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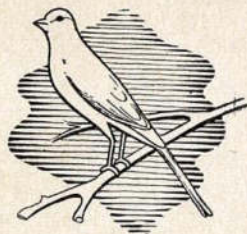
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1955

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and published by Union Publishing Company
30 Queen Street, Huddersfield



WILLIAM HOWARD, M.B.E., J.P.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As the President of the parent body, I am very pleased indeed to contribute this foreword to this year book.

It has often been said that a strong, virile and active Supporters' Club envisages a good parent body, and I am a firm believer in this adage.

Since taking office I have consistently striven for a closer relationship between the officials of the parent body and the officials of the Supporters' Club.

This has resulted in increased benefits accruing to the parent body, and the fostering of further efforts to improve our ground and our club.

It is, therefore, with every confidence that I recommend every supporter to take an active interest in the Supporters' Club, knowing, as I do, that deep down in all of us lies a great desire to make the Oldham Football Club the finest in the land.

The Supporters' Club has many sides to its activities and there is an interest for all of you if you will rally round.

You will develop a keener interest in the club by actively assisting in the work of the Supporters' Club, and your pride will know no bounds as you see the results of your efforts.

The aims of the parent body are a good team, a good ground, and a good club. The Supporters' Club join with us in these aims. Your support and interest will help us to achieve our target.

With all good wishes and kind regards to all supporters,

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM HOWARD, M.B.E., J.P.,

President.

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OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB SUPPORTERS' CLUB

At our General Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd June, 1955, the following Officials and Committee were elected for 1955/56 Season :—

President :	Mr. R. Moores.
Vice-President :	Mr. J. Read.
Treasurer :	Mr. F. Cocker.
Secretary :	Mr. C. Lingard.

Committee : Messrs. H. Eckersley, E. Mullins, T. Matthews, B. Jackson, J. McCullum, J. Whitehead, W. Eckersley, T. Doyle, J. Rogers, E. Hanson, W. Lees, D. Crabtree and H. Thorpe.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Sportsmen,

During the last 12 months, we had a very successful season and we have raised over £400 of which we have spent for the senior club, the sum of approximately £180 on an 'ATKO' mower and accessories and have reserved the remainder to pay for terracing under the 'G. F. Hutchins' memorial stand, to provide comfort for our Old Age Pensioners and Boy supporters.

We are lucky in the respect that we work hand in glove with the Ground Committee of the parent club and the latest project they are asking from us is the erection of a score-board.

I would like to thank all officials and committee who have served during 1954/55 for their services, also the Canteen staff who have done a grand job, but lastly, to the Supporters of Oldham Football Club and all visitors who have patronised us, I wish to thank them again and also ask them to give us all their support during the coming season.

Many thanks must also be given to the Host and Hostess at our Headquarters, for the hospitality they have shown us, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers of the Artizans Rest, Yorkshire Street, Oldham.

Signed,

MR. R. MOORES,

President.

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1st Team Fixtures, 1955-56

1955

Aug. 13	Rochdale Hornets (Charity)	...	...	...	Away
" 20	Belle Vue Rangers	...	...	...	Away
" 27	Blackpool (Lancashire Cup)	...	...	...	Away
" 30	Rochdale Hornets (Tuesday)	...	...	...	Away
Sept. 3	Hunslet	...	...	...	Home
" 10	Leeds	...	...	...	Away
" 17	Warrington	...	...	...	Home
" 24	York	...	...	...	Away
Oct. 1	Featherstone	...	...	...	Home
" 8	Hunslet	...	...	...	Away
" 15	Barrow	...	...	...	Home
" 22	Warrington	...	...	...	Away
" 29	New Zealand	...	...	...	Home
Nov. 5	Leigh	...	...	...	Away
" 12	Liverpool	...	...	...	Home
" 19	Wigan	...	...	...	Away
" 26	Widnes	...	...	...	Home
Dec. 3	Liverpool	...	...	...	Away
" 10	Salford	...	...	...	Away
" 17	Salford	...	...	...	Home
" 24	St. Helens	...	...	...	Away
" 26	Swinton	...	...	...	Home
" 27	Blackpool	...	...	...	Away
" 31	Whitehaven	...	...	...	Home

1956

Jan. 2	Workington	...	...	...	Away
" 7	Whitehaven	...	...	...	Away
" 14	Workington	...	...	...	Home
" 21	Widnes	...	...	...	Away
" 28	Rochdale Hornets	...	...	...	Home
Feb. 4	Leigh	...	...	...	Home
" 11	First Round Challenge Cup	...	...	...	
" 18	Wigan	...	...	...	Home
" 25	Featherstone	...	...	...	Away
Mar. 3	Second Round Challenge Cup	...	...	...	
" 10	York	...	...	...	Home
" 17	Blackpool	...	...	...	Home
" 24		...	...	...	
" 30	Swinton (GF)	...	...	...	Away
" 31	Leeds (ES)	...	...	...	Home
Apr. 2	Barrow (EM)	...	...	...	Away
" 7	Belle Vue	...	...	...	Home
" 14	St. Helens	...	...	...	Home

TIMES OF KICK-OFF

Beginning of season to November 15th — 3 p.m.

November 16th to January 22nd — 2.30 p.m.

January 23rd to end of season — 3 p.m.

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"A" Team Fixtures, 1955-56

1955									
Aug.	13								Home
"	20	Swinton	(Shield)	...	...	...	...		Away
"	27	Swinton	(Shield)	...	...	...	...		Home
"	30								Home
Sept.	3								Away
"	10								Home
"	17	Warrington		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	24	Rochdale	Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	Home
Oct.	1								Away
"	8	Workington		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	15	Barrow		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	22	Warrington		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	29								Away
Nov.	5	Leigh		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	12	Liverpool		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	19	Wigan		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	26	Widnes		...	...	...	...	...	Away
Dec.	3	Liverpool		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	10	Salford		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	17	Salford		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	24	St. Helens		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	26								Away
"	27	Blackpool		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	31	Whitehaven		...	...	...	...	...	Away
1956									
Jan.	2								Home
"	7	Whitehaven		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	14	Workington		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	21	Widnes		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	28	Rochdale	Hornets	...	...	...	...	...	Away
Feb.	4	Leigh		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	11								
"	18	Wigan		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	25	Leigh (F)		...	...	...	...	...	Home
Mar.	3								
"	10								Away
"	17	Blackpool		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	24								
"	30	Swinton		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	31	Leigh (F)		...	...	...	...	...	Away
Apr.	2	Barrow		...	...	...	...	...	Home
"	7	Swinton		...	...	...	...	...	Away
"	14	St. Helens		...	...	...	...	...	Away

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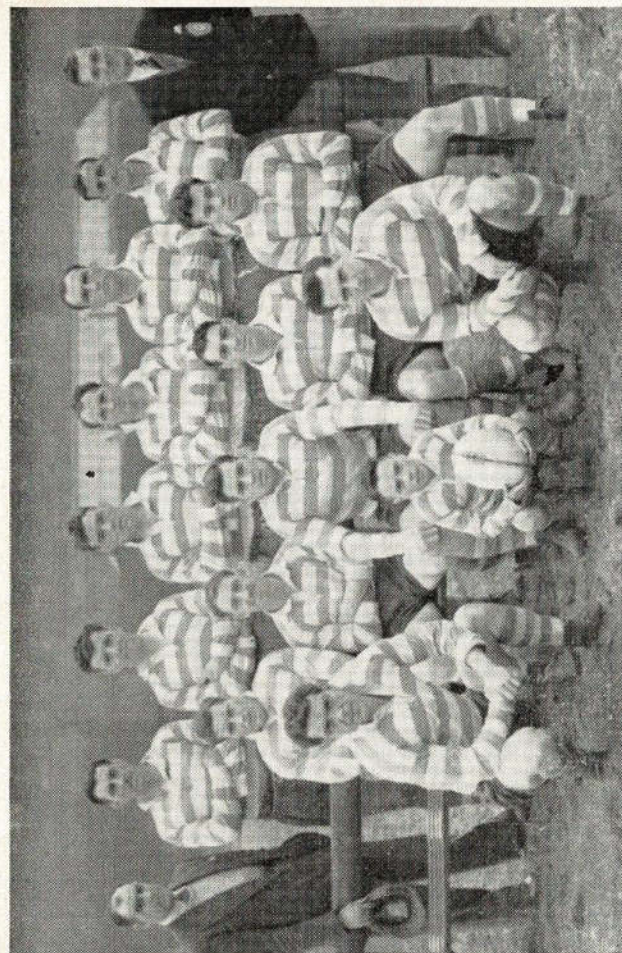
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Oldham team—Back row (left to right): G. Jenkins (coach), B. Goldswain, H. Ogden, K. Jackson, S. Little, C. Winslade, J. Keith, J. Eddy, Middle: R. Barrow, F. Stirrup, A. Davies (capt.), R. Cracknell, T. O'Grady. Front: F. Daley, Kevin Tucker (mascot), F. Pitchford.

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Pen Pictures of the Oldham Team

F. STIRRUP.—5ft. 7ins., 10st. 7lb., age 28. Frank started playing Rugby in his home town, Leigh, and turned out for the senior club there and for Salford before joining Oldham. A fine player who has gained County honours, he was formerly scrum-half, but took over the full-back berth when Bernard Ganley was injured.

R. CRACKNELL.—5ft. 10ins., 12st., age 26. Formerly with Huddersfield, Dick was transferred to Oldham last season. A versatile player who can turn out on either wing, he has played for Yorkshire, England and Great Britain.

R. BARROW.—5ft. 10ins., 13st. 4lb., age 23. Born in Oldham he played for the Rugby Union team before joining the League club.

A. DAVIES.—5ft. 10½ins., 13st. 7lb., age 22. Born in Leigh, he played in junior clubs there before signing for Oldham. He has represented Lancashire and England, and is captain of the Oldham team this season. One of the highest scoring centres, he has run in 28 tries this season.

J. ETTY.—6ft., 13st., age 28. Transferred from Batley, his birth-place, this season, John started playing Rugby in the local junior league and had trials for Dewsbury before signing for Batley. Has played for Yorkshire and was in the British Empire team which played against Wales in 1951.

T. O'GRADY.—5ft. 10½ins., 13st., age 21. A product of local junior football, Terry joined Oldham in 1951. An outstanding member of the 1954 Australasian touring team, he played in two tests against the Australians and all three against New Zealand.

F. PITCHFORD.—5ft. 5ins., 11st., age 20. Born in Leigh, Frank played in school and junior football there and joined Oldham at the beginning of the 1952/3 season. One of the best scrum-halves in the game.

F. DALEY.—5ft. 8½ins., 12st. 7lb., age 29. Started his Rugby career in Wigan, his home town, and played for Leigh before coming to Oldham. Has played for Lancashire.

K. JACKSON.—6ft., 14st. 6lb., age 25. A Lancashire County player, he played for St. Mary's, the local junior team, before joining the senior club. Played Rugby Union in the Services.

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J. KEITH.—5ft. 11ins., 12st. 10lb., age 29. Started playing for Hunslet schools in Leeds, his birthplace. Played for England and Yorkshire as a schoolboy.

H. OGDEN.—6ft., 15st. 8lb., age 31. Born in Oldham, Harry played in school and junior football before joining the team.

S. LITTLE.—6ft., 14st., age 23. Born near Carlisle, he played for Cumberland and Harlequins at Rugby Union before becoming a League player. Since joining Oldham, he has turned out for Cumberland at the Rugby League code.

C. WINSLADE.—6ft. 1½ins., 15st. 4lb., age 23. Born in Maesteg, Glamorgan, he was a Welsh schoolboy Rugby Union international and a Glamorgan County player. Joined Oldham in January, 1950, and has played in four internationals since then.

B. GOLDSWAIN.—5ft. 11½ins., 13st. 8lb., age 32. Bryn played for the R.A.F. at Rugby Union and for his school in Merthyr Tydfil, his birthplace, before joining Hull K.R. He was transferred to Oldham and is one of the game's outstanding loose forwards. He is the regular choice for this position in the Welsh team and has turned out seventeen times since 1947.

Honours during 1954-55

D. Cracknell played for Yorkshire v. Cumberland (one try) and for Yorkshire v. Lancashire.

A. Davies, B. Ganley and T. O'Grady played for Lancashire v. Cumberland (Davies two tries, O'Grady one try, and Ganley three goals).

A. Davies, B. Ganley and T. O'Grady played for Lancashire v. Yorkshire (Davies one try, Ganley two goals).

S. Little played for Cumberland against Yorkshire and Lancashire.

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COMINGS and GOINGS

The following players have been signed this season : —

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Peter Ingram	Centre	Lockwood
Alan Jarman	Forward	Higginshaw
Jack Doughty	Scrum-half	Greenacres
Harry Standish	Forward	Wigan Road W.M.C.
John Etty	Centre	Batley
John Sperring	Full-back	Abertillery R.U.
Alan Kellett	Out-half	Ovenden
Francis Sims	Scrum-half	Tyldesley R.U.
Vincent Nestor	Out-half	Tyldesley R.U.

