

OLDHAM

RUGBY NEWS

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OLDHAM v WIDNES

Sunday, October 22, 1972 (3.00)



KEN AND KEITH SWEAT IT OUT

A SEARCHING scientific probe into exactly how a hard game of rugby affects the human body was launched at the Oldham — St. Helens match by Club Physiotherapist Dennis Wright. And the first results shocked him — for Keith Ashcroft and Ken Wilson both lost more than 9 lbs weight each during the game.

FAN- TASTIC!



Here's Linda, smilingly toggled up for her winter away from home in her warm Anorak.

HOW'S THIS for FAN-tastic loyalty to Oldham?

Linda Collinge, 20, has left her parents' brand-new seaside home at Great Yarmouth to live in Oldham for the winter so that she can see her favourite he-men in action.

Linda moved to the Norfolk resort at the beginning of this year. Her mum's spaghetti-making firm moved its HQ there, and because Mrs. Mavis Collinge is secretary to the Managing Director, Linda and Dad decided to go too.

'But', said Linda yesterday, 'I just couldn't stay away from Oldham rugby. Mum and Dad have brought me to Watersheddings since long before I could walk. Rugby is my life. It's more important than boy friends or anything else, so I just had to come back for the winter.'

Linda wrote to her gran, Mrs. Edith Jenkinson, at her home in Abbotsford Road, Oldham, saying 'Please can I come and stay with you for the winter?' Gran replied 'I'd be glad to see you.' So Linda is back.

'It was frightening when I put Keith and Ken on the scales as soon as they came off the field,' declared Dennis. 'I just could not believe the evidence of the dial reading, but it was true enough.'

Other members of the Oldham team lost an average of 2 lbs each in the hard-fought game, with one notable exception. Phil Larder tipped the scales at 12 st. 12 lbs at the pre-match weigh-in, and weighed exactly the same after the final whistle.

Dennis explained 'Phil is a physical education instructor, and has absolutely no surplus weight. But even so I would have expected him to follow the team average and lose a couple of pounds. The fact that he did not do so is a basis for further investigation.'

Dennis teaches physiotherapy at a Manchester Teachers' Training College and is currently engaged in health investigations at the University Hospital of South Manchester.

He chose the St. Helens game to launch his project because it was taking place on a hot, sunny afternoon likely to induce maximum body changes.

Remarkable

Says Dennis 'These first results were remarkable, but they are only the beginning. For instance, there seems to be no consistency in the way players putting in roughly the same work-rate lose widely varying amounts of weight. Ken Wilson did not appear to have an ounce of spare flesh, yet he shed 9 lbs.'

Dennis is looking into the question of just HOW the weight loss happens. He says 'We know a lot of it is sheer body fluid that comes out in

hard working sweat. The jerseys are sodden after a game, and seem to weigh a ton.'

On the other hand, there must also be a considerable conversion of fat tissues which burn up in energy as the players race round the field.'

The St. Helens players were also checked by Dennis. John Mantle, who did not have a particularly hectic game, lost three pounds.

Why did Dennis Wright, the Great Britain Physiotherapist in the coming World Cup in France, launch his scientific probe?

Interesting

He explains 'Any job, even one as interesting as mine, can become just routine unless it is spiced from time to time with something unusual. And these experiments are a way of doing that, as well as currently producing valuable scientific data.'

Dennis, 42, is also currently engaged in tests at South Manchester University Hospital checking the effectiveness of cross country running in encouraging chest fitness against that of static exercise designed to loosen up the rib joints.

So it looks like the days are over for Oldham's lads when they used to jump straight into the baths after a game and simply relax. Now they will have to line up from time to time — particularly on hot days — for a few moments check-out while Dennis tries to find out just what makes the body of Rugby League players tick.

Give the missus a real Christmas present . . .

FANCY GIVING the wife a rest this year from the headaches of preparing Christmas dinner? Then bring her along to Oldham Rugby Social Club for HER special Christmas treat.

The club's restaurant chef is putting on four special menus, ranging in price from £1.25 to a super luxury spread at £2.25. Seasonal scrumptious scoffs include roast Norfolk turkey, T-bone steak garni, minted new and croquette potatoes, sherry trifle and Christmas pud with rum sauce.

If you do want to take the work out of Christmas for your wife, BOOK NOW at the club . . . there has been a rush of table reservations already, and no wonder.



*Now then you up there . . . that's
a darned silly caper*

WHAT a fine crowd at Watersheddings for the visit of St. Helens . . . and what a pity some of the youngsters had to make nuisances of themselves.

No hooliganism like they get in soccer crowds . . . of course not, but boisterous foolishness, and

sheer thoughtlessness.

One or two lads up in the 'gallery' though it funny to spit on photographers who had come to give the club, and the game, much-needed publicity.

A pretty dirty trick, when you come to think of it lads, wasn't it?

The lads certainly tried to

look innocent when the Law came along, and here he is checking on faces before going up to sort them out.

If it happens again we are going to take a dim view, a very dim view indeed.

YOU UP THERE . . .
WATCH OUT!

GETTING WELL LIT UP

No more blind man's buff training sessions in semi-darkness on the Watersheddings practice pitch. A full set of 30 special sports floodlights has

arrived from the Nottingham Forest football club.

Said Club Secretary Kevin Wilkinson 'We are giving priority to the fitting of these new lights, because

at present much of the field is in semi-darkness with our existing lighting system.

