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RUGBY LEAGUE MATCH

LEIGH

V.

OLDHAM

SUNDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1973

Kick-off 3-30 p.m.

Question Time . . .

Questionnaires are being handed out around the ground today for the purpose of testing supporters' reactions before the Leigh club begin planning for next season.

Three questions will be asked: Which day do you prefer to attend rugby matches? Do you prefer a 3.00 or 3.30 kick-off? and what do you think would improve the game?. Two complimentary stand tickets will be given to the person who supplies the best answer to the last question.

Oldham supporters are welcome to take part in answering the last question only and their prize will be two complimentary tickets for a match at Watersheddings.

Please hand your questionnaire in to either the Secretary's Office, the Ladies' Association Shop, the Supporters' Club office or any person in authority.

Cup luck, essential if the twin towers of Wembley Stadium are to materialise into something more than just a dream, held out for Leigh when they were drawn at home in the second round of the Challenge Cup.

And although the opponents are those renowned cup fighters, Wakefield Trinity, currently going great guns and riding high in fifth position in the league, everyone at Hilton Park is quietly confident that Wembely success is again on the way.

And with the Hilton Park side laying strong claims to being the fittest side in the league and without a home defeat since mid-September, it certainly augurs well for the club which is rediscovering its skill and finesse just at the right time.

Last weekend Leigh Colts Under 17's played their first game for 10 weeks when they entertained Rochdale Colts Under 18's side at Marsh Playing Fields. At times the Leigh side's lack of match practice was evident and although they had the edge in the backs their forwards, depleted by star Steve Herbert being away on school international duty, were no match for Rochdale's older and bigger pack.

The final score was 17-18 for the visitors with Leigh's points coming from tries by Alvin Drummond, Maurice Platt and Terry Bilsbury who also kicked three goals and a goal from Gittins. In the backs Drummond, Grimshaw, Fairhurst and Bilsbury were outstanding, while forwards Joe Wood, Maurice Platt and Robert Arris were Leigh's stars.

Leigh 'B' had a great ten-try romp against I.C.I. Thornton in a match which brought them another creditable victory in their quest for the league championship. Scorers in the 40 points to 5 win were Taylor (2), Svabic (2), Evans, Hewitt, Hall, Birchall, Williams and Wilkinson with Evans adding five goals.

New boys Wilkinson and Williams showed up well in a sound forward display and Hewitt was the star in the backs.

CHALLENGE CUP LUCK HOLDS OUT

Several local amateur Rugby League players who failed to turn

out for the Leigh town team in a recent match at St. Helens have been wisely suspended for one match by the Leigh Amateur Rugby League. This disciplinary action means they will now miss the Leigh league match against Leigh 'A' which is to be scheduled for later in the season.

The amateur league are to run a seven-a-side competition for open age players at Hilton Park on Good Friday. Current professionals are excluded but there is no ban on former players. Entries should be sent to league secretary, Geoff Owen, 12 Knowsley Drive, Leigh, before April 12th.

After cancelling the scheduled 'A' team league fixture with Workington Town at Hilton Park last Saturday, Leigh and Swinton hastily re-arranged an 'A' team fixture at Swinton for last Friday evening.

Unfortunately this match, intended to be used for giving run-outs to forward Paul Grimes, back after suspension, and Stuart Ferguson, also had to be cancelled because of the unsuitable state of Swinton's pitch.

The Leigh club were unable to contact Ferguson at his Swansea home and the former full-back and goal-kicking star, reported to be missing Rugby League and anxious to make a come-back, made a wasteful journey to Leigh.



It's all happening for John McAtee at the moment!

'Mackie' began his career at Hilton Park by playing in the reserves for many months as half-back partner to his brother Peter, and then a series of problems kept him out of the professional game for over 12 months.

In his return early this season, caretaker-coach Tommy Graine, realising his potential, threw him straight in at the deep end. And he has since then more than justified Graine's faith in him.

He made his debut against Dewsbury and scored the only try of the match which was enough to clinch victory for Leigh.

He hasn't looked back since then for his speed, clever play round the base of the scrums and brilliant breaks have stamped class on Leigh's displays. He has notched up 7 tries this season, singularly enough each one right under the posts, and besides being a favourite with the Leigh crowd he is rapidly earning the admiration of every club he comes up against.