Transferred players : —

Peter Fearis	to Halifax
Lionel Emmitt	to Blackpool Borough
John Feather	to Leigh
Trevor Williams	to Belle Vue Rangers

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REVIEW OF 1954-55

I've used the word "grand" a lot this season. What a grand season, grand supporters, and what a grand team! Particularly the team, which gave us so many thrills, sustained our interest for ten months and has been one of the most highly-praised sides in post-war years.

Of course there is bitter disappointment that a trophy or two didn't weigh down the table when Mr. W. Howard spoke with his usual slickness and thoroughness at the annual meeting.

But being disappointed is a smaller burden to bear than being despondent — and no Watersheddings supporter has a right to be despondent when he can count thirteen blessings — nay twenty blessings — one by one when thinking of Oldham's team and reserves called on during a momentous season.

Oldham were Lancashire League runners-up, losing Rugby League championship finalists and losing Lancashire Cup finalists.

But before losing these needle games, which they will be sharp enough to win next time, didn't they win a lot of matches!

As a matter of fact, Oldham supporters celebrated 34 league and cup wins during the season, only eight matches from all sources — League, Lancashire and Challenge Cup games — being lost. One league match was drawn — WHEN will Oldham shake off the bogey and win at Whitehaven? — and the Law Cup game at Watersheddings went to a 17-17 draw which meant that the Hornets retained the trophy.

Of all the exciting matches of this season, I pick one that not too many Oldhamers saw. It was spell-binding and what is more the win counted much towards Oldham's lengthy victory run.

The match in question was the 17-12 win at Barrow in the league match on September 4. It was Oldham's fifth league match of the season and it followed on the 23-16 win at St. Helens.

Oldham's win at Knowsley Road had been splendidly recorded — 17,050 spectators would verify that — but could the same thing be done at Barrow?

So Oldham went to Craven Park full of hope but by half-time they were 12-0 down — how grim the prospects of victory. But what a rally! Barrow's pack, which was eventually to hold and overcome Oldham in the Lancashire Cup final, were run off their

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feet and so were Barrow's backs and in a terrific finish Davies, Cracknell and Barrow ran in tries, Ganley hitting the target four times, the last occasion from the touchline accompanied by a tremendous roar of applause from the sporting Barrow spectators.

On that day the ground was hard. It was like a summer's day but Oldham were later to get bogged down in more crucial matches. They met Warrington three times when conditions were treacherous underfoot, they lost in the county final at Swinton in the mud, they were footfast in that ill-fated Challenge Cup second round at Leigh in March when the match was played on a ground resembling an Irish peat marsh. Talking point of that match then of the R.L. championship final revolved round the right winger. In the Leigh game, right wingman Dick Cracknell shot just wide at goal in the dying stages when a draw looked imminent, then at Maine Road right wingman Barrow scored a try which was disallowed.

Oldham became known as the "golden boys" or the "bonus boys" as their run of consecutive wins got under way. They won fourteen games from August 28 to December 11, then they drew 2-2 at Whitehaven. This meant they were still on a winning bonus because they get a winning wage for a draw away and losing money for a home draw. After this game they went on to win another five before their sequence of nineteen unbeaten games — which mounted to a £17 bonus per man — came to an end. Came to an end after five and a half months of league conquests when every team tried to topple them and every match had a "needle" element.

Oldham's team deserved every penny they got, either through wages or gifts. The team is worth a fortune to the game, never mind Oldham, and one of their rare gems is Frank Pitchford — by far Oldham's most improved player. The two tries he scored in the last Lancashire League game of the season when Leigh drew 15-15 at Watersheddings (meaning that Oldham lost the county title on the narrowest of points scoring margins to Warrington) will last in my memory as long as I can remember the name Watersheddings. His first try in particular is something which has never been seen before — or so old-stagers tell me.

They should know, some of them, for Watersheddings has been their Saturday rendezvous since the turn of the century.

Alan Davies proved a popular captain throughout the season though he has to gain experience in this capacity. Perhaps when he took over it was thought Bryn Goldswain was in danger of losing his place, but as things turned out Goldswain could have carried on for his form was scintillating — and how he was missed when a throat injury made him a hospital case for a week or two.

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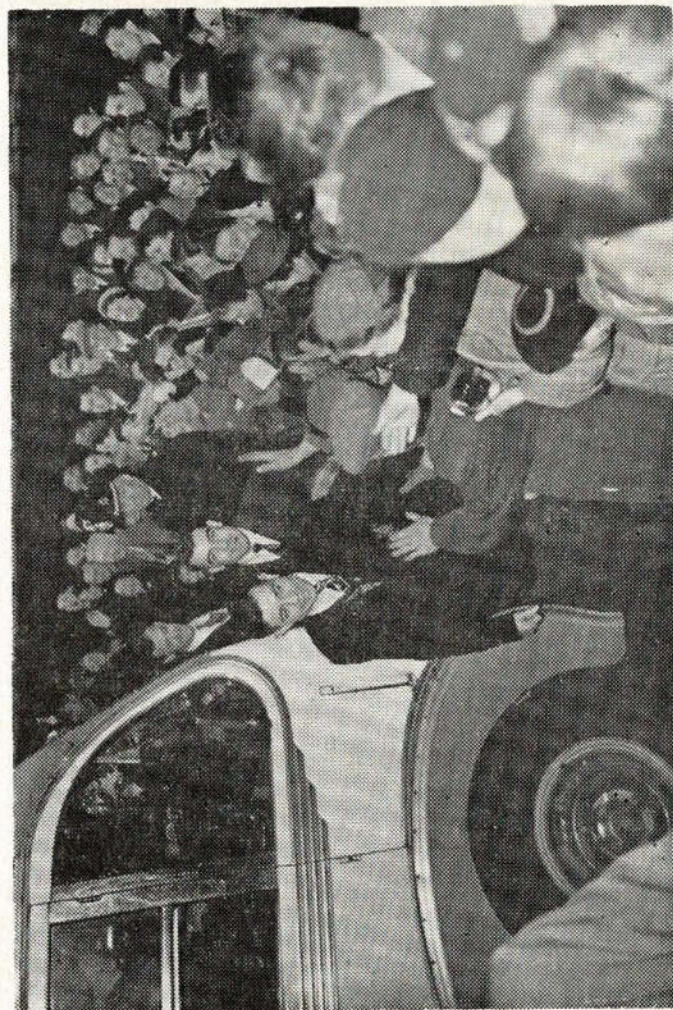
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RESULTS AT A GLANCE 1954-55

1954					
Aug. 7	Rochdale H. (Law Cup)	home	D	17 - 17	
" 14	Wakefield T.	away	W	32 - 22	
" 21	Batley	home	W	16 - 3	
" 26	Salford	away	L	2 - 11	
" 28	St. Helens	away	W	23 - 16	
Sept. 4	Barrow	away	W	17 - 12	
" 11	Lancs. County Amateurs (1st Rd. Lancs. Cup)	home	W	57 - 17	
" 14	Liverpool City	home	W	28 - 4	
" 18	Batley	away	W	27 - 3	
" 20	St. Helens (2nd Rd. Lancs. Cup)	home	W	20 - 9	
" 25	Wakefield Trinity	home	W	8 - 7	
Oct. 2	Blackpool	away	W	46 - 16	
" 9	Workington T.	home	W	23 - 13	
" 16	Rochdale H.	away	W	18 - 4	
" 23	Barrow (Lancs Cup Final)	at Swinton	L	2 - 12	
" 30	Liverpool C.	away	W	10 - 3	
Nov. 6	Blackpool	home	W	30 - 12	
" 13	Widnes	away	W	9 - 7	
" 20	Whitehaven	home	W	15 - 8	
" 27	Wigan	away	W	9 - 5	
Dec. 11	Whitehaven	away	D	2 - 2	
" 18	Keighley	away	W	15 - 11	
" 25	Swinton	home	W	8 - 5	
" 28	Salford	home	W	27 - 0	
1955					
Jan. 1	Belle Vue R.	home	W	24 - 14	
" 8	Leigh	away	W	22 - 10	
" 15	Warrington	home	L	8 - 12	
" 22	Workington T.	away	L	5 - 13	
" 29	Rochdale H.	home	W	11 - 9	
Feb. 5	Barrow	home	W	11 - 5	
" 12	Wigan (1st Rd. Challenge Cup)	home	W	5 - 2	
" 19	St. Helens	home	W	9 - 2	
Mar. 5	Leigh (2nd Rd. Challenge Cup)	away	L	3 - 5	
" 12	Belle Vue R.	away	W	34 - 8	
" 19	Widnes	home	W	36 - 2	
" 26	Warrington	away	L	4 - 18	
Apr. 2	Wigan	home	W	26 - 0	
" 8	Swinton	away	W	17 - 9	
" 9	Hull	away	W	18 - 11	
" 11	Keighley	home	W	23 - 3	
" 16	Leigh	home	D	15 - 15	
" 18	Hull	home	L	5 - 18	
" 23	Leeds (R.L. Championship Semi-Final)	home	W	25 - 6	
May 14	Warrington (R.L. Championship Final)	at Maine Road	L	3 - 7	

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APPEARANCES — SCORERS
1954-55

	Appearances	Goals	Tries
W. B. Ganley	... 23	88	1
R. Cracknell	... 41	5	21
R. Barrow	... 31	—	16
A. Davies	... 39	—	28
H. Lomas	... 3	—	4
F. Daley	... 31	—	5
F. Stirrup	... 26	1	5
T. Smith	... 4	—	—
J. Keith	... 42	—	5
A. Tomlinson	... 28	—	3
C. Winslade	... 41	1	2
J. Watson	... 8	—	—
B. V. Goldswain	... 33	42	5
F. Pitchford	... 38	1	18
P. Fearis	... 2	1	1
A. Murray	... 4	—	1
S. Little	... 25	—	2
W. Mitchell	... 7	—	—
H. Ogden	... 37	—	2
J. Noon	... 10	—	4
T. O'Grady	... 32	—	23
A. Jarman	... 4	—	2
K. Jackson	... 31	—	5
J. Feather	... 1	1	—
J. Etty	... 11	—	3
A. Kellett	... 3	—	1
R. Jennings	... 1	—	1
D. Ayres	... 2	—	1

These figures include the Law Cup game but not the Rugby League championship semi-final and final.

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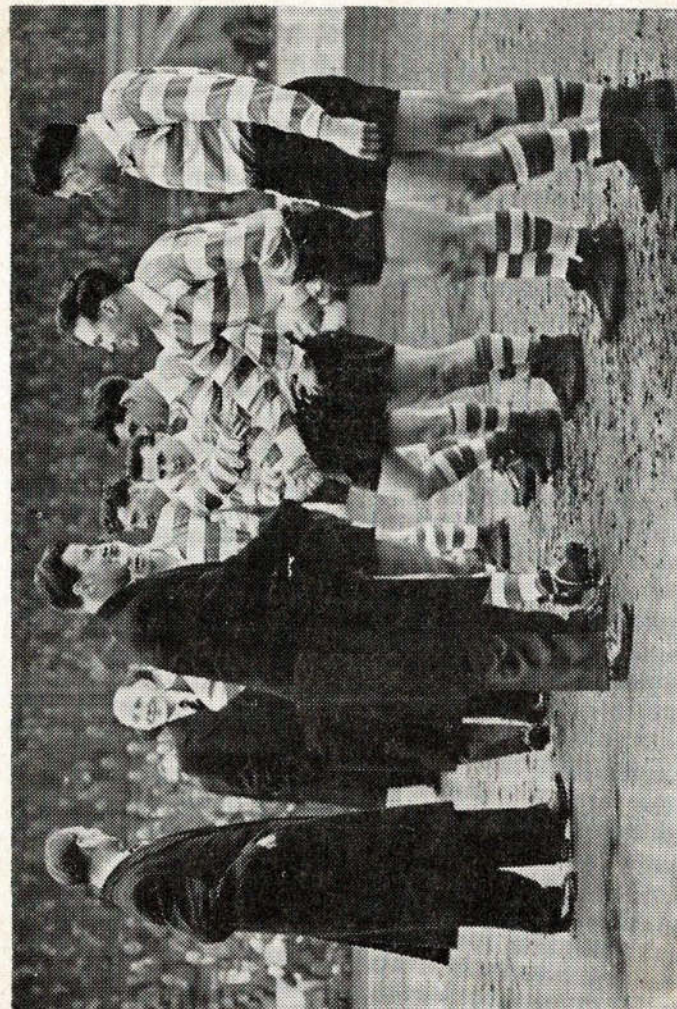
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MATCH DETAILS

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

August 7th, Law Cup (Charity). Home. Draw 17—17.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, Lomas; Daley, Stirrup; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Watson; Goldswain.

