

Oldham

21

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 LARDER, P.
- 4 BLAIR, J. *6 goals*
- 5 BARTON, E.
- 6 TREASURE, D. *big*
- 7 BROWN, R.
- 8 ASHCROFT K.
- 9 TAYLOR K.
- 10 WELDING, R.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 HERBERT S. *2 tries*
- 13 FARRELL, J.
- 14 BOTTOM, S.
- 15 HUGHES, B.

Referee:
R. I. Haigh (Bradford)

Barrow

19

- 1 O'BRIEN, K.
- 2 CLEGG, P.
- 3 KNIGHT, K.
- 4 HILL, E.
- 5 OXLEY, G.
- 6 McCONNELL, R. *big*
- 7 JONES, F.
- 8 NEW, J.
- 9 WOOD, A.
- 10 PERRY, J. *T Shaw*
- 11 McCLEAN, P. *J Perry*
- 12 HADLEY, D. *big*
- 13 HOGAN, P. *5 goals*
- 14 ELKIN, D.
- 15 SHAW, T. *J Clough big*

J. A. Unsworth (St. Helens) Red
F. J. Tomlinson (Widnes) Orange

OLDHAM MAN OF MATCH

Fill in the coupon below to nominate the Oldham player, who in your opinion was the most outstanding in today's match,

Drop your voting slip in at the Secretary's office, or Souvenir Shop, on your way home, or post it to reach us no later than 3 days after the game to "Man of the Match" The Pavilion Watersheddings, Oldham.

Name

Address

The Man of the Match

BARROW

was *Mr. Fred Hall*

OLDHAM PLAYER OF YEAR

At the end of the season, the player who has received most Man of the Match votes over the whole season will become Oldhams Player of the Year.

All voting slips will be kept, and the Player of the Year will be asked to draw one out at random when he receives his award. The lucky voter will receive a £20 cash prize, so don't forget your name and address when you cast your vote — YOU could be on a winner as well as the player for whom you vote.

xx Only voting slips from the Oldham programme will be accepted — plain paper votes will be void.

VOTED MAN OF MATCH

v LEIGH
F. HALL

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OLDHAM

v

BARROW



FRED HALL has been one of our most consistent forwards during our promotion season. And he is seen here, captured by an EVENING CHRONICLE photographer, diving over the Leigh line in the recent win against the boys from Hilton Park.

(Picture by courtesy of the Evening Chronicle.)

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

IT'S a time for congratulations at Watersheddings today.

● CONGRATULATIONS ... to our side, and all the players who have performed so well in it, for clinching promotion to the First Division with their win at Batley two weeks ago.

● CONGRATULATIONS ... to our coach Jim Challinor who, in his first season with us, has done such a lot to put the pride and the purpose back into the Oldham side.

● CONGRATULATIONS ... to Mike Elliott and David Treasure who will shortly appear in a Welsh trial at Bradford as they seek the trip of a lifetime to Australia for the World Championship series this summer.

Uppermost in all our minds today, of course, is the fact that we are signing off our Watersheddings programme in the Second Division.

Next season, always providing the Rugby League doesn't do an about-turn and go back to a one-division fixture arrangement, we shall have the cream of the clubs coming here regularly.

WE WILL BE BACK WHERE WE BELONG — IN THE FIRST DIVISION OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE!

The lads who have put us there, without any shadow of doubt, are the players who have striven so hard, worked so well, and battled so courageously since the season started with the visit of Blackpool to Watersheddings way back last August.

In no way has it been easy. From the word go Jim Challinor insisted on a tremendously high work rate. The players responded superbly, after a sticky patch of three consecutive defeats in November, and as of now can boast the best defensive record in either of the two divisions.

Not that attacking play has been neglected. In many matches the side has entertained us superbly. But working on the theory that you don't get

anywhere in this life without a lot of effort, we believe we can rightly claim to be a very hard side to beat ... even among the top dogs.

Ask Rochdale ... ask Widnes. No side can treat us lightly. And we believe that in 12 months we have come a very long way indeed.

THAT'S WHY WE HOPE YOU WILL RESPOND IN THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TODAY TO GIVE OUR PLAYERS THE RECOGNITION THEY SO RICHLY DESERVE.

It is their first home appearance since promotion was assured — and it is also the last of the season unless we are fortunate enough to be drawn at home in the Premiership play-off competition.

What better time to let our players know how much we have appreciated their efforts during the season and how much we wish them well when the new First Division competition starts next August.

No one knows better than the club itself what a lot of hard work has gone into the promotion battle and just how much the players deserve your recognition.

To that end we have tried to make today's game something of an occasion.

The Mayor of Oldham, Councillor Ellen Brierley, has been invited to attend along with the chairman of Greater Manchester Council, Councillor T. George Harrison.

We extend an official welcome to them both and, if weather permits, we will introduce them to the Oldham players before the kick-off.