Along with several other Leigh youngsters, John McAtee appears destined for future honours.

John is pictured above in action during the game against Dewsbury.

PETER SMETHURST

*his opinions and
expert comment
in the*

Manchester Evening News

SCORE CHART

	Pld.	G.	T.	Pts.
Jimmy Fiddler	22	49	4	110
Mick Stacey	26	24	7	69
Steve Houghton	20	...	8	24
John McAtae	16	...	7	21
Tony Barrow	25	...	5	15
Mick Collins	29	...	5	15
John Atkin	12	...	4	12
Denis Brown	4	6	...	12
Paul Kelly	10	...	4	12
Tommy Martyn	23	...	3	9
Billy Melling	8	...	3	9
Alan Riding	16	2	1	7
Derek Clarke	16	...	2	6
John Davies	7	...	2	6
Rodney Tickle	4	...	2	6
Peter Smethurst	22	1	1	5
Graham Lawson	3	...	1	3
Roy Lester	9	...	1	3
Allan Rowley	7	...	1	3
Joe Walsh	3	...	1	3
Tommy Canning	10	1	...	2
Charlie Middlehurst	2	1	...	2
Frank Barrow	25	...	...	...
Jimmy Boylan	8	...	...	...
John Carey	5	...	...	...
Dave Carey	8	...	...	...
Keith Clarke	3	...	...	...
Bob Fleet	1	...	...	...
Geoff Fletcher	26	...	...	...
Frank Paulger	5	...	...	...
Paul Grimes	12	...	...	...
Brian Highcock	1	...	...	...
Mick Hogan	19	...	...	...
Mick Mooney	3	...	...	...
Tony Musgrave	2	...	...	...
Alan Ogden	4	...	...	...
Terry O'Neill	3	...	...	...
Tony Peters	4	...	...	...
Barry Simpson	2	...	...	...

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Season Ticket BARGAIN

Now that the team are having a little more success than at the start of the season Leigh supporters may wish to purchase a season ticket despite the fact that eight home games in the league campaign have been played.

If so, season tickets are now on sale at highly reduced rates from the secretary's office.

Prices are:—

'A' & 'C' Stand	£2.25
'B' Stand	£3.00
Ground	£1.75
Paddock	£2.00
Pensioners	70p
Boys	50p

Mental arithmetic will indicate to supporters that this is a tremendous saving for people who intend attending matches regularly. Having a season ticket will also greatly benefit supporters should the club be involved in any major ties this season.

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Experiment is Success

Last season the Leigh and District Amateur Rugby League experimented by holding the popular Shaw Cup Competition at the beginning of the season instead of May as in previous years. This was a successful venture and will be continued this year.

The Leigh Ladies' Association are to hold a Jumble Sale on March 10th in the antique shop in Church Street. Any jumble would be most welcome and the girls will arrange for collection if necessary.

Prop forward Geoff Fletcher is almost certain to miss this afternoon's game with a badly bruised ankle sustained in the game with Dewsbury Celtic and full-back Mick Hogan has been having treatment for a pulled hamstring. Hopes are high, however, that he will be fit and available for selection.

Coach Les Pearce has come up against further team selection problems because goal-kicking prop forward Jimmy Fiddler will be attending the christening of his new baby daughter and cannot get to the ground until shortly after the kick-off. Whether he will be named as a substitute is still to be decided by Mr. Pearce.

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It's a Fact...

The record for the least number of points dropped in one season is held jointly by Oldham and St. Helens. In 1907-08 Oldham played 32 matches, won 28, lost 2 and drew 2. In 1952-53 St. Helens played 36, won 32, lost 2 and drew 2. The Saints' record includes the remarkable feat of dropping only one point away from home.

Tyldesley, once one of Lancashire's leading clubs, played their last season in 1900-01 when they had the poor record of 21 matches played, 7 won, 13 lost and 1 drawn. Leading try-scorer in that final season was Madeley with 6, and leading goal-kicker was W. Berry with 5. The extinction of the Tyldesley club came after a 20 year career which included their best season of 1894-95 when they won the Lancashire Senior Competition. In April, 1901, an auction was held for the sale of the club's effects and Mr. Wild of Wigan paid £80 for hoardings, stands, tents and turnstiles.