'The new floodlights will make it much more pleasant and easy to have proper training sessions making full use of the whole field area.'

LOOK BACK WITH TOM...

BY
TOM WEBB

IN 1882-3 season Harry Court played for Lancashire, with J. T. Walkden, Kent, Wild, Barlow, and Stott being considered men likely to reach county standard. Barlow joined Court in the Lancashire side in the following season, as did J. B. Rye.

Oldham were stronger forward than any other team in the two counties (Lancashire and Yorkshire). The forwards were during the captaincy of R. H. Selby a well drilled pack and included Hiram Mallalieu, W. T. Kent, J. B. Rye, Will Cooper, Harry Court and J. Clark with others of almost similar stature in W. Wild, T. Gorton, J. Johnson, R. Taylor and J. R. Ripley.

Hiram Mallalieu, who had played for Broughton Wasps became a head-master in the town and tales of his doings are

legion. He did great work for the schoolboys' league.

Robert Stott of Alexandra Mills was club president in 1883-4 and during this season there were a few incidents which made the headlines and were talking points for weeks. Against Manchester, three men fell on the ball simultaneously to score a try and the scorers for the game read: Kent goal, Johnson try, and Buckley or Taylor or Aspinall try.

Against Broughton, Barlow kicked the ball off the floor during play to score a goal. This was known as a field goal. Our Australian cousins use the term field goal when they

mean a dropped goal. The field goal was abolished donkey's years ago. A goal kicked by Barlow from Tetlow's try was disallowed because it had been touched in flight by a defender, a Cheetham Hill player. It made little difference as Oldham won by four goals, five tries and seven minors to nil.

Cheetham came up in a snow storm and two players refused to strip when they saw the ground conditions. The game was stopped just before half time and the result was a 'draw by arrangement', although Oldham were a try and two minors ahead.

Oldham lost at Thornes, Yorkshire and the newspaper recorded that for the third time this season Oldham returned from Yorkshire disgusted with palpably unfair

decisions of the referee. The Oldham umpire was placing the ball in the scrimmage when the Oldham captain and some other players left the field. All but one returned and the remaining player refused to play with the same referee on the field.

When the Broughton club turned up to play Oldham, the team included two internationals and six county players but Oldham won. Oldham 'A' played East Crompton but after the opposition had scored a try Oldham disagreed with the decision and left the field.

In this season, 1884-5, Oldham played Askam-in-Furness and both games resulted in a draw, one minor point each. John Potter, one of the two vice presidents had been closely connected with the formation of both the Oldham Cricket Club and the

Oldham Football Club.

On January 8, 1885, the game with Mossley attracted a record gate of 6,000 with £78, also a record for the club. The number of vice-presidents had increased to 27 and these comprised many of the leading industrialists in the town, particularly the owners of cotton spinning mills.

The dressing room was at the Friendship Hotel, Mumps and the ground was still at Clarksfield but increasing crowds were making it imperative to have a much larger ground. The match with Mossley in the following year again attracted record receipts, this time of £80 9s. Items on the balance sheet included beer and lemons £5 19s, seeds £1 5s 4d, half gate to Birch £2 11s, telegrams and postage



£12 19s, footballs £5 17s 6d, repairs £5 17s 1d, referees £14 and insurance (accidents) £38 10s.

In 1887 Oldham and Rochdale Hornets played at Raikes Hall, Blackpool and no doubt this propaganda resulted in the origin of the Blackpool and Fleetwood clubs.

Season's fixtures and Results SEASON 1972-73

First Team Fixtures

AUGUST

Sat 19—HUDDERSFIELD	25-7	A
Wed 23—WHITEHAVEN (7-30)	30-13	H
Sat 26—WORKINGTON	19-5	H
Mon 28—YORK	32-8	A

SEPTEMBER

Fri 1—SALFORD (Lancs Cup)	17-41	A
Sun 10—HULL	27-2	H
Sun 17—HUYTON	25-13	A
Sat 23—PLAYERS CUP, HULL	10-17	A
Fri 29—WIGAN	9-12	A

OCTOBER

Tue 3—SALFORD (Floodlight Cup)	12-8	H
Sat 7—ST. HELENS	12-12	H
Sat 14—WORKINGTON	10-17	A
Wed 18—GT. BRITAIN	18-15	H
Sun 22—WIDNES		H
Fri 27—SALFORD		A

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—HUDDERSFIELD		H
Sun 12—HUYTON		H
Fri 17—HULL		A
Sat 25—WIGAN		H

DECEMBER

Fri 1—ST. HELENS		A
Sun 10—SALFORD		H
Sun 17—DEWSBURY		A
Sun 24—LEIGH		A
Tues 26—ROCHDALE		A
Sun 31—WARRINGTON		A

JANUARY

Sat 6—WHITEHAVEN		A
Sun 14—YORK		H
Fri 19—BARROW		A
Sat 27—CHALLENGE CUP (1)		

