

THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

Results and Scorers of Last Saturday's Matches.

*HALIFAX, 3 2-12. Tries: Pemberton (A.), Williams. Goals: Metcalfe, (3).	HULL, 1 2-8. Tries: Devereux (2), Goal: Wallace.
HUDDERSFIELD, 1 4-14. Tries: Rosenfeld, Davies, Kitchen (2). Goal: Wrigley.	*HULL KINGSTON ROVERS, 0 0-0.
*WIGAN, 3 9-33. Tries: Leytham (3), Miller (3), Todd, Jenkins (2), Goals: Sharrock (3).	LEIGH, 1 1-5. Try: Booth. Goal: Bolewski.
HUNSLET, 3 4-18. Tries: Jenkinson (2), Farrar, Dobson Goals: Farrar (3).	*YORK, 1 2-8. Tries: Nickson, Cowmeadow. Goal: Naylor.
*LEEDS, 5 3-19. Tries: Barron, Harrison, Barron. Goals: Young (4), Biggs.	BRADFORD, 0 1-3. Try: Griffen.
*OLDHAM, 7 3-23. Tries: Avery, Anlezark, Young. Goals: Wood (7).	WARRINGTON, 3 1-9. Try: Unsworth. Goals: Thomas (3).
*BROUGHTON RANGERS, 1 4-14. Tries: Ruddick, Scott (3). Goal: Harris.	St. HELENS, 2 1-3. Try: Belshaw. Goals: Turtill (2).
*BRAMLEY, 1 5-17. Try: Seamans, Turton (2), Land (2). Goal: Walker.	BARROW, 2 1-4. Goals: Gifford.
WIDNES, 1 4-14. Tries: Lally, Lloyd, Johnson, Laws. Goal: Jones.	*COVENTRY, 0 1-3. Try: Oldham.
*WAKEFIELD TRINITY, 3 4-18. Tries: Auton, Poynton (2), Bennett. Goals: Metcalfe (3).	BATLEY, 0 2-6. Tries: Ward, (2).
*DEWSBURY, 1 5-17. Tries: Rhodes (2), Garnett, Hardman. Sharples. Goal: Hardman.	ROCHDALE HORNETS, 2 0-4. Goals: Jones.
SALFORD, 2 4-16. Tries: Curzon, Barker (2), Cook. Goals: Lambert (2).	RUNCORN, 0 1-3. Try: Walker.
SWINTON, 1 1-5. Try: Gartrell. Goal: Griffiths.	EBBW VALE, 1 0-2. Goal: Roberts.

*Denotes home team.

Referee's List.

The following is a list of the officials for next week's matches.

Broughton Rangers v. Warrington.—B. Ennion (Wigan); A. Johnson (Rochdale); F. Mills (Oldham).	Oldham v. Runcorn.—F. Renton (Hunslet); T. Longden (Swinton); A. Edwards (Broughton).
Dewsbury v. Hunslet.—E. Tonge (Swinton); A. Larard (Huddersfield); C. Gibson (Keighley).	St. Helens v. Barrow.—W. McCutcheon (Oldham); H. Farmer (Runcorn); McGowan (Broughton).
Huddersfield v. Bradford.—J. C. Lumley (Leeds); H. Whiteley (Wakefield); H. Adams (Dewsbury).	Swinton v. Coventry.—G. Moore (Runcorn); E. Williams (Widnes); I. Hall (Leigh).
Hull v. Wigan.—A. Hestford (Broughton); W. Emmott (Leeds); H. G. Roebuck (Highfield).	Wakefield Trinity v. Halifax.—W. Wood (Huddersfield); F. Hardman (Hunslet); R. L. Smith (Bradford).
Keighley v. Hull Kingston Rovers.—W. K. Hirst (Dewsbury); S. Goldsmith (York); M. Carr (Hunslet).	York v. Batley.—W. W. Taylor (Huddersfield); D. Longbottom (Halifax); Mortimer (Dewsbury).
Leeds v. Bramley.—A. Smith (Halifax); D. Fitzgerald (Batley); F. T. Rowlands (Bradford).	Widnes v. Rochdale Hornets.—C. (Swinton); C. Gibson (Salford); Foulkes (St. Helens).
Leigh v. Salford.—H. Farrar (Keighley); A. Jones (Warrington); H. Heath.	

SALFORD

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The Northern Union News.

And Club Official Programme.

25.] Saturday February 4th, 1911. [One Penny.

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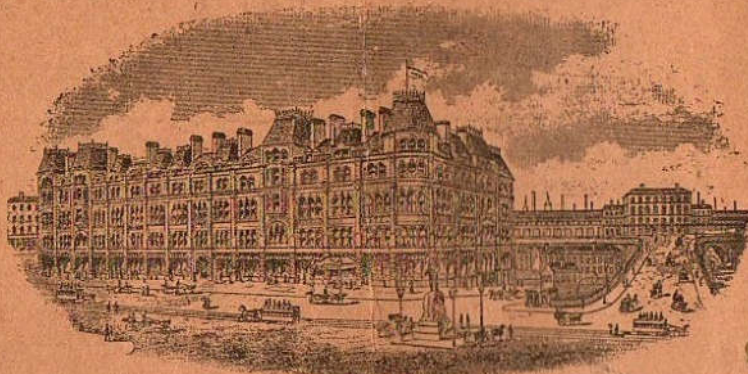
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applied the Jerseys for the Northern Union Team which Toured India and New Zealand. Nearly every maker in the country submitted samples and ours were proved the best and cheapest of the lot.

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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 25.]

Saturday, February 4th, 1911.

[One Penny.]

MEN AND MATTERS.

Supply and Demand. The concluding days of January brought many surprises in the way of transfers. Some little time ago we were bold enough to predict that team builders would find that the supply would not be equal to the demand, and that they would need to be content with players from within rather than from without.

Old Faces, New Places. But we hardly expected the transfers would prove so important. James Lomas, from Salford to Oldham; James Jolley, from Runcorn to Leigh; Andrew Hogg, from Wigaa to Barrow; W. B. Little, from Halifax to Bradford; and John Flynn, from Broughton Rangers to Swinton. There are others of course, but this quintette are stalwarts who have earned high honours at our game. And we wish them every success with their new clubs.

A Questionable Punishment. Regarding our comments in last week's "Men and Matters," respecting our methods of punishment from rowdism on football grounds, an influential weekly contemporary, advises a fine, which could be returned after the club concerned had taken out prosecutions against the offenders in the police courts. This to a certain point, supports our views, but why inflict a fine? This would be no punishment for wealthy clubs, but might mean the extinction of

those who are not blessed with large "gates." We much prefer our methods.

Another Triumph.

On another page we give the story of another failure, by those interested in the promotion of the Rugby Union game in Australia. It appears that the Sporting Federation decided that amateur swimmers could not retain their status if they played football with the Northern Union New South Wales League. This polite "throw-out" in no way discouraged the League, and the "Telegraph" tells the story. We particularly point out this tribute to the remarkable growth of our code in the Colony. "Last season the League football matches drew the crowd and the best players. This season there has been a corresponding advance of membership in the League swimming clubs."

A Business Settlement. As was generally expected, the claim for compensation made by the Bramley club, in respect to their postponed League game with Wakefield Trinity, was not allowed by the League committee. From a sentimental point of view, perhaps Bramley will command sympathy, but business ideas must ever govern claims of this description, and unless loss can be proved, there could be no legal claim for compensation, otherwise Wakefield would have been penalised for winning the Yorkshire cup.

Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

P'ts. Per-					P'ts. Per-				
P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAg's.cen	P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAg's.cen
Wakefield T.	22	19	2	1.337 130..88.63	Hull	23	10	10	3.212 208..50.00
Wigan	23	20	3	0.439 121..86.95	Salford	22	10	11	1.244 40..47.72
Oldham	23	19	3	1.324 155..84.78	Swinton	22	10	12	0.173 150..45.45
Widnes	22	13	6	3.211 107..65.90	Huddersfield	25	11	14	0.314 244..44.00
Dewsbury	22	13	9	0.233 159..59.09	Leigh	21	9	12	0.154 211..42.85
Hunslet	24	14	10	0.287 285..58.33	Broughton R.	22	9	13	0.156 243..40.90
Hull K.R.	22	11	8	3.357 233..66.81	Runcorn	23	7	13	3.163 268..36.95
Warrington	22	10	7	5.205 192..56.81	Bradford	23	8	14	1.147 253..36.95
Keighley	21	11	9	1.174 239..54.76	Ebbw Vale	22	8	15	0.158 231..34.78
Leeds	23	12	10	1.267 214..54.34	Barrow	22	7	15	0.192 311..31.81
Batley	23	12	11	0.232 162..52.17	York	20	6	14	0.159 264..30.00
Halifax	23	12	11	0.213 173..52.17	Merthyr T.	18	5	13	0.90 337..27.77
Rochdale H.	23	11	11	1.248 205..50.00	Coventry	21	5	15	1.186 339..26.19
St. Helens	24	12	12	0.289 259..50.00	Bramley	22	5	16	1.111 332..25.00

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

Scores.					P.W.L.D. ForAg't.Pts				
P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAg't.Pts	P.	W.	L.	D.	ForAg't.Pts
Wigan	15	13	2	0.287 71..26	Wakefield T.	15	13	1	1.213 74..27
Oldham	14	11	2	1.166 74..23	Halifax	17	11	6	0.171 125..22
Widnes	16	9	5	3.154 88..21	Hunslet	17	11	6	0.209 190..22
Warrington	18	9	6	3.166 156..21	Leeds	18	10	7	1.222 171..21
St. Helens	15	7	8	0.185 169..14	Dewsbury	19	10	9	0.197 147..20
Rochdale H.	14	6	7	1.160 127..13	Batley	18	9	8	1.169 105..19
Salford	14	6	7	1.119 149..13	Kingston R.	17	8	6	3.229 158..19
Swinton	16	10	6	0.139 127..12	Keighley	17	8	8	1.132 213..17
Leigh	16	10	6	0.107 173..12	Huddersfield	17	8	9	0.236 142..16
Runcorn	17	4	10	3.105 214..11	Hull	16	6	7	3.134 155..15
Broughton R.	15	5	10	0.102 195..10	Bradford	18	5	12	1.104 218..11
Barrow	15	5	10	0.97 234..10	Bramley	16	3	12	1.70 255..7
					York	17	3	14	0.122 256..6

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Scores Per-					P.W.L.D. F. A.cen				
P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A.cen	P.	W.	L.	D.	F. A.cen
Wigan	18	14	1	3.360 75..86.11	Halifax	14	12	2	0.193 64..85.71
Oldham	17	13	4	0.273 73..76.47	Wakefield	12	9	2	1.176 50..79.16
Wigan H.	19	13	5	1.227 130..71.05	Huddersfield	12	8	4	0.159 77..66.66
Pemberton	15	9	5	1.127 108..63.33	Purston W. H.	12	8	4	0.107 131..66.66
Warrington	19	11	8	0.201 120..57.89	Dewsbury	13	5	6	2.109 144..46.15
Runcorn	19	11	8	0.160 152..57.89	Leeds	12	5	7	0.99 93..41.66
Leigh Sham.	14	7	5	2.93 85..57.14	Featherst'ER.	12	3	9	0.42 182..20.83
St. Helens	16	9	7	0.125 130..56.25	Batley	12	1	9	2.52 134..16.16
Leigh	18	9	9	0.183 211..50.00	Hunslet	11	1	9	1.39 153..13.63
Broughton R.	17	6	10	1.100 90..38.23					
Swinton	16	4	9	3.104 144..34.37					
Salford	16	4	11	1.90 151..28.12					
Rochdale H.	16	4	11	1.77 174..28.12					
Widnes	18	3	12	3.75 237..25.00					
Barrow	8	1	7	0.43 136..12.50					
Millom	8	1	7	0.28 144..12.50					

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

Scores.					P.W.L.D. ForAg't.Pts				
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Wakefield T.	15	13	1	1.213 74..27	Halifax	17	11	6	0.171 125..22
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Dewsbury	19	10	9	0.197 147..20	Batley	18	9	8	1.169 105..19
Batley	18	9	8	1.169 105..19	Kingston R.	17	8	6	3.229 158..19
Kingston R.	17	8	6	3.229 158..19	Keighley	17	8	8	1.132 213..17
Keighley	17	8	8	1.132 213..17	Huddersfield	17	8	9	0.236 142..16
Huddersfield	17	8	9	0.236 142..16	Hull	16	6	7	3.134 155..15
Hull	16	6	7	3.134 155..15	Bradford	18	5	12	1.104 218..11
Bradford	18	5	12	1.104 218..11	Bramley	16	3	12	1.70 255..7
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Huddersfield	12	8	4	0.159 77..66.66	Purston W. H.	12	8	4	0.107 131..66.66
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Leeds	12	5	7	0.99 93..41.66	Featherst'ER.	12	3	9	0.42 182..20.83
Featherst'ER.	12	3	9	0.42 182..20.83	Batley	12	1	9	2.52 134..16.16
Batley	12	1	9	2.52 134..16.16	Hunslet	11	1	9	1.39 153..13.63
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LEAVES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

(By the EDITOR.)

I REGRET that the fact of our going to press on Thursday, prevents me from further comment this week on the alleged rowdyism which followed the Runcorn and Oldham match. I have little to add to my remarks of last week, and though I write under the disadvantage of knowing that by the time this is read, the committee will have adjudicated on the matter, I yet maintain that it is their duty to punish the individual and not the club.

League of Swimmers.

And now to a most pleasant topic. I have received a long communication from Sydney respecting the doings of the League during the summer season, and feel I cannot more adequately describe the success of the New South Wales League of Swimmers, than by the extract from the "Sydney Daily Telegraph." The necessity of forming the League was of course due to the fact, that the Sporting Federation decided that the Northern Union players in Australia were not to be allowed to compete in amateur events.

Praise from the Press.

The Account is headed "League Swimmers." "Unlooked for Progress." "Small idea with big results," and states:—

"The Sporting Federation recently decided that Rugby League footballers should not be allowed to race in the Amateur Swimming Association's races. Thereupon a New South Wales League of Swimmers was formed. The organisation was started last season. There were five clubs with men as members. Women were allowed to join, notwithstanding the primary object—that of allowing League footballers to swim in competition. The membership was not large.

A Tribute to the Code.

Last season the League football matches drew the crowds and the best players. This season there has been a corresponding advance of membership in the League swimming clubs.

There are this season 12 clubs. One club has a list of more than 60 members. In all there are 600 League swimmers, including George Read, an ex-world's champion; G. Dickman, who will make a professional record for 300

yds. at the League's first carnival of the season, on Monday night, at Coogee; W. M'Alister, who was in the champion amateur polo team of New South Wales last season; while the promising juniors are S. Kaufman, who recently won the 66 yds. inter-club race in 41-sec.; Fraser, a lad of 17, who has 1-sec. start from Dickman; Read and Proudfoot; and C. M. Smith, a boy of 14, who recently swam 50-yds. in 30-sec.

Lady Exponents.

The girls who have joined the League clubs include Miss Gladys Tate, the ex-Australasian champion; and Miss Alice Pearce, sister of the champion sculler of Australia. Miss Pearce is the New South Wales League Champion. There are three women's clubs, and the total membership exceeds 100. The members race for money, or trophies as they elect after winning. A prominent member is Miss Melba Hayes, who has won two races. She has not yet completed her sixth year.

The members of the Amateur Women's Swimming Clubs swim by themselves, with women as officials. The women members of the League compete at the men's carnivals.

Mixed Bathing.

The North Sydney League Club admit both men and women to membership. Three nights in the week the members indulge in mixed bathing. The women's clubs are at South Sydney, Eastern Suburbs, and Glebe. The South Sydney Club members swim at Coogee, the Eastern Suburbs Club at Rushcutter's Bay and Rose Bay, and the Glebe Club, at the Domain Municipal Baths. The women race for cash, but if they feel so disposed they can ask the club to give them a trophy of the value of the announced cash prize. So far the bulk of the prize-winners have elected to take the cash.

Beswick's Benefit.

Although the result is not yet officially announced, I am pleased to report that the recent benefit match between Salford and Swinton, for the dependents of the late "Teddy" Beswick, will result in a sum reaching nearly £150 being handed over. This is distinctly creditable to the energetic committee, which includes both Rugby Union and Northern Union officials, to the two teams interested, and to the Broughton officials, who granted free use of their ground.

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Telegrams:

Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

IVERY much regret to see that another case of referee baiting has occurred in practically the same district, as the one to which I drew attention last week. This however, arose in a junior cup tie, but still from all accounts was a serious case. The facts have of course been brought to the authorities controlling the cup ties—the Lancashire County Committee—and will be dealt with in due course. The visiting team have also lodged a complaint against the home spectators of molesting their players.

A Questionable Cartoon.

Matters of this description undoubtedly bring the game into disrepute, but it is a remarkable thing to me how certain portions of the Press pounce upon these cases arising in the Northern Union, and make a great song about them. I am not attempting to belittle the seriousness of instances of this kind. No one deplores them more than I do, and the effect on the game is considerable, but I do think too much is made of them in the Press, in comparison to what is done with other codes. Only last Saturday, in a leading contemporary, a striking cartoon appeared, in which was suggested that unless the rough play be put down, the assistance of the Home Secretary should be employed.

A Libel on the Players.

As a cartoon, perhaps it was clever, as an example of wit, with probably a silent dig at Mr. Churchill. Yet judging from the standpoint of the Northern Union, it was to say the least, decidedly unfair, and quite outside the question. It was prompted by a demonstration against the referee at Runcorn, but instead of laying the blame on the spectators, it led people to imagine that roughness in the game had got to such a pitch, that it almost resembled a fight.

Exceptions not the Rule.

That rough play does exist, and that there is more of it than there is any need, I admit. It would be useless to deny it.

But at the same time I do not think it approaches the extent to which it is made out, or warrants the great publicity it receives. The game is naturally more vigorous and robust than the majority of the codes, and as a consequence there are more opportunities for players to indulge in rough play, and also for the referee to exercise his authority. It is possible however, to play the game without it being necessary to come under the ban of the official in charge, and it ought to be played in that manner. But in every branch of sport there are certain participants who forget themselves for the time being, and have to be reprimanded. I venture to think that considering the vast number of matches and players, playing under the auspices of the Northern Union, the records will compare favourably with those of any other sport.

Publicity which Confuses.

The Northern Union, and the various affiliated Unions have always made a practice at the conclusion of their meetings, of giving to the Press the list of suspended players. The object is of course obvious, and meant to act as a deterrent to others. But I question whether it is altogether a wise policy for this reason. It is a prevailing opinion amongst the opponents of the Rugby game and those who have not seen any matches, that it is a game in which brute force is essential, and when they see a list of suspensions, it only tends to confirm their opinion.

A Small Percentage.

As an instance, let us take the case of the Lancashire County Committee, who take over all cases of reported players of the Manchester League, in which there are two divisions. This committee has no fixed meeting days, and often an interval of five or six weeks intervenes between two meetings. In the meantime, in the Manchester League there have been about 30 matches played, in which over 300 players have taken part. Out of them perhaps five or six have been reported. Now when this list is published it looks formidable, and the general public,—especially those opposed to the game—

(Continued on page 9).

February 4th, 1911.

The transfer of Jimmy Lomas must have come as a great surprise to the supporters, and we know they will look for an explanation through these columns.

We regret we cannot go so far as to place the full facts before you, but for the present perhaps the following will suffice. Never in the whole history of the club have we had such a desperate struggle to make ends meet, as during the present season.

The "gates" have gone from bad to worse, and when the bank are pressing for money, there comes a time when some portion of the "stock" must go. Therefore the directors were reluctantly compelled to part with one whom they considered would bring a good price, and by so doing, help the club out of its financial difficulties.

We ask our supporters not to take any notice of the idle talk which is going on, but to accept these facts. We have every confidence in saying, had not circumstances absolutely compelled, they would not have parted company with this world-famous player.

The best of good wishes of both directors and supporters will go with him to his new club. His deeds will live long in our memories. We raise our hats to one of the finest players who ever booted a "Rugger" ball.

D. W. Bevan, who takes the place of Barker, on the wing, hails from Llanelly. He is 22 years of age, and scales 12-stones, 1-lb. He comes with a good reputation, and made a very good show with the "A" team, last Saturday.

Lomas has taken £10 in Debentures.

The victory at Runcorn was a splendid performance.

Willie Thomas has been elected captain. We cannot pay this fine player better tribute, than by saying the leadership could not be placed in better hands.

Words for the Ugly Rumorists.

A public meeting is not advised by well-known public gentlemen, who have interested themselves in the club, and have followed the directors in their lead of £40 each, and things are getting extremely rosy. This should set a sporting example to the defaulting guarantors and supporters.

Messrs. Job Lord, Harper, Eagles, Matthews, Walmsley, Wood and others look formidable: supporters fall in and follow them.

Look you! Oldham R.F.C. have again obliged. They are helping—Who next?

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

[illegible]

For results of HOME Matches read across. For AWAY Matches read downwards. In the latter case the last number is the score of the club whose name figures at the head of the column.

Where a — appears it signifies that these clubs do not meet each other.

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To-Night—H. B. LEVY & J. E. CARDWELL

Present their New and Original Pantomime—

"HOP O' MY THUMB" And the Adventures of
PRINCE U-NO.

Book by H. B. Levy. Incidental Music by G. F. Dodds.

Next Week—The Great Star Company, Boswell's Great Stage Circus.
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Hayman and Franklin's Players in "Toplitsky."

Prices—1/-. 6d., 4d. & 2d.

SALFORD v. OLDHAM.

SALFORD TEAM.

- 1—W. LAMBERT.
- 2—J. H. COOK.
- 3—W. THOMAS.
- 4—B. MESLEY.
- 5 D. W. BEVAN.
- 7—E. C. MAY.
- 6—W. D. JOHN.
- 8—E. J. THOMAS.
- 14—G. REES.
- 12—G. THOM.
- 11—E. CURZON.
- 10—S. WARWICK.
- 13—R. RITCHIE.
- 15—E. MORTON, Reserve.

OLDHAM TEAM.

- 1—A. E. WOOD
- 2—G. W. SMITH
- 3—S. DEANE.
- 4—J. LOMAS.
- 5—W. DIXON
- 6—A. E. ANLEZARK
- 7—T. WHITE
- 8—FERGUSON (Capt.).
- 9—A. E. AVERY
- 10—A. SMITH.
- 11—T. HELM
- 12—W. B. JARDINE
- 13—WISE.

Referee—J. C. LUMLEY (Leeds).

Touch-Judges—J. WINSTANLEY and A. LEE.

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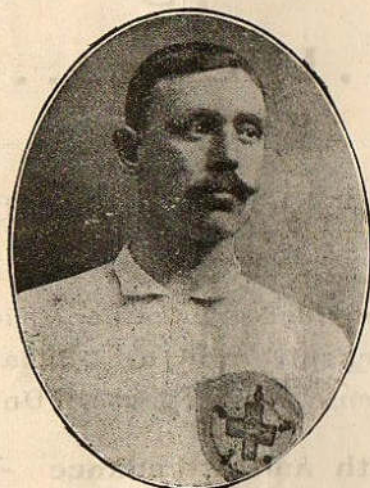
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Play and Players.

No. 8—*JOE RILEY, (Halifax).*

(By OBSERVER.)



JOE RILEY,
(Halifax).

WHEN Joe Riley is out of the Halifax team there is a strangeness about the constitution of the back division. I do not wish to infer that Riley is absolutely indispensable, but that when he is there, we see a controlling influence which is missing otherwise.

For Riley is a natural player. He is one of those individuals in football, who never seem happy unless they are making trouble for the other side. It was this adaptability to rise to the occasion, as regards the unexpected, which occasioned Riley's selection for the Australasian touring team.

I should perhaps use the compliment advisedly, for Riley had long been regarded in Halifax as a powerful back, and to the frequenters of Thrum Hall, the honour bestowed upon their favourite by the Northern Union, was only regarded in the natural order of things.

And he confirmed the impression formed at Halifax, in the Colonies, where the hard grounds, the keen struggles, and the formidable nature of the opposition were to the liking of this typical Tyke.

A Real Centre three-quarter.

I am somewhat uncertain as to my preference for Riley in defence or attack. In the former perhaps, he is seen to more advantage, but I must confess to real admiration for his long raking run when, with the ball under his arm, he is making progress towards his opponents' line.

On a former visit to Halifax this season, the home officials played Riley at half-back. I questioned then, the wisdom of this, for to me, Riley's powers are best manifested when he is on the run. Then his fine physique comes into play, for he appears to evade the would-be tackler at will, and no half-hearted attempts at checking can stay his progress.

He has a judicious eye for his wing colleague, and his passes are invariably well timed. If he is a forceful centre, he has method in his movements and Riley at his best, invariably means success for his side.

On defence he is also excellent. He knows when to tackle, and has mastered the art of effectively holding the man and the ball. And he is daring in his clearances, for he boldly plunges in, where a more orthodox centre would hesitate to take the risk. And should disaster come, he hopes for better luck next time, for above all, Joe Riley is a sportsman and does not believe in useless regrets.

Further, he is a favourite wherever he appears, and he had the distinction of leading the Northern Union team in the match at Brisbane, where England so decisively defeated Australia.

A Brief Biography.

Joe Riley joined the Northern Union with the Sowerby Bridge club in 1889. The following season he went to Halifax, and first played at half-back. Subsequently he was placed at centre three-quarter back, and made such progress that in due course he was "capped" for Yorkshire.

He captained the Halifax team, also, in 1906-7, and last season was very successful at stand-off half-back. Was born at Sowerby Bridge, 28 years ago, is 5-feet, 9½-inches, and 13-stones.

In response to many applications, we have reprinted the photographic group of the Swinton team of 1881, on special art board, 10-in by 8-in. Copies may be had on application to E. R. Swindells, 10a, Fountain street, Manchester, at one penny each; post free, 2d. each. The profits will be handed over to the Beswick Testimonial Fund.

My Ideal Team.

By H. ASHTON.

AN idea-list, in all walks of life, as well as in all branches of sport, is the very embodiment of perfection. But such is seldom, or ever achieved, as imperfections of some character invariably demonstrate themselves, according to conditions.

In my humble opinion, an ideal team is the one evolved under favourable conditions of environment, whereby the players live practically in the same atmosphere, breathing the same hopes, and the same inspirations. Frequent associations, thinking and talking football are rudiments, elementary in character, but of great utility, moulding and shaping the mind with powers of inception.

Under such surroundings the players enjoy more freedom from temptation, live cleaner and healthier lives, are always fit and in good condition. Enjoying such advantages, great possibilities are open to clubs in this fortunate position, as with prudence and tact on the part of the controlling body, much can be accomplished to build up a team on idealistic lines.

My ideals are disposed to a team who have passed through a period of vicissitudes, and having gradually eliminated all the older players, have practically to replace them with younger ones. Such a force, after a reasonable period of time to gain experience, (providing freedom from injury to players, as well as the same combination being maintained) is capable of achieving all the arts and ideals of the game. As a combination of forces they can be compared to a greyhound at the leash, always straining to make history by their success, and to individually gain fame and repute for themselves.

By judicious management, such a team eventually develops into a side with capabilities of much promise, gradually and consistently recording results that go to prove in the minds of supporters of the sport that they are "coming on," and likely to accomplish a few surprises.

Of course, youth must be the essential element to build up a team of this nature, for being a strong robust growth, making destiny, they are disposed to take

every risk in defence and attack. Enthusiasm stands itself indelibly in them, their moods and actions, and they appear to be always anxious and keen for the game, infusing energy in their movements on every hand.

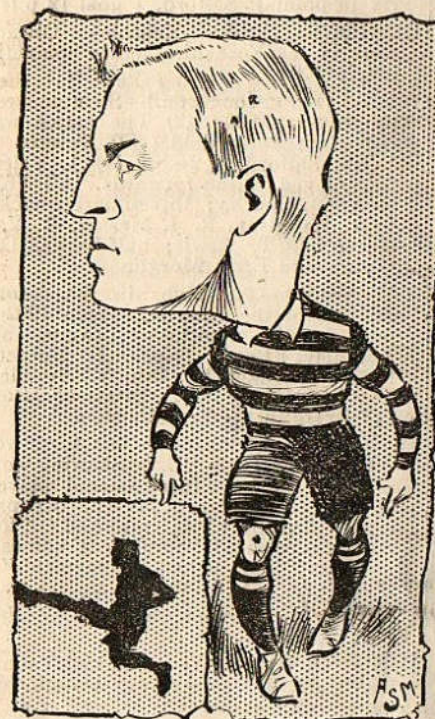
With such a team as I have described, experience must then play its part. To create confidence—a factor so very essential, as lack of adaptability is the cause of many serious mistakes. Harmony must also be maintained, a feeling of good understanding leads to many good results, as many instances arise during the progress of a game, that promotes a sequence of passing bouts of a very interesting character, so much so, that the observer breaks forth into exclamations of applause.

Energy must also characterize its efforts, as it is a striking feature, conveying the impression that they are a team of "triers," and what is more refreshing than to see such exhilarating movements, full of vigour and dash, with no degree of roughness.

Individuality is also an important factor, but it must have collectiveness to operate as with one mind.

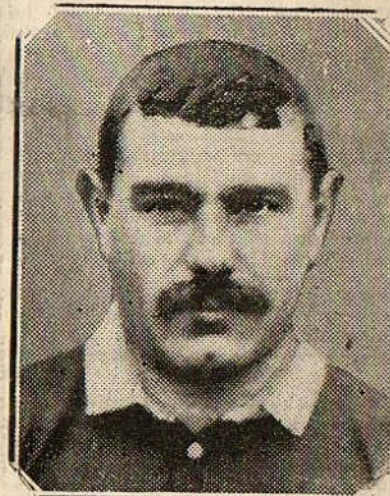
Combination must be perfect, otherwise many fine opportunities would be wasted, inasmuch backing up in readiness to take a pass, inculcates methods of retaining possession of the ball as long as possible, and whilst performing this, the opposing side are absolutely on the defence the whole time.

Accomplishments, such as have been enumerated, may not be realised in every instance, but very pleasing results can be developed if patience, energy, and intuition of the highest arts of the game are encouraged. Playing the game is a grand idea to instil into the minds of the players, and if the spectator would assist to do this, one is convinced the sport would find considerably more support in every way.



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"Manchester Evening News."

J. LOMAS,
(Oldham).



(Photo by E. Hulton & Co., Ltd.)

A. E. WOOD,
(Oldham).



Junior Jottings.

Huddersfield and District N.R. Union.

As predicted, surprises are coming early in the Qualifying Rounds of the County Intermediate Cup. On Saturday last the Reserves of the Rastrick club, though apparently invincible in League games, had to bow the knee to Marsh 'A' at Marsh. If one can judge by casualties the game must have been a keen one, as no fewer than four players are reported injured.

One wonders if Moldgreen Res., will prove to be the "dark horse" of the competition. They began well by trouncing the Flockton second "string."

At the same time the Flockton first team were going "through the mill" at Fartown—but it were better to draw a veil

At Rastrick, the defence must have been weak, for the home team scored 26 points, to Slaithwaite's 12. This result brings Rastrick within striking distance of the top of the League.

Moldgreen were vanquished at Nether-ton. Perhaps the losers are reserving themselves for the cup ties, for they have successfully negotiated more formidable hurdles, than that of Saturday last.

Birchencliffe Reserve finished their League matches in fine style, by easily beating Marsh 'B,' at home.

THE LEAGUE.

On Tuesday a meeting of the Northern Rugby League was held at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, Mr. J. B. Cooke (Wakefield Trinity) in the chair. The following matches were re-arranged:—

York v. Batley, from February 15 to April 14; Coventry v. York, from April 15 to April 17; Barrow 'A' v. Pemberton, from January 14 to March 4; Featherstone Rovers v. Halifax 'A,' from February 25 to April 1.

Batley F.C. made a claim against the defunct Merthyr F.C. for non-fulfilment of fixtures, and were allowed a sum of £47 7s. 7d.

Answers to Correspondents.

JOLLEY (Flixton).—The third round in 1904 competition. Hunslet, 1 goal, 1 try (5 points); Salford, 1 goal (2 p'ts).

CURIOUS (York).—Keighley Olicana were in the Yorkshire senior competition in 1904-5.

L.C.B. (Hr. Broughton).—Swinton won the cup in 1900. (2) The match was played at Fallowfield. (3) Swinton, 2 4-16; Salford, 1 2-8. (4) J. Valentine played in the forwards. (5) Full-back, A. Chorley; three-quarter-backs, J. R. Hampson, R. J. Messer, R. Valentine, J. T. Lewis; half-backs, Dai Davies and F. A. Morgan.

T.B. (Hull).—The clubs in the second division of the League, season 1902-3, now in the Northern League, are Keighley, Leeds, Rochdale Hornets, Barrow, Wakefield Trinity, Bramley, York and Dewsbury. Brighouse Rangers were in the first division.

DOUBTFUL (Oldham).—The form you refer to was Form "C." Showing work engaged in by a professional player. He had to declare "present occupation," "firm by whom employed," "former occupation," "employees' names," and "how long at last employment."

A.S. (Huddersfield).—The first president of the Northern Union was H. H. Waller, Esq., of Brighouse.

JUNO (Oldham).—We are making enquiries, and will answer your question in next week's issue.

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, "Northern Union News," 10a, Fountain Street, Manchester. Correspondents desiring a reply other than through this column must enclose stamped addressed envelope.

The League Committee received a letter from the referee in the match, Barrow v. Wigan, respecting the alleged rowdism. The communication was regarded as a satisfactory answer to the reports, and the committee decided that no further action be taken.

Bramley F.C. made a claim from the Wakefield Trinity F.C. for damages for loss of gate in playing their League match on December 27 instead of December 23, as originally fixed. The committee decided that the Bramley club had not suffered any financial loss through the match being postponed, and the claim was dismissed.

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M. A. P.

Ebbw Vale have not won a match in Yorkshire this season.

It is stated that Leigh offered Salford £300 for the transfer of James Lomas.

The nine tries by Wigan against Leigh were all scored by the three-quarter backs.

Three tries were scored last Saturday by Leytham (Wigan), Miller (Wigan), and Scott (Broughton Rangers.)

Andrew Hogg, who was on Tuesday transferred from Wigan to Barrow, last Saturday, scored five tries against Leigh "A."

Frank Young, the Leed's full-back, made his first appearance at Headingley, last Saturday, since his return from Australia.

Wood, of Oldham, placed seven goals last Saturday; Young (Leeds), four, and Metcalfe (Halifax), Metcalfe (Wakefield), Sharrock (Wigan), and Farrar (Hunslet), three each.

A letter has been received in Barrow announcing the death of David Brown, who last season played at Cavendish Park, and afterwards returned to his home in Australia.

D. W. Bevan, who made his first appearance in the Northern League with Salford, this afternoon, comes from Llanelly. He is 22 years of age; 5-feet, 9 inches, and 12-stone, 1-lb.

Hull Kingston Rovers have only once before this season (at Dewsbury) failed to score. Every match previously played at Craven street, brought with two exceptions, a double figure score.

The Swinton officials have decided to give the receipts in the match with Bradford, on March 18, to W. Wallwork and H. Barnett, a three-quarter back and forward who have served the club well for ten seasons.

Dai Thomas, the Dewsbury, Halifax, Hull Kingston Rovers, Salford and Dewsbury three-quarter back, secured by the latter club from Salford at £50, has now been transferred to Ebbw Vale for £20.

The death is announced of Owen Walsh, the one-time Hunslet and Yorkshire County forward. Walsh was a well-known athlete, and distinguished himself in running and boxing.

St. Helens have signed on P. Harrison, a wing three-quarter back of Kendal. He played for Cumberland against Yorkshire last Saturday.

Bradford Northern have signed on Winterburn, the well-known Keighley forward, and W. B. Little, the Halifax and Cumberland full-back. Sharatt of Bradford, goes to Keighley as part of the bargain.

NOTES AND NOTIONS.—Continued.

do not consider the length of time over which these cases have arisen, nor do they know the number of games played. They therefore, I contend, get a false impression and make much of it.

Clubs should Punish.

Whilst I do not think the number of reported players warrants the amount of publicity given to them, as I said above, there is more than there is any necessity for. And I contend, and have always contended, that a great proportion of it could be stopped if club officials would take the matter in hand more than they do. I think they have many opportunities and could in various ways do a great deal to eliminate the evil. They ought to impress on the players, the seriousness of the offence, and if any of them are sent off the field they ought, to my mind, deal with them in addition to, and apart from the punishment inflicted by the League or Union.

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