Manningham finished first-ever leaders of a Northern Rugby League table (then the Northern Union) when they played 42 matches, won 33 and lost 9 in 1895-96. Oldham finished fourth having played 42, won 27, lost 13 and drawn 2 while Leigh played 42, won 21, lost 17 and drew 4, finishing in ninth place. Rochdale were bottom in the league of 22 clubs, only winning 4 of their games and drawing 8.

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Leigh 8

Oldham 21

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Hogan | Full-Back |
| 2. Davies | Right Wing |
| 3. Stacey | Right Centre |
| 4. | Left Centre |
| 5. Houghton | Left Wing |
| 6. Collins | Stand-off |
| 7. McAtee | Scrum-Half |
| 8. Grimes | Prop Forward |
| 9. Carey | Hooker |
| 10. Smethurst | Prop Forward |
| 11. Barrow | 2nd Row Forward |
| 12. Martyn | 2nd Row Forward |
| 13. Rowley | Loose Forward |

Substitutes—

14.
15. Fiddler *goal*

- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 1. Murphy |
| 2. Elliott <i>Ery</i> |
| 3. Wainwright <i>Javies</i> |
| 4. Davies <i>Siddall</i> |
| 5. Hodgkinson |
| 6. Hill |
| 7. McCone <i>Ery</i> |
| 8. Wilson <i>Ery</i> |
| 9. Taylor <i>2 tries</i> |
| 10. Ashcroft <i>3 goals</i> |
| 11. Irving |
| 12. Hall |
| 13. Farrell |

Substitutes :

14. O'Brien
15. Daley

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DO YOU REMEMBER ?

Saturday, November 4th, 1967 . . .

LEIGH v. OLDHAM in a league match at Hilton Park.

Result: Leigh 29 points, Oldham 4 points.

Attendance: 4,900.

LEIGH—Grainey; Tickle, Lewis, Collins, Walsh; Murphy, Entwistle; Whitworth, Ashcroft, Major, Fiddler, McVay, Gilfedder.

OLDHAM—Murphy; Dolly, McCormack, Donovan, Buckley; Warburton, Broomhead; Smith, Wood, Fletcher, Mooney, McCourt, Hughes.

Referee: Mr. J. Reed (Leeds).

Any hopes that Oldham may have had of becoming the first team to win at Hilton Park this season were soon wrecked.

Leigh won because they fielded a top-form super-fit team which worked together well; because they let the ball do most of the work; because they had supreme generals in Alex Murphy and Laurie Gilfedder; and because they had the Player of the Match in centre Mick Collins.

The referee sent off former Leigh player Geoff Fletcher in the 29th minute for talking out of turn, but a number of the Oldham players did shine. Martin Murphy, their full-back, showed his football ability and McCormack and Charlie McCourt were involved in a lot of dangerous moves.

Ashcroft opened the scoring in the 9th minute when he took a clever reverse pass from Mick Collins and raced in under the posts for Gilfedder to kick an easy goal.

Warburton replied with a penalty for Oldham but three penalties from Gilfedder knocked most of the stuffing out of the visitors and then came another of those tries which makes Collins one of the best opportunists in the game. Ashcroft made the original break and passed to McVay who carried the ball some distance before going down. From the play-the-ball Murphy took over and sent to Collins who broke between two players, raced for the wing, dummied and changed direction to beat the defence and sail in under the sticks. Gilfedder goaled.

Minutes later Gilfedder put Tickle away on the wing. Evading Buckley's tackle he raced 70 yards for a great try but fluffed a number of chances later in the game to spoil his performance. Gilfedder again added the goal points.

Oldham were unlucky to lose tricky stand-off Tom Warburton in the second half and their only score after the interval was another goal, this time from Broomhead.

Terry Entwistle gave good service from the scrums and when he saw a gap he raced through the depleted Oldham side to score a grand try and 24 minutes later Murphy added a similar effort with Gilfedder closing the scoring with the goal points.

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For the second time in less than two months Leigh have the pleasure of entertaining their friends from Oldham at Hilton Park.