FEBRUARY

Sun 4—LEIGH		A
Sun 11—BLACKPOOL		H
Sat 17—CHALLENGE CUP (2)		
Sun 25—WIDNES		A

MARCH

Sun 4—WARRINGTON		H
Sun 11—BARROW		H
Sun 18—BLACKPOOL		A

APRIL

Sun 1—DEWSBURY		H
Sun 8—SWINTON		H
Sat 21—SWINTON		A
Mon 23—ROCHDALE		H

All home games kick off at 3-0 p.m. unless otherwise stated

'A' Team Fixtures

OCTOBER

Fri 6—ST. HELENS		A
Sat 14—WORKINGTON		H
Fri 20—WIDNES		A
Sat 28—SALFORD		H

NOVEMBER

Sat 4—BARROW		A
Sat 11—HUYTON		A
Sat 18—ROCHDALE		H
Sat 25—WIGAN		A

DECEMBER

Sat 2—ST. HELENS		H
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Fri 8—SALFORD.....A

Sat 16—SWINTON.....A

Sat 23—LEIGH.....A

Sat 30—WARRINGTON.....H

JANUARY

Sat 6—BARROW.....H

Sat 20—BARROW.....H

Sat 27—SWINTON.....H

FEBRUARY

Sat 3—LEIGH.....H

Sat 17—ROCHDALE.....A

Sat 24—WIDNES.....H

MARCH

Sat 3—WARRINGTON.....A

Sat 10—BARROW.....A

Sat 17—WIGAN.....A

APRIL

Sat 7—ROCHDALE.....A

Sat 14—WIGAN.....H

Sat 21—SWINTON.....H



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Oldham Rugby League Club

Ground:
Watersheddings,
Oldham.
Colours: Red and
white hooped jerseys,
blue shorts.
Chairman: A.
Walker.
Vice-chairman: R.
Hatton.
Treasurer: R.
Hartley.
Committee: J.
Bowden, B. Day, J.
Higgins, D. Hulme, C.
Farnworth, W. Jinks.
Rugby League
Council: A. Walker.
Deputy: R. Hatton.
Lancashire County:
J. Bowden.
Club Secretary: K.
Wilkinson.
Club Doctor: Dr. D.
S. Preston.
Physiotherapist: D.
Wright.
Coach: G. Starkey.
Promotions
Manager: A. Taylor.

NEWS PEOPLE

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APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

	TOTAL	Played (including substitute)						
		League	Lancs. Cup	Players Comp.	Floodlight Cup	Tries	Goals	Points
M. Murphy	12	9	1	1	1	3		9
M. Elliott	12	9	1	1	1	3		9
P. Larder	11	8	1	1	1	3	44	97
J. Collins	3	3				2		6
N. Hodgkinson	12	9	1	1	1	11		33
C. Hill	11	8	1	1	1			
M. McCone	11	8	1	1	1	2		6
K. Wilson	11	8	1	1	1	2		6
K. Taylor	12	9	1	1	1	1		3
F. Foster	8	6	1	1			7	14
R. Irving	12	9	1	1	1	4		12
G. Munro	11	8	1	1	1	3		9
B. Churm	5	4	1			1		3
T. Davies	11	8	1	1	1	4		12
J. Reynolds	9	6	1	1	1	2		6
C. O'Brien	4	3	1					
K. Ashcroft	6	6			1			
G. Owen	4	3		1				
A. Wainwright	6	4		1	1	2		6
S. Bottom	1	1						
M. Sidall	1	1						
J. Blair	1	1						
K. Jackson	1	1						
G. Owen	4	3		1	1			

COACH'S COLUMN

AT THE RISK of being
accused of judging a
thing without it being
given a fair trial, I feel I
must say something
about the Rugby
League's latest experi-
ment — the hooter time
keeping system. After
all the money that was
spent employing a PR
firm to produce its
report, what do we get
but this pantomime?

In our first League
match at Huddersfield,
someone either had a
serious accident among
the crowd, or in fact blew
a raspberry. The referee
promptly finished the
game. I have been to three
other matches where the
referee never heard the
hooter, and at Wigan —
where apparently they
always have been able to
ignore the rules — they
have a bell instead of a
hooter.

Often complained

It just is not good
enough. But last week
was the pay off for me. I
watched the BBC match
between St. Helens and
Leeds. Many people, in-
cluding myself, have often
complained about TV
presentation of our game,
and about Eddie Waring.
But it was purely our new
time keeping comic opera
that made this floodlit
game a complete
shambles at the end.

For those who were not
viewing, just let me say
that Leeds scored a try
right at the end of the
game. Just as Hardisty
had scored, the hooter

sounded. At this, fans and
children invaded the pitch.
Holmes, the Leeds goal
kicker, was momentarily
lost in the milling mass on
the field. Eventually, he
just plonked the ball down
and kicked at it without a
run.

Among all the confusion
no-one could tell whether
the ball had gone over the
bar or not. What an
atrocious image for our

whistle. They never knew
when the referee put the
whistle in his mouth
whether he had caught
somebody offside, or
whether he was going to
blow for time. And that
way, everyone's taut, anx-
ious attention was secured
right until the game's last
second.

when the referee did it.
There are all sorts of
aspects apparently not
catered for or foreseen.
What about time wasting
by a player, or what about
when the ball is kicked off
the pitch and another is
not immediately available?
Or sometimes two are
kicked back on and there
is another hold-up.

No, I am sorry to say
that there is only one good
thing that I can honestly
say has come out of all this
— and that is that our
timekeeper John Hall
usually buys the lads a
beer apiece after the
match!

TIME

GENTLEMEN PLEASE

CALLS FOR ITS

LAST ORDERS

game when it provides
such a self inflicted fiasco!

