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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

THE PAVILION — WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM

versus

HULL

Monday, 15th April, 1963

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 18—Easter Monday, 15th April, 1963

Kick-off 3 p.m.

OLDHAM versus HULL

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Owing to the advent of the holidays these notes have to be written in advance, and therefore it is not possible to know the relative positions of the clubs in the League table, but in any event the encounter today is a vital one for both clubs.

The result could mean the value of four points to either club, for so closely are they locked together that one club's "drink" could be another club's "poison".

We do however, notwithstanding all this, extend a very big welcome to our visitors from Hull. This is our first meeting this season, for the game at Hull was put off as a result of the snow and ice, and is due to be played on Monday, May 27th, kick-off 7 p.m.

Today also sees the end of the suspension imposed upon Don Platt and we are pleased to have the benefit of his services from now on.

Indeed this applies to all our players, for we have still fourteen first team games, seven at home, and seven away, to play in the next six weeks.

This will tax our resources to the very uttermost, and we hope that these resources will in no way be depleted. Our present League position is in no small measure due to the injuries we sustained in the Western League in the early part of the season.

To lose the services of such players as Alan Kellett, Dave Parker, and Malcolm Price from September onwards, puts a great strain upon the playing strength of any club.

We are confident that had we not had these set backs, the results from this playing season so far would have been much brighter.

However we have every reason to look back upon some of the signing we have made this season, with satisfaction, and with great hopes of better things to come.

Mike Elliott (18), Jimmy Gaskell (21), Ray Fisher (21) and John Donovan (21), are boys who we can confidently count upon serving the club as regular first teamers, for many, many years.

Add to these Harry Major (24), Trevor Simms (23), Don Platt (28), and John Cheshire (28) and the signings this season take on the look of a successful team for the future.

We, of course, signed Charlie Bott (22) at the end of last season, but in this his first full season with the club, he has shown great potential.

In addition we have the local boys Kevin Taylor (16) and Derek Dransfield (17), whom we look upon as very good prospects.

Also the two Warrington boys, Ted Hill and Jim Hill (no relation), both young players but most promising material.

We are still interested in other players but, of course, because of the fierce competition these days, we cannot disclose any further information.

One regrettable feature of the past few weeks has been the "sending-off" of several of our players, both first and 'A' teamers. We know how difficult it is for players to refrain from retaliating, but it only goes to show that it is those who retaliate that pay the penalty. We trust that this phase will pass as quickly as it came, and that the good name of the club shall ever be considered by those who wear its colours.

We are happy to report that our Secretary, Bert Summerscales, has returned home from hospital and is back in circulation. He has to take things a little easier from now on, but we are indeed glad to welcome him back and to hope that the rest, and treatment, has done him good.

A word of thanks to those who helped us out during the absence of Mr. Summerscales, for without them we should indeed have been hard pressed, especially in view of having the "all ticket" cup tie to contend with. Therefore to Mr. Woodcock and Mr. Ogden for their work in the office we tender our very best thanks, and assure them that we shall never forget the assistance they gave us so willingly during the time our Secretary was away from duty.

LOCAL NEWS

Quite recently Mr. R. M. Watt, the Oldham Youth Organiser, with the help of some of his colleagues, devised rules for four-a-side indoor rugby, and a tournament was staged in the Cannon Street School. There were thirty-two teams entered in this competition and play extended over three nights.

The Oldham Football Club presented a Shield for this Tournament and the first winners were Saddleworth 'B' team.

This four-a-side game proved a most successful one, and we feel sure that next year's entry will be double what it was this year. Already we have received requests for copies of the rules, and even a challenge from Wigan. Copies of the rules have been sent to the Secretary of the Rugby League, Mr. Fallowfield, and will no doubt be circulated wherever Rugby League is played.

Who knows, we may yet see indoor Rugby League, as we have seen indoor Soccer, on television.

A couple of weeks ago two teams of journalists played a match on our training ground, and some very good rugby was seen.

It has been suggested that Ken Ashton of the "Green Final" is seeking trials after his performance at loose forward, from which position he scored a try. This was one game in which Oldham beat Wigan.

One puzzling feature of the game was that a former writer on Rugby League in the "Green Final" had a large piece of sticking plaster on his mouth, and he was only a touch judge. Perhaps he had spoken out of turn? Or maybe he had spoken his thoughts of the players aloud? The reporter at this game was believed to be one of our first team, who no doubt thinking of things to come, decided to give each and every journalist, sorry player, a good report. However, we must compliment all concerned for "putting on" this game for such a good cause. It proves that contrary to many spectators, journalists are human.

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ROBINSON, G.
PLATT, D.
LLOYD, K.
SMETHURST, P.
PARKER, D.
RAE, J.

