

Results and Scorers.

Saturday, April 15th.

- *HUDDERSFIELD, 7 10-45.
Tries: Rosenfeld (4), Grey (2), Davies (2), Kitchen (2).
Goals: Wrigley (2), Grey (5).
WIGAN, 4 3-17.
Tries: Ramsdale, Jenkins, Todd.
Goals: Thomas (3), Sharrock.
OLDHAM, 1 1-5.
Try: Cook. Goal: Lomas.
KINGSTON ROVERS, 1 3-11.
Tries: Brain, Spivey, Hughes.
Goal: Carmichael.
*SALFORD, 3 4-18.
Tries: Ritchie, E. Thomas, Mesley, Cook. Goals: Bevan (3).
*HUNSLET, 1 9-29.
Tries: Batten (3), Guerin (2), Farrar (2), Jukes, Jenkinson.
Goal: Guerin.
*SWINTON, 4 5-23.
Tries: Flynn, Jones, Howard (2), Gartrell. Goals: Griffiths (4).
*BATLEY, 2 1-7.
Try: Debney.
Goals: Lyons, Debney.
*HULL, 5 9-37.
Tries: Devereux (2), Rogers (2), Francis (2), Galloway, Herridge, Hughes. Goals: Rogers (5).
*BROUGHTON RANGERS, 1 1-5.
Try: Scott. Goal: Harris.
HULL K. R. 4 4-20.
Try: Jones, Garvill (2), McDonald.
Goals: Carmichael (4).
HUDDERSFIELD 6 6-30.
Tries: Wagstaff, Kitchen, Grey, Rosenfeld (2), Byrne.
Goals: Wrigley (6).
*WIDNES, 4 7-29.
Tries: Swinton (3), Johnson, Taylor (2), Aspey (G.).
Goals: Jones (4).
*KEIGHLEY, 3 3-15.
Tries: Farrer, Stacey, Narey.
Goals: Bateson (3).
*LEEDS, 3 3-15.
Tries: Haycox, Biggs, Webster.
Goals: Gillie, Haycox, Biggs.
*SWINTON, 7 7-35.
Tries: Dai Davies, Bailey, Gartrell (3), Pollitt, Valentine.
Goals: Griffiths (7).
*WIGAN, 7 8-38.
Tries: Leytham (2), Todd (2), Thomas (2), Miller, Seeling.
Goals: Thomas (4), Leytham (2), Sharrock.
*COVENTRY, 8 7-37.
Tries: Woodburn (3), O'Malley, Houghton, Tones, Piggott.
Goals: Woodburn (7), Yewlett.
- WAKEFIELD T. 2 3-13.
Tries: Fellows, Poynton, Lynch.
Goals: Slater, Burton.
*HALIFAX, 3 3-15.
Tries: Kirk, Brearley, Medley.
Goals: Metcalfe, (2), Longstaffe.
*EBBW VALE, 0 0-0.
*BRAMLEY, 1 0-2.
Goal: Turton.
ROCHDALE HORNETS, 0 0-0.
KEIGHLEY, 1 3-11.
Tries: Stacey (3).
Goal: Bateson.
St. HELENS, 0 3-9.
Tries: Hill: Greenwood, Clare.
LEIGH, 1 0-2.
Goal: Ganley.
LEEDS, 2 4-16.
Tries: Sanders, Jarman, Brooksby, Evans.
Goals: Ward, Biggs.
- Monday, April 17th.
OLDHAM, 0 0-0.
*St. HELENS, 0 1-3.
Try: Glover.
*WARRINGTON, 1 2-8.
Try: Brookes (2), Goal: Thomas.
DEWSBURY, 0 0-0.
WAKEFIELD, 2 2-10.
Try: Poynton, Kershaw.
Goals: Burton (2).
HALIFAX, 3 2-12.
Tries: Davies, Ackroyd.
Goals: Metcalf (2).
LEIGH, 0 0-0.
HULL, 0 0-0.
YORK, 3 3-15.
Tries: Cowmeadow, Lavelle, Oliver.
Goals: Oliver (3).
(Continued on page 15).

WAKEFIELD

Entered at Stationer's Hall.

The Northern Union News.