The rest is up to you. The players have given their everything this season in the cause of promotion. They have achieved what they set out to do. Let's give them a real Oldham-type send-off to the First Division.

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AS this could be our last home match of the season—though one hopes we will be lucky enough to get a home game in the forthcoming Premiership play-off competition—it is an opportune time for me to reflect on my first season at Watersheddings.

There have been disappointments, of course, and the big one was the defeat by Widnes in the third round of the Challenge Cup. But overall there has been plenty of reason for satisfaction, too. I have thoroughly enjoyed the season and I look forward eagerly to next term in the First Division.

I have talked about promotion often enough in the past. Suffice now for me to pass on my personal congratulations to all the players and add that, within their limitations, they have done a really splendid job. I had better not praise them too much otherwise it might go to their heads!

On second thoughts, though, they have had their feet firmly on the ground for most of the season and they know only too well just how demanding next season will be.

At this stage it would be remiss of me not to hand out a personal thank-you to everyone, from the men at the top to the keen supporters on the terraces, who have helped the team along during the long, hard season since last August.

I would particularly like to thank the club officials and a splendid back-room team composed of Ken Wilson, Dennis Wright, Jim McCormack and Kevin Wilkinson.

They are the men behind the scenes who don't receive much in the way of praise or publicity but who perform invaluable tasks week in and week out. Without them, and the contributions they make, the wheels just wouldn't go round.

Others who spring to mind are the pavilion staff, Brian Churm and George Shaw, who have helped in many ways, Joe Buckley, who always works hard

to ensure that the players are well shod when they go out on to the field, and Mick Bloor, who voluntarily stepped into the breach when kit-man Jimmy Howarth was laid low by illness.

If I have missed anyone out my apologies are extended. Perhaps it is just better to say THANK YOU to one and all.

Throughout the season I have found the players a hard-working bunch and easy to get along with ... but we mustn't forget that there still lies ahead of us the chance of finishing the season on top note with success in the play-off.

The postponement of the Hull game last week was, to some extent, a blessing in disguise. For we faced a three-week lay-off before the first round of the Premiership and that sort of delay is no good to any side.

The rearrangement of the Hull match for Sunday, 20th April, now gives us that little bit of time to clear up one or two injuries which have troubled us in the last week or two.

The fact that the top 12 First Division teams and the four promoted sides will be paired by means of a straight draw has not gone down too well in some quarters.

But it was a decision of the R.L. Council — 16 votes to eight — last August, and that is what should be remembered.

I cannot see the sense in going through the motions of making a decision of this nature at the start of the season and then trying to change it at such a late stage.

It suits us, of course, and I believe we stand a very good chance of making progress, particularly if the draw favours us and we get the first-round tie at Watersheddings.

All that is in the lap of the Gods. We probably won't know who we play until the promotion and relegation issues are settled and the last First Division games are completed in two weeks' time..

OUR VISITORS

BY DON YATES

This season has been a rather unhappy one for Barrow and their supporters. They lie at present in eighth position in the Second Division table with a playing record that reads 11 wins, 2 draws and 11 defeats. Their record in cup football is even worse for they have not won a single cup-tie all season. During this campaign Barrow have scored only one double league victory and that was over Doncaster who were beaten 25-10 away and 22-5 at home. Barrow themselves have only suffered one double defeat and that was against Huddersfield who won 6-3 at Fartown and 19-10 up at Barrow. Barrow's other Championship fixtures have followed the familiar pattern of home wins and away defeats. Apart from those double victories and defeats the only other time that Barrow have won away was at Leigh by 20 points to 8 but even then Leigh had previously won 8-5 up at Craven Park.

Leigh also won at Barrow in the Lancashire Cup when Colin Tyrer made his debut for the Furnessmen. It was not a happy debut, the Leigh pack saw to that, and Barrow eventually lost 31-10. There was a better showing in the Floodlit Cup when Widnes were met in a two-legged tie. The first leg was at Widnes who at that time were unbeaten but Barrow certainly gave them a fright by holding them to 15-13. Despite this good showing the second leg only drew a crowd of 870 to Craven Park. In this match Barrow held the tough Widnes pack but their backs proved too good and the Chemics were able to pull off an 8-3 victory.

The Player's Trophy brought another disappointment in the shape of a 14-5 home defeat at the hands of York. The Challenge Cup brought about a couple of "derby" clashes with Workington Town for the first match ended in a 5-5 draw. Barrow scored the only try of the match through Keith Knight but Workington were kept in the game by the goal kicking of Iain MacCorquodale whose two penalties and drop goal made up the Workington score. Barrow missed Colin Tyrer who was absent injured and they missed his goal kicking but in the replay Workington made no mistake by winning 14-3.