What if the Leeds goal
kick could have decided
the match? The chaos we
saw would have peanuts
compared to the riot that
would have resulted then.
And a further, and impor-
tant point is just how
much of an anti-climax the
end of the game becomes
under the new system,
particularly if it is a close
match.

Keyed up

Under the old rule, the
crowd stayed keyed up
and tense right to the final

BY
GRAHAM STARKEY

WIDNES STATISTICS

Ground: Naughton
Park.

Colours: Black & White
hoops, White shorts.

Nickname: The
Chemics.

Founder members of
the Northern Rugby
League in 1895.

Attendance record:
24,205 v St. Helens,
Cup, 1960-61.

Record win: 59-0 v
Bramley 1952-53.

Record defeat: 5-60
v Oldham 1927-28.

Try scoring record: 35
by Frank Myler 1958-59.

Goal kicking record:
127 by Arthur Pimblett
1959-60.

Points record: 294 by
Harry Dawson 1957-58.

Lancashire Cham-
pions: 1919-20.

Runners-up: 1935-36,
1946-47, 1962-63.

Lancashire Cup
winners: 1945-46.

Runners-up: 1928-29,
1939-40, 1955-56,
1971-72.

Challenge Cup
winners: 1929-30, 1936-
37, 1963-64.

Runners up: 1933-34,
1949-50.

Championship runners
up: 1935-36.



Grünhülle
Lager

Brewed in the Babarian Way



Safe as houses! Frank's big hands are ready to swallow up the ball as he takes this pass on the turn.

THE GIANT NUCLEAR submarines which slide secretly into the cold grey waters of the Irish Sea from Vickers' Barrow shipyards are just about the most awesome agency of sudden death ever devised by man.

Emerging also at regular intervals from the Vickers' yards is a human one-man Fighting Machine, whose very name is sufficient to arouse awed anguish

in the ranks of opposing forces on Rugby League grounds throughout the world. That name is Frank Foster.

Frank spends his weekdays working on electrical systems in the nuclear and other vessels built by Vickers. At week-ends he electrifies the fans, and often terrifies the opposition as he throws his 15 stone around with all the finesse of a runaway battleship.

Frank's family in Maryport had absolutely no interest in rugby, and it was not until he started grammar school that Frank was drawn into the game. His embryo giant frame had not even

started to fill out when the games master explained the Rugby Union rules to 11 year old Frank Foster.

Frank quickly grasped what was going on and made the school's first fifteen — at scrum half. His partner at stand-off was a lad also destined for international rugby fame — one Beverley Rismen, son of the famous Gus. Frank played for his school at rugby in the mornings, then went off to play for a local soccer club in the afternoons.

Keen as he was on sport, Frank was no duffer in the classroom. By the time he was ready to leave school at 16, he had passed his G.C.E. in English, biology, geology and woodwork.

Frank's introduction to senior rugby was a sheer accident. He went one Sunday afternoon to watch Glasson Rangers, and their loose forward failed to show up. Frank quickly stripped off, ran on the field with the Glasson men, and was marked out from that day to this as a top rugby forward.

He played for Glasson to the end of that season, and was chosen to play for England under-19s and also for Cumberland under-19s.

News of the tearaway young giant had spread to Yorkshire, and Leeds invited Frank to Headingley for a trial at the end of the season. He played pretty well and was told 'Come back at the start of next season.'

But as so often happens, those who hesitate miss out on signings. In the close season, Jim Brough made a firm offer to young Frank and the result was he signed for Workington.

After six seasons with the Cumberland club, Frank was transferred to Hull Kingston Rovers for £6,500. He moved with his family to the Yorkshire seaport, and had four seasons there before going to Bradford Northern in a player-exchange deal for centre-threequarter Wigglesworth.

Frank's academic appraisals of the game earned him a chance at coaching duties with the Odsal Club, and he shared this job with Neil Fox. But Frank was anxious to return to his home territories, and after nearly two seasons with Bradford signed for Barrow for £6,000. He played a couple of seasons in Cumberland before joining Oldham for £2,750.

Now 32, Frank has played eight times for Cumberland and is their

current skipper. He has appeared for Great Britain against Australia.

He lives with his wife Joyce and their two children Brian, 12, and Susan, 8, at their comfortable home near Barrow. He says 'The only hobbies I have time for are gardening and motoring, and the latter is more like a working hobby simply

system to end matches. He says 'I think it is artificial, upsets the concentration, and quite out of place in rugby. It should be left to the ref to whistle up for time. After all, he should be capable of reading his own watch and making a few simple additions for injury time.'

Frank is currently un-

Dynamite man from Barrow shipyards

because I have to spend so much time behind the wheel travelling to matches.'

Frank has one or two pet hates in rugby. For instance, he can't stand the new hooter

der suspension, but will soon be back in the front rank of Oldham's steamroller league campaign, putting behind it all his immense power and experience.



Here are the other three members of the Foster family — plus, of course Billie the Budgie. Brian, 12, wears his usual serious outlook, but sister Susan, 8, has a cheerful smile as she leans over her Mum.



Up and away! Frank puts the boot in — to the ball, of course.

All for the Good of the Game!

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As the Leaguer is not published during the close season the subscription will continue into the following season until the expiry date.

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PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS

Oh no you don't ...



Kevin Taylor takes swift avoiding action as John Stephens, St. Helens prop, looms for the tackle.