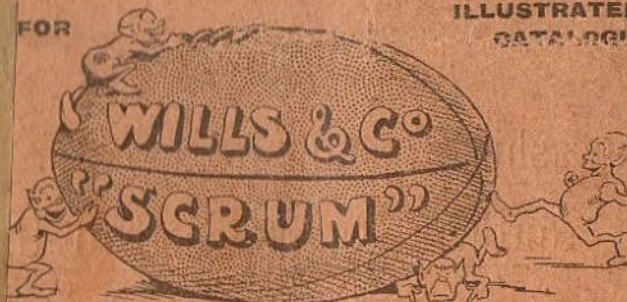
OLDHAM F. C. OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Saturday April 22nd, 1911. [One Penny.]

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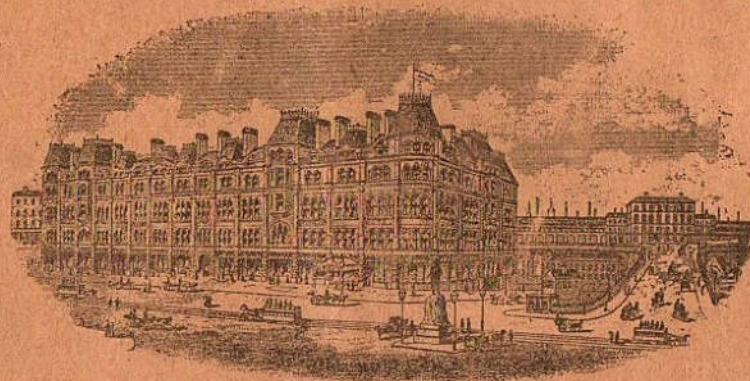
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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

No. 36.]

Saturday, April 22nd, 1911.

[One Penny]

MEN AND MATTERS.

The League Tangle. The unexpected finish in connection with the Northern League tournament came as a surprise even to the League officials, and the hurriedly called special meeting on Tuesday had to face a situation without precedent in the history of the League. But the officials could do no other but interpret the rules, in the way they did by ordering Wigan and Oldham to play a deciding game. Possibly, for next season, provision will be made for a similar situation.

The Holiday Matches. As usual, the holiday games have provided some surprising results, and all round, clubs have demonstrated superior scoring powers. Wigan have exceeded the sixth century, and Huddersfield have just passed their seventh, and it is worthy of note that six teams in the competition have scored more than a century of tries.

Huddersfield's Fine Record. Huddersfield have finished their season with a remarkable run of victories. Not since January 2 have they been beaten in a League match and during the three closing games of the season, the value of their attack has been clearly demonstrated. Forty-four points against Wakefield. Thirty against Warrington, and forty-seven against Broughton Rangers, is we should say, a record for a week-end series. They play the game at Fartown.

The Cup Final. We are pleased to learn that present indications point to both the cup finalists being represented by their strongest sides next Saturday. Both Wigan and Broughton Rangers have during the last few weeks been obliged to leave out players of ability, but fortunately all the injured men are reported as progressing favourably, and all will be fit for the important contest at Salford next Saturday.

A Great Goalkicker. "Bunker" Carmichael, the Hull Kingston Rovers' captain, has put up a record, of which Hull is deservedly proud. Albert Goldthorpe had figures of 109 goals in one season, but at St. Helens, on Monday, Carmichael made his season's record into 117. This wonderful performance will, we think, stand for some time, but we would ask readers to note that goal-kicking appears to be a popular pastime of late at Fartown.

Wigan v. Oldham. The hurriedly arranged match to decide the leadership of the League, was played at Wakefield on Wednesday, but from a playing point of view was not a success. The game was of course a League match, and according to rule, each side must be a representative one. Probably more will be heard of the matter, but the offending team, Wigan, won by 11 points to 3, and the situation looks particularly interesting.

Northern Union League.—Results up to this morning.

P'ts. Per-										P'ts. Per-									
P. W. L. D. For Ags. centge										P. W. L. D. For Ags. centge									
Wigan	35	29	5	1	659	206	84	88	Keighley	29	14	14	1	246	447	50	00		
Oldham	35	28	6	1	444	221	81	43	Salford	32	14	16	2	335	337	46	87		
Wakefield T.	33	24	8	1	493	264	74	24	Batley	31	14	16	1	272	233	46	77		
Widnes	30	19	8	3	310	137	68	33	Broughton R.	31	13	17	1	199	327	43	54		
Hull K.R.	33	21	9	3	588	294	68	18	St. Helens	33	14	18	1	375	430	45	93		
Hunslet	34	21	13	0	441	389	61	76	Leigh	31	12	10	0	214	352	38	70		
Huddersfield	36	22	14	0	702	293	61	11	Runcorn	29	9	17	3	228	328	36	20		
Hull	36	20	13	3	450	347	59	72	Barrow	30	10	19	1	261	384	35	00		
Warrington	31	15	11	5	284	303	56	45	Bradford	32	10	21	1	173	390	32	81		
Swinton	34	19	15	0	356	237	55	88	York	30	9	21	0	273	423	30	00		
Dewsbury	30	16	14	0	284	333	53	33	Merthyr T.	18	5	13	0	90	337	27	77		
Halifax	36	18	17	1	371	328	51	38	Ebbw Vale	30	9	21	0	178	297	30	00		
Rochdale H.	33	16	16	1	388	315	53	00	Coventry	31	6	24	1	280	515	20	96		
Leeds	33	15	16	2	360	365	48	48	Bramley	32	5	26	1	150	520	17	18		

