



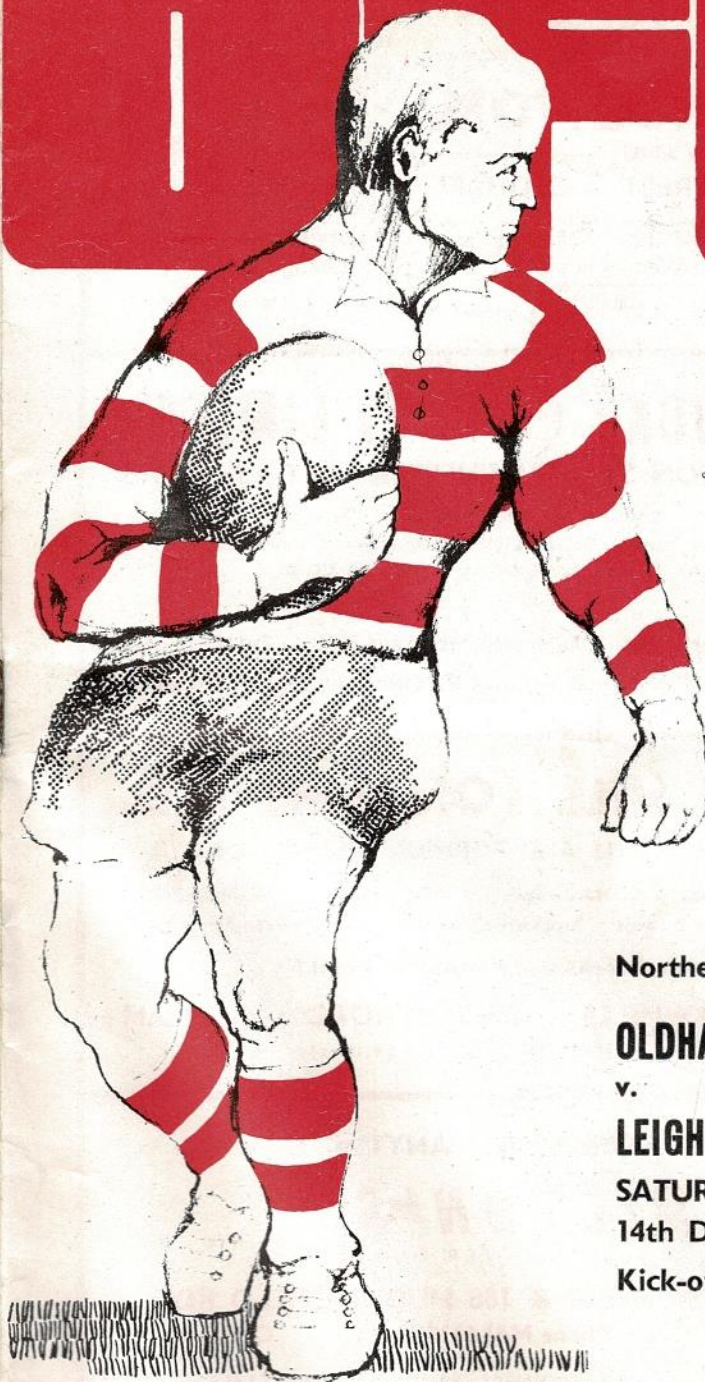
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Northern League Match

OLDHAM

v.

LEIGH

SATURDAY,

14th DECEMBER, 1968

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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WILL TOMMY BE BACK ?

At the time of these notes going to press it is not certain whether Tommy Warburton will be back in the Leigh side for this afternoon's game. Tommy was injured recently in a game against Salford and the Club are anxious to get him back in action as soon as possible.



Warburton is a player who I personally have a great respect for and I feel sorry about the bad luck which continuously robs him of getting into his true form. He has always been a player noted for getting a great deal of 'hammer' during a game, but I suppose it can only be expected that a player of Tommy's calibre will be well and truly 'spotted'.

Ironically, since the deal with Leigh and ourselves involving Warburton and Wilf Briggs, Briggs has hit the high spots with some splendid games and he is, at present, amongst the Rugby League's leading try scorers, having scored eighteen to date.



Going back to Warburton, everyone at Oldham hopes that Tommy will be back in action this afternoon. It will be nice to see him on the Watersheddings ground again.

Leigh have also had their share of bad luck with injuries to other 'key' players but they have overcome their setbacks wonderfully well with their reserves.

At full-back Tom Graine has been filling the bill more than adequately. His recent sound performances in this position will, no doubt prompt Coach Alex Murphy to leave him there.

David Eckersley, a recognised full back, has turned into a utility player, having played in almost every back position since Leigh's injuries began. David also fell to their injury bug recently but it is expected that he will be fit to resume this afternoon.

On the flanks, Rodney Tickle, the Powderhall Sprinter, has been getting some good reports and he must not be given any room in which to work today. Tickle also has been out with a finger injury, sustained in the opening minutes of the game against Salford.

Joe Walsh, the other Leigh regular wingman, has just returned to the fold following a nasty head gash sustained against Blackpool. Joe is on the Leigh transfer list at his own request at £2500. This request I feel was made rather hastily when he lost his first team place to Stringer, a young player signed from a Warrington Junior Club.

