whip, which should be taken in the manner in which I am thinking.

Players have a duty to Rugby League. Otherwise they should never have signed on the dotted line as a member of this or that playing strength. I say this to the youngster who wants to make his name in Rugby League football and at the same time "don't you dare take up the pen and put your signature to the form unless you are prepared to give entertainment of the right sort to the sporting public".

It is an oath of allegiance, although the printed words don't indicate so much in their phrasing. There is however an obligation on every player whether he makes the grade or not, whether he plays in first team or reserves, to give of his best. He has made the bargain just like you all do when you send in the football coupon. Your signature is your bond, and you should keep it. Otherwise don't sign the form of registration, but stay at home and watch TV.

Rugby League will become a greater game if we just remember one point. It is that the professional code was formed following the break-away from Rugby Union, that payments were for broken time. Now some

Rugby League men make the game pay full time wages, which of course was not what the pioneers dreamed about.

Rugby players all—go onto the field. Be proud of your jersey and your team. You will be greater for the deeds even if they don't win you international or county honours. Rugby League is a game; don't let us make it commercialism gone mad.

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	26	SWINTON	Home	
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	29	WARRINGTON	Home	
25	LEIGH	Home		Jan. 5	ST. HELENS	Away	
23	ROCHDALE	Away		12	HALIFAX	Home	
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home		19	FEATHERSTONE R.	Away	
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			26	HULL K. R.	Home	
15	BARROW	Away		Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home		9	R.L. Challenge Cup 1st Round		
29	LEIGH	Away		16	HULL	Away	
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away		23	ST. HELENS	Home	
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home		Mar. 2	R.L. Challenge Cup 2nd Round		
20	LEEDS	Away		9	FEATHERSTONE R.	Home	
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home		16	WARRINGTON	Away	
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away		23	HULL K. R.	Away	
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home		30	WIDNES	Home	
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away		Apr. 6	BRAMLEY	Home	
24	LEEDS	Home		12	SWINTON	Away	
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away		15	HULL	Home	
8	WIGAN	Home		20	BRAMLEY	Away	
15	CASTLEFORD	Home		27	CASTLEFORD	Away	
22	HALIFAX	Away					

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CHARITY MATCH

The Charity match played at Rochdale on Saturday, 11th August produced gate receipts of only £270. We can put this down to the inclement weather and also the fact that Rochdale's annual holidays commenced on the day of the match. These are the lowest ever receipts for the matches, which were inaugurated in 1920.

DO YOU KNOW

That Oldham went from September 7th, 1907 to February 22nd, 1908 without being defeated and we believe this is a record. We then lost to Salford by 5 points to nil.

That the first importation of a player to this club's ranks was in the Rugby Union days a long way back in 1888. The player was William McCutcheon, who came from Swansea, and who, as a threequarter was a power in the Swansea team. He came to Oldham and played his first game for us against Manchester Rangers, on December 8th, 1888. McCutcheon's playing career was not over a long period and he retired after playing only one season in the then styled Northern Union, in 1895/96.

One of the greatest Welshmen who ever came North, he eventually became a first class referee, was a member of the Oldham Football Club Committee, and also held the position of President. A great legislator, he would have gained greater honours had he allowed his name to go forward as a Council representative. On retirement from official position, he had given 33 years continuous service to the Club.

TRUSTEES

Of interest to members is that the New Trustee Deed, as sanctioned at the last Annual Meeting of Members is now being formulated. The new trustees are :- Mr. James S. Parkinson, late President of the Club, Mr. W. Howard, Mr. A. Cordwell and Mr. P. G. Carter.

TESTIMONIAL

Frank Pitchford completed 10 years service with the Club on August 12th, 1962. Application has been made to the Rugby League Council, to open a Testimonial Fund. Upon sanction, further particulars will be issued.

Next Match at Watersheddings—

OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN

—Friday, 31st August, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

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