Rochdale—Trumble; McArthur, Harris, Short, Bradley; Chisnall, Helme; Livesey, Dagnall, Dooney, Gallagher, Jones, Unsworth. Oldham scorers—Tries: Davies (2), Cracknell (1). Goals: Ganley (4).

Rochdale scorers—Tries: McArthur (1), Harris (1), Short (1). Goals: McArthur (4).

Attendance: 7,000.

Referee: W. Stockley, Swinton.

WAKEFIELD v. OLDHAM

August 14th, R.L. Away. Won—22—32.

Wakefield—Luckman; Cooper, Mortimer, Holliday, Burton; Lockwood, Fletcher; Adams, Horner, Lindley, Kelly, Firth, Clift.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, Lomas; Daley, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Watson, Goldswain. Wakefield scorers—Tries: Burton (2), Holliday (1), Firth (1), Mortimer (1), Luckman (1). Goals: Mortimer (2).

Oldham scorers—Tries: Davies (2), Lomas (1), Barrow (1), Pitchford (1). Goals: Ganley (7).

Attendance: 4,000.

Referee: S. Abram, Wigan.

OLDHAM v. BATLEY

August 21st, R.L. Home. Won 16—3.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Fearis, Davis, Lomas; Daley, Pitchford; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Murray, Goldswain.

Batley—Wallshaw; Etty, Kilroy, Macdonald, Field; Cox, Northern; Pickersgill, Battersby, Redfearn, Palmer, Payne, Briggs.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Lomas (2), Davies (1), Fearis (1). Goals: Ganley (1), Fearis (1).

Batley scorers—Try: Macdonald.

Attendance: 8,946.

Referee: T. Armitage, Huddersfield.

SALFORD v. OLDHAM

August 26th, R.L. Away. Lost 11—2.

Salford—Smith; Hartley, Fairhurst, Roughley, Baines; Davies, Harrison; Grainger, Boardman, Alder, Moses, Greenwood, Rogers.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Fearis, Davies, Lomas; Smith, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Salford scorers—Tries: Baines (1). Goals: Davies (4).

Oldham scorers—Goal: Ganley (1).

Attendance: 8,500.

Referee: N. T. Railton, Wigan.

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ST. HELENS v. OLDHAM

August 28th. R.L. Away. Won 16—23.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, Barrow; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Murray.

St. Helens—Moses; Carlton, Gullick, Finnan, Ratcliffe; Metcalfe, Dickinson; Parr, Lannon, Bretherton, Parsons, Karalius, Delves. Oldham scorers—Tries : Cracknell (2), Pitchford (1). Goals : Ganley (7).

St. Helens scorers—Tries : Carlton (2), Gullick (1), Moses (1). Goals : Metcalfe (2).

Attendance : 17,050.

Referee : C. F. Appleton, Warrington.

BARROW v. OLDHAM

September 4th. R.L. Away. Won 12—17.

Barrow—Poole; Johnson, Toohey, Goodwin, Marshall; Horne, Harris; Pearson, McKinnell, Stuart, Grundy, Hinchley, Healey.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, Noon; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Murray.

Barrow scorers—Tries : Toohey (1), Goodwin (1). Goals : Horne (3).

Oldham scorers—Tries : Barrow (1), Davies (1), Cracknell (1). Goals : Ganley 4.

Attendance : 10,990.

Referee : G. S. Phillips, Widnes.

OLDHAM v. LANCs. COUNTY AMATEURS

Sept. 11th. 1st Rd. Lancs. Cup. Home. Won 57—17.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, Noon; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Little, Winslade, Murray.

Lancs. County Amateurs—Hutson; Nash, Nurse, Maloney, Moores; Hart, Southwell; Munslow, Roberts, Boot, Fairhurst, Owens, Tobin.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Noon (4), Keith (2), Daley (2), Pitchford (1), Davies (1), Murray (1). Goals : Ganley (12).

Lancs. Amateurs scorers—Tries : Maloney (2), Owens (1). Goals : Moores (4).

Attendance : 5,700.

Referee : E. Hopkins, Leeds.

OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL C.

September 14th. R.L. Home. Won 28—4.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady, Daley, Pitchford, Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Liverpool C.—Cox; Barton, Wood, Birch, Adair; Hazelhurst, Parkes; Moss, Hudson, Coffey, Holland, Smith, Donegan.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Pitchford (1), Little (1), Cracknell (1), Barrow (1), O'Grady (2). Goals : Ganley (5).

Liverpool C. scorers—Goals : Wood (2).

Referee : G. Phillips, Widnes.

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BATLEY v. OLDHAM

September 18th. R.L. Away. Won 3—27.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, Noon; Daley, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Batley—Bateson; Harrison, Etty, Kilroy; Field; Cox, Northern; Pickersgill, Fryer, Jones, Palmer, Payne, Westbury.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Barrow (2), Cracknell (2), Little (1).
Goals : Ganley (6).

Batley scorers—Try : Jones (1).

Attendance : 5,000.

Referee : J. W. Jackson, Barrow.

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

September 20th. 2nd Rd. Lancs. Cup. Home. Won 20—9.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Noon, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

St. Helens—Moses; Ledger, Greenall, Gullick, Carlton; Finnan, Dickinson; Prescott, Lannon, Ayles, Parsons, Gaskell, Gale.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Cracknell (2), Pitchford (1), Keith (1).
Goals : Ganley (4).

St. Helens scorers—Try : Carlton (1). Goals : Parsons (3).

Attendance : 16,000.

Referee : R. Gelder, Wakefield.

OLDHAM v. WAKEFIELD TRINITY

September 25th. R.L. Home. Won 8—7.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Feather, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Jarman, Goldswain.

Wakefield—Luckman; Cooper, Mortimer, Bell, Burton; Lockwood, Evans; Ashall, Shaw, Lindley, Kelly, Robinson, Lamming.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady, Davies. Goal : Winslade.

Wakefield scorers—Try : Robinson. Goals : Mortimer (2).

Attendance : 10,130.

Referee : E. Clay, Leeds.

BLACKPOOL v. OLDHAM

October 2nd. R.L. Away. Won 16—46.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Noon, Pitchford; Jackson, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Jarman, Goldswain.

Blackpool—Peace; Emmitt, Ryder, Wilkinson, Higham; Bebe, Kelly; Wright, McPartland, Fisher, Rika, Armitt, Duffy.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Davies (4), Jarman (2), Barrow (2), O'Gray (2). Goals : Ganley (8).

Blackpool scorers—Tries : Fisher (1), Rika (1). Goals : Peace (4), Kelly (1).

Attendance : 7,500.

Referee : W. Stockley, Swinton.

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OLDHAM v. WORKINGTON T.

October 9th. R.L. Home. Won 23—13.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Jackson, Keith. Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Workington T.—Thompson; Ivill, Paskins, Gibson, Faulder; Archer, Roper; Henderson, Lymer, Hayton, Herbert, Key, Ivison.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (3), Pitchford (1), Barrow (1). Goals : Ganley (4).

Workington scorers—Tries : Henderson (1), Faulder (1), Gibson (1). Goals : Thompson (2).

Attendance : 14,455.

Referee : A. Howgate, Dewsbury.

ROCHDALE v. OLDHAM

October 16th. R.L. Away. Won 4—18.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Rochdale—Trumble; McArthur, Roach, L. Jones, Bradley; Short, Evans; Baines, Ellean, Dooney, W. Jones, Gallagher, McNally.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Jackson (1), Davies (1), Barrow (1), Pitchford (1). Goals : Goldswain (3).

Rochdale scorers—Goals : L. Jones (2).

Attendance : 19,654.

Referee : N. T. Railton, Wigan.

OLDHAM v. BARROW

October 23rd. Lancs. Cup Final at Swinton. Lost 2—12.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Barrow—Poole; Hinchley, Jackson, Goodwin, Castle; Horne, Tooheys, Belshaw, McKeating, Barton, Grundy, Parker, Healey.

Oldham scorers—Goal : Ganley (1).

Barrow scorers—Tries : Goodwin (1), Parker (1). Goals : Horne (3).

Attendance : 25,204.

Referee : R. Gelder, Wakefield.

LIVERPOOL C. v. OLDHAM

October 30th. R.L. Away. Won 3—10.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Liverpool C.—Farnall; Barton, Teggins, Cox, Adair; Hazelhurst, Parkes; Wittaker, O'Mara, Coffey, Smith, Holland, Dwyer.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (1), Barrow (1). Goals : Ganley (2).

Liverpool C. scorers—Try : Cox (1).

Attendance : 1,600.

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OLDHAM v. BLACKPOOL

Nov. 6th. R.L. Home. Won 30—12.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Noon, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Jarman.

Blackpool—Peace; Emmitt, Ryder, Higham, Duffy; Bebe, Kelly; Wright, Cheetham, Fisher, Rika, Armitt, Horrocks.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Cracknell (2), O'Grady (2), Davies (1), Stirrup (1). Goals: Ganley (6).

Blackpool scorers—Tries: Rika (2). Goals: Peace (3).

Attendance: 5,304. Referee: E. P. Wilmot, Rochdale.

WIDNES v. OLDHAM

Nov. 13th. R.L. Away. Won 7—9.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, Barrow; Noon, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Winslade, Goldswain.

Widnes—Sale; Williamson, McGillicuddy, Dawson, Hill; Charles, Davies; Rowbottom, Hayes, Tomlinson, Royle, Lamb, Higgins.

Oldham scorers—Try: Cracknell (1). Goals: Ganley (3).

Widnes scorers—Try: Williamson (1). Goals: Sale (2).

Attendance: 3,500. Referee: J. W. Jowett, Leeds.

OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN

November 20th. R.L. Home. Won 15—8.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Mitchell, O'Grady; Noon, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Jarman, Goldswain.

Whitehaven—McKeown; F. Graham, Dawson, Smith, Harrison; Garratt, Keen, McAlone, Richardson, J. Graham, McCourt Robinson, Parr.

Oldham scorers—Tries: O'Grady (1), Pitchford (1), Ogden (1). Goals: Ganley (3).

Whitehaven scorers—Tries: Harrison (1), Robinson (1). Goal: McKeown (1).

Attendance: 7,713. Referee: R. Welsby, Warrington.

WIGAN v. OLDHAM

November 27th. R.L. Away. Won 5—9.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Wigan—Platt; Boston, Broome, Ashcroft, Nordgren; Fleming, Parr; Armstrong, Mather, Hayward, McTigue, Griffin, Street.

Oldham scorers—Try: Daley (1). Goals: Goldswain (3).

Wigan scorers—Try: Broome (1). Goal: Nordgren (1).

Attendance: 21,244. Referee: G. S. Phillips, Widnes.

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WHITEHAVEN v. OLDHAM

December 11th. R.L. Away. Draw 2—2.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Whitehaven—McKeown; F. Graham, Dawson, McAvoy, Harrison; Garratt, Keen; McAlone, Richardson, Donaldson, McCourt, Gilmore; Parr.

Oldham scorers—Goal : Goldswain (1).

Whitehaven scorers—Goal : McKeown (1).

Attendance : 4,000.

Referee : S. Adams, Hull.

KEIGHLEY v. OLDHAM

December 18th. R.L. Away. Won 11—15.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Keighley—Black; Ward, Holgate, Hallas, Hollindrake; Verrenkamp, Rowlands; Woosey, James, Hopkins, Murphy, Raines, Clarkson.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (2), Ogden (1). Goals : Goldswain (3).

Keighley scorers—Try : Hollindrake (1). Goals : Hollindrake (2), Clarkson (2).

Attendance : 6,000.

Referee : E. Clay, Leeds.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

December 25th. R.L. Home. Won 8—5.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Feather, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Swinton—Gowers; Norburn, Blan, Critchley, Hulme; Parkinson, Thomas; Phillips, Hunt, Woods, Holder, Easterbrook, Haynes.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (1), Pitchford (1). Goal : Feather (1).

Swinton scorers—Try : Blan (1). Goal : Blan (1).

Attendance : 10,452.

Referee : R. Gelder, Wakefield.

OLDHAM v. SALFORD

December 28th. R.L. Home. Won 27—0.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Mitchell, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Salford—Chadderton; Farrington, Fairhurst, Cartwright, Dodd; Jones, Davies; Marston, Boardman, Moses, Greenwood, Parr, Flanagan.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Tomlinson (2), Goldswain (1), Winslade (1), O'Grady (2), Pitchford (1). Goals : Ganley (3).

Attendance : 16,000.

Referee : S. Abram, Wigan.

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OLDHAM v. BELLE VUE ROVERS

January 1st. R.L. Home. Won 24-14.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Stirrup, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Belle Vue R.—Morgan; Lambert, R. Brown, Jones, Day; Rees, Tynan; Welsby, Dutton, Pugsley, Jennings, J. Brown, Tierney. Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (2), Cracknell (1), Goldswain (1), Davies (1), Tomlinson (1). Goals : Ganley (1), Goldswain (1). Belle Vue R. scorers—Tries : Lambert (2), Brown (1), Day (1). Goal : Morgan (1).