And supporters of both clubs will remember the titanic struggle between the two sides in the semi-final of the Floodlit Cup at Hilton Park in early December. But maybe Leigh people will recall that particular match with a little more relish than the Watersheddings supporters, for it was the home side who moved through into the final.

Oldham will be fielding their strongest possible side in an bid to do the 'double' over Leigh, but with Frank Foster suspended and Phil Larder doubtful with a leg injury he received in the cup clash with Barrow last weekend, they are left without a recognised goal-kicker in their ranks. And in such a match between two top teams, the sure boot of a goal-kicker could well mean all the difference between winning and losing.

Even without the services of these two stars, Oldham are a pretty formidable outfit. At full-back is the remarkable Martin Murphy who is currently playing better than ever. He took a knock on the ankle last weekend but fingers are being kept crossed in the Watersheddings camp that he will be available.

There should be a rare old 'battle' among the two sets of three-quarters today with an equal amount of skill, speed and honest endeavour between both teams. On Oldham's wing is speedy Norman Hodgkinson who joined the Watersheddings club from a Rugby Union side in the London area. He is a prolific scorer who will need to be well marked this afternoon.

On the other flank is South Wales man, Mike Elliott, who has been an Oldham stalwart for many seasons.

Twenty-two years old Tony Wainwright was signed as a stand-off when he moved from Leeds to Oldham in September, but he was moved into the left centre berth to overcome the weak link in the backs. If Phil Larder doesn't play, and with second choice kicker out of the reckoning, the goal-kicking role will fall on to young Wainwright.

Welcome To OLDHAM

Larder's place could be taken by either Mick Siddall, a junior signing from the Yorkshire junior club Ovenden, Joe Collins, who has been at Watersheddings for some time but is still challenging for a first team place, or youngsters Stuart Bottom and Keith Jackson.

Club captain, Cliff Hill, signed from Wigan two seasons ago, is lending his valuable experience and know-how at stand-off with Tommy Davies his reserve. Mick McCone, a bargain buy from Doncaster, operates at scrum-half.

Oldham have been a little troubled in the pack recently mainly because of difficulties with veteran Albert Halsall. Halsall appeared to be an astute signing when he moved to Oldham from Swinton for £1,500. He made his debut against Leigh in the league match and helped to engineer the home side's win. Following disciplinary action, carried over from his days at Station Road, Halsall didn't report for training and has consequently been listed.

However, in Keith Ashcroft, the ex-Wigan prop, they have an experienced player who is a useful stand-in for the front row. Ken 'Tug' Wilson makes up the front row along with impressive hooker Kevin Taylor.

County and international player Bob Irving suffered slight concussion against Barrow but should be available for the second row and he will be partnered by either ex-Warrington player Billy Churm, Widnes lad Arthur Daley, Geoff Munro, who is already being tipped for stardom, or Gareth Owen, son of former Leigh, St. Helens and Rochdale Hornets favourite, Stan Owen.

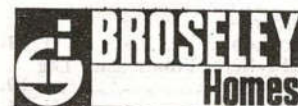
Johnny Farrell, the ex-Blackpool Borough number 13, who was to have trials with Leigh but only trained a couple of times, moved to Oldham via Hilton Park and is currently keeping out of first-team action young Leigh lad Jimmy Reynolds.

Man in the Middle

Man in the middle this afternoon is Rugby League fanatic, Fred Lindop. As well as being an authority on the professional game, Mr. Lindop is very devoted to the amateur side of Rugby League and is coach to the Wakefield and District League and combines this with coaching duties at the Sheffield and Nottingham Universities sides.

A married man with two children, 34-years-old Mr. Lindop is one of the game's top referees with several internationals and a World Cup Final to his credit, and he is still only in his seventh year as a senior official.

When he isn't either coaching, watching or refereeing rugby league or working as a technical representative/service chemist with a large Midlands Chemical firm, Mr. Lindop follows his other hobbies of golf and gardening.



