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RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

OLDHAM --- 15

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WIGAN -- 23

SATURDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 1969

KICK-OFF 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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Coach: Mr. G. HELME.

Assistant Coach: Mr. H. ENTWISTLE.

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RECENT TEAM PERFORMANCES

Supporters will recollect that the last home game was a month ago, when, as an experiment, we played a Sunday match on November 16th against Widnes. Though the weather was against us on the day, nevertheless this fixture attracted an attendance of 2,093, which was only slightly below the average for all Rugby League games played the previous day (Saturday, November 15th). This gives us some encouragement re-Sunday football, and it is our intention to try out this idea again some time in the New Year.

The Widnes match was lost by a mere two points, i.e. a goal kick, and we were justifiably proud of the way our team of triers stuck to their task against a driving wind and snowstorm throughout the game.

At St. Helens on November 22nd, we were heavily defeated by 41 points to ten points; we offer no excuses for this — we were well beaten by a faster, heftier and more experienced team.

However, this was one match we must try to forget; with two divisions looming up next season, every effort must be made to strike the winning trail, and the writer knows that our players are fully aware of this situation.

TODAY'S VISITORS

We are always more than pleased to welcome our good friends from Wigan — it seems a long time since we beat them thirteen times in succession, but many older supporters will remember that this was accomplished some years ago! Fortunes have changed, of course, since then. Nowadays it appears that Wigan usually have it their own way when playing Oldham, but, bearing in mind the closeness of the final result in our Floodlit Second Round match at Central Park on November 11th (14-4) we are confident of giving them a good game today! Also the fact that the T.V. cameras are here will no doubt put players of both teams on their mettle.

INJURIES

Ken Wilson is now fit again and we are delighted to see this grand player back in action.

Charlie McCourt, unfortunately, is definitely out for the rest of the season due to the very serious neck injury sustained in the Barrow game on October 24th. Having been into hospital twice in recent weeks, Charlie has now been ordered to wear his cervical collar at all times for the next six weeks, before reporting for a further examination at Oldham and District General Hospital.

This "gradely lad" still remains cheerful in the face of this tremendous handicap, and we wish him the best of everything, and, perhaps by some miracle, a speedy recovery. Charlie will, I'm sure, be present at today's game as a spectator!

HALF-TIME JUNIOR SCHOOLS SEVENS' COMPETITION

This should have been inaugurated last Saturday at the Huddersfield match, which due to severe freezing on the pitch and terracing, had to be postponed.

Therefore, today, as we are a week behind with these schoolboy games, supporters will be able to see St. Patrick's v. Parish Church as a curtain-raiser before the senior match, and Hathershaw v. St. Mary's at half-time.

Play is four minutes each way, dispensing with goal kicks, and if the score is a draw, the winners will be decided by the toss of a coin.

This competition will continue as an added attraction at half-time at the rest of our home first team matches till the end of the season. We are indebted to the officials of the Oldham Schools' Junior Rugby League for their very prompt response when this competition idea was put to them towards the end of November, and are sure that the sporting public of Oldham will give their ready encouragement to these youngsters at the conclusion of each game.

Mr. George Dew, the local civil engineering contractor, has very generously donated a trophy for the eventual winners of the Half-time Junior Sevens Competition. The final is expected to take place on 11th April, 1970, at our game v. Batley.

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- 4—MULLARKEY, J.
- 5—LARDER, P. J.
- 6—DAVIES, T.
- 7—SMITH, G.
- 8—GARDINER, R. B.
- 9—TAYLOR, K.
- 10—WILSON, K.
- 11—IRVING, R. A.
- 12—McCORMACK, J.
- 13—RUSSELL, F.

- 14—SAYER, C.
- 15—DUNN, J.

Referee :

Mr. I. A. MESKIMMON
(Brighouse)

THE

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- 7—JACKSON, J.
- 8—STEPHENS, J.
- 9—CLARKE, C.
- 10—ASHCROFT, K.
- 11—HOGAN, B.
- 12—MILLS, K.
- 13—LAUGHTON, D.

