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Saturday, 29th September

Western Division

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OUR VISITORS

Today we resume operations in the Western Division Championship. Our Oldham visitors defeated us 17-0 when we went there on August 21st. They in turn lost at Rochdale on the following Tuesday just as we did last Saturday. This apparently softens the blow of our cup defeat to some extent at any rate. It would appear that even one defeat seriously jeopardises the chances of any club in this competition. Thus our victories against Widnes and Warrington mean that these two clubs have little chance of figuring in the top-four knock out.

Oldham startled the athletic world when they signed the champion shot-putter Arthur Rowe. As he had no practical experience of our code this has all the appearance of a gamble. However as he is magnificently equipped physically he stands every chance of making good. Incidentally he plays his first game today against our 'A' Team.

Late last season Oldham signed Malcolm Price, the Welsh international centre at a big fee. He has been most unfortunate. Last season he broke an ankle and this season he sustained a most serious and unusual internal injury. After three

— Continued

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IS BEST

OUR VISITORS—continued

operations his condition is still considered as grave. All will unite in sympathising with him and his family and wish him a complete recovery.

The strength of the Oldham team has for some time rested on the half-back combination of Pitchford and Kellett. At present Pitchford has been replaced by Pyecroft the elusive scrum worker obtained from Leeds. He is definitely good. In the pack Len McIntyre, our former hooker, still holds his own with the best and still appears among the try scorers. The Barrovian, Dave Parker, is gaining quite a reputation as a loose-forward of the constructive type. Simm, the Lancashire County wingman, was transferred from Rochdale with Noon a class centre. Holden is the Lancashire centre. Smethurst, a centre or forward, was obtained from Swinton. A youthful Yorkshire forward has made a profound impression this early in the season

BILL BURGESS

The Barrow winger returned to the County side for the game against Cumberland and was hailed by both television and newspaper critics for his sparkling four try display. Well done Bill and now on to further honours!

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THE PROGRESSIVE

AND JUNIOR POOLS

At the moment there are two 'Pools' being run for the benefit of Rugby League in Barrow and District. No. 1 is the 'Pool' run by the Progressive Branch, which has done, and is continuing to do, most excellent work on behalf of the Club, and for which the Board of Directors tender to them their most sincere thanks. We are asking you to continue to give your support to the Progressive Branch 'Pool.'

No. 2 'Pool' is the one that is run for the Juniors and the Barrow Club. In this 'Pool' there are still a number of vacancies and we wish to appeal to our supporters and other interested persons to take up these vacancies, and also ask their friends 'to take a chance.' If we can get another complete 'Pool,' it will afford the Directors much greater confidence in their striving to obtain high class players, in the knowledge that there will be sufficient funds to make this possible.

Any person wishing to become an agent, please contact Mr. A. Hurst.

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Referee : Mr. G. Davies (Wakefield)

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

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- 2—Burgess
- 3—Sharp
- 4—Skeels
- 5—Whitehead

- 6—Fallon
- 7—Black

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OLDHAM

- 1—Sims (G)
- 2—Patterson
- 3—Holden
- 4—Lord
- 5—Simms (T)

- 6—Noon
- 7—Pitchford
- 8—Mumberson
- 9—McIntyre
- 10—Robinson
- 11—Butt
- 12—Smethurst
- 13—Parker

(Any team changes will be announced)

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Lancashire Shield

In the 2nd Round our team have been drawn at home against Wigan and the tie will be played next Saturday. This involves postponing the league match with Widnes 'A' which will have to be fitted in later in the season. If we are successful we go forward to the semi-final. The final is not played on neutral ground, the arrangement being that the contesting clubs toss for choice of venue.

Incidentally we have never yet won this trophy.

Annual Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Debenture Holders will be held in the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel on Monday, 1st October.

This is not the place to discuss the Balance Sheet which has now been circulated, but it is obvious that like most other organisations ordinary revenue is not by any means sufficient to meet necessary expenditure. From this, the part played by our two pools in maintaining the club's very existing needs no stressing. We cannot be too grateful for the help we have received.

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AT ROCHDALE

We made rather an inglorious exit from the Lancs. Cup being beaten last Saturday at Rochdale. As this was the first Div. II club we have met this season the result was frankly disappointing. Rochdale by their defeat of Oldham showed that they are not weaklings. They are a sound side with no stars except the giant Levula whom most clubs find difficult to check. Incidentally his high foot action in running can be distinctly dangerous and its legality from that point of view is certainly suspect. Nevertheless the fact remains that our team had a distinctly off day and with only a few exceptions played well below their best. Of course it is generally realised that home advantage weighs very heavily but good teams overcome that, and we must if we are to have any success this season. One hopes that the old gibe that we could not win out of sight of the Town Hall clock are not to return. Our players cannot say that they have not been given every chance. They must justify themselves or changes will be inevitable.

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'A' TEAM

The performance in the Lancashire Shield against Rochdale last Saturday gave very considerable satisfaction. It is long indeed since either of our teams has returned such a big score. In fact the last occasion was in 1958 when we ran up 51 points against Batley. While a couple of players were probably outstanding the whole team played very well indeed. Tom Smales proved remarkably successful in his goal-kicking while his general play was probably the best he has ever shown us. In an emergency Bob Little had to return to the back division and his centre play was so encouraging that he has been retained in that position for today.

NORMAN GUEST

This Yorkshire County centre played for us for several seasons and later went as player-coach to Doncaster. We read that during his work as a meter reader he was shot in the leg in most mysterious circumstances. We trust that he will have a speedy recovery, with no lasting ill-effects.

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There are other prizes, too . . .

Specially inscribed silver tankards will be awarded to the top scoring team in each of five periods during the season, and a special champion's flag to be flown throughout the following period.

The five periods are: AUGUST 17 to SEPTEMBER 22 · SEPTEMBER 24 to NOVEMBER 17
NOVEMBER 19 to JANUARY 5 · JANUARY 7 to MARCH 9 · MARCH 11 to MAY 11