Attendance : 10,993.

Referee : G. S. Phillips, Widnes.

LEIGH v. OLDHAM

January 8th. R.L. Away. Won 10-22.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Leigh—Lowe; Hutson, Holden, Moore, Kindon; Baxter, McGurrin; Robinson, Tabbern, Owen, Pawsey, P. Davies, McFarlane.

Oldham scorers—Tries : Davies (2), Barrow (2), O'Grady, Ganley. Goals : Ganley (2).

Leigh scorers—Tries : Moore, Owen. Goals : P. Davies (2).

Attendance : 17,000.

Referee : N. T. Railton, Wigan.

OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON

January 15th. R.L. Home. Lost 8-12.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Warrington—Frazer; Bevan, Challinor, A. Naughton, Horton; Frodsham, Helme; D. Naughton, McKinney, Lowe, Bath, Phillips, Ryan.

Oldham scorers—Tries : O'Grady (1), Davies (1). Goal : Ganley (1).

Goal :

Warrington scorers—Tries : Bevan (2). Goals : Bath (3).

Attendance : 15,700.

Referee : A. Howgate, Dewsbury.

WORKINGTON TOWN v. OLDHAM

January 22nd. R.L. Away. Lost 13-5.

Oldham—Stirrup; Noon, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Workington T.—Vickers; Southward, Paskins, Gibson, Ivill; Faulder, Roper; Hayton, Lymer, Kay, Thompson, Herbert, Ivison.

Oldham scorers—Try : Davies. Goal : Goldswain.

Workington scorers—Tries : Ivill, Southward, Thompson. Goals : Paskins (2).

Attendance : 8,288.

Referee : J. W. Jackson, Barrow.

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OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE H.

January 29th. R.L. Home. Won 11—9.

Oldham—Stirrup; Barrow, Etty, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Watson.

Rochdale H.—Cahill; W. Jones, Taylor, L. Jones, Roach; Chisnall, Evans; Appleton, Ellean, Dooney, Scholes, Gallagher, Kelly.

Oldham scorers—Tries: O'Grady (1), Keith (1), Stirrup (1). Goal: Pitchford (1).

Rochdale scorers—Try: Kelly (1). Goals: L. Jones (3).

Attendance: 14,526.

Referee: C. F. Appleton, Warrington.

OLDHAM v. BARROW

February 5th. R.L. Home. Won 11—5.

Oldham—Stirrup, Cracknell, Etty, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Tomlinson, Winslade, Little, Watson.

Barrow—Best; Hinchley, Leatherbarrow, Goodwin, Castle; Horne, Toohey; Belshaw, McKeating, Barton, Grundy, Parker, Healey.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Davies (2), Cracknell (1). Goal: Cracknell (1).

Barrow scorers—Try: Hinchley (1). Goal: Horne (1).

Attendance: 13,363.

Referee: S. Abram, Wigan.

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

February 12th. Challenge Cup, 1st Rd. Home. Won 5—2

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Etty, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Watson.

Wigan—Platt, Nordgren, Broome, Ashcroft, McGillicuddy; Bolton, Parr; Armstrong, Richardson, W. Collier, Hill, McTigue, Street.

Oldham scorers—Try: Davies (1). Goal: Cracknell (1).

Wigan scorers—Goal: Platt (1).

Attendance: 22,000.

Referee: R. Gelder, Wakefield.

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

February 19th. R.L. Home. Won 9—2.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Etty, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Tomlinson, Little, Watson.

St. Helens—Moses; Ledger, Greenall, Finnan, Carlton; Gullick, Ball; Prescott, Lannan, Gaskell, Parsons, Silcock, Blan.

Oldham scorers—Try: Cracknell (1). Goals: Cracknell (3).

St. Helens scorers—Goal: Ball (1).

Attendance: 14,600.

Referee: M. Coates, Pudsey.

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OLDHAM v. LEIGH

March 5th. Challenge Cup, 2nd Rd. Away. Lost 5—3.

Oldham—Stirrup, Cracknell, Etty, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Watson.

Leigh—Ledgard; Kitchen, McFarlane, Baxter, M. Davies; Feather, Chadwick; Robinson, Egan, Owen, Pawsey, P. Davies, Martin.
Oldham scorers—Try: O'Grady (1).

Leigh scorers—Try: M. Davies (1). Goal: Ledgard (1).

Attendance: 25,000.

Referee: M. Coates, Pudsey.

OLDHAM v. BELLE VUE ROVERS

March 12th. R.L. Away. Won 8—34.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Etty, Davies, Barrow; Kellett, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Belle Vue R.—Hardman; Cleworth, H. Morgan, Jones, Day; R. Brown, McGrath; Dutton, Lannon, J. Brown, Hampton, Tierney, Jennings.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Pitchford (2), Etty (1), Winslade (1), Stirrup (2), Jackson (1), Goldswain (1). Goals: Goldswain (5).

Belle Vue scorers—Tries: Day (2). Goal: R. Brown (1).

Referee: W. Rigby, Leigh.

OLDHAM v. WIDNES

March 19th. R.L. Home. Won 36—2.

Oldham—Stirrup; Barrow, Etty, Davies, Cracknell; Kellett, Pitchford; Ogden, Jennings, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Widnes—Sale; Williamson, J. J. Hayes, Kerwick, Hill; Genders, Davies; Rowbottom, J. Hayes, Tomlinson, Higgins, Murray, Worth.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Cracknell (2), Jennings (1), Kellett (1), Etty (1), Pitchford (1), Davies (1), Jackson (1).

Widnes scorers—Goal: Davies (1).

Attendance: 8,972.

Referee: H. Squires, Ossett.

OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON

March 26th. R.L. Away. Lost 18—4.

Oldham—Stirrup; O'Grady, Etty, Davies, Cracknell; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Warrington—Frodsham; Bevan, A. Naughton, Horton, Challinor; Price, Helme; D. Naughton, McKinney, Lowe, Bath, Phillips, Ryan.

Oldham scorers—Goals: Goldswain (2).

Warrington scorers—Tries: Bevan (3), A. Naughton (1). Goals: Bath (3).

Attendance: 12,000.

Referee: A. Hill, Dewsbury.

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OLDHAM v. WIGAN

April 2nd. R.L. Home. Won 26—0.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Ayres, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Wigan—Platt; Boston, Broome, Ashcroft, Hurst; Cunliffe, Bolton; Grundy, Richardson, Featherstone, McTigue, Cherrington, Hill.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Davies (2), Ayres (1), Keith (1), Cracknell (1), Goldswain (1). Goals: Goldswain (4).

Attendance: 15,127.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

April 8th. R.L. Away. Won 9—17.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady; Ayres, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Swinton—Gowers; Norburn, Critchley, Parkinson, Berry; Blan, Thomas; Billington, Hunt, Thompson, Tonge, Easterbrook, Holder.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Cracknell (1), Barrow (1), Davies (1). Goals: Goldswain (4).

Swinton scorers—Try: Holder (1). Goals: Gowers (3).

Attendance: 16,000.

Referee: N. T. Raiton, Wigan.

OLDHAM v. HULL

April 9th. R.L. Away. Won 11—18.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Barrow, Davies, O'Grady, Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Hull—Hutton; Drake, Watkinson, Turner, Watts; Brindle, Finn; Scott, Harris, Coverdale, Markham, Bedford, Whiteley.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Barrow (2), Jackson (1), Daley (1). Goals: Goldswain (3).

Hull scorers—Tries: Drake (1), Watkinson (1), Scott (1). Goal: Hutton (1).

Attendance: 8,000.

Referee: C. F. Appleton, Warrington.

OLDHAM v. KEIGHLEY

April 11th. R.L. Home. Won 23—3.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Etty, Barrow, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Keighley—Johnson; Holgate, Smith, Hallas, Bleasby; Redman, Brown; Woosey, Trail, Raines, Murphy, Hopkin, Bell.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Stirrup (1), O'Grady (1), Jackson (1), Barrow (1), Keith (1). Goals: Goldswain (4).

Keighley scorer—Try: Bleasby (1).

Attendance: 13,558.

Referee: J. P. Hebblethwaite, York.

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OLDHAM v. LEIGH

April 16th. R.L. Home. Draw 15—15.

Oldham—Stirrup; Cracknell, Etty, Barrow, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Tomlinson, Goldswain.

Leigh—Ledgard; Kitchen, McFarlane, Murphy, Davies; Baxter, Chadwick; Robinson, Tabern, Owen, Hurt, Crook, Foster.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Pitchford (2) Etty (1). Goals: Goldswain (3).

Leigh scorers—Tries: Kitchen (2), Davies (1). Goals: Ledgard (3).

Attendance: 19,674.

Referee: R. Gelder, Wakefield.

OLDHAM v. HULL

April 18th. R.L. Home. Lost 5—18.

Oldham—Ganley; Cracknell, Etty, Kellett, O'Grady; Daley, Stirrup; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Little, Tomlinson, Watson.

Hull—Watkinson; Drake, Turner, Francis, Watts; Brindle, Finn; Scott, Harris, Coverdale, J. Drake, Markham, Whiteley.

Oldham scorers—Try: Cracknell (1). Goal: Ganley (1).

Hull scorers—Tries: Francis (3), Markham (1). Goals: Watkinson (3).

Referee: H. Squires, Ossett.

OLDHAM v. LEEDS

April 23rd. Championship Semi-Final. Home. Won 25—6.

Oldham—Stirrup; Barrow, Cracknell; Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Leeds—Dunn; Turnbull, McLellan, Lendill, Scholes; Brown, Pratt; Skelton, Wood, Anderson, Poole, Hanson, Last.

Oldham scorers—Tries: Ogden (1), Davies (1), Barrow (1), Jackson (1), Cracknell (1). Goals: Goldswain (5).

Leeds scorer—Goals: Dunn (3).

Attendance: 17,268.

Referee: R. Gelder, Wakefield.

OLDHAM v. WARRINGTON

May 14th. R.L. Championship Final, Maine Rd., Manchester. Lost 7—3.

Oldham—Stirrup; Barrow, Cracknell, Davies, O'Grady; Daley, Pitchford; Ogden, Keith, Jackson, Winslade, Little, Goldswain.

Warrington—Frodsham; Bevan, Challinor, A. Naughton, Horton; Honey, Helme; D. Naughton, McKinney, Lowe, Phillips, Bath, Ryan.

Oldham scorer—Try: Pitchford (1).

Warrington scorers—Try: Bevan (1). Goals: Bath (2).

Attendance: 49,434.

Referee: A. Hill, Dewsbury.

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Page sixty



Oldham's skipper Alan Davies needs some stopping while in flight and even if opposing Wigan centre Broome could catch him there was always O'Grady on hand.

Page sixty-one

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BECAUSE . . . BECAUSE . . . BECAUSE . . .

by JOHN McCALLUM

As I walked sadly through the crowd scrambling for the exits at Maine Road a man at my elbow was griping. "They've won nowt," he moaned. "All along I said they'd win nowt."

By the time the press of people had swept us into the road he had enumerated the reasons — ad nauseum. "BECAUSE the pack is not good enough. BECAUSE they need a new stand-off half. BECAUSE they have poor wingers. BECAUSE . . . BECAUSE . . . BECAUSE."

I was in no mood to argue. It was at that moment the saddest supporter a club has ever had. And my sadness was not determined by the griper's "because"; it is a poor man who allows his feelings to be determined by rubbish. I was sad because these boys, for whom I have profound admiration, had been denied a tangible reward for their superlative prowess on the field of rugby during an entire season.

This depression, which had seized me at the sound of the final whistle, stayed with me — until I arrived at Belle Vue. There, it loosened its grasp to some extent. And when I mingled and talked with the players it disappeared entirely. Here was not a collection of moaners. A lot of money had slipped through their fingers with the ball; a ball transformed by mud and rain into a pound and a half of thick seam. More than that they had lost the glory of final victory. And, as I looked at those young, radiant faces, I felt ashamed that I had allowed this depression to command me in the first place.

Defeated in the field of sport. Yes — but not cast down. Denied the glory. Yes, sir — but not the honour. These men who had shown themselves glorious in triumph were now showing themselves noble in defeat. How silly was the man who said "They've won nowt."

By the time the convoy had left Belle Vue I had a feeling of semi-elation. But by the time we arrived at Oldham Town Hall, ninety minutes late, I felt as happy as anyone in the vast crowd there on whose faces was written the message "Well done, boys. Very well done. There is more to win than cups and trophies."

I hope Mr. Griper saw that crowd. For if he did, and if he watched those people's faces, he surely learned that lesson, as I, too, had learned it.

Oldham won no trophy last season. The glamour of Wembley and the high honour of victory at Maine Road passed them by on the other side. The Lancashire Cup and Championship chose other habitations. But if in future years Oldham still win no tangible honours do not be dismayed, for records will show that in the season 1954-55 Oldham showed the world what a glorious

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game this Rugby League should be. That is the thought with which I comfort myself. That is the word of encouragement I would speak to these men who make up this grandest, fastest footballing club side of the century.

To manager Griff Jenkins and skipper Alan Davies I will say "You can look to the past season without regret and to the future with composure and hope. For the mistakes made are of yesterday and this is a new season."

I would add : "Playing the type of rugby that you do it is not possible to avoid mistakes, especially at the opening stages of a game. But as the team becomes more accustomed to the speed and scientific approach of this kind of football mistakes will dwindle. Then I think the shelves at Watersheddings will be laden."

Meanwhile, let's take another look at the past season, particularly at those incidents of sheer delight when Oldham showed their skill and speed in attack and, when the occasions arose, their determination and resolve in defence.

Without a doubt the quality of football has been the highest I have ever seen. With a manager-coach to guide them we anticipated better things than we had seen for a season or two. But I never dreamed that such a measure of success would follow so quickly the arrival of Griff Jenkins.

There was certainly no indication of it at the start of the season. The drawn Law Cup game was followed quickly by "the shame of Salford." It looked a mediocre side.

But then followed those magnificent performances at St. Helens, Barrow, Rochdale, Wigan, Leigh, and the rest.

The last League game of the season was the last word in football. I only wish it had been played at Wembley and televised. Rugby League would have definitely taken a very long stride towards being a truly national game. And Frank Pitchford would be the worthy possessor of the Lance Todd Trophy.

Let us for a moment or two reflect, in some detail, on some of the great matches we saw during the season, and at the same time pick out individuals from match to match who, through some magical trick, a moment of supreme skill, temporarily outshone their fellows.

Oldham's defeat of Workington Town at Watersheddings provided some thrilling and spectacular rugby. One of Oldham's biggest advantages on that day was Jack Keith's hooking. It is difficult to understand why he never got a Yorkshire cap. But if in the future players are chosen for their footballing ability surely Keith's mastery in the set-scrum, his guile and cunning in the loose, make him a must for County and National honours.

Here I would also mention the two front-row men, Ken Jackson and Harry Ogden. Ken has come on by leaps and bounds and I dare prophesy if his form is sustained he will play for England.

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And what shall I say of Harry ? It is extremely difficult fully to write the praises of this great club-man. It amazes me why he is so often left out of most newspapermen's analyses. Since he was recalled to the first team during the early part of the season he did not have one bad game. Is it because, like most of us, the newspapermen have become so accustomed to seeing this player through the years that they just take him for granted ?

I would be gratified if the next time they watch Oldham pressmen would take some time off from the pleasure of the whole view and concentrate on Ogden.

Then they will see the non-spectacular, maybe — but the ever-present. The mind at work which directs through narrow channels to the short cuts in defence or in attack. And if they cannot appreciate the finer qualities of this great prop then perhaps they will seek confirmation from his pack-mates and leave the analysis to Keith who will tell them how much he owes to Harry's superlative propping.

There was a good crowd of Oldham supporters at Widnes. It was a rugged game, but it produced one of the highlights of the season. Oldham were down, seven points to four, and the minutes were fleeting by — too quickly for my comfort. I looked towards Committeeman Ashworth in the hope that on his face there might be some message to allay my worries. But one glance was sufficient. He, too, shared my discomfort. The next time I glanced his way the scene had changed. For Fred's hat was in the air.

But I will have it recorded here that my cap was higher than his hat.

The reason ? The uncanny anticipation and interception — it would have made Brian Bevan green with envy — with which Cracknell scored one of the most delightful tries of the season. Seven each — and Bernard Ganley had a difficult angled kick for conversion. But then when Ganley is in kicking form he seems to prefer the difficult ones. And through the sticks it went. A great try by a great craftsman. A grand goal by surely the finest goal-kicker in the League.

While in this context we can all remember the match with St. Helens when Dick, early in the second half, made his interception and scored. My commentary on the critic who said "Cracknell is a good footballer, but slow", was "Who said Cracknell can't run?" The men from St. Helens know that it is not a true criticism.

Those of us who travelled to Barrow had some cause for alarm at half-time when Oldham were 12 points down. In the second half, however, admiration took the place of alarm, for in the dying seconds when the score was 12 points each Cracknell seized upon an opportunity to score a great try.

The goal points were not necessary, but Ganley added them with a very fine kick from the touch line.

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But every day was not as glorious as that — and what a howl went up from some sections of the crowd when things went wrong. Negative criticism is never justified unless something is there to fill the gap. That is why I am often saddened by spectators who pull no punches in their condemnation of "off form players". For the footballer has not yet been born who has played to his full capacity in every match of the season.

Take Roland Barrow. Next time the "blood hunters" feel like sinking their fangs into him I wish they would remember his games at Leigh, Swinton and Maine Road. Strange that he should play such grand football in all his away matches.

Barrow is an attacking centre. And with a defending stand-off like Daley, what more could we wish for? No player is quicker to sew up that centre-gap than Daley, with his effortless, immaculate tackling.

Yet he, too, felt the sharpness of the "blood hunters" fangs. But neither he nor Barrow felt them as much as O'Grady at the season's end.

Terry-the-Great, O'Grady-the-Wonder. That's what they called him when he was picked for Australia. How quickly they forgot it! They were waiting when he got back — waiting for one slip. It was not surprising that after three seasons without a break (he must have been sick of the sight of a rugby ball); with a reputation which made him a "marked man" and with the crowd expecting so much of him, he soon made that slip. And for O'Grady to make a mistake — it was unforgiveable. Goodbye glory!

They forgot, too, that all the Tourists had come back tired; that record-maker Lewis Jones was in Leeds "A" team.

I feel sure that, after his summer rest, Terry will make them choke over their words.

The way Bryn Goldswain did . . . If I remember correctly Bryn had "had it" at the beginning of the season. But who was that Welshman who led the pack so magnificently at Maine Road? Who was the man who came back after a throat injury which would have killed a lesser man? Why, it was the man they said was through!

For his "come-back" Bryn would no doubt thank the support he got from such men as Winslade, Tomlinson and Little. Sid was a bit slow to fall into the plan, but when he did his break-through was equal to none and matched the speed of a three-quarter.

For hard work give me Charlie Winslade — sometimes he took on enough work to satisfy an entire pack. Constantly he would bear the brunt of attack, sometimes nearly brutal, which would have dispirited any amount of forwards with less determination.

There were plenty of near-brutal attacks, as Arthur Tomlinson knows only too well. I think most of it was due to weak refereeing. Why, for instance, did Mr. Howgate allow one man to display his temper for a long period and then make an example of a man

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who made a half-hearted retaliation? That's what happened to Arthur in the Workington match. Then at Widnes, Tomlinson, on his back, being "taken care of" by two opposing players, and in no position to be aggressive, was sent off the field.

But I will never forget the conduct of Mr. Squires in the Hull game — nor can I forgive the Oldham Committee for what followed it. After an "incident" in that game Arthur received a "ten match suspension." You have heard it said "give a dog a bad name and shoot him". I believe that Tomlinson has been treated like a poodle. Certain officials, and certain elements of spectators, gave Arthur a bad name and the Rugby League disciplinary committee took careful aim and shot him — and justice was not done.

A few days after that game Oldham had another fixture and Tomlinson's name did not appear on the list of players. I listened to several explanations from committee men, and from Griff Jenkins at the Annual General Meeting. But I still say Arthur was already condemned before appearing at the disciplinary committee.

But it was a good season and there are many brighter topics than this to end on.

There is Frank Stirrup, for instance. The way he coaxed and encouraged young Frank Pitchford until he was good enough to take away his own scrum-half position, and then effortlessly turned himself into one of the best attacking full-backs in the league (an opinion shared by most press-men) was one of the wonders of the season.

There were the scintillating displays of Alan Davies. More than ever last season he proved that as a player he is a rare combination: he is an individualist AND a team-man. And he must receive particular mention for the way he handled the team captaincy. It was no easy task for he was following in the footsteps of a great rugby general.

Alan is only a young player but like Frank Pitchford (whose rise to stardom is outlined elsewhere in this book) he is already at the top of the tree.

And Oldham are fortunate that they have many other young players rapidly climbing that tree. We were given glimpses of some of them during the season — hooker Bob Jennings, who scored a try in his first match, out halves Alan Kellett and Denis Ayres, who also worked the trick; John Noon, who proved he could make a success of almost any back position; and forwards Alf Murray, Jim Watson and Alan Jarman, a trio of hard-workers.

At the beginning of the season the President, Mr. Bill Howard, said he hoped Oldham would strike a winning vein and go on "from strength to strength."

After reviewing last season (and the accuracy of Mr. Howard's prophesy) and looking forward into this season, I would like to steal the end of that quotation and say that I firmly believe Oldham will "unwearied go, still further unto strength."

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Page seventy-two



Wigan winger Billy Boston didn't get far in this Challenge Cup picture of the game at Watersheddings (Oldham won 5-2). O'Grady and a colleague, with Winslade in the background, make the tackle.

Page seventy-three

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Page seventy-four

Two Divisions

Most supporters are aware that during the season the Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League proposed a scheme for Two Divisions. A proposal of this nature is an amendment to existing Bye-laws and, as such, requires a two-thirds majority of votes in order to become effective. There are thirty-one clubs in the League and nineteen voted for Two Divisions — two short of a two-thirds majority.

The action of the Management Committee in submitting its proposal was based on a resolution passed by members at an Extraordinary General Meeting in May, 1954. This resolution called for a review of the existing system with a recommendation that it be amended in order to increase competitive interest in League games over a greater part of the season. It was felt that the only clubs interested in the results of matches played in the second half of the season were those engaged in the struggle for the top four positions. Facts and figures definitely prove this point.

In April, 1954, there were twenty-two games (excluding holiday fixtures) which had no bearing on the top four positions. All but one of these yielded below average receipts for the home clubs. The receipts were thirty-eight per cent. below average. The one exception was when the home club were playing their most attractive home fixture of the season.

Is Two Divisions the answer?

The majority of clubs think so. They feel that the poorer clubs cannot attract less support than they are doing at the moment, but will be substantially better off financially because of increased support from the Levy Fund. In the meantime, aggregate attendances for all matches will be increased enormously. First Division games alone might attract aggregate attendances exceeding those for all League games at present. Second Division clubs fighting for promotion will also enjoy increased support.

The objectors to the scheme feel that it might lead to the extinction of some of the poorer clubs. In answer to that it is said that some clubs are fighting desperately for existence under the present system.

There have been criticisms of the two-thirds majority rule and references to the "tail wagging the dog." However, stability is the first essential of any organisation and this would be destroyed if a simple majority only were required to amend Bye-laws.

The general feeling among the supporters of the game is that Two Divisions ought to be given a trial. No-one can definitely foretell whether it will be an improvement or not. This can only be proved by trying it and a three years' trial is what the Management Committee is advocating.

Page seventy-five

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Page seventy-six

Oldham's success was a team success. The players struck the right sort of form at the right time for Coach Griff Jenkins to do something. Oldham's form was such that it is something of a miracle that trophies haven't covered the Watersheddings mantelpiece.

I am assured that no effort will be spared to strengthen any weak positions in preparation for next season. Within a week of the new committee being confirmed — members voted no alteration of officials — Oldham had reached out to Keb Lane and signed Roy Needham, a wingman of great promise, aged 20, standing 6ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and weighing 13st. 2lbs.

Certainly other signings are envisaged. The committee are helping to make 1955-56 a little bit better than 1954-55 — and Oldham need only get a little bit better to get a lot of trophies.

Thank you, Oldham players, for thrilling us last season : I know that you will do all in your power to bring about the promise made to those keen supporters who stood by to await your civic reception after the R.L. championship defeat. "Don't worry," you said. "We'll bring you something home next season."

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Page seventy-eight



John Etty

Wing or Centre-threequarter. Born 1927, height 6ft., weight 13 stones. Played his first game of rugby at Mount Pleasant, Batley, for a Grammar School team in a seven-a-side competition at the age of 16 years. Played with Dewsbury Y.M.C.A. in Leeds League and went on trials to Dewsbury, playing his first game of professional rugby for Dewsbury against Batley at Christmas, 1944, at the age of 17 years. Did not sign for Dewsbury after trials. In April, 1945, signed for Batley and played first game for Batley that month. Made 345 first team appearances with Batley, scored 97 tries and kicked two goals.

Selected to play with Yorkshire County eight times, appeared six times, could not turn out in others because of injury. Reserve to travel—England v. France at Leeds, 1947. Appeared in British Empire Team v. Wales at Llanelli, May, 1951. Captain for Batley R.L. team 1954-55 season. Transferred to Oldham F.C. on 25th January, 1955, at a fee of over £2,500.

For a period was secretary-manager to the Carlinghow R.L. team, Batley, in the local amateur league.

