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RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
CHALLENGE CUP 1st ROUND

OLDHAM -- 5
V.
BLACKPOOL -- 0

SATURDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 1970 **Kick-off 3 p.m.**

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OUR VISITORS

In welcoming the Blackpool team to 'Shedding for today's cup-tie, we are conscious of the fact that they include the "one that got away" — Billy Boston — in the side! We are also pleased to know that former Oldham full-back Brian Bury has made a successful comeback to the game and is not only kicking goals for Borough, but scoring tries as well. These two players, together with Johnny Stopford, the former Swinton wing three-quarter, appear to be really enjoying their revived interest in our game. Keith Holden, another former Oldham player, is coaching Borough at present and he also will be on his mettle today.

Like ourselves, Blackpool are not well-off financially — one would think that a town the size of Blackpool would give more support to its Rugby League Club, but that is the trend nowadays at most clubs.

It is up to us within the game to take Rugby League by the scruff of the neck and really shake it up! The four-tackle rule, for instance, has certainly been found wanting. How many times this season have we seen a team hammering its opponent's line, but failing to score because it has run out of the permitted number of tackles? How often do we see a kicking duel between opposing full-backs, as in the days of Ganley and Ledgard?

Rugby League in recent years has become a forwards' game — one sometimes wonders when the wingers are going to be brought into the attack, if at all! Most of the leading try-scorers in the Player's No. 6 Championship Award Competition are half-backs, closely followed by forwards — this in itself is significant of current tactics.

Today's cup-tie will be a keen tussle, no doubt, with both teams trying to belie their lowly league positions in an effort to make further progress on the Wembley trail!

THE WATERSHEDDINGS SCENE

In our home game v Barrow on Saturday, January 24th, we lost by one solitary point, the final score of 13—12 reflecting our need of a consistent goal-kicker! The two tries, scored by Phil Larder and Ray Clark, were both good ones.

The signing last week of Colin Standing, Wigan's Welsh International forward, and of local lad Bill Churm from Salford, certainly stiffened up the pack for our visit to Whitehaven last Saturday. Here again, however, although leading by 9 points to 4 at the interval, we finally lost 11—9. This, although partly due to injuries to Garrett and Dunn, once again shows how a game can be won or lost by a solitary goal-kick! It was heartening, however, to see all three tries scored by our three-quarter line, the scorers being Joe Collins, Mike Elliott and Phil Larder. The two new recruits to our team showed up very well in this match, and Bob Irving had his best game for many weeks!

OLDHAM EX-PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Members of this Association, affectionately nick-named the "Cherry and Whites", entertained Club Officials on Wednesday, January 28th, to a film show of the Oldham team of 1955-58 vintage, and what an enjoyable evening it was. Former Oldham players Harry Ogden, Charlie Winslade, Norman Pugh, Roland Barrow, Jack Doughty, Bryn Day, Harold Lomas and several others swapped reminiscences, and John Etty, Derek Turner and Joe Warham, although unable to attend in person, sent best wishes for success to the Association.

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OLDHAM 5

- 1—MURPHY, M.
- 2—ELLIOTT, M. T
- 3—COLLINS, J.
- 4—McCORMACK, J.
- 5—LARDER, P. J. G
- 6—DAVIES, T.
- 7—SMITH, G.
- 8—GARDINER, R. B.
- 9—TAYLOR, K.
- 10—DUNN J.
- 11—IRVING, R. A.
- 12—STANDING, C.
- 13—CHURM, W.
- 14—GARRETT, T.
- 15—CLARK R.

Referee:

Mr. G. WILSON (Dewsbury)

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- 6—CASSIDY, Terry
- 7—ENTWISTLE, Terry
- 8—BANCROFT
- 9—EGAN, Joe
- 10—GODDARD, Peter
- 11—WATSON, Mick
- 12—WALKER, Donald
- 14—HOLDEN, Keith
- 13—FARRELL, John
- 15—SHARPLES

Touch Judges:

A. Shaw, Leigh
White Flag

E. Proud, (Whitehaven)
Red Flag

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At the Supporters' Club Shop near the Scoreboard, besides the usual scarves, ties, Club badges, etc., players' photographs are now on sale.

Anyone wish to join O.F.C.S.C. is asked to get in touch with the Secretary, Mr. A. Craig, 18 Gordon Avenue, Oldham, or to apply at any of the canteens on the ground.

PLAYER'S No. 6 PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH AWARD

This will be judged today. And we also welcome Personality Girl Miss Sue Barcroft, who will present the £6 prize to the winner after the match! Sue will be present at all our home games to the end of the season.

HALF-TIME SEVENS COMPETITION

The two teams today in the last of the first round ties are Fitton Hall and St. Hilda's. The first semi-final will be played on February 14th, the other on March 7th, and the final on April 11th.

GERRY HELME

We were sad to learn of the recent heart attack suffered by our former coach Gerry Helme, but are glad to report that the latest news is that Gerry is making satisfactory progress. We wish Gerry a speedy return to good health.

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FIRST TEAM FIXTURES

Date	Club	Grd.	F	A
1969				
Aug. 9	Blackpool	home	32	15
	(Charity)			
16	Swinton	home	4	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	P	
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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