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Fri.	18—Bramley A	13-15
Mon.	21—Workington A	8-19
Mon.	28—Wigan (7-30 p.m.) ...H	8-13
September—		
Sun.	3—Widnes (L.C. 1st Rd.) H	6-20
Fri.	8—St. Helens A	2-9
Sun.	17—Salford H	16-27
Sat.	23—Players No. 6 (1st Rd.) Workington H	10-9
October—		
Sun.	1—Halifax A	7-23
Wed.	4—Floodlit Cup Hull K. R. A	12-10
Sun.	8—Bramley H	20-10
Sun.	15—Dewsbury H	9-5
Sat.	21—Whitehaven (L. C. Final) A	20-23
Sun.	29—Blackpool H	23-11
November—		
Sun.	5—Swinton A	14-12
Sun.	12—Halifax (World Cup) H	13-6
Sun.	19—Dewsbury A	5-15
Sat.	25—Players 2nd Round Leeds A	3-21
Tues.	28—Floodlit Cup, 2nd Rnd. Wigan A	16-14
December—		
Sun.	3—Rochdale A	7-7
Tues.	5—Floodlit Cup, Semi-Final Oldham H	10-8
Fri.	15—Salford A	2-18
Tues.	19—Floodlit Cup Final - Widnes	5-0
Sun.	24—Oldham A	4-24
Tues.	26—Warrington A	6-6
Sun.	31—Huyton H	15-0
January, 1973—		
Sun.	7—Keighley H	25-12
Sun.	14—Keighley A	11-5
Sun.	21—Workington H	23-0
Sun.	28—Dewsbury Celtic (1st Rd.) R.L. Cup H	27-4
February—		
Sun.	4—Oldham H	
Sun.	11—Widnes A	
Sat.	17—Wakefield T. H	
Sun.	25—Barrow H	
March—		
Sun.	4—Barrow (RLC 3rd Rd.)A	
Fri.	9—Wigan A	
Wed.	14—Swinton (7-30) H	
Sun.	18—Whitehaven H	
Sun.	25—St. Helens H	
April—		
Sun.	1—Huyton A	
Sat.	7—R. L. Cup (Semi-Final) 1.	
Wed.	11—Widnes (7-30) H	
Sun.	15—Rochdale (R. L. Cup (Semi-Final) 2.	
Sat.	21—Blackpool A	
Mon.	23—Warrington (3 p.m.) ...H	

'A' TEAM FIXTURES

1972

August—		
12—Widnes (Farrell Cup) H	27-13	
19—Wigan (L.S. 1st Leg) H	16-5	
26—Rochdale A	12-12	
29—Wigan (L.S. 2nd Leg) A	20-5	
September—		
2—OPEN.		
9—St. Helens H	17-12	
16—Barrow A	16-8	
25—Widnes H	21-15	
27—Huyton H	17-11	
30—Warrington H	13-19	
October—		
10—Warrington H	20-5	
L.S., 2nd Rd., 1st Leg.		
14—Swinton A	10-14	
21—Barrow H	23-12	
25—Warrington A	8-16	
(L.S. 2nd Rnd., 2nd Leg)		
28—Huyton A	8-8	
November—		
4—Swinton H	7-25	
11—Workington A		
18—Swinton H	8-17	
19—L.S. Semi-Final, 1st Leg Barrow H	26-27	

December—

2—Rochdale H	18-10
3—L.S. Semi-Final, 2nd Leg Barrow A	19-13
16—Salford H	26-33
23—Oldham H	15-8
30—Huyton A	26-6

1973

January—		
6—OPEN.		
13—Wigan H	8-9	
February—		
3—Oldham A		
10—Widnes H		
16—Widnes A		
24—Barrow A		
March—		
3—Barrow H		
10—Wigan A		
16—Salford A		
23—St. Helens A		
31—Huyton H		
April—		
6—Warrington A		
14—OPEN.		
21—OPEN.		

All for the Good of the Game!