RECORD RUN ENDS AT WORKINGTON

A HECTIC week for Oldham! An unbeaten record run of 17 League games goes by the board at Workington — where the experts expected a handsome Oldham victory.

But Oldham saved their best showing for their home crowd in the fierce battle with St. Helens. Maybe the lads were still feeling the effects of this epic struggle when they made the long trip to the Cumbrian outpost of Rugby League.

Just the stuff to send our crowds soaring

Oldham 12 pts St. Helens 12 pts

'SCOTLAND THE BRAVE' wound up the stirring mid-match music from Oldham's Scottish Pipe-Band. On this magnificent showing against St. Helens the martial marching song might well have been aptly and nobly re-titled 'Oldham the Brave'.

For it was only sheer bravery that beat off the bludgeoned battering handed out by the St. Helens men.

'What do they have to do to be sent off?' queried one bewildered, independent observer who had travelled over from Rochdale to see the League's top two in action.

Uppercuts, forearm smashes and throttling throat punches were just a part of the regular repertoire from a St. Helens side capable of putting on a real top of the bill show without resorting to such a debasement of the game.

And there was something of the playground bully there in it all. It was not the Oldham giant tough-nuts such as Ashcroft, Taylor and Irving who were the rough-stuff targets. The stocky, but very much smaller McCone took a compulsory count half a dozen times after soaking up a far from saintly hammering, but was gallantly game enough to get off the floor and finish the match on his feet.

Oldham were still feeling the bumps and bruises from the mid-week mauling with Salford, and this undoubtedly blunted the sharp edge of their attacking and their defensive cutting machinery. There was slight hesitancy where instant incision was needed, plus a tendency to stand back and see rather than get in and grab.

Yet, a draw was a reasonable and fair result. More important, it left Oldham top of the table, and with their unbeaten home record intact.

What a royal reception the Oldham crowd gave their lads at the end of both halves. Roasted by a summer-heat sun, and invigorated by the tearaway tonic served up by their team, Oldham fans let rip with stand-up cheers and claps as the contenders left the arena.

It was the biggest, happiest gate of the season. This

must have been a terrific encouragement to the men on and off-field who are trying so hard to put Oldham back to polar position at the top of the world in Rugby League.

One Sunday newspaper described this clash of the giants as 'The match that had everything'. Maybe that was stretching it just a little, but the match certainly had its share of agonising aches for Oldham fans.

Will we, won't we, will we, won't we, will we share the points? That was the stomach-knotting stanza running through those final moments as the game surged to its Klaxon climax.

Both sides had done enough to win, yet it would have been a travesty if either had lost. Some Oldham fans might complain that a lax decision by Halifax referee Ron Jackson cost them the winning points.

With St. Helens on the attack just inside the Oldham half, there was a minor forward infringement which escaped the ref's attention. Two more tackles, and two more play-the-balls brought the Saints to the Oldham '25'. Only then did Mr. Jackson notice the touch judge waving back on the half way mark.

After a few words with him, the ref awarded a penalty AT THE POINT WHERE PLAY HAD THEN REACHED, and not where the rule-breaking occurred. Ace marksman Coslett was given a gift goal — and St. Helens shared the points.

But the Saints did run in a couple of fine tries, and their backs were explosively dangerous raiders whenever Oldham gave them even minimum room for manoeuvre. Martin Murphy impressed incessantly at full back for Oldham. He launched any number of attacks from deep defensive positions, and went in fearlessly at the feet of St. Helens' rampaging power pack.

The Oldham three-quarters equalled the Saints



Mid air ballet in the sunshine at Watersheddings on Saturday as St. Helens winger Wilson helps Norman Hodgkinson along to a quite unintentional loop-the-loop.

MAC HANDS OUT LESSON

Workington T 17 pts
Oldham 10 pts

It had to be an Oldham lad in exile at Workington who sent his home side crashing to their first League defeat in 17

in speed and penetration, and Tony Wainwright again underlined what a bargain Oldham made when they snapped him up. His partner, Norman Hodgkinson, turned in some sizzling runs and twice was downed within finger-stretching distance of the line.

Captain Dave Hill kept his men at super-stretch right to the end of this thriller. St. Helens had served up some stick, but never knocked Oldham off their top-of-the-table trolley bus. Its destination indicator reads 'League Championship, with Challenge Cup call en route.'

Scorers: Oldham, goals, Wainwright, Larder (5). St. Helens: goals, Coslett (3), tries, Wilson, Heaton.

Oldham: Murphy; Elliott, Larder, Wainwright, Hodgkinson; Hill, McCone; Wilson, Taylor, Ashcroft, Irving, Daley, Reynolds. Substitutes: Davies, Munro.

St. Helens: Eckerley; Wilson, Benyon, Walsh, Mathias; Kelly, Heaton; Murphy, Karalius, Stephens, Mantle, Chisnall, Coslett. Substitutes: Pimblett, Rees.

Attendance: 6,506.

games. The name? Ian McCorquodale.

This Oldham expatriate ran in two tries and kicked four goals to hammer home the lively superiority of the Cumbrians. Ian has just graduated from Manchester University and is sports master at Cowley Grammar School, St. Helens.

This Oldham side was hardly recognisable as the one which thrashed Salford and held Saints to a draw. The passing and positioning were ragged, while handling dropped to a butter-fingered low level.

Even normally safe tacklers became infected with the general lethargy, and the result was Workington were allowed far too free a range.