Plays cricket in the local Sunday School league and has won a number of prizes for sprinting and jumping.

Married with two children and is employed as a local government officer at the County Hall, Wakefield.

His younger brother "Jim," 22 years, plays second row forward for the Batley R.L. Club.

Page seventy-nine

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Page eighty

ETTY moves to Lancashire

Oldham are determined to keep in the limelight to which their sustained success and consequent accumulative bonus system took them, until Warrington went to Watersheddings and showed them one or two things. One flaw, which the Workington trip the following week (which also ended in defeat) emphasised, was a right wing weakness, in the centre, and so they clinched a quick deal with Batley for the Yorkshire club's captain, JOHN ETTY, who was in his tenth season there, it being his only club since he went to Mount Pleasant out of Dewsbury Y.M.C.A. Rugby. Etty was primarily a centre for Batley, but he has had scores of games on the wing. When NOEL RICHES, now playing well for Hull alongside the still skilful ROY FRANCIS, was at Batley their central drive, as represented by Riches and Etty, was as good as any club had. Oldham are now hoping that the right wing partnership Etty will strike up with DICK CRACKNELL (the only other Yorkshireman in their backs) will be as telling as the ALAN DAVIES—TERRY O'GRADY alliance on the left.

During the last few months Oldham have done a considerable amount of prospecting in South Wales. Among the clubs they went to watch more than once is Abertillery, and a sequel was their signing, after BERNARD GANLEY had been detailed for a cartilage operation, of the Welsh club's full-back, JOHN SPERRING. From what I have heard from the Welsh valleys, Sperring's constant omission from the Monmouthshire county side this season has been one of those things beyond general comprehension as Sperring has been outstandingly consistent.

One player Oldham would have liked to have got before the Cup registered closed is FRANK GRIFFIN, Wigan's reserve loose-forward, as a stand-in for BRYN GOLDSWAIN, who was advised to take a few weeks' rest after the Workington game. Negotiations advanced as far as the clubs agreeing but no farther. I fancy the day will come when Wigan (who would have found Griffin playing against them in the Cup at Oldham) will be glad Griffin didn't go. He is the player they loaned out to Liverpool City last season, but after neither club had re-signed Griffin for this term and both claimed him the League intervened and adjudged the player to be Wigan's "property."

Page eighty-one

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Oldham's BILLY MITCHELL Retires

So, BILLY MITCHELL has retired. Oldham have had seventeen seasons' service from this grand, club-type centre, who has been unlucky with injuries this last year or so, which is why Billy has decided to call it a day and hang up the old boots for good. An Oldhamer, he cost Oldham next to nothing, and until this season more or less kept his place in a very good side. Even when he was out, and came back off reserve, Oldham always got a fine show from a player who still had all his old skill (which was considerable) even though some of the pace had gone. Billy Mitchell never let his side down, and he was such an adept at spotting the gap for the centre's cut-through. Oldham have been lucky this season to have a player of his ability as a stand-by in case of emergency. Actually, Oldham can consider themselves lucky to think they have better centres on the Watersheddings books.



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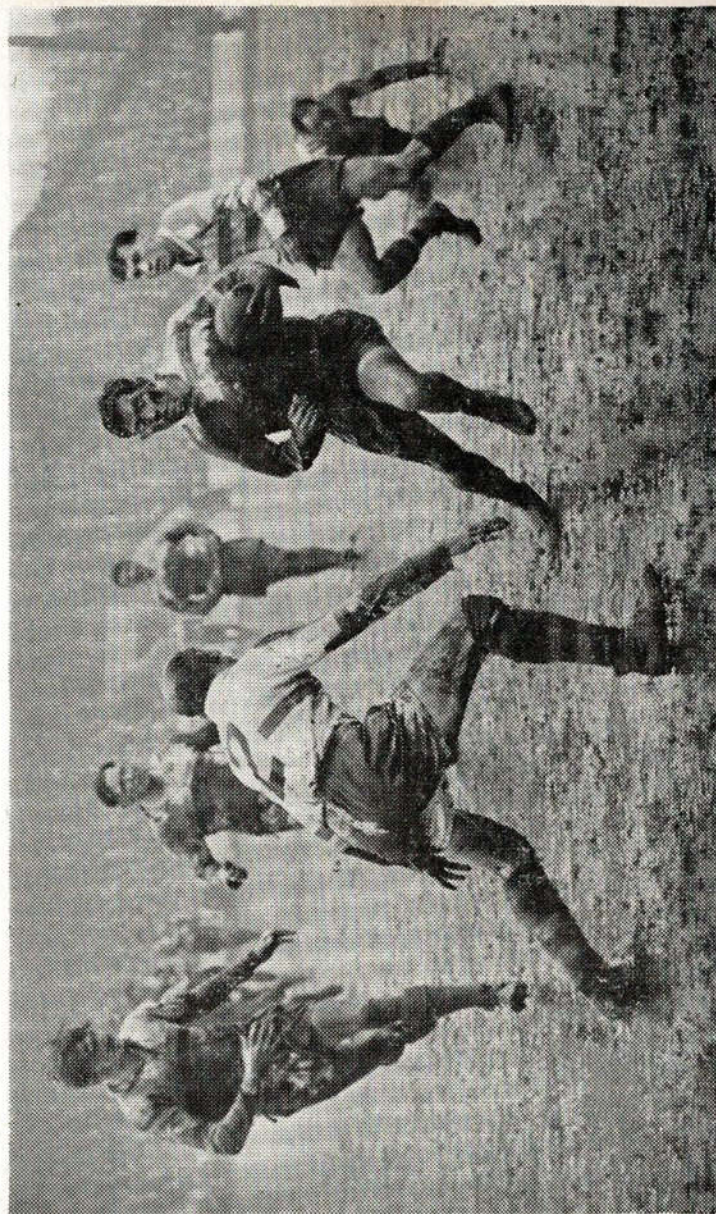
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This picture shows two reasons why Oldham lost to Warrington at Maine Road. No. 1 bugbear was the fellow wearing No. 2 jersey—Brian Bevan, who scored Warrington's only try. The second point which worried Oldham was the state of the ground, churned up mud especially after the half-time downpour.

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Page eighty-six

THE FRANK PITCHFORD STORY

by Tom Brennand of Oldham Press Agency.

The dressing room was crowded. For ten minutes excited fans had been thronging in to congratulate a victorious Oldham side which had just swept Workington to a 20-13 defeat and reached the final of the Lancashire Cup for the first time in 30 years.

There was hand-shaking and back-slapping and yells of applause. There was laughter.

But one player was sitting quietly and alone in a corner. His smooth brow and shining cheeks, compressed in serious thought, made him look like a schoolboy who had suddenly stumbled into a man's world and was wondering how he got there.

That's how he looked to Griff Jenkins that day as the team-manager went over to him and stuck out his hand. The youngster took it. Then, in a confidential tone, he spoke what was on his mind.

"Griff," he said, "don't think I'm trying to jump the gun, but can you tell me if I'll be on the team at Blackpool next week? Some relatives want to know so they can make arrangements to go if I'm playing . . ."

Griff Jenkins grinned. For the player who wanted to know if he would be playing at Blackpool had just rocked Workington with three glorious tries.

His name was Frank Pitchford.

Some call him that. Others cut it to "Pitchie," or "Little Frank," and some say "The Kid." But from Hull to Liverpool and Whitehaven to Warrington they are beginning to call him "Great."

That's not just because he scores spectacular tries against the most powerful opposition; not because he has the devastating ability to turn defeat into victory with a swerve and a side-step and a dash to the line.

It is because on the field and off he betrays that subtle quality of greatness that has its own indelible hall-mark. He is five feet four inches of determination to do better than last time. And he is eleven stones one pound of resolution never to be satisfied with his own ability.

All that — plus modesty.

I have spoken to Frank at length, but I know little about him. Most of what I do know I have learned from other sources, for Pitchford is one subject he hates to discuss. He much prefers to talk about Griff Jenkins and Alan Davies, Frank Stirrup and Alex Givvons, the men whom, he says, must take most of the credit for what Frank Pitchford is today, and what he will be tomorrow.

Page eighty-seven



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There are two other men he talks about, too — a schoolmaster named Robert Isherwood and Jack O'Neil, a Rugby League scout. They come early into the story.

Robert Isherwood taught Frank at Windermere Road Secondary Modern School, Leigh. But from him Frank learned more than English and Maths. He learned how to hold a rugby ball and how to pass it. He was a good learner. At 13, playing scrum-half, he captained the school team.

At 15 Frank left school and started work at Bickershaw Colliery — he is still a miner — and kept playing rugby. But the only amateur leagues in the town were for the age groups 18 to 21, and 21 and over. For a year Frank, the smallest player in the league, was buffeted by burly loose-forwards, until finally he accepted the advice that had often been offered and quit rugby until he put on more weight.

He turned to soccer. For a season and a half he played inside right for Leigh Technical College, where he attended night school. From what I hear of his success as a soccer player the rugby code should feel mighty honoured to have him. He might just as well have been making headlines with City or United or some other First Division side.

But rugby was his first love and, though no man could have been less fitted for it, it pulled him back as a magnet pulls a needle. There was no tradition behind him; no father, uncle, brother or cousin, who had won honours in the game. It was just something, somewhere in the back of his mind which challenged him to attempt the apparently impossible.

Not long after his seventeenth birthday when he was still so small and light that most full-backs could have thrown him over the grandstand, he went back to it — as scrum half for St. Joseph's, Leigh.

He played for them six months and in that time three clubs spotted him. The first was Swinton. How many times a season must they kick themselves now. They could have wrapped him up and carried him away. But after measuring him up they threw him back in the pond. The fish was too small.

Late that season Frank was picked for Leigh Town to play Leigh "A." In the crowd was Jack O'Neil, the Oldham scout. He had a big pond to fish in, too. But he was quick to recognise quality.

He had officials round at Frank's home the day after the match, just before Salford who were hot on the trail.

So Frank came to Oldham. The rest is common knowledge to every Oldham fan. He arrived at the beginning of the 1952-53 season and played two trials, the second against Frank Stirrup. That game, or perhaps the try he scored, clinched it. He was signed in time for the first "A" team game with Rochdale Hornets "A."

But one point which has been lost in the Pitchford story seems to me to be one of the most important incidents in his career.

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With the acknowledgement of his contract the club sent Frank a pair of running spikes. The few shillings they spent on them were the best investment Oldham ever made.

Those who have stood and marvelled at Pitchford as he has outpaced opponents nearly twice his size and more than twice his reputation now know why. They were the first pair of spikes he ever owned. If they were sent to him as a hint Frank took it in typical Pitchford fashion. As soon as he got them he started practising . . . practising . . . practising. All the time he was striving for more and more speed. He was determined not to be beaten by lack of inches.

At Christmas 1952 he played his first game for the senior side at Liverpool City. He says he made a mess of it, but he played again that season against Rochdale Hornets.

Next year he was picked about 20 times. Three or four were at the beginning of the season. He was dropped again but returned when Frank Stirrup had his cartilage trouble. But four games from the end of the season he became No. 1 choice.

At the beginning of last season Griff Jenkins came to Water-sheddings, and a new influence was brought to bear on the career of Frank Pitchford. Griff realised that Frank had just about everything that made a good scrum half, but he was still very small and he needed something else — yet more speed! Griff was a noted sprinter and quickly he set about teaching Frank all he knew. He changed his whole style of running, taught him how to develop the power of those amazing forty-yard bursts. It was a constant race to beat the stop-watch.

And if Frank was a good rugby player in 1954, he was four times better in 1955.

Who among the thousands who cheered him till their throats refused them will ever forget that stupendous try he scored in the home game with Leigh at the season's end — when he swept up the ball near the half-way line and ripped through those giants with an impossible burst of speed to put Oldham right back in the game?

And who among us dared to hope that he would do the same thing again in the same match?

Frank looks on that first try as the best he has ever scored, but only because the newspapers said so at the time. He can hardly recall how he scored it. He seems to have forgotten that he did it twice.

But at 21 Frank already has so many events to look back on. His favourite is the memory of the great thrill of pleasure he got when the announcer at Maine Road reached his name in the team list and nearly thirty thousand Oldham supporters sent up a cheer that rocked the city.

Frank scored Oldham's only try in the final, and afterwards he said to Griff Jenkins, "It's sad that we lost, but I never dreamed

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I'd play at Maine Road, anyway. And to score a try there — who could ask for anything more?"

Griff's reply was almost inaudible, little more than a whispered thought, "You'll score tries all over the world," he said.

All summer long Frank has kept practising for the season which may bring him the game's top honours. He even practises in the back yard of his new home in Leigh with a ball that Griff Jenkins gave him. Nearly every spare minute of his time he is out there, throwing the ball against the wall, taking it on the awkward bounce and sending out the pass to an imaginary stand-off somewhere by the coal-shed.

His pretty wife Mary doesn't mind, for she is his keenest fan. She watches as many of his games as possible and knows enough about it to discuss them in detail — when their 15-months-old daughter Vivien is in bed.

But his mother probably would not be so keen. She has seen only one game — at Leigh — and vowed never to go again. But his father is a keen supporter and so are his two sisters who are married to Leigh supporters, which makes things a little complicated when Frank helps to rout his hometown team.

But there is never any fiery argument for Frank, a non-smoker and light drinker — an occasional glass, to be sociable, when he is not in training — is a lover of peace and quiet. More and more in recent months his name has been slipping into the headlines, but Frank genuinely wonders what all the fuss is about and is embarrassed if you tell him it is about him.

"It takes a lot to make a successful rugby team," he told me. "It takes men like Alan Davies and Bryn Goldswain, men with power and experience. It takes men like Frank Stirrup who can take newcomers like me and unselfishly teach them everything they know, fully aware that they may be training somebody to push them out of the side.

"And it takes men in the background like Griff Jenkins and Alex Givvons to make sure you always give of your best, and a club that makes you feel it is all worthwhile."

Much has been said and written about Frank Pitchford and now I have added a lot to it. But I think there is still room for what Gerry Helme has to say about him, for surely no man living is better qualified to judge a scrum-half.

He says "Frank Pitchford is the finest scrum-half prospect in the league."

It was suggested to me when this article was planned that such a step could spoil a young player, give him the strut and swagger of a "big-head." That has happened to many players, but it will never happen to the lad from Leigh.

Frank Pitchford will one day play for his country. But at heart he will always be the wide-eyed youngster who wanted to know if he could play against Blackpool Borough.

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Page ninety-four



Dick Cracknell is the try-scorer in this picture taken at Swinton in the time-honoured Good Friday clash. Cracknell put on a spurt of try-scoring towards the end of the season, crossing 22 times altogether.

Page ninety-five

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Page ninety-six

PERSONALITIES

It is easily Oldham's best season since the twenties, when they were cup finalists four times in a row before the Wembley era began in 1929; they were winners twice. Since then, Oldham have won no major honours except the Lancashire Cup in 1933. They are still waiting for their first Wembley. They have had seven league finals, all of them in the long ago, their last in 1922, when Wigan beat them. Oldham's other six finals were between 1905 and 1911, and they won the first and the last two of them. They have a great team today, easily their best within memory.

The appointment of ALAN DAVIES as captain shortly after this season began was an inspired move, for the centre undoubtedly is a personality of drive; he has inspired more than one late rally to bring about dramatic victory. He will take a lot of keeping out of next season's Tests with New Zealand, as will FRANK PITCHFORD, like Davies, a Leigh product, whose first full season at Watersheddings has been one of prolonged triumph from the scrum-half position, where he must threaten very seriously GERRY HELME'S position as kingpin.

OLDHAM RESERVE STRENGTH

Oldham began the season rather worried about their half-back resources. They end it with considerable talent while having used their displaced scrum-half, FRANK STIRRUP (Leigh again) for full-back much of the time. DENNIS AYRES, a local lad, came over on Army leave from Germany at Easter and thrust himself into the first team after one outing with the seconds. He's due out next February, but meanwhile Oldham have another stand-off-half of outstanding promise in ALAN KELLETT, one of a growing number of Yorkshire lads who are landing at Oldham. This ex-Hebden Bridge junior really looks the goods. And ROLAND BARROW, the local boy centre who, after an extended run, wasn't thought quite to have made the grade, was replaced by the £3,000 JOHN ETTY from Batley, but got back his place with some match-winning performances. Oldham are indeed well off for reserves. It was a big blow to them when they went out of the Cup, but they have regained all their poise with ex-skipper BRYN GOLDSWAIN'S return to the forwards. I like the look of this present Oldham pack, and shan't be one bit surprised if CHARLIE WINSLADE gets a Test place next winter. "If only he'd part more with the ball instead of dying with it, he'd be a cert. for honours," is an oft-expressed opinion among the high-ups at Oldham about Welsh Charlie, who is one of the few of the decreasing number of players who always wears a skull-cap. And maybe some day Yorkshire will discover that Oldham have two front-row forwards eligible to play for them; Leeds born JACK KEITH'S hooking and loose play warrants selectoral attention, and so does HARRY OGDEN'S propping; Jack Keith's got a Yorkshire accent, but Harry Ogden, now 32, hasn't; he was born a few miles outside Oldham at a village called Lees, just a few yards inside the Yorkshire boundary.

Page ninety-seven

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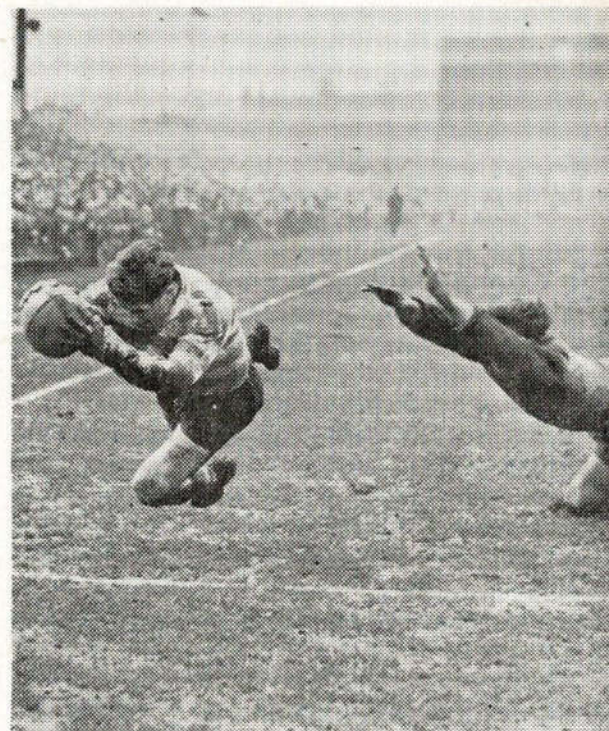
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Page ninety-eight



Roland Barrow took a flying leap to score one of his seventeen tries of last season. It was against Swinton, away, where Oldham won 17-9.

Page ninety-nine

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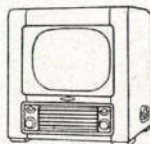
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Page one hundred

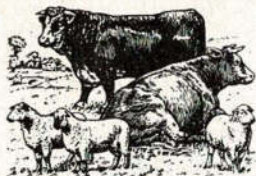
QUIZ

- 1 What is the record attendance at Watersheddings, and on what occasion?
- 2 Who has scored most tries for Oldham in a season?
- 3 What was the highest attendance at Watersheddings during 1954-5, and on what occasion?
- 4 What years did Oldham create a League record by appearing in the Challenge Cup Final four consecutive seasons?
- 5 How many goals did Bernard Ganley land in 1952-3 to create a record for the Club?
- 6 What should be the height of the cross-bar on the goal posts?
- 7 Can the Referee alter his decision in any match, and, if so, under what circumstances?
- 8 What is the maximum length and width of the playing area on the Rugby League grounds?
- 9 In what year was the first Challenge Cup Final played at Wembley?
- 10 What player holds the record of having scored most tries in a season?

Answers on page 125

Page one hundred and one

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Page one hundred and two

The Oldham Club honours since the 1895 breakaway from Rugby Union

- 1899 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1904 Northern Rugby League champions (first Oldham championship win).
- 1907 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners (first occasion), and winners of Lancashire League.
- 1908 Winners of Lancashire League.
- 1909 Northern R.L. champions.
- 1910 Northern R.L. and Lancashire League champions.
- 1911 Northern R.L. champions and Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1913 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1919 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1922 Lancashire League champions.
- 1924 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1925 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1927 R.L. Challenge Cup winners.
- 1933 Lancashire Challenge Cup winners.
- 1955 Runners-up Lancashire Cup.
- 1955 Runners-up Lancashire League.
- 1955 Runners-up Rugby League Championship.

Page one hundred and three

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Page one hundred and four

Points about last season

Oldham's "golden boys" — termed so because they were so often in the money for wins — helped to boost the wage expenditure from £7,222 to £12,714.

Average gate attendances shot up from 8,384 to 9,540 — proof that the side was playing the right sort of football.

Lionel Emmitt, transferred to Blackpool because he was unable to oust Oldham top-liners O'Grady and Cracknell, later played for Wales.

Oldham lost the Lancashire League championship on a narrow points scoring average — Warrington 2.223 to 2.081.

Tax is a terrible burden and though it went down about £220, Oldham still had to fork out £4,131 to the Exchequer.

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Australian Test Match Appearances of Oldham Players

Bert Avery	Forward	Sydney 1910 Newcastle 1911 Birmingham 1912
A. Brough	Forward	Sydney (2) 1924
W. Hall	Centre threequarter	Sydney (1) 1914 Sydney (2) 1914 Sydney (R.D.) 1914
H. Hilton	Forward	Brisbane 1920 Sydney (1) 1920 Sydney (2) 1920 Salford 1921
D. Holland	Forward	Sydney (1) 1914 Sydney (2) 1914 Sydney (R.D.) 1914
W. Longworth	Forward	London 1908 Newcastle 1909 Birmingham 1909
J. Oster	Stand-off half	Swinton 1930
T. E. Rees (Guardsman)	Fullback	Hull 1929
S. Rix	Wing threequarter	Sydney (1) 1924 Sydney (2) 1924 Brisbane 1924
R. Sloman	Forward	Brisbane 1928 Sydney (1) 1928 Sydney (2) 1928
A. Smith	Forward	London 1908 Newcastle 1909 Birmingham 1909
G. Tyson	Wing threequarter	London 1908 Newcastle 1909 Birmingham 1909
Alf Wood	Fullback	Edinburgh 1911 Birmingham 1912 Sydney (R.D.) 1914
T. O'Grady	Winger	Sydney (1) Auckland (2) Greymouth (1)

N.B.—(R.D.) indicates the famous "Rorke's Drift" Test Match when Great Britain won with ten men.

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Page one hundred and eight

FINAL TABLE 1954-55

Team	Points						Posn	
	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Pts	1953/4
Warrington	36	29	5	2	718	321	60	2
Oldham	36	29	5	2	633	313	60	12
Leeds	36	26	8	2	667	378	54	10
Halifax	36	26	9	1	579	269	53	1
Wigan	36	26	9	1	643	328	53	7
Leigh	36	25	9	2	738	399	52	13
St. Helens	36	25	10	1	631	337	51	3
Barrow	36	24	12	0	581	386	48	8
Featherstone R.	36	23	12	1	572	424	47	14
Huddersfield	36	22	14	0	790	483	44	6
Workington T.	36	23	13	0	573	391	46	4
Rochdale H.	36	20	13	3	396	346	43	19
York	36	21	15	0	439	374	42	17
Hunslet	36	20	16	0	582	477	40	15
Whitehaven	36	18	15	3	406	424	39	21
Wakefield T.	36	18	18	0	589	577	36	11
Bradford N.	36	17	17	2	476	475	36	9
Keighley	36	18	18	0	433	543	36	18
Hull	36	16	17	3	547	486	35	5
Swinton	36	16	19	1	398	451	33	23
Castleford	36	13	19	4	518	516	30	26
Widnes	36	13	23	0	325	478	26	16
Bramley	36	11	24	1	434	602	23	25
Liverpool C.	36	11	24	1	402	582	23	30
Hull K.R.	36	10	26	0	347	756	20	29
Salford	36	7	26	3	279	527	17	22
Doncaster	36	8	27	1	346	664	17	28
Batley	36	7	29	0	278	677	14	24
Blackpool B.	36	7	29	0	303	759	14	—
Belle Vue R.	36	7	29	0	248	666	14	27
Dewsbury	36	5	31	0	255	717	10	20

Page one hundred and nine

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LANCASHIRE TABLE 1954-55

	P	W	L	D	Gls	For		Against	
						Trs	Pts	Gls	Trs Pts
Warrington	28	22	4	2	97	125	569	56	48 256 46
Oldham	28	22	4	2	90	103	489	53	43 235 46
Wigan	28	20	7	1	86	116	520	71	43 271 41
St. Helens	28	19	8	1	94	97	479	61	34 224 39
Leigh	28	17	9	2	106	90	482	63	64 318 36
Barrow	28	18	10	0	77	95	439	68	61 319 36
Workington	28	17	11	0	71	92	418	50	58 274 34
Rochdale	28	14	12	2	68	47	277	61	59 299 30
Whitehaven	28	12	13	3	64	54	290	67	65 329 27
Swinton	28	12	15	1	51	54	264	78	66 354 25
Widnes	28	8	20	0	46	36	200	73	86 404 16
Liverpool	28	6	21	1	70	45	275	87	93 453 13
Belle Vue Rangers	28	6	22	0	41	36	190	94	111 521 12
Blackpool	28	5	23	0	56	34	214	110	130 610 10
Salford	28	3	22	3	46	35	197	71	98 436 9

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YORKSHIRE TABLE 1954-55

	P	W	L	D	Gls	For		Against		Pts		
						Trs	Pts	Gls	Trs		Pts	
Leeds	...	28	23	4	1	105	116	558	66	53	291	47
Halifax	...	28	21	6	1	96	96	480	58	34	218	43
Featherstone	...	28	20	7	1	82	86	422	64	60	308	41
Huddersfield	...	28	18	10	0	88	140	596	74	66	346	36
Hunslet	...	28	17	11	0	87	92	450	66	67	333	34
York	...	28	17	11	0	78	70	366	65	49	277	34
Keighley	...	28	17	11	0	70	66	338	74	72	364	34
Wakefield	...	28	15	13	0	90	97	471	80	87	421	30
Bradford Northern	...	28	14	12	2	77	79	391	78	73	375	30
Hull	...	28	12	13	3	75	96	438	70	80	380	27
Castleford	...	28	8	16	4	88	61	359	91	84	434	20
Bramley	...	28	7	20	1	86	51	325	96	90	462	15
Doncaster	...	28	5	22	1	65	40	250	95	114	532	11
Batley	...	28	5	23	0	54	34	210	96	111	525	10
Dewsbury	...	28	4	24	0	33	39	183	101	123	571	8

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Page one hundred and fourteen.

LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

1905	Wigan	1930	St. Helens R.
1906	Broughton R.	1931	Salford
1907	Oldham	1932	Warrington
1908	Wigan	1933	Oldham
1909	Wigan	1934	Salford
1910	Oldham	1935	Salford
1911	Rochdale H.	1936	Salford
1912	Wigan	1937	Warrington
1913	Oldham	1938	Wigan
1914	Rochdale H.	1939	Swinton
1918	Rochdale H.	1940-44	No competition
1919	Oldham	1945	Widnes
1920	Broughton R.	1946	Wigan
1921	Warrington	1947	Wigan
1922	Wigan	1948	Wigan
1923	St. Helens R.	1949	Wigan
1924	Oldham	1950	Wigan
1925	Swinton	1951	Wigan
1926	St. Helens	1952	Leigh
1927	Swinton	1953	St. Helens
1928	Wigan	1954	Barrow
1929	Warrington		

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LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP

Year	Winners	Runners-up
1901-02	Broughton Rangers	Salford
1902-03	Halifax	Salford
1903-04	Bradford	Salford
1904-05	Oldham	Bradford
1905-06	Leigh	Hunslet
1906-07	Halifax	Oldham
1907-08	Hunslet	Oldham
1908-09	Wigan	Oldham
1909-10	Oldham	Wigan
1910-11	Oldham	Wigan
1911-12	Huddersfield	Wigan
1912-13	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
1913-14	Salford	Leeds
1914-15	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
1919-20	Hull	Hull K.R.
1920-21	Hull	Oldham
1921-22	Wigan	Huddersfield
1922-23	Hull Kingston Rovers	Wigan
1923-24	Batley	Swinton
1924-25	Hull Kingston Rovers	Warrington
1925-26	Wigan	St. Helens R.
1926-27	Swinton	Featherstone R.
1927-28	Swinton	Leeds
1928-29	Huddersfield	Leeds
1929-30	Huddersfield	Leeds
1930-31	Swinton	Huddersfield
1931-32	St. Helens	Swinton
1932-33	Salford	Salford
1933-34	Wigan	Warrington
1934-35	Swinton	Widnes
1935-36	Hull	Warrington
1936-37	Salford	Leeds
1937-38	Hunslet	Castleford
1938-39	Salford	Huddersfield
1945-46	Wigan	Dewsbury
1946-47	Wigan	Bradford N.
1947-48	Warrington	Warrington
1948-49	Huddersfield	Huddersfield
1949-50	Wigan	Warrington
1950-51	Workington	Bradford N.
1951-52	Wigan	Halifax
1952-53	St. Helens	Halifax
1953-54	Warrington	Oldham
1954-55	Warrington	

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CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS

Year	Winners	Score			Runners-up	Score			Venue
		G	T	P		G	T	P	
1897	Batley	1	2	10	St. Helens	0	1	3	Headingley
1898	Batley	2	1	7	Bradford	0	0	0	Headingley
1899	Oldham	2	5	19	Hunslet	3	1	9	Fallowfield
1900	Swinton	2	4	16	Salford	1	2	8	Fallowfield
1901	Batley	0	2	6	Warrington	0	0	0	Headingley
1902	Broughton R.	5	5	25	Salford	0	0	0	Rochdale
1903	Halifax	2	1	7	Salford	0	0	0	Headingley
1904	Halifax	1	2	8	Warrington	0	1	3	Salford
1905	Warrington	0	2	6	Hull K.R.	0	0	0	Headingley
1906	Bradford	1	1	5	Salford	0	0	0	Headingley
1907	Warrington	4	3	17	Oldham	0	1	3	Broughton
1908	Hunslet	4	2	14	Hull	0	0	0	Huddersfield
1909	Wakefield T.	1	5	17	Hull	0	0	0	Headingley
1910	Leeds	2	1	7	Hull	2	1	7	Huddersfield
1911	Leeds (Replay)	7	4	26	Hull	3	2	12	Huddersfield
1912	Broughton R.	2	0	4	Wigan	0	0	0	Salford
1913	Dewsbury	1	2	8	Oldham	1	1	5	Headingley
1914	Huddersfield	0	3	9	Warrington	1	1	5	Headingley
1915	Hull	0	2	6	Wakefield T.	0	0	0	Halifax
1916	Huddersfield	5	9	37	St. Helens	0	1	3	Oldham
1917	Huddersfield	3	5	21	Wigan	2	2	10	Headingley
1918	Leigh	2	3	13	Halifax	0	0	0	Broughton
1919	Rochdale H.	2	2	10	Hull	0	3	9	Headingley
1920	Leeds	5	6	28	Hull	0	1	3	Wakefield
1921	Wigan	3	5	21	Oldham	2	0	4	Rochdale
1922	Oldham	2	4	16	Hull K.R.	0	1	3	Leeds
1923	Swinton	3	1	9	Oldham	0	1	3	Rochdale
1924	Oldham	4	6	26	Swinton	2	1	7	Leeds
1925	Swinton	1	1	5	Warrington	0	1	3	Wigan
1926	Wigan	2	3	13	Dewsbury	1	0	2	Wembley
1927	Widnes	2	2	10	St. Helens	0	1	3	Wembley
1928	Halifax	5	4	22	York	1	2	8	Wembley
1929	Leeds	4	1	11	Swinton	4	0	8	Wigan
1930	Huddersfield	6	3	21	Warrington	4	3	17	Wembley
1931	Hunslet	1	3	11	Widnes	1	1	5	Wembley
1932	Castleford	1	3	11	Huddersfield	1	2	8	Wembley
1933	Leeds	3	4	18	Warrington	1	0	2	Wembley
1934	Widnes	3	4	18	Keighley	1	1	5	Wembley
1935	Salford	2	1	7	Barrow	2	0	4	Wembley
1936	Halifax	4	4	20	Salford	0	1	3	Wembley
1937	No Competition								
1938	Leeds	2	5	19	Halifax	1	0	2	Bradford
1939	Leeds	3	3	15	Halifax	5	0	10	Bradford
1940	Dewsbury	2	4	16	Leeds	3	1	9	
1941	Dewsbury	0	0	0	Leeds	3	0	6	
1942	(Dewsbury won on aggregate 16-15)								
1943	Bradford N.	0	0	0	Wigan	0	1	3	
1944	Bradford N.	1	2	8	Wigan	0	0	0	
1945	(Bradford N. won on aggregate 8-3)								
1946	Huddersfield	2	1	7	Bradford N.	2	0	4	
1947	Huddersfield	0	2	6	Bradford N.	1	1	5	
1948	(Huddersfield won on aggregate 13-9)								
1949	Wakefield T.	2	3	13	Wigan	0	4	12	Wembley
1950	Bradford N.	1	2	8	Leeds	2	0	4	Wembley
1951	Wigan	1	2	8	Bradford N.	0	1	3	Wembley
1952	Bradford N.	3	2	12	Halifax	0	0	0	Wembley
1953	Warrington	5	3	19	Widnes	0	0	0	Wembley
1954	Wigan	2	2	10	Barrow	0	0	0	Wembley
1955	Workington T.	3	4	18	Featherstone R.	2	2	10	Wembley
1956	Huddersfield	3	3	15	St. Helens	2	2	10	Wembley
1957	Warrington	0	0	4	Halifax	0	0	4	Wembley
1958	Warrington (Replay)	0	0	8	Halifax	0	0	4	Odsal
1959	Barrow	3	6	21	Workington	3	2	12	Wembley

* War-time competitions in which not all the clubs took part.

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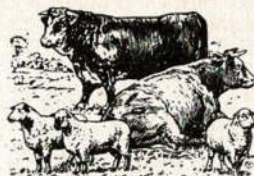
Year	Winners	Runners-up
1907-08	Oldham	Broughton R.
1908-09	Wigan	Oldham
1909-10	Oldham	Wigan
1910-11	Wigan	Oldham
1911-12	Wigan	Oldham
1912-13	Wigan	Broughton R.
1913-14	Wigan	Salford
1914-15	Wigan	Rochdale
1915-18	Competition Suspended	
1918-19	Rochdale H.	Leigh
1919-20	Widnes	Oldham
1920-21	Wigan	Warrington
1921-22	Oldham	Wigan
1922-23	Wigan	Swinton
1923-24	Wigan	Oldham
1924-25	Swinton	Wigan
1925-26	Wigan	Swinton
1926-27	St. Helens R.	Swinton
1927-28	Swinton	St. Helens R.
1928-29	Swinton	Wigan
1929-30	St. Helens	Salford
1930-31	Swinton	Wigan
1931-32	St. Helens	Swinton
1932-33	Salford	Barrow
1933-34	Salford	Wigan
1934-35	Salford	Warrington
1935-36	Liverpool S.	Widnes
1936-37	Salford	Liverpool S.
1937-38	Warrington	Barrow
1938-39	Salford	Swinton
1939-40	Swinton	Salford
	(Emergency League Champ.)	
1940-41	Wigan	Warrington
	(Emergency League Champ.)	
1941-45	Competition Suspended	
1945-46	Wigan	Barrow
1946-47	Wigan	Widnes
1947-48	Warrington	Wigan
1948-49	Warrington	Wigan
1949-50	Wigan	Leigh
1950-51	Warrington	Workington
1951-52	Wigan	Warrington
1952-53	St. Helens	Leigh
1953-54	Warrington	St. Helens
1954-55	Warrington	Oldham

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1897-98	Yorkshire	1925-26	Lancashire
1898-99	Yorkshire	1926-27	Lancashire
1899-1900	Lancashire	1927-28	Cumberland
1900-01	Lancashire	1928-29	Lancashire
1901-02	Cheshire	1929-30	Lancashire
1902-03	Lancashire	1930-31	Yorkshire
1903-04	Lancashire	1931-32	Lancashire
1904-05	Yorkshire	1932-33	Cumberland
1905-06	{ Lancashire Cumberland	1933-34	Cumberland
1906-07	Lancashire	1934-35	Cumberland
1907-08	Cumberland	1935-36	Lancashire
1908-09	Lancashire	1936-37	Lancashire
1909-10	{ Cumberland Yorkshire	1937-38	Lancashire
1910-11	Lancashire	1938-39	Lancashire
1911-12	Cumberland	1945-46	Lancashire
1912-13	Yorkshire	1946-47	Yorkshire
1913-14	Undecided	1947-48	Lancashire
1919-20	Undecided	1948-49	Cumberland
1920-21	Yorkshire	1949-50	Undecided
1921-22	Yorkshire	1950-51	Undecided
1922-23	{ Lancashire Yorkshire	1951-52	Yorkshire
		1952-53	Lancashire
		1953-54	Yorkshire
		1954-55	Yorkshire

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Page one hundred and twenty-four

Answers to Quiz

- 1 28,000, when Huddersfield were the visitors in 1912.
- 2 Reg Farrar, who scored 49 tries in season 1921-2.
- 3 22,000 in the 1st Round of the Challenge Cup against Wigan.
- 4 1923-4 to 1927-8.
- 5 145.
- 6 10 feet from the ground.
- 7 Only on touch and touch-in-goal play.
- 8 Maximum length 110 yards; maximum width 75 yards.
- 9 1929.
- 10 A. Rosenfeld of Huddersfield, 80 tries in 1913-14

Acknowledgements

The officials and committee of Oldham Football Club Supporters' Club express their thanks to the proprietors of Oldham Chronicle and Green Final for loan of blocks, also to Northern, Mr. F. Chapman, Mr. T. Brennand of Oldham News Agency for the great help they have done to make our second edition a success, also to the Rugby League Gazette for items allowed out of their publications.

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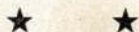


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