HULL (Black and White)

1—KEEGAN
2—ROSENBERG/DEVONSHIRE
3—GEMMELL
4—HOLLINDRAKE
5—SULLIVAN, C.
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7—FINN
8—WHITEHEAD
9—WALTERS
10—HOCKLEY
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PAROCHIAL ATTITUDE IS WRONG

Because the proposed Rugby League Test match between Great Britain and the visiting Kangaroos next season may be switched from Wembley Stadium to the North, the Rugby League cannot fail to be accused of inconsistency.—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

If the suggested Wembley game does not take place, then I feel Rugby League should snuggle up in its own provincial rug and enjoy a long Rip Van Winkle act.

We are told here and there that one of the main reasons for allowing games to be televised is to "get the game known throughout the country."

Yet when an important match is suggested outside the Northern area, snags are raised here and there.

Not a few officials and loyal supporters of the code are against televising games. Their main complaint is that "gates" are hit particularly when the weather is not good and the armchair offers more comfort, with a Rugby League game thrown in for good measure in the afternoon's TV programme.

COMPENSATIONS

The critics say that if TV is allowed then a film should be shown later the same day, or even on another evening.

There are compensations, in fact the BBC and independent television companies are now offering far more money for screening rights than they did some time ago. It also seems a sign of the times when TV gets a simultaneous screening from Wigan—a club which once said: "Don't bring your cameras here."

As the mighty masts and huge vans with costly equipment were moving away from Central Park recently I could not help feeling that there must have been a change of face somewhere.

Perhaps the Wigan club realises that good can come from the "goggle box," or that the fees now paid to the Rugby League are satisfactory.

OPPORTUNITY

Whatever the reason, it cannot be denied that many thousands who saw Great Britain whip France through the medium of the home screens,

were not able to make the trip to Wigan because of business or other reasons.

The Rugby League folk of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland must have been pleased when they saw certain portions of this match while in their own sitting rooms, but the majority of these people have the opportunity of seeing a game almost once a week. Not so the ex-Northerners whose eyes must have been glued to the screens. To them it was like being home again.

Here is one point in favour of the televising of games. There are others. Propaganda is not exactly a word understood by past and present Rugby League officials. I'm writing on broad lines, and not directing criticism here or there.

The Rugby League is committed to a Wembley match even if it should be a financial loss. It is not a bit of use whetting the appetite of sports people through TV and then saying in effect, "that's all you are having."

SHOW PIECE

Wembley has helped Rugby League put on a showpiece. It may not be a national event in comparison to the F.A. Cup Final, but let us remember that the stadium on Challenge Cup day contains a lot of folk who have been converted, or who have had some slight connection with the game at some time or another. Not everyone is a loyalist.

Ever since the professional handling code came into being there have been London projects, even the pioneers attempted to push the game onto the sporting map in the Metropolitan area.

Efforts have been good, bad and indifferent. This time we have an opportunity to show London's millions that this is the game they have seen occasionally.

But we must not merely rely on newspaper "puffs". There several months before the Kangaroos are due at Wembley—I say keep the game there—so let the posters be designed as quickly as possible, and all kinds of publicity schemes put into effect to boost the event.

The Rugby League Cup Final idea with a Wembley flavour, was once unpalatable to many. Now we don't hear the cry: "Bring it back North."

I know that shortage of cash prevents many stalwarts from travelling South to see the biggest match of the season. But even in their difficult trading years the North-east never yelled for the F.A. Cup final to be played on Tyneside. The cry should go up in Rugby League "let's forget that word 'parochialism'."

FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962

(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	17	3	31	Patterson	15	3	10
Lord	22	6		Jones	5		1
Holden	13	5		Lloyd	2		
Price	5	1		Rae	2		
Simms, T.	28	14		Gaskell	11	1	
Noon	22	7	27	Platt	11	3	1
Pitchford	5			Crowther	1	1	
Robinson, G.	29	1		Wood	2		
McIntyre	29	5		Johnson	1		
Goddard, P.	16			Fisher	15	1	
Bott	25	1		Elliott	7		
Parker, D.	16	2		Ogden	6		
Smethurst	21	1		Hill E.	1		
Mumberson	26	4		Major, H.	7	1	
Nestor	15	1		Donovan	8	1	
Kellett	8	1		Cheshire	2		
Pycroft	9	1					

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rsult.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rsult.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	0-3
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	Mar. 2	LEIGH (R.L. Cup)	Away	18-10
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	9	FEATHERSTONE	Home	26-2
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	16	WORKINGTON (Cup)	Away	13-0
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	40-9	23	HULL KINGSTON	Away	23-17
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			30	WIDNES	Home	8-3
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	Apr. 6	WIGAN (R.L. Cup)	Home	0-18
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	22-7	9	WORKINGTON	Home	5-3
29	LEIGH	Away	17-24				
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	15-44				
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	9-8				
20	LEEDS	Away	5-23				
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	3-15				
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	14-14				
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	Post.				
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	5-6				
24	LEEDS	Home	8-10				
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	19-12				
8	WIGAN	Home	0-19				
15	CASTLEFORD	Home	2-10				
22	HALIFAX	Away	14-16				

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