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE.

Results up to date.

Scores.					P.W.L.D. For Ag't. Pts				
Wigan	22	18	3	1	413	116	37		
Oldham	22	17	4	1	261	124	35		
Widnes	22	12	7	3	200	116	27		
Warrington	22	11	8	3	183	179	25		
Swinton	22	10	12	0	228	163	20		
Salford	22	9	11	2	199	219	20		
Rochdale H.	21	9	11	1	199	207	19		
Leigh	22	9	13	0	140	246	18		
St. Helens	21	8	12	1	232	262	17		
Broughton R.	21	8	13	0	130	228	16		
Barrow	20	6	13	1	124	289	13		
Runcorn	21	4	14	3	120	273	11		

LANCASHIRE COMBINATION.

Scores Per-					P.W.L.D. F. A. centage				
Wigan	24	19	2	3	438	98	85	41	
Oldham	24	20	4	0	409	84	83	33	
Wigan H.	25	17	7	1	281	167	70	00	
Warrington	24	16	8	0	296	137	66	66	
Runcorn	24	15	9	0	205	185	62	50	
Pemberton	20	11	7	1	178	135	57	50	
St. Helens	23	11	10	2	180	193	52	17	
Leigh	25	12	12	1	236	270	50	00	
Leigh Sham.	17	7	8	2	105	150	47	05	
Swinton	22	5	13	4	117	209	33	33	
Millom	12	4	8	0	96	159	33	33	
Broughton R.	23	7	15	1	130	256	32	60	
Rochdale H.	23	6	16	1	129	259	28	26	
Salford	22	6	16	1	117	223	28	26	
Widnes	22	3	16	3	82	289	20	45	
Barrow	12	2	10	0	59	208	16	16	

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE.

Final Table.

Scores.					P.W.L.D. For Ag't. Pts				
Wakefield T.	24	16	7	1	337	205	33		
Hunslet	24	16	8	0	326	270	32		
Kingston Rovers	24	14	7	3	342	192	31		
Huddersfield	24	15	9	0	525	175	30		
Halifax	24	15	9	0	258	230	30		
Hull	24	13	9	2	307	241	28		
Leeds	24	13	9	2	299	249	28		
Dewsbury	24	12	12	0	237	282	24		
Batley	24	11	12	1	215	169	23		
Keighley	24	11	12	1	204	393	23		
Bradford	24	6	7	1	123	310	13		
York	24	5	19	0	199	349	10		
Bramley	24	3	20	1	104	411	7		

YORKSHIRE COMBINATION.

Scores Per-					P.W.L.D. F. A. centage				
Wakefield T.	16	13	2	1	245	58	84	37	
Halifax	16	13	3	0	208	74	81	25	
Purston W.H.	13	8	5	0	113	169	61	53	
Huddersfield	15	9	6	0	212	102	60	00	
Dewsbury	14	5	6	3	112	147	46	42	
Leeds	15	5	10	0	105	138	33	33	
Batley	15	4	9	2	91	185	33	33	
Feathers'c R.	16	4	11	1	81	217	28	12	
Hunslet	14	1	10	3	55	200	17	85	

MY NOTE BOOK.

(By THE EDITOR).

TUESDAY last practically brought to an end the season. We have of course, the League final and the Cup final, but after to-day these games will probably only interest three clubs. That the season has been the most eventful in the history of the Union must be admitted. We commenced with the welcome home of the victorious team, which as events proved, fairly established our code in Australia and New Zealand. Then the Earl of Derby accepted the Presidency of the Union, and we finish up with a gracious act of Royal favour from His Majesty, the King.

A General Advance.

There will be of course, isolated cases of depression and disappointing returns. The poor we shall always have with us, but I think on the whole the club reports will reveal a most striking increase in public patronage, and that at home, as abroad, real progress will be found to have been made. Clubs who are in low water need only look to Widnes, as an example of what can be accomplished if their teams will only play the game in a proper spirit.

