

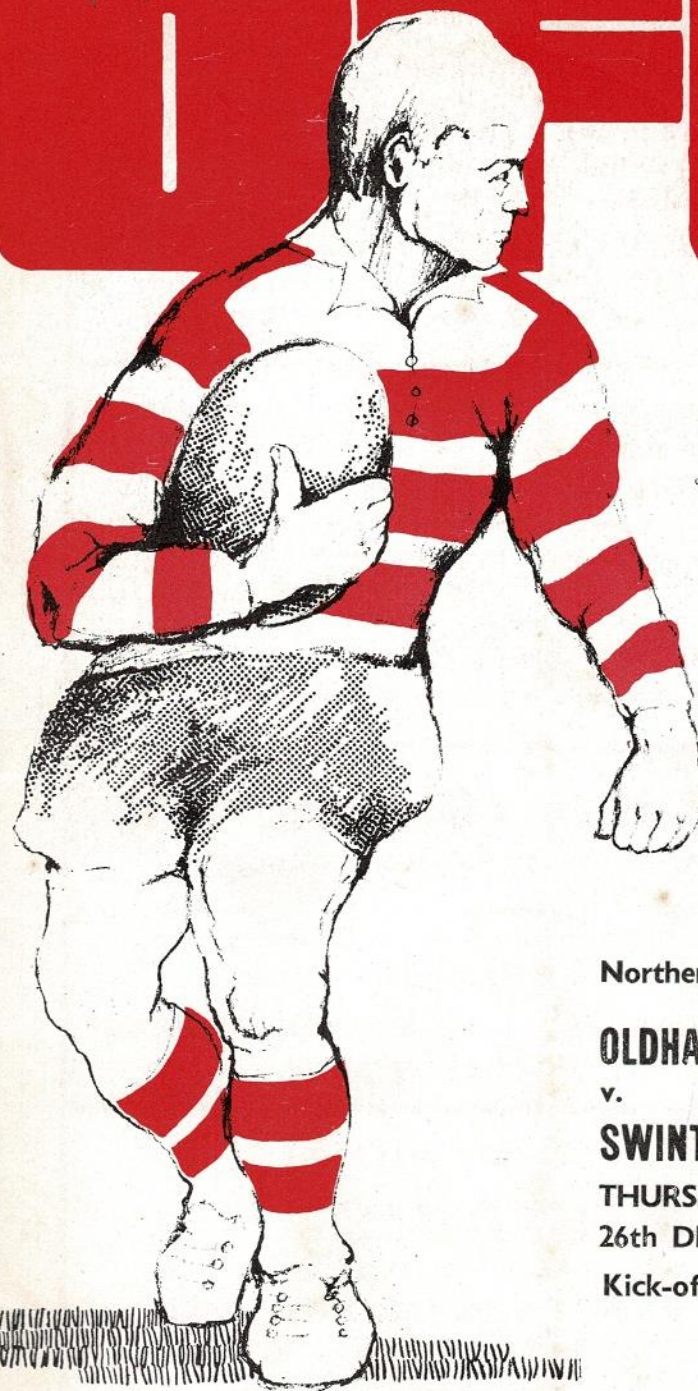


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Northern League Match

OLDHAM

v.

SWINTON

THURSDAY,

26th DECEMBER, 1968

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME



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THE WIDNES MATCH

The game at Widnes on Friday is another game which is perhaps best forgotten. It was a frustrating evening from the time we left Watersheddings in the team coach until the final whistle.

We were held up on Sheepfoot Lane at Prestwich with a bad road accident in which a Police Woman was killed and a lorry driver injured. The road was blocked for some time and consequently we arrived late at Naughton Park and the kick-off was delayed for 15 minutes.

Widnes were on their best form moving well every time they had the ball whereas our boys struggled to find their feet and the more they tried to play some football the more they seemed to make matters worse by either returning the ball to the opponent or losing it in the tackle.

Wilson's clever left footed drop goal just on half time was our only score in the first half against 13 points scored by Widnes. Our only other score was a fine try by Tommy Davies midway through the second half when he raced half the length of the field down the touch-line and scored in the corner.

The writer of the Widnes programme had this to say about our pack, "In the pack are such useful forwards as

Stuart Whitehead, Charlie Bott, Kevin Taylor and Arthur Hughes."

He is obviously a little lacking in knowledge of the game's personalities!

WELCOME TO THE 'LIONS'

We welcome to Watersheddings this afternoon for our traditional Boxing Day fixture our friends from Station Road., Swinton.

We hope we have a little bit more luck than we have had in recent years when the pitches have been frozen on Boxing Day, preventing games from being played.

We extend to all players, officials and supporters of the Swinton Club our best wishes for the New Year and hope they are enjoying the Christmas festivities.

Unfortunately, Swinton are having a lean season, in comparison to recent seasons. At present they are lying in eleventh position with 12 wins from 19 games. Latterly they lost at Leigh, a game they needed to win to improve their chances of gaining a top eight place in the league table.

Swinton caused a bit of a sensation recently with the listing of centre Bobby Fleet at £6,000. Fleet is an outstanding centre, but recently lost his place to John Gomersall.