- 14—
- 15—

Touch Judges :

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Red Flag
Mr. R. Welsby (Warrington)
White Flag

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SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Our sincere thanks to members of O.F.C. Supporters' Club for purchasing the new jerseys (white with royal blue V) to be worn by our players today!

The jumble sale held last Friday at Moorside Methodist Church was a great success and another one is planned for a date yet to be fixed in the New Year.

Coaches will be run from the Social Club to all the away games till the end of the year. Enquiries, please, at any of the canteens on the ground or any evening in the Social Club.

Members are reminded of the shop beneath the scoreboard, where scarves, ties, badges, etc., can be bought, and of the "programmes swop-shop", manned by Susan and Hazel.

EFFORTS COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTARY WORK

We wish also to place on record our gratification at the success of our Christmas Draw, mainly due to the Pools Organiser, Harry Walker, the Efforts Committee and members of the Football Club and Social Club. The actual draw will take place on Sunday, December 21st, at 11 a.m. in the Social Club.

Many thanks to the band of voluntary helpers who turned up at Watersheddings last Sunday morning to assist with laying straw to ensure today's game being played.

We are indebted too, to Mr. J. Bowden for the gift of lamps and fittings for the training pitch lights and to Mr. R. Barrow who voluntarily gave his services wiring up these lights last weekend.

Thanks to Mr. A. Wilne and Mr. E. Bushell; raffles run in the Social Club over the past few weeks have raised over £50 towards the purchase of new football boots.

FESTIVE SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Secretary and Committee wish all our friends, members and supporters a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year!

LEN ROBINSON.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969				
Aug. 9	Blackpool	home	32	15
	(Charity)			
16	Swinton	home	24	28
	(L.C. 1st Rd.)			
19	Salford	home	11	20
23	Warrington	home	8	15
27	Bradford	away	9	25
30	Workington	away	7	28
Sept. 6	Keighley	home	41	10
8	Blackpool	away	33	6
13	Wigan	away	10	40
20	Huyton	home	37	7
22	Rochdale	home	12	2
26	Warrington	away	8	10
Oct. 4	Workington	home	8	10
11	Keighley	away	9	20
24	Barrow	away	19	26
Nov. 1	Whitehaven	home	20	10
8	Leigh	away	4	14
15	Widnes	home	5	7
22	St. Helens	away	10	41
Dec. 6	Huddersfield	home		P
13	Wigan	home		
20	Huyton	away		
26	Swinton	away		
28	Batley	away		
1970				
Jan. 3	St. Helens	home		
17	Huddersfield	away		
24	Barrow	home		
31	Whitehaven	away		
Feb. 7	(Chal. Cup 1st Rd.)			
14	Leigh	home		
21	(Chal. Cup 2nd Rd.)			
27	Salford	away		
Mar. 7	Bradford	home		
14	Widnes	away		
23	Blackpool	home		
27	Swinton	home		
28	Rochdale	away		
Apr. 11	Batley	home		

"A" TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969				
Aug. 23	Warrington	away	6	13
	(Shield, 1 Rd., 1 leg)			
30	Workington	home	20	8
Sept. 6	Rochdale	away		P
13	Wigan	home	12	22
20	Huyton	away	18	5
27	Warrington	home	6	11
	(Shield, 1 Rd., 2 leg)			
Oct. 4	Workington	away		
11	Warrington	home	15	26
17	Salford	away	10	35
25	Barrow	home	8	4
Nov. 8	Leigh	home	23	8
15	Widnes	away		
22	St. Helens	home		
Dec. 13	Wigan	away		
20	Huyton	home		
1970				
Jan. 3	St. Helens	away		
10	Swinton	home		
17	Swinton	away		
24	Barrow	away		
Feb. 14	Leigh	away		
28	Salford	home		
Mar. 14	Widnes	home		
20	(Fri.) Warrington	away		
28	Rochdale	home		

Times of kick-off

All Saturday games at home k.o. 3 p.m.
Evening k.o. times as advertised.
All 1st and "A" team matches.

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