Junior Development.

Another point which gives me pleasure is the great increase in the number of junior clubs, both in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Our club officials are at last turning their attention to the encouragement of local talent, and in this respect I think the outlook for next season is particularly bright. The code has not caught on as yet in Wales, but this temporary failure is in no sense due to the game itself. Against this we are able to report the possibilities of new ground being broken in North Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland.

Possibilities for Next Season.

And next season we are to have a visit from those players who have done so much for our code in the Colonies. The

reports which are to hand as to the probable constitution of the side, point to a brilliant combination, which should thoroughly test the best side which any Northern Union club can place in the field. The prospect of stirring struggles for next season between England and Australasia, will, we think, attract many new adherents to our game.

A Bomb for Fartown!

I have been somewhat amused by the "lessons" which many respected Association friends have drawn from the great gate of 13,000 at Huddersfield, on Tuesday, when Chelsea opposed the local Association team. At Fartown, Broughton Rangers, with a depleted side, and in a match, the result of which had not the slightest bearing on the records of either club for the League tournament, only 9,000 spectators were present. Thus the moral is plain. Even at Huddersfield, Rugby must give way to Association. Well they do not think so at Fartown, where "gates" of 13,000 are so common as to pass without comment. And evidently Huddersfield have no idea of "going under" during the summer months, else surely the committee would not have passed plans for the erection of another covered stand, the cost of which will, I think, be met out of the capital in hand.

In reply to yours.

In reply to R.H.B. (Huddersfield). The question of Merthyr Tydvil and unplayed matches was really decided when Wakefield made a similar application to that made by Hull Kingston Rovers. Clearly the League committee could not award points for a match which had never been played or make allowance for a problematical result. It is, of course, a stroke of ill luck for the Rovers that they should need to meet Merthyr, and Widnes meet Ebbw Vale. But luck is a part of the game, and these events cannot be foretold. In any case I cannot see that Widnes have been favoured at all, for their percentage is gained on matches actually played.

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THE NORTHERN UNION NEWS.

Notes and Notions.

(By A. S. M.)

Notes and Notions.

I question whether anyone, even including the League committee, had foreseen the possibility of a tie for the top place of the Northern League table. I must admit that I hadn't. But it did arise, and of course according to rule, a deciding match was necessary.

The Committee's Decision.

A good deal of controversy has arisen in both Wigan and Oldham, anent the management committee's decision that the match be played at Wakefield. On the face of it, no doubt it does appear rather strange, but personally I think they were acting in the best interests of all concerned. The match must have been of more interest to Wakefield enthusiasts, than to any other followers, outside those of the clubs concerned. Widnes and Wigan would probably have preferred the match to have been played in West Lancashire, but in face of recent events this would hardly have been a wise move, and Oldham would have had cause for complaint. To have played in Broughton or in Manchester at all, was—in view of the possibility of the final being played in that district—out of the question. If the same clubs are in the last tie it must—had the deciding match been played there—have spoiled it of practically all the interest. It was rather peculiar that although by losing at Broughton, Oldham rendered it unnecessary for them and Wigan to play off for the Lancashire League cup—yet it should necessitate a play-off for the Northern League top position.

Lancashire Combination Final

The two clubs, Oldham and Wigan, are certainly bound up in the doings of each other, for whilst the senior teams are struggling for supremacy in their League, so are the reserve teams in the Combination. As the table stands it is impossible for any other club to oust either of them from the top two positions. But it is now a question who will figure at the head, and so claim the right to have the deciding match at home. If Wigan win their remaining games this right falls to them, but should they lose, it reverts to Oldham, and this right will no doubt have a great bearing upon the result of the play off. The date fixed for this match is the date of the League final, May 6.

The Yorkshire Combination Final.

This competition is of course worked on the same lines as the Lancashire competition—on the percentage system—and the two top clubs play off for the championship. Considering the number of clubs in the competition it seems rather unnecessary that a deciding match should be played, as all the clubs play home and home matches with each other. But in future there will probably be a greater number of clubs participating. The two clubs concerned in the play-off to-day are—also like Lancashire—the same two as are at the head of the senior Yorkshire League, Wakefield and Halifax. The former having choice of ground.

The Position of Hull Kingston Rovers.