Our congratulations go to Billy Davies on gaining his International Cap despite the tremendous competition

for the No. 6 berth. It was indeed an honour well deserved and he certainly proved his worth in the game against France at St. Helens recently.

In the pack Swinton have the craft of former Cumberland star Bill Holliday in their side and he is getting the 'Lions' back into shape. Holliday was an expensive buy from Hull K.R.

Derek Clarke was sent off against Leigh recently but he will be available for this afternoon as the Disciplinary Committee have not yet considered his case.

TODAY IS FIRST VOTING DAY IN PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Spectators have six chances to vote for Top Six Players of the Year

Beginning with the games to be played today, Rugby League supporters start casting their votes in the Player's No. 6 Player of the Year Award Scheme. The six players who receive most spectators' votes will between them share £600, of which the top player will receive £250.

Each spectator has six separate chances to set down in order of preference the names of the six players he thinks are the best of the season. His votes are not restricted to players on the field at the match he happens to be attending. He can cast a different voting slip at each of the last six league home games he attends. He can, if he wishes, vote for the same six players in the

same order each week. Or he can alter the order week by week. Everything depends on his own knowledge and judgement. For example, if a supporter thinks that Geoff Fletecher is the top Player of the Year then he will put his name at the head of the list on his voting slip. But if Fletcher has a bad match, the spectator can relegate him the next week on his second voting slip—and so on. It could produce an exciting see-saw as the season draws to a close.

Since the start of the season supporters have been 'spectators' to the decisions of individual judges in the Player's No. 6 Player of the Match scheme. In the spirit of the game they frequently disagree with the judges choice and have not been slow or silent in saying so. Now comes their chance to state what they think by using the voting slips which will be published in programmes on sale at the last six home games of each club.

Supporters will be asked to assess their choice of six players on professional ability, sportsmanship and contribution to team effort.

It should be stressed that the Player's No. 6 Player of the Year Awards are quite separate from the Player of the Match scheme. It adds spice to the game and, as was said at the beginning of the season, provides increased prize money and more chances for more players to benefit financially.

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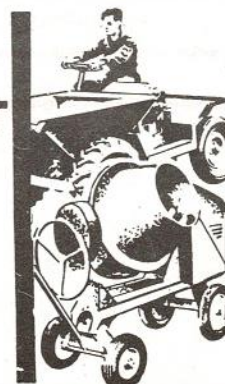
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- 11—IRVING
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The holders of the Mackeson trophy now look to a big advance in their Mackeson money hoard and a golden Christmas haul. They meet three clubs

between now and January 1st—all of whom have already had a chance of lifting the trophy.

For Wigan's home match with Workington on December 21st the ball will contain a prize of £300 — and a Wigan win will give them a further £100 bonus for a 10-match run. Then they face St. Helen's away on Boxing Day and the Saints will certainly be out to avenge the TV defeat and go for a Golden Ball run.

If Wigan survive this challenge they meet previous holders Warrington on the first day of the New Year.

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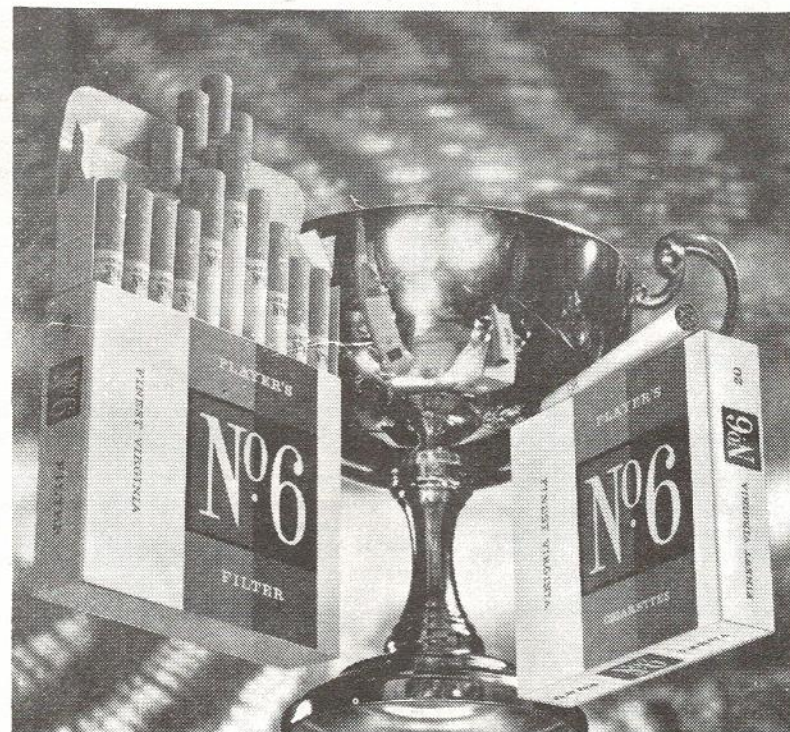
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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

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	5 26	
22	Whitehaven	home	17... 7	
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

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