Due to Cliff Hill's groin strain, Tony Wainwright moved to stand-off with Tommy Davies taking over the centre spot. Bob Irving skippered, and Joe Collins came in as substitute.

It was slack tackling and marking by Oldham that allowed Workington to go ahead after ten minutes. And even though Oldham fought back fiercely to take the lead by half-time, they

never got into that sleek stride which has brought them so much success earlier this season.

Twice Hodgkinson dropped the ball with the touch down at his mercy, and this most uncharacteristic showing by Norman was typical of the overall Oldham ineptitude.

Murphy and Wainwright were outstanding in Oldham's back division, while Arthur Daley had a powerful first half. Attendance was fewer than 1,000. Oldham won the scrums 13-5.

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HERE'S A WOW of a way for our Pools Agents to land themselves a plump, succulent turkey — all free and ready for delivery on Christmas Eve.

There's a brand new competition starting this week which will bring one of these succulent, delicious birds right to your Christmas lunch table — and all you have to do is rope in JUST ONE new pools agent.

The rules are simple. All they amount to is 'One bird for every new agent signed up.' And that means if you pull in ten new agents, you get TEN turkeys.

And if that's too many turkeys, you can take the equivalent value in other Christmas goodies.

So, to make it a real bumper bundle of a Christmas, get out and about now to pop the question to your friends, relatives or workmates. With team performances riding high, this is THE MOMENT.

And remember, you're doing people a BIG FAVOUR by signing them up, as well as helping the club. As special agents for Oldham, they'll get a free season ticket, good commission, agents' prizes, nights out at the Social Club, and free trips to away matches. Plus a lot of sheer satisfaction at doing a worthwhile job.

As a special incentive, too, we are laying on for agents an action-packed social evening in December. There will be cabaret and dancing, and free prize draws.

Talking of draws, early indications are that this will be a RECORD BREAKING year for our Christmas Draw. Already we have had to send cries for help to our printer to rush us more tickets. The first lot were sold within a week!

Careful thought has gone into streamlining and updating the draw administration this year. Some of the bottlenecks of the past have been blown out and more support is being given to ticket sellers.

The Cherries will be pushing out tickets in packages at home matches so that supporters can take them and sell them to friends and relatives. But don't wait to be asked — COME IN FOR YOUR TICKETS NOW. You will be playing a big part in ensuring the continued success of our team — and introducing your customers to the BEST Christmas draw in the whole Oldham area.

WE HELP OUR EX-PLAYERS

By Ex-players Association
Secretary Fred Howarth

At our recent cabaret and dance night at the Parkfield Country Club it was a full house, with members and friends enjoying the music of the Jeff Warner sound. A raffle was held and this raised £12 with the prizes being given by the committee and members. Our special guests were Graham Starkey the Oldham coach, and Bob Irving who brought along Norman Hodgkinson. As the Oldham v Salford match was on our guests were a little late but they really enjoyed the company of the Ex-players social night.

We organised a collection for the Arthur Ogden fund. Many of you will know that Arthur has been in hospital for months. Collection boxes were placed in public houses that are rugby league strongholds, and this

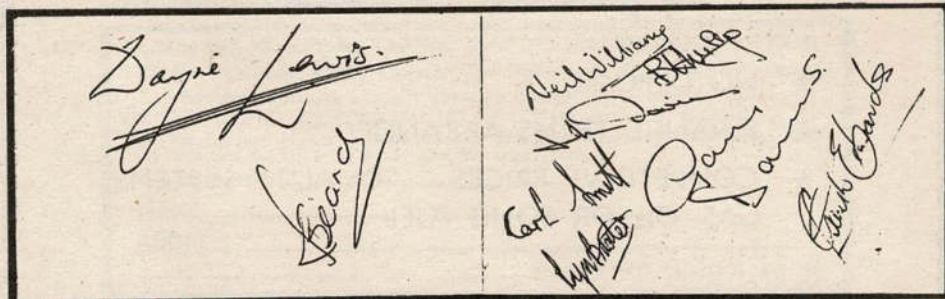
collection raised £15. We thank all the landlords for letting us put the boxes in their houses. This was another good effort by the association in helping one of their ex players. A plaque was donated by the ex players to the public house that raised the best collection. This was won by the Minders Arms, and was presented to the landlord Harry Miles at our dance social.

A deputation of ex players' committee went along to the Wakefield v Leeds match when yours truly presented a cheque for £60, which was raised at a dance and cabaret which the ex players organised in July. The ex players deputation was well received by the Chairman of the Wakefield club, along with his committee, and the ex players saw an enjoyable match between

two top teams in the league. We met a few of Oldham ex players who are now exiled in the Yorkshire area. They were Joe Warham, who is now the Leeds chief scout, Derek Turner, now the coach for the Leeds team, also Jimmy Chalmers who had come down from the Scotch town of Harwick where he now lives.

We would like to appeal through the Oldham Rugby News for those ex players who have not joined the association to get in touch with the secretary of the ex players at the Parkfield Club, Moorside, Oldham, where we have our meetings on the first Monday of the Month. They will be welcomed by the chairman, Norman Pugh, and they will be able to avail themselves of the services of the Ex players Association.

GARETH SIGNS HERE



Another scoop! We sent Our Man into the Cardiff dressing room to get the Magic Signature that is worth £20,000 to switch to Rugby League. As well as Gareth Edwards, winger Wayne Lewis and a host of other Cardiff stars signed for Our Man — but then he was carrying only his autograph book — not Rugby League forms!