The Kingston Rovers' club appealed to the League committee for the two points in respect to their match with Merthyr, which had to be cancelled owing to the latter club's inability to complete their programme. The committee could not of course accede to their claim, but at the same time it cannot but be admitted that the cancelling of that match has been a great loss to them, and they are to be commiserated with. It is distinctly hard lines, but the League committee could not do any other. Rules are rules and must be adhered to. To be debarred from participating in the semi-finals by a few decimal points, and this through the disbanding of a club, must be a sort of disappointment to the Rovers, and had they been in the four—judging from present form, their chances would undoubtedly have been rosy. The same question also threatened Wakefield, and although it may not have caused them to drop out of the first four, yet it might have lost them the right of choice of ground for the semi-final. This they have now lost through their recent defeats.

The Exhibition Match at Kendal.

It was arranged at the last meeting of the Union committee that an exhibition match be played at Kendal to-day. But some hitch occurred in respect to the ground upon which to play the match. It has, however, been decided to play at Morecambe, and this will meet the wishes of North Lancashire people, who were debarred from having a match at Lancashire on Easter Monday, through the same difficulty of securing ground.

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"Northern League."

SCORES AT A GLANCE.

Barrow	18-0	18-5	19-2	14-2	4-11	13-3	35-3	15-10	2-8	0-7	8-18	7-8	0-22	10-3	...
Batley	24-8	16-6	13-8	13-7	5-10	10-18	5-22	9-3	23-4	0-20	5-13	12-3	8-3	7-10	3-0
Bradford	0-8	19-4	2-2	10-18	6-8	10-8	10-13	5-32	0-10	2-11	5-9	12-8	7-10	18-5	57-0
Bramley	7-2	11-5	37-2	10-11	3-6	6-8	3-0	21-7	7-3	8-9	3-10	12-3	16-14	...	...
Broughton R.	26-10	9-6	11-5	10-11	3-6	18-23	11-1	5-6	20-13	10-0	0-8	14-5	15-3	...	25-3
Coventry.	19-5	10-11	10-11	15-7	5-0	8-2	12-8	12-5	10-3	21-12	11-3	0-5	0-10	...	3-28
Dewsbury.	2-2	17-3	25-0	16-6	41-0	16-8	0-15	23-6	31-5	22-2	32-4	72-3	17-18	...	...
Ebbw Vale	3-6	10-7	20-5	2-2	17-3	21-3	4-14	9-0	20-15	60-19	70-5	20-0	0-10	...	...
Halifax	23-5	30-2	52-0	16-6	41-0	16-8	0-15	23-6	31-5	22-2	32-4	72-3	17-18	...	...
Huddersfield	7-3	13-3	25-0	16-6	41-0	16-8	0-15	23-6	31-5	22-2	32-4	72-3	17-18	...	...
Hull	16-6	8-0	26-6	27-10	20-3	0-14	5-5	23-6	31-5	22-2	32-4	72-3	17-18	...	...
Kingst'n R'vs.	19-3	22-2	25-5	16-11	8-3	14-2	12-3	17-15	25-3	11-8	29-11	18-6	11-5	...	...
Kingsley	8-5	2-13	6-5	5-3	9-5	5-2	11-2	4-11	13-7	22-5	...	...	...	...	...
Leeds	10-3	19-3	25-7	0-8	23-11	15-12	11-2	17-2	10-10	12-5	33-9	...	...	...	...
Leigh	17-2	10-5	...	14-8	...	6-13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Merthyr	5-0	10-9	5-3	4-9	...	10-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oldham	12-0	...	15-11	17-5	26-3	18-10	11-5	9-8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rochdale	13-5	...	15-11	2-0	29-8	13-0	20-0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Runcorn	19-14	...	19-5	2-16	13-21	...	3-0	5-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Salford	20-14	...	6-11	37-10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St. Helens	8-8	...	31-2	26-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Swinton	52-2	12-3	23-0	3-0	20-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wakefield	18-8	18-6	20-0	29-5	16-0	22-0	42-2	5-2	11-12	13-2	14-3	24-5	8-0	12-12	20-2
Warrington	33-3	...	14-0	11-6	15-7	29-0	19-0	16-3	15-8	21-8	38-0	...	...	...	...
Widnes	30-0	...	37-0	53-2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wigan	...	18-0	18-5	19-2	14-2	4-11	13-3	35-3	15-10	2-8	0-7	8-18	7-8	0-22	10-3
York	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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.

Players in the Semi-Final.



W. LYNCH (Wakefield Trinity).



W. DIXON (Oldham).
By kind permission of the "Oldham
Standard."

OLDHAM F. C.
Official Programme.

