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Lancashire County Challenge Cup—Final Tie.

SWINTON v. WIGAN

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1927.

Kick-off 2-45.

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY CHALLENGE CUP—FINAL TIE.

SWINTON v. WIGAN

AT WATERSHEDDINGS OLDHAM.

Saturday, November 19th, 1927. Kick-off 2.45 p.m.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The County Cup Final Tie.

After an interval of twelve years, we in Oldham, are once more honoured by being allowed to "house" a final tie of first-class importance. Not since April, 1915, when Huddersfield trounced St. Helens to the extent of 37 points to three in the final tie for the Rugby League Challenge Cup, have we had a first-class final at Watersheddings. And even after that long interval there have been any amount of "grousters" at the action of the County Committee allocating to us the game. However, we feel confident that we shall be able to provide an excellent playing pitch for the two contesting teams, and, so far as the spectators are concerned, we can shelter more than any other club in Lancashire; whilst as regards the holding capacity of the ground we feel sure that we can accommodate quite as large a crowd as any that has so far witnessed a County Cup final, and what is more, all who get

on the ground will be able to witness the play. We trust that when the game is over, our would-be detractors will have found that there was little, if any, cause for their anxiety on account of Watersheddings being the venue.

The Two Finalists.

Two very popular teams are to-day contesting for the handsome Cup and the accompanying medals. Swinton and Wigan are two names to conjure with. They immediately bring up visions of many famous victories achieved by both teams. In Cup-tie warfare, Wigan have perhaps been the most successful; but in recent seasons Swinton have deservedly come to the front, and have established themselves very firmly in the public favour by the consistent manner in which they expounded the open game. Seeing that Wigan are also adepts at this class of play, we should to-day see a really brilliant game.

How They Reached the Final.

Both Swinton and Wigan have had fairly difficult obstacles to overcome in reaching this

Continued on page 5

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year's final. In the first round Swinton had to make the journey to St. Helens, and it was a fine performance to win there. Then they had to face Oldham at Chorley Road, and though we (Oldham) twice had the lead, in the end we were fairly beaten by a better team. Salford had next to tackle Swinton, and again the game was at Chorley Road. Salford set themselves out to play the game of defence, and ignore attack so far as they themselves were concerned; but in the end the attack of Swinton prevailed and they deservedly won. Wigan entertained Leigh in the first round at Central Park. Just previous to this game Sullivan and his men had not been showing very convincing form, and a victory for Leigh would have surprised no one outside Wigan. On this occasion, however, the Central Park team rose to the occasion and earned the right to meet St. Helens Rees in the second round, and again they came out of their shell and qualified to meet Warrington in the semi-final. The luck of the draw was again Wigan's, and Warrington failed to stay the colliers from entering the final. And now, to-day, Wigan have a chance of making football history.

Previous Winners.

The Lancashire County Challenge Cup was instituted in season 1905-6, and has been contested for annually since then with the exception of the break

from 1914-15 to 1918-19. Of the two contestants in to-day's final, we find that Wigan has by far the best Cup record. They were the first winners of the trophy, and in all they have been successful five times. Oldham have a similar number of victories to their credit, whilst Rochdale Hornets come next with three successes. We give below a complete

List of Winners.

Wigan	1905-6
Broughton Rangers	1906-7
Oldham	1907-8
Wigan	1908-9
Wigan	1909-10
Oldham	1910-11
Rochdale Hornets	1911-12
Wigan	1912-13
Oldham	1913-14
Rochdale Hornets	1914-15
Rochdale Hornets	1918-19
Oldham	1919-20
Broughton Rangers	1920-21
Warrington	1921-22
Wigan	1922-23
St. Helens Rees	1923-24
Oldham	1924-25
Swinton	1925-26
St. Helens	1926-27

It will thus be seen from the above list that Wigan have a chance of gaining their sixth victory and thus getting one ahead of Oldham. On the other hand, Swinton have a chance of equalling another Manchester club by registering, like Broughton Rangers, their second victory. Curious to relate, Swinton's solitary success was against their opponents of to-day.

(Continued on page 7)

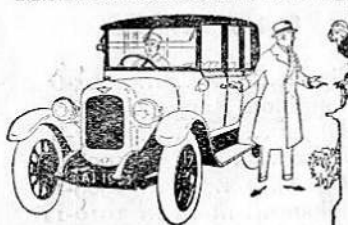
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Personalities in To-day's Game.

We shall have some interesting personalities on view in to-day's game. The Wigan club has long been noted for their enterprise in searching for talent, and have succeeded in recruiting from nearly every part of the globe where Rugby football is played. To-day they are probably the most cosmopolitan team that ever graced a football ground, including, as it does, players from New Zealand, South Africa, England, Scotland and Wales. The average follower of the game, however, cares not where a player comes from so long as he sees good football, and for a good many seasons the Wigan club has obliged in that respect. In their full back, **Jim Sullivan**, they have a custodian, who, although comparatively a youth, has already secured every honour possible in Rugby League football, including a place in the last touring team in Australasia. He is probably the most versatile and brilliant full back playing the game to-day. We shall probably have a peep at the three New Zealanders whom the Central Park organisation secured during the close season, immediately the ban was removed. These are **B. Davidson**, the centre threequarter back from Auckland, New Zealand, the town which supplied Oldham with the famous **G. W. Smith**. Davidson was generally looked upon as the leