

Oldham

- 1 MURPHY, M.
- 2 ELLIOTT, M.
- 3 BARTON, E.
- 4 LARDER, P.
- 5 LUND, S.
- 6 BLAIR, J.
- 7 TREASURE, D.
- 8 RAMSHBW, T.
- 9 TAYLOR, K.
- 10 HUGHES, B.
- 11 HALL, F.
- 12 FLANAGAN, K.
- 13 PETERS A.
- 14 JACKSON, K.
- 15 REYNOLDS, J.

Referee:

J. E. JACKSON (Pudsey)

St Helens

- 1 PIMBLETT, G.
- 2 JONES, L.
- 3 BENNION, W.
- 4 NOONAN, D.
or WILSON, F.
- 5 MATHIAS, R.
- 6 GLYNN, P.
- 7 HEATON, G.
- 8 MANTLE, J.
- 9 KARALIUS, A.
- 10 COSLETT, K.
- 11 NICHOLLS, G.
- 12 CHISNALL E.
- 13 HULL D.

- 14
- 15

H. Worth (Widnes)

D. McHugh (Wigan)

Red

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

ST. HELENS

was

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 WAKEFIELD
K TAYLOR

Printed by Neil Simmonds, Clarkes Lane Works, Rochdale

OLDHAM

ST HELENS

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH

Kick Off 7.30 p.m.



Roy Mathias, the St. Helens winger, comes to a full stop as he is tackled into touch by Barry Kear and Mike Elliott. An incident from the third round Cup-tie at Knowsley Road.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE.

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OLDHAM OUTLOOK

ALL good things come to an end, or so they say. And it was the end of the Challenge Cup road for us in the third round at Knowsley Road last week when the Saints, tonight's visitors to Watersheddings, got well on top in the second half to run out 17-9 winners.

In no way, however, did that scoreline reflect the balance of play and St. Helens were doubtless mighty relieved when Roy Mathias took Geoff Pimblett's cross-kick to put the match completely out of our grasp with only a few minutes left.

It was a bitter disappointment to us in the final analysis because for the first half hour we looked to be very much in contention and it would have been very interesting to see how Saints would have fared had Phil Larder kicked the goal off the touchline, to improve his own try, which would have put us 9-3 in front.

However, you have no doubt heard so many ifs and buts about Oldham's Challenge Cup campaigns over the last few decades that it is pointless to dwell now on a defeat that is behind us.

Just before leaving the matter of the Cup-tie, however, may we thank on behalf of the club and the team all the fans who made the trip to Knowsley Road and gave us such terrific support.

With that sort of support behind us on away grounds we ought to be able to command good gates at home and we have some very interesting and appealing matches coming up before this season draws to a close.

The first objective will be to get sufficient League points to ensure our appearance in the First Division next season. If we happen to do very well on the end-of-season run-in we might even get in the top eight for the premiership play-off.

We would have to regard that as a bonus. The main priority now is making sure of top-grade rugby next season. Certainly, we have proved so many times this season that we are capable of holding our own among the best and

although the Challenge Cup is behind us for at least another year there is an awful lot to play for between now and the end of next month.

This weekend we have a blank date because of Featherstone's appearance in the Cup semi-final but we have a hectic few days next week when we travel to Warrington for a rearranged First Division game on the Tuesday night and then go over the Pennines to Castleford on the Friday night.

Originally the Wires match was scheduled for the Wednesday, but when Warrington asked us to bring it forward to the Tuesday we readily agreed for obvious reasons.

It means that we now have an extra day between that match and the Castleford match and that must be to the benefit of the team.

Like all clubs we have a spot of fixture congestion in the next few weeks and our remaining games are such that the programme would test the best.

It is, therefore, a vital time for us because Bradford Northern are now coming good and Dewsbury picked up vital points when they beat Hull K.R. last week.

Everything points to a ding-dong battle between Northern and Dewsbury to escape the big drop, and in fighting for their First Division lives the pair of them might just give us something to worry about if we are not careful.

You can never be too happy at this time of year with many clubs playing two games a week and always the chance of upsets.

Look at Hull in the Second Division. A week or two ago they were certainties for promotion — or so we all thought. Now it is one tremendous scrap at the top of the table and Hull will really have their work cut out to achieve promotion.

We can learn from that . . . the lesson that every single point will matter between now and the end of the season.

Simplicity is the Keynote

A Personal View by

Bob Pemberton

former "Daily Telegraph" R.L. expert

THE LAWS of the game should be simple — straightforward and to the point. Over-complicated rules and regulations only serve to bewilder the spectator, torment the players and overload the poor referee with mini calculators and heavy, leather-bound volumes of the "Blue Book" of rules.

In most people's view, the referee already has enough to carry with his whistle, notepad, pencil and 2p piece!

The tap-kick is worth a second look. I wonder how many of you standing on the terraces today know, for instance, why the game is re-started with a tap-kick on the "25" after the ball has been put dead by the attacking side?

The idea, in the first place, was that the defending side should get possession. Previously, some bright boys had been putting in hefty, long kicks over the dead ball line so that they had every chance to regain possession from the drop-out.

So the tap-kick became law. Simple? But hang on a minute! That was too simple for some officials. They spotted a snag. Some devilish defenders, they said, would actually give away a penalty kick so that they could get possession of the ball if the shot at goal failed!

Believe it or not, the rule was quickly amended so that if the daring defenders

were wicked enough to give away a penalty, they would not have the advantage of a tap-kick. In this case, the drop-out from the "25".

I ask you! How many teams would be daft enough to risk giving away two points for the sake of gaining possession? Only a team with a long lead — and it wouldn't matter then, anyway.

Another query: Why should the team starting a match have to kick the ball at least ten yards — or pay the penalty? Ridiculous! We should follow soccer; that's a simple game, easy to understand. That is why it is so popular. How can we expect to attract new spectators if we keep complicating the rules? Surely, a simple tap-kick to start the game and another to start the second half is simple enough, and we can follow that by introducing a rule to say that, following a score, the game shall always re-start with a tap on half way?

Several years ago I saw a Wembley Cup Final start with the ball being kicked directly into touch by a Hunslet player. This gave Wigan a penalty kick from the half-way line — and they scored. What a way to start a match ... and at Wembley!

Our legislators must wake up to the fact that, in the future, simplicity should be the keynote. Then, and only then, Rugby League may re-discover its popularity.

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Saints on the attack. Second-row man George Nicholls (No. 11) drives into the heart of the Oldham defence during the Challenge Cup-tie at Knowsley Road but is halted by Phil Larder and Kevin Taylor.

Picture by courtesy of the EVENING CHRONICLE

TRAVEL AS THE TEAM DOES

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OUR VISITORS BY DON YATES

FOR the fifth time this season Oldham and St. Helens line up opposite one another in a crucial match. This evening's game is the second attempt to complete the First Division match which was started last December but which had to be called off at half-time because of fog.

It is a vital match for both clubs with St. Helens striving to retain the First Division Championship which they won so comfortably last season and Oldham desperate for points to enable them to climb into a top eight place and thus qualify for the lucrative Premiership play-off.

The importance of tonight's game brings back memories of when these sides met at the end of April 1959 in what was a similarly important game for both clubs. Oldham, who had beaten Saints in the Lancashire Cup Final the previous autumn but then lost 22-6 at Knowsley Road in the League, had to win that match in order to qualify for a place in the top four and with it a chance to lift the League Championship via the play-off system. Saints had already clinched a top-of-the-table position but they needed to win that match in order to win the Lancashire Championship. The importance of the occasion drew a Monday evening crowd of 19,000 to Watersheddings who saw the teams line up as follows:

Oldham: Bernard Ganley; Ike Southward, Alan Davies, Vin Nestor, Dick Cracknell; Alan Kellett, Frank Pitchford; Ken Jackson, Jack Keith, Syd Little, Charlie Winslade, Roger Duffy and Bob Pugsley.

St. Helens: Glyn Moses; Tom van Vollenhoven, Duggie Greenall, Brian McGinn, Jan Prinsloo; Wilf Smith, Alex Murphy; Abe Terry, Eddie Bowden, Alan Prescott, Brian Briggs, Denis Karalius and Dick Huddart.

The match proved to be a real thriller with Saints slightly the better footballing side but lacking a goal kicker. It was this lack of a regular kicker which cost Saints the game for, although they scored four tries through Tom van Vollenhoven (2), Alex Murphy and Wilf Smith, they could only manage one successful kick at goal and that came from Brian Briggs, the deputy goal kicker in the absence of Austin Rhodes. In contrast, Oldham had the reliable Bernard Ganley who landed three goals to supplement the tries scored by Jack Keith, Vin Nestor and Ike Southward. Oldham's 15-14 victory meant that Saints' Lancashire Championship hopes were dashed with that trophy going to Wigan, but Oldham's play-off hopes did not last much longer. The following Saturday Saints did not have to rely on goal-kicks as they raced to a 42-4 win over an Oldham side which was made to pay fully for their earlier narrow win.

Oldham's supporters will hope that Saints are not in a similar high scoring mood as they try to avenge the one point League defeat suffered at the hands of Oldham last February. The Knowsley Road side will have Wembley very much on their minds just now and this may allow Oldham to pull off a League double over Saints which would go a long way in securing a vital top eight placing.

MAN IN THE MIDDLE

JOE JACKSON—Born in 1936 Joe comes from Pudsey where he is employed as a works manager in the Glass Industry. 5ft. 9ins. and 13 stones he is married with one daughter and amongst his hobbies he breeds tropical fish. Promoted to Grade V status in 1962 and to Grade II in 1972, he finally made Grade I at the start of last season. Honours that have come his way include seven Yorkshire Amateur Cup Finals, two Amateur County Games, one Amateur International and the 1974/75 County play-off.

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OLDHAM RUGBY SUPPORTERS' CLUB GRAND NATIONAL DRAW

Will anyone having any money, counterfoils or unsold tickets please return them to any member of the Supporters' Club by Monday, 29th March? The draw will take place on that night in the Social Club at 9 p.m.

For people still wishing to buy tickets (1st prize £40), they can be obtained tonight from any canteen or in the Social Club after the game.

The Supporters' Club is running a coach to the Federation of Supporters'

Clubs' Rugby Queen Competition which is being held on Friday, 23rd April, at Normanton Civic Centre. Tickets, priced £1.50 (which includes coach fare), can be obtained from any member of the Supporters' Club. So get your tickets tonight and come along to cheer on your Rugby Queen who will be bidding to become the first Lancashire winner of the event.

The competition is being sponsored by Litesome Sportswear Ltd., Keighley, and the coach will depart at 7-15 p.m. from the Social Club.

LAST Friday England's Under-16 touring team set off from Hull on a five match tour of France led by coach Walter Norris of Warrington and manager Bernard O'Hara of Huddersfield. These boys played their first match against Lezignan last Sunday and they play Perpignan this evening. They face a stiff weekend for games have been fixed for Friday against Montpellier, Saturday against Pontet and then on Sunday they play the full international against France at Avignon. The boys return to England next Wednesday.

The local boy in the 26-man party is Allan Dawson who attended North Chadderton Secondary Modern School. He was the leading try scorer with the Oldham town team when they visited Perpignan. His interests outside rugby league include athletics, football and skiing. Prior to his departure to France, Oldham chairman Arthur Walker presented Allan with a gift to commemorate his tour selection.

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I would like further details of becoming a POOLS AGENT. I am over 18 years of age. I understand that I am under no obligation.

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Assistant Physiotherapist: B. CHURM

Groundsman: W. BUCKLEY

Assistant Groundsman: A. WOOLEY

FIXTURES 1975-76

1975	F. A. 1975
Aug. 10—Rochdale (Law Cup) A	29- 2 Aug. 30—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...A
17—Warrington A	Sept. 6—Swinton (Lancs. Shield)...H
24—Keighley H	20—Wigan A
31—St. Helens (Lancs. Cup) ...H	13-12 Oct. 4—Swinton A
Sept. 7—Featherstone A	17-19 18—Warrington H
14—Lancashire Cup—round 2	5-27 25—Leigh H
21—Wigan H	10-24 Nov. 14—Salford A
28—Player's No. 6—Huyton A	17- 8 29—Rochdale A
Oct. 5—Keighley A	17- 8 Dec. 6—Salford H
12—Huddersfield H	17-28 13—St. Helens A
18—Leeds A	15-18 20—Huyton H
26—Wakefield A	23-18 27—Barrow H
Nov. 2—Dewsbury H	15- 6 1976
9—Player's No. 6—round 2	10-37 Jan. 10—Swinton A
16—Salford H	23—Widnes A
22—Huddersfield A	14-19 31—Rochdale H
30—Leeds H	11-12 Feb. 7—St. Helens H
21—Bradford A	20-14 21—Wigan H
26—Swinton H	23- 5 Mar. 5—Warrington A
Jan. 1—Salford A	8- 8 13—Leigh H
4—Castleford H	6- 8 20—Widnes H
11—Hull K.R. H	10- 3 27—Barrow A
18—Dewsbury A	16- 4 Apr. 3—Huyton A
25—Widnes H	P.
Feb. 8—St. Helens A	8- 7
21—Wigan A	7-16
Mar. 7—Wakefield H	5-10
30—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) ...A	
Apr. 2—Castleford (7-30 p.m.) ...A	
4—Featherstone (3-30 p.m.) ...H	
7—Warrington (7-30 p.m.) ...H	
11—Bradford N. (3-30 p.m.) ...H	
16—Hull K.R. (2-45 p.m.) ...A	
19—Swinton (3-00 p.m.) A	
25—Widnes (3-30 p.m.) H	

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