Northern Union League Championship

Semi-Final Tie.

OLDHAM
v.
WAKEFIELD TRINITY

At Watersheddings, Oldham.

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Oldham v. Wakefield Trinity.

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- 1—A. E. Wood.
- 2—G. W. Smith.
- 3—G. Cook.
- 4—J. Lomas.
- 5—W. Dixon (Senr).
- 6—E. A. Anlezark.
- 7—T. White.
- 8—F. W. Wise.
- 9—A. E. Avery.
- 10—A. Smith.
- 11—T. McCabe.
- 12—J. Wiltshire.
- 13—W. B. Jardine.
- 14—J. Owens.

WAKEFIELD TEAM.

- 1—Metcalf.
- 2—Simpson.
- 3—Boynnton.
- 4—Lynch.
- 5—Sidwell.
- 6—Newbold.
- 7—Slater.
- 8—J. Taylor.
- 9—G. Taylor.
- 10—J. Walton.
- 11—A. Burton.
- 12—H. Kershaw.
- 13—A. K. Crossland.

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C. Newcastle United

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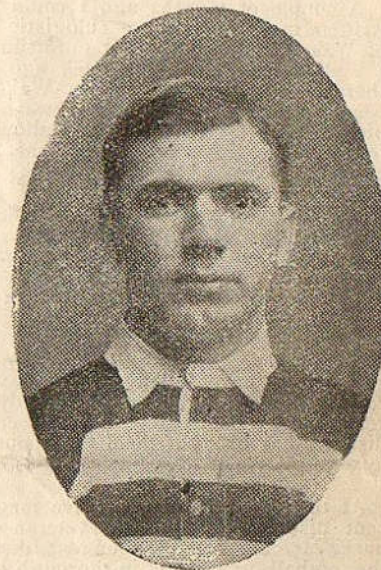
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Players in the Semi-Final.



J. THOMAS (Wigan).

By kind permission of the "Wigan Examiner."



W. G. SIMPSON (Wakefield Trinity).

STRAY THOUGHTS ON THE LEAGUE SEMI-FINALS.

(By OBSERVER)

Will Wakefield Win?

A couple of months ago I could have written in a much more eulogistic tone of Wakefield Trinity. But unfortunately I was at Huddersfield a week ago, and there I witnessed, as far as Wakefield were concerned, a particularly weak display, even after making every allowance for the enforced absence from the team of three or four stalwart backs.

Unlike Wigan or Oldham, the Trinity officials have not unlimited reserves to fall back upon. When at full strength, they are unquestionably a brilliant combination who support each other in that typical style which one associates with a purely local side.

But they have fallen on evil days in regard to injured players, and only the remarkably consistency of their earlier displays has brought them the honour of appearing in the semi-finals.

At their best, Wakefield give magnificent displays. From the veteran full-back, Metcalfe, to the youngest forward, the football provided is in thorough keeping with the reputation of the gallant team, which two years ago, so deservedly won the challenge cup.

The men adapt themselves to the prevailing conditions, or perhaps a better description would be to the moods of their opponents. If it is to be hustle and bustle, then Crossland and his colleagues are equal to all demands.

If the modern open game is to be played, then will the forwards secure possession, and Newbould and Slater, supported by those two centres of ability, Lynch and Poyton, indulge in play which kept Wakefield so well ahead for many months.

Recent results have spoilt a good record. But Wakefield need not be ashamed, for they are a good third, and but for their misfortunes, I feel confident that their finish would have been in thorough keeping with their earlier performances. As it is I cannot predict their appearance in the final tie.

Wonderful Wigan.

That Wigan have well earned the right of appearing in the League semi-finals, is apparent to the most casual observer who glances at their League record.

True they have been beaten by Huddersfield in the race for the aggregate record, but the fact must not be overlooked that the Yorkshire club play more matches.

And when we come to consider the defence, Wigan's superior figures entitles them to the first place, in what is after all a most remarkable season, even for such an accomplished side as that at Central Park.

Already two cups have gone to Wigan, for Oldham's defeat at Broughton, on Monday, made Wigan the winners of the Lancashire League. But they are more ambitious. To-day they expect to advance another stage towards the League cup, and of course next Saturday they do battle for the Northern Union Challenge cup.

Brilliant back play, efficient combination, and wonderful resource have been the features of the majority of their matches. Occasionally they have had lapses, and there have been times when the forwards were not doing their duty. But making every deduction, the plain fact remains, that of the first four clubs in the Northern League, Wigan excel their nearest rivals for the scoring of tries by 152 to 113. Even the mighty men of Oldham have finished one short of the century. Wigan have passed the half-way mark towards the second century.

The task of defending the position they have attained has been doubly difficult during the last few weeks. Players have been injured and there was indication apparently of staleness. But a wonderful defence eventually triumphed, and a finish of the League season, thoroughly in accord with the sides glorious traditions has to be recorded.

Right well have Wigan won their entry into the brief tournament which is to decide the League championship.

Stray Thoughts on the League Semi-Finals.

(Continued)

The Rise of Widnes.

Few, very few, Northern Union supporters would have ventured to predict last September that Widnes would to-day be engaged in the fight for the League championship.

Whilst other teams were announcing with the usual flourish of trumpets, the "capture" of this, or the other star, Widnes were quietly gathering together that stalwart band of local lads who have brought honour and glory to the town.

I admire the spirit which has prevailed at Widnes. True, the side has been well coached, but I give greater credit for the many magnificent displays to the enthusiasm which has prevailed amongst the team since the beginning of the season.

If the side has not scored tries with the freedom of some teams even lower placed in the competition, the defence has proved absolutely the best in the Northern League. The backs have neglected no opportunity to improve their scoring aggregate, but at the same time they have tackled surely, and looked well to the more accomplished attackers, perhaps who have been operating on the other side.

Candidly I do not expect them to progress further to-day. But they have demonstrated to all interested in the development of Northern Union football, that it is possible to bring up local players who will play the game as it should be played.

They owe much to Lally in the backs, and Aspey, in the forwards. These two veterans, have by their kindly words of advice, encouraged their younger colleagues, and I expect much from Widnes in the future. Like another team who have surprised everyone by a remarkable display of gradual improvement this season, Widnes are a young side, and will naturally improve.

They have had a particularly hard struggle to qualify, but that the painstaking efforts have been rewarded is apparent by the fact that never in the history of the club has so much interest been taken in the doings of the team, than during the present season.

This means financial gain, and all records for "takings" were beaten long ago. And I remember a few short years back the outlook was particularly gloomy. Well done, Widnes, and may other struggling teams follow your lead.

Are Oldham Stale?

Like their Yorkshire rivals, Oldham have of late paid the penalty of greatness. Every opposing side—and the description, of course, applies to the other three semi-finalists, is anxious to defeat Oldham, and this close attention, in addition to making victory doubly difficult, oftentimes results in minor injuries.

But Oldham have finished with a percentage equal to Wigan, and superior to any other team in the Northern League. And they are not strangers to this distinction, for they were the champions last season, and the fact also should not be overlooked that they are the holders of the Lancashire County cup.

And but for the slip at Broughton on Monday, they might have added to their stock of trophies. But Oldham as I said before, are now paying the penalty of their greatness.

However, few will deny their right to appear in the deciding tournament of the Northern League. They have, particularly at Watersheddings, a brilliant record of successes, and what is more to the point, these glorious victories have been attained by bright and glorious football.

Defence has been maintained not at the expense of attack, but the two essentials have been interspersed in a manner which has proved disconcerting to opponents, and delightful to supporters.

I have distinct recollection yet of these great cup triumphs against Hull Kingston Rovers and Wakefield Trinity. The Yorkshire teams were out to win, and I doubt the ability of any side in the League to have successfully stood the test in defensive play as did Oldham on those two memorable occasions.

Like their great rivals, Wigan, they have had their ups and downs, but their wonderful record this season is such that thoroughly entitles them to once again appear in the great games to-day.

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❧ M. A. P. ❧

Huddersfield have won fourteen successive League matches.

James Leytham, the Wigan captain, made a welcome re-appearance at Central Park on Monday.

Griffiths, the Swinton full-back, and Woodburn, of Coventry, each placed 7 goals on Monday.

Guerin, Hunslet's new three-quarter back, again figured in the scoring returns by running over two fine tries against Keighley.

Oldham's defeat at Wheater's field on Monday, gave Wigan the Lancashire League cup and medals.

Rosenfeld, Huddersfield's Colonial wing three-quarter back, has had a good week-end with four tries against Wakefield, two against Warrington, and three against Broughton Rangers.

James Sharrock, as a goal-kicker, again demonstrated his worth at Thrum Hall. His magnificent place won the game for Wigan, as a similar kick did the cup-tie against Batley the week before.

Swinton shewed remarkable scoring powers in their two last home games, but they finished badly at Leeds, where the home club made the highest score against them of the season.