Gordon Lewis and former Waterloo Rugby Union star, Mike Collins have done some sterling work for Leigh over the past few seasons and no doubt

they will be together again today, although Lewis too has been out recently with an injury.

The 'King' of the side Alex Murphy is spoken of on all Rugby League grounds and usually the comment is "I wish he played for us". Alex has truly made a tremendous difference to the Leigh side since his transfer from St. Helens last year and Tommy Canning will have his hands full this afternoon with this 'live wire'. Murphy was out of action recently with a three match suspension, during this time former Wigan scrum half Terry Entwistle proved his worth.

The Leigh forwards have had an up and down season up to now, playing some attractive rugby one week and following it up with lifeless displays the match following.

They have played exceedingly well however at the time when it has mattered most, for instance against Leeds and Hull K.R. in the Floodlit Competition the two Yorkshire packs had been mastered well before half time.

Bob Welding is their 'master in chief'. Always on the go is this boy and fully deserved his Lancashire place a few weeks ago.

On paper today's game would appear to be one of excitement. Let us hope we have a clean game with both teams producing the football which we all know they can play.

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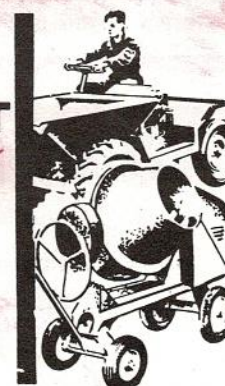
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- 13—HUGHES

Substitutes:

- 14—BUCKLEY
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THE

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FOR
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LEIGH

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 - 2—TICKLE
 - 3—LEWIS
 - 4—COLLINS
 - 5—WALSH
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WARBURTON
MURPHY
- 8—WATTS
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THE HUNSLET MATCH

The game last Saturday against Hunslet was quite a good game. It is a pity only 2,141 fans turned up to see it.

Elliott's try was, of course, the highlight of the game and had the crowd roaring from the time he collected the ball to the time he put it down behind the posts.

Both sides endeavoured to play entertaining football and it was nice to see the wingers running with the ball on so many occasions.

Briggs notched two fine tries, both following good approach work and his two drop goals also proved to be valuable.

MATCHES OVER CHRISTMAS

Supporters should make a note of the scheduled matches over Christmas.
Saturday, 21st December—Oldham 'A' v. Widnes 'A', kick-off 3 p.m.

Sunday, 22nd December—Oldham 'A' v. Whitehaven 'A', kick-off 1-30 p.m. **Also** Oldham v. Whitehaven, kick-off 3 p.m.

Boxing Day, December 26th—Oldham v. Swinton, kick-off 3 p.m.

Saturday, 28th December—Oldham 'A' v. Warrington 'A', kick-off 3 p.m.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 10	Blackpool (friendly) ...	home	37...27	
17	Huddersfield	away	14...19	
19	Blackpool	home	29... 5	
24	Featherstone R.	home	22...24	
28	Rochdale H.	away	14...22	
31	Workington T.	away	10...29	
Sept. 6	Rochdale (Lancs. Cup) ..	away	17... 5	
9	Blackpool B.	away	44...10	
14	Hunslet	away	22...14	
21	Wigan	home	4... 9	
28	Doncaster	away	26...10	
Oct. 5	Huddersfield	home	15...13	
12	Featherstone R.	away	12...23	
19	Widnes	home	17... 9	
25	Salford	away	2... 4	
Nov. 11	Wigan	away	3...50	
15	Warrington	home	14...10	
30	St. Helens	away		
Dec. 1	Whitehaven	away	15... 6	
7	Hunslet	home	30...13	
14	Leigh	home		
20	Widnes	away		
22	Whitehaven	home		
26	Swinton	home		
28	Warrington	away		
Jan. 4	Huyton	home		
11	Huyton	away		
18	Salford	home		
Feb. 1	Leigh	away		
8	St. Helens	home		
Mar. 1	Workington T.	home		
8	Barrow	home		
15	Doncaster	home		
Apr. 4	Swinton (G.F.)	away		
7	Rochdale H. (E.M.) ...	home		
11	Barrow	away		

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
Aug. 31	Workington 'A'	home		
Sept. 7	Rochdale 'A' (Shield) ..	away		
14	Rochdale 'A' (Shield) ..	home		
21	Wigan 'A'	away		
Oct. 12	Rochdale 'A'	home		
19	Widnes 'A'	away		
26	Salford 'A'	home		
Nov. 2	Whitehaven 'A'	away		
9	Wigan 'A'	home		
16	Warrington 'A'	away		
23	Whitehaven 'A'	home		
30	St. Helens 'A'	home		
Dec. 14	Leigh 'A'	away		
21	Widnes 'A'	home		
28	Warrington 'A'	home		
Jan. 4	Huyton 'A'	away		
11	Huyton 'A'	home		
18	Salford 'A'	away		
Feb. 1	Leigh 'A'	home		
8	St. Helens 'A'	away		
Mar. 1	Workington T. 'A' ...	away		
8	Barrow 'A'	away		
21	Swinton 'A'	away		
Apr. 7	Rochdale 'A'	away		
12	Barrow 'A'	home		
19	Swinton 'A'	home		

Times of Kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m. Evening k.o.'s as advertised. All 1st & 'A' team matches.

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NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM 'A' v. WIDNES 'A'

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