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I am interested in becoming a Pools Agent for Oldham R.L.F.C. and would like to find out more about it (I am over 18 years of age).

Name:

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LOOKING ROUND THE LEAGUE

KEIGHLEY keen to re-build a strong side, have certainly been doing some spade work during the past few days. They heard that their centre Ken Roberts and prop Barry Potter were back in action with Halifax junior side Siddal following an approach by Wigan for the services of Roberts. They watched both players help their former junior club to a 49-10 victory over Ackworth, and then talked to the players afterwards. Former Oldham (twice), Halifax (twice), Bradford N. and Keighley utility player Alan Kellett is player-coach of the Siddal side, who are so far unbeaten.

KEIGHLEY have also told Rochdale that if they want John Butler, their St Helens-based loose forward on trial, they will have to pay £1,750, but if they decided to buy him outright the fee is £1,500.

Despite Hunslet centre George Clark fracturing his jaw Keighley are still keen to sign the player, and after a Dewsbury 'A' — Salford 'A' friendly last weekend they also mentioned to Salford officials the possibility of Castleford - based forward Paul Orr going on trial to Lawkholme Lane. The player has told Keighley officials he would rather sign for them straight away than play a month's trial.

KEIGHLEY have also asked Bradford Northern about

their blond haired prop Dave Hill, but the Odsal board, with the departure of Laurie Hinchliffe and the possible departure of Brian Butler, are not keen to part.

PUTTING HIS JOB before his professional contract at Hull is county hooker Alan McGlone, who since a couple of nagging injuries is concentrating on building up a public house.

ONE PLAYER at Huddersfield, namely second row or loose forward Bob Tomlinson, who refused to turn out for the Huddersfield 'A' team last week, is putting the building of a new bungalow near Castleford before his club, where he has played ten seasons, and who are currently running a benefit for him.

WAKEFIELD TRINITY have been down in Wales again this weekend in the Neath area. Their targets are believed to be a prop and a winger. Still anxious to switch codes is Welsh R.U. reserve scrum half Chico Hopkins. Hopkins, deputy for Gareth Edwards in last week's Scotland-Ireland v England-Wales R.U. match, would probably accept a fee in the £5,000 region, although twelve months ago he was talking £7,000.

WHITEHAVEN second rower Bill McCracken has made his peace with the club, but the Recreation Ground board are still open to offers for the 24-year-old Cumberland county player. Last season Castleford offered £2,000 for his services. Two players currently starring in the Whitehaven

side are prop John Pringle and loose forward Ray Martin. Leigh, although knowing the capabilities of their local fullback Martin Murphy, have been checking his performances with Oldham.

BACK AT BARROW after a spell with Whitehaven is prop George Crayston. He went straight into the side which lost at home to Bramley last weekend without even training at Craven Park. An interesting note out of that game was that Barrow player-coach Joe Chamberlain played five prop forwards in his pack. Their forward signing from Warrington Brian Larkin, who is going to continue to live and work in Wigan, has missed the last three games, all because on his debut against Workington he played in some new boots on a rock hard ground and took the skin off his feet.

HULL have expressed an interest in York prop John Edson, but do not want to match the Clarence Street request for £1,250. The 'Airlie Birds' have returned Malcolm Walker, the York second row forward after a month's trial. Malcolm is the younger brother of Salford's recent hooking capture Peter.



WITH
DAVE
PARKER

MEET TERRY GORMAN

Here's a very warm welcome to our new 'A' team player coach Terry Gorman.

Terry has been given a free transfer by Swinton to take up his new job — which is regarded by the Oldham Board as one of the most important in the club.

Terry, 31, has been with Swinton 18 months.

He took over there as a

stand-in 'A' team coach during Rees Thomas's illness. And before going to Swinton Terry was with Batley for four and a half years, where he coached the backs.

Terry served 18 months with Wakefield Trinity, and during this time time with either the first or reserve team never drew losing pay. His first club was

Huddersfield, where he signed when he was 16 and stayed for eight years.

Our new coach has played for Lancashire Under-18's and England Under-21s.

And already since his arrival the 'A' team has ended a long losing run by drawing 7-7 with Workington in the Lancashire Shield.

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Sturdy Widnes bring flying wingers

Following the visit of the British World Cup squad to Watersheddings, today we return to bread and butter league football when Oldham play hosts to Widnes.

At full-back for Oldham's visitors will be RAY DUTTON who joined Widnes 8 years ago from Widnes junior football. He toured Australasia in 1970 with Great Britain and played in two tests against New Zealand. He also played in all Britain's World Cup games that year and is also a regular choice for Lancashire.

DUTTON has just returned after injury and whilst he has been on the sidelines the full-back spot has been filled by MICK McLOUGHLIN, a fine utility back who was signed from Saint Maries in 1969.

On the wings Widnes have two fliers in ALAN PRESCOTT and DENIS BROWN. Prescott turned professional from West Park RUFC in January 1971 after scoring over 100 tries in his last three seasons in rugby union.

Twenty seven year old Brown is also a former rugby union player who has represented Devon. He joined Widnes 5 years ago and since turning professional has represented Wales. Last season he scored 27 tries.

ERIC HUGHES is the current Lancashire winger but recently he has been turning out in the centre for his club. The other centre spot has been filled by MALC ASPEY, another local signing who has proved to be a regular try scorer in his eight years with Widnes. He is also a very useful goal kicker and kicked 10 goals against Leigh in the pre-season friendly.

Stand-off DENIS O'NEILL is an extremely speedy and tricky attacker who joined Widnes from local junior football in 1966. Two years later he made his debut for Lancashire and last season was substitute for Great Britain in the third test against New Zealand. The scrum-half position could be filled by ALAN ASHTON or REG BOWDEN. Former Ditton Youth club player, Bowden

has proved his versatility since joining Widnes in 1968, for he is also a capable centre.

Leading the Widnes pack is former Llanelli and Wales rugby union star JOHN WARLOW who turned professional with Saint Helens in October 1963. He spent a successful 6 years with Saints, which included a trip to Australia in 1968 for the World Cup, before moving to Widnes for £4,000. Last season he represented Britain against New Zealand.

Other candidates for places in the Widnes pack are BLACKWOOD, SHERIDAN and the versatile JOHN FORAN, a local junior signing in 1965. Hooker KEITH ELWELL has earned some good press reports this season as has former Wigan forward DAVE MACKO. Last month Widnes strengthened their forwards when they signed 20 years old Joe Docherty from Warrington. The star of the Widnes pack, however, is George Nichols, who is France bound next week with the British World Cup squad. Nichols joined Widnes seven years ago from Derby Arms juniors and during the past four seasons has been a regular selection for Lancashire. Last season he made his debut for Britain in the third test against New Zealand and was retained for the French tests.

As can be seen, the Widnes team will be a difficult outfit to beat but the form displayed by Oldham in recent weeks should make them favourites to collect a further 2 points to add to their mounting league haul for the season.

Although Widnes are challenging for a position in the top eight their form away from Naughton Park has been rather disappointing. Their displays away from home will have to be tightened up if they are to end the season in a higher spot than the 11th position where they ended last season. Their only away win so far this term was the 32-12 success up at Barrow, while defeats have been suf-

fered at Whitehaven, Castleford and Warrington.

At home good wins have been recorded against Yorkshire Cup finalists Dewsbury (21-7), Rochdale Hornets (28-13) Wakefield Trinity (17-3) and their biggest win a 35-13 hammering of Whitehaven.

Last season Widnes were beaten in the Lancashire Cup final by Wigan so it was no real surprise when they had a lengthy run in this season's competition. In the first round the Chemics visited Leigh where they found themselves 6-5 in arrears at half-time. A fine display by Malc Aspey, (2 tries and 4 goals) rallied Widnes who went on to win by 20 points to 6.

The biggest crowd of the second round games, some 9,000, assembled at Widnes for the visit of Saint Helens. This match marked the comeback of Ray Dutton who completely overshadowed Saints two new debutants, Tony Waller and Mick Murphy. The Widnes pack was also on top form and Saints were never allowed to settle down as they slipped to a 13-2 defeat.

Being drawn at home to Swinton in the semi-final, Widnes were favourites to reach the final for the second successive season, but despite winning ample possession from the scrums, they were no match for the Lions who had the added incentive of meeting arch rivals Salford in the final. Swinton led 11-4 at half-time and gallantly though Denis O'Neill strived to turn the game, his efforts were in vain for Widnes fell to their first home defeat of the season by 13-4. Obviously these results indicate that with a little luck with the cup draws Widnes could end up with a trophy before very long. Perhaps the lucrative John Player Trophy will end up at Widnes, for they comfortably dealt with Doncaster in round one and now eagerly await their second round opponents. But before that comes today's important date against front runners Oldham.

LINE-UP

OLDHAM 17

1. MURPHY
2. ELLIOTT *try*
3. LARDER *4 goals*
4. WAINWRIGHT *COLLINS*
5. HODGKINSON *try*
6. HILL *WAINWRIGHT*
7. McCONE
8. WILSON *ASHEROFT*
9. TAYLOR
10. FOSTER
11. IRVING
12. ASHEROFT *MUNRO*
13. REYNOLDS *CHURM*
14. DAVIES *try*
15. MUNRO *WALKER*

WIDNES 18

1. McLOUGHLIN
2. BROWN
3. HUGHES *ASPEY goal*
4. ASPEY *LOWE O'NEILL 2 tries*
5. PRESCOTT *2 tries*
6. O'NEILL *BOWDEN 2 goals*
7. ASHTON
8. WARLOW *WALSH*
9. ELWELL
10. SHERIDAN *WALSH*
11. FORAN
12. BLACKWOOD *MACKO*
13. NICHOLLS
14. *HOWE*
15. *MACKO*

Referee: Mr. G. F. Lindop (Wakefield)
Touch Judges: Mr. J. Casey and Mr. R. J. Percival

Your Scorecard

OLDHAM

Tries

ELLIOTT
Hodgkinson
Davies

Goals

Larder 4

WIDNES

Tries

Prescott 2
O'Neill 2

Goals

Aspey 1
Ashton 2

DO YOU REMEMBER



Test your memory with the teaser picture above... when, where, who? Answer to last week's puzzle: Etty, Stirrup, Ganley, Davies and Winslade with the four Cups at the Town Hall after beating Hull in the Championship final, 1956-57. The Cups — Lancs Cup, Lancs League Cup, League Cup, and Law Cup.

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