By scoring two tries against Leeds, Francis, of Hull, made his aggregate 27 for the season, and a record for the Boulevard club. A few more at Central Park on Monday, would have been appreciated by the Hull supporters.

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NEXT SEASON.

To-day the "Northern Union News" will have fulfilled its mission for the present season. Our contracts with advertisers were for 36 issues, and as a club programme, pure and simple, we cease to exist with the publication of this number.

Next season, we shall, all being well, come in another guise. We shall endeavour to even more effectively support our title. We are to blossom forth with 32 pages instead of 16, and we feel sure that our enterprise will receive its due reward.

Already the response from advertisers justifies us making this bold announcement. We confess to being ambitious. The Northern Union game has obtained a real grip on the football public of Lancashire and Yorkshire, and it is our aim to supply week by week, good exclusive and reliable news of Northern Union doings.

With this object in view, we are making arrangements which will enable us to publish, from half a dozen centres, chatty district gossip of play and players.

We shall also give a stirring football story. Another new feature will be special pages devoted to Lancashire and Yorkshire official topics. We are also considering the question of illustrations, and we expect to secure the services of a competent artist who will fill a special page with typical sketches of play and players. We have other ideas, and in short, everything of football that is interesting we hope to include in the "Northern Union News," for the salient features of this season will be retained.

We thank all our readers for their kind patronage, in this, our first season. We are gratified with the results of our venture, and as next season our Colonial cousins will be with us, we confidently predict even more support to our game. This is the reason for the expansion of the "Northern Union News," and we have no fear but that our ambition will be realised.

THE CUP.

PROGRESS OF THE CLUBS.

First Round.	Second Round.	Third Round.	Semi-Finals	Final.
Runcorn 23 *Broughton M 6	*Runcorn ... 3			
*Batley 7 Ebbw Vale .. 2	Batley 9	Batley 18		
Salford 5 *Keighley 0	Salford ... 6	Batley... 2		
Barrow 7 Hull 0	*Barrow 5	*Salford ... 3		
*Leeds 8 Leigh 3	Leeds 11		Wigan.....	
*St. Helens 26 Bramley 7	*St. Helens.. 6	*Leeds 4		
*Wigan 18 Huddersf'd 13	*Wigan 21	Wigan.... 1		
Warrington. 18 *Coventry 10	Warrington 2	Wigan 13		
Oldham 9 *Hull K.R. .. 7	*Oldham 11			
*Wakefield ... 15 Swinton 0	Wakefield . 3	*Oldham ... 8 †Oldham... 3		
*Rochdale 11 Hunslet 5	*Rochdale .. 8	Rochdale. 9		
*Widnes 23 LaneEndU. 0	Widnes 0	Rochdale . 8 †Rochdale... 4		
Bradford 12 *Pemberton . 4	Bradford .. 7		Broughton Rangers.	
*Halifax 63 York 0	*Halifax ... 5	Bradford . 0		
Br'ghton R 10 *Normanton 6	*Br'ghton R 9	B'ghton. 12		
*Dewsbury ... 47 York G.U. ... 0	Dewsbury. 0	*B'ghton R 10		

*Home club.

†Re-play.

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HULL.**Imperial Hotel, (Near the Station),**

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Results and Scorers.—(Continued).**Monday, April 17th.**

*ROCHDALE HORNETS, 5 3—19.

Tries: Turner, Robinson (2).

Goals: Paddon (5).

HUNSLET, 3 3—15.

Tries: Smith, Farrar, Johnson.

Goals: Farrar.

Tuesday, April 18th.

*EBBW VALE, 1 4—14.

Tries: Davies, Hitchings, Shepherd,

Llewellyn. Goal: Davies.

*HUDDERSFIELD, 7 11—47.

Tries: Rosenfeld (3), Kitchen (2),

Bartholomew (3), Gronow, Watts,

Clark.

Goals: Wrigley, Grey (4), Gronow (2).

*LEEDS, 5 8—34.

Tries: Ward, Wagstaffe, Biggs (2),

Gillie (2), Brooksby, Saunders.

Goals: Biggs (4), Gillie.

*HALIFAX, 2 2—10.

Tries: Symons, Davies.

Goals: Metcalfe (2).

YORK, 0 2—6.

Tries: Mills, Cowmeadow.

BROUGHTON RANGERS, 1 0—2.

Goal: Harris.

SWINTON, 3 1—9.

Try: Bamford.

Goals: Griffiths (3).

BRADFORD, 2 1—7.

Try: Bairstow.

Goal: Bairstow.