This afternoon Barrow visit Watersheddings hoping to complete a league double for they have already beaten Oldham 10-0 earlier in the season. If they are successful, then it will be their first double over Oldham since season 1969-70 when they won 13-12 at Watersheddings and 26-19 at Barrow. But victory for Barrow is not at all certain for on their last visit to this ground in March, 1973, they were well beaten 37-6 in a match watched by a crowd of 2,567. The scorers for Oldham, who led 21-0 at half-time, were: Phil Larder, 3 tries and 3 goals, Tony Wainwright, 2 tries, Bob Irving, 2 tries, Mike Elliott try, Chris O'Brien try, plus two goals from Geoff Worrell. Both Barrow tries were scored by Alan Whittle who is now with Warrington.

Oldham's supporters would be delighted with a similar scoreline this afternoon in the final Second Division match to be played at Watersheddings for at least 16 months and, we hope, for a much longer period of time than that.



Aussie bound? All at Watersheddings are keeping their fingers crossed that Mike Elliott and David Treasure do sufficient in Tuesday's Welsh trial at Odsal to win a place in the World Championship party.

Pictures by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

Dates for your diary

THE 1975 PREMIERSHIP

The Rugby League this season launches a new style end of season competition. The 1975 Premiership will be contested by the top twelve clubs in Division One and the top four clubs in Division Two. The Tournament will be on a knock-out basis, as with the Rugby League Challenge Cup. The first club drawn out of the bag will gain home advantage in each round until the Final, which will be played on a neutral ground. Dates for the competition are:

First Round—on the weekend of April 27th.

Second Round—on the weekend of May 3rd.

Semi-Finals—on the weekend of May 17th.

Final—at a venue to be decided on May 24th.

WEMBLEY, 1975

Once again seating tickets for the Rugby League Challenge Cup Final are a sell out months in advance of the showpiece on May 10th, 1975. Tickets for the standing enclosures at £1 each can still be obtained from the Rugby League Headquarters, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope with an application.

WEMBLEY CRUISE

The Hackney Amateur Rugby League Club have organised a Cup Final night cruise-dance on Saturday, May 10th. The sail down the River Thames starts from Charing Cross Pier at 8 p.m. returning at midnight. There will be two licensed bars and tickets, which include a buffet supper, are £2.95 each. These can be obtained from Mr. G. Anderton of 59 Sidlaw Close, Basingstoke, Hants., RG22 5BJ. Please include a stamped, addressed envelope with cheques and postal orders which should be made payable to Mr. G. Anderton.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the gift which I have recently received from members of the Oldham Rugby League Football Club.

My wife and I were deeply touched by their kindness and the thought of my circumstances due to my recent injury.

Once again I wish to say thank you and hope you will pass on my thanks to all those concerned with the club and the collection.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE PFLASTER (Doncaster R.L.F.C.)

P.S.—See you next season.

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FIXTURES 1974-75

Aug. 17—Rochdale (Law Cup) Home 27-15	Aug. 24—Blackpool Away 28-3
" 24—Blackpool Home 17-13	" 30—Widnes (7-30 p.m.) Away 13-10
Sept. 1—Widnes (3-15 p.m.) Home 9-14	Sept. 7—Blackpool Home
" 8—Blackpool Away 13-5	" 13—Salford (7-30 p.m.) Away
" 14—Huddersfield Home 11-15	Oct. 5—Rochdale Home
" 20—Hull K.R. (7-30 p.m.) Away 8-17	" 12—Wigan Away
Oct. 6—N. Hunslet (3-30 p.m.) Away 24-7	" 19—St. Helens Away
" 12—Hull Home 10-5	" 26—Huyton Away
" 18—Whitehaven (7-00 p.m.) Home 10-2	Nov. 2—Swinton Home
" 26—Huyton Home 18-7	" 8—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) Away
Nov. 3—Swinton Away 7-15	" 23—Widnes Home
" 16—Workington Home 7-11	" 30—
" 24—Doncaster (2-30 p.m.) Away 18-3	" 14—
" 30—Batley Home 17-2	" 21—
Dec. 8—Workington (2-30 p.m.) Away 20-7	" 26—
" 14—Hull K.R. Home 15-6	Jan. 28—Huyton Home
" 29—Huddersfield Away 11-12	" 4—
" 29—Huyton (2-30 p.m.) Away 22-12	" 11—
Jan. 4—New Hunslet Home 23-2	" 18—Barrow Home
" 11—Doncaster Home 23-3	" 25—Swinton Away
" 17—Barrow (7-00 p.m.) Away 0-10	Feb. 1—
" 25—Swinton Home 18-2	" 8—St. Helens Home
" 15—Leigh (3-45 p.m.) Away 18-4	" 15—Leigh Home
Mar. 1—Whitehaven Home 17-1	" 22—Salford Home
" 8—	Mar. 1—
" 15—Leigh Home	" 8—
" 23—Batley Away	" 15—Leigh Away
" 30—Hull Away	" 21—Rochdale (7-30 p.m.) Away
Apr. 5—Barrow Home	" 29—
" 12—	Apr. 5—Barrow Away
" 19—	" 12—Warrington Home
	" 19—Wigan Home

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