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

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NAME

ADDRESS

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS

RULES

- 1 The instructions on this leaflet form part of the Rules.
- 2 "Heads you Win" is open to all smokers aged 18 years or over resident in the UK, except the employees and their families of John Player & Sons, their advertising agents or anyone directly concerned with the competition.
- 3 The prize fund comprises five prizes each of Champagne lunch, Grandstand tickets at the Player's N° 6 Trophy Final on 24th March 1973, and a Night out on the day of the Final for two, plus 20 prizes each of 2 Grandstand tickets for the Final. Prizes will be awarded in order of merit to those 25 entrants who correctly identify the greatest number of "faceless" players in the photograph and who in the opinion of the judges best justify their choice of the most important feature of a good Rugby League Team. Only one prize will be awarded to each winning entrant. All winners will be notified by post after the judging.
- 4 The judges' decision is final and legally binding.
- 5 All entries must be received by 1st March, 1973 and will be judged after that date.
- 6 All entries must be on official leaflets and completed in ink or ball-point pen. Copyright and property in all entries belongs to John Player & Sons and no entries will be returned. You can send as many entries as you like provided each entry is accompanied by two pack fronts from 20's packs of Player's N° 6 cigarettes.
- 7 All entries received after 1st March, 1973 will be disqualified as will those which are not properly completed or are illegible upon receipt. Proof of posting is not accepted as proof of receipt and all materials are transmitted entirely at the risk of the entrant.
- 8 Apart from incidental help from family and friends all entries must be wholly the work of the person in whose name they are submitted and will be disqualified for outside compensated or professional help.
- 9 Making an entry in "Heads you Win" will be deemed as involving agreement to abide by the rules of the competition.

Issued by John Player & Sons, Member of Imperial Tobacco Group Ltd.

ENTRY FORM

To "Heads you Win" P.O. Box 38, Nelson, Lancs.

I am a smoker aged 18 years or over. I agree to abide by the Rules.

I enclose 2 pack fronts from 20's packs of Player's N° 6 cigarettes.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Now write down what is in your opinion the most important feature of a good Rugby League Team e.g. a good Captain, fast three-quarter line, skilful hooker, 100% fitness, and justify your choice in no more than 10 words.

The most important feature is _____
because _____

PLAYER'S
N° 6

Heads you win



A GREAT DAY AT THE FINAL

See the Player's N° 6
1972-73 Rugby League Trophy Final on us

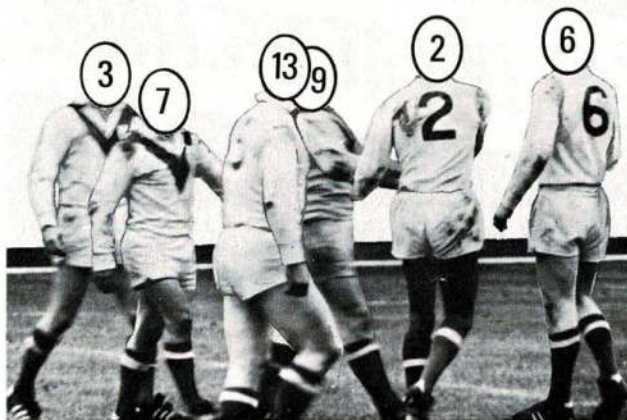
EVERY PACKET CARRIES A
GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

5 prizes of Champagne lunch, Grandstand seats at the Final and a Night on the Town for two
20 prizes of Grandstand seats at the Final for two

WORLD CUP FINAL

LYONS 1972

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM		 A	 B	 C	 D	 E	 F
		NASH	NICHOLLS	LOWE	CLAWSON	SULLIVAN	HOLMES
 G	 H	 I	 J	 K	 L	 M	
STEPHENSON	CHARLTON	WALSH	HESKETH	LOCKWOOD	ATKINSON	JEANES	



Here's all you do

- 1 Look at the "faceless" photograph alongside – it was taken at the Rugby League World Cup Series Final in November 1972.
- 2 You will see the position each man was playing from the number on the "faceless" photograph e.g. number 7 was scrum half.
- 3 Now use your skill to identify the 6 "faceless" players from the photographs of players in the Great Britain team – and put your answers in the panel alongside. We've already identified "faceless" player No. 7 as face A, to start you off.
- 4 Then complete the entry form overleaf and post it, together with two 20's pack fronts from Player's No 6 cigarette packs to "Heads you Win", P.O. Box 38, Nelson, Lancs.

The last date for receipt of entries is 1st March 1973.

"FACELESS" PLAYER	FACE
7	A
6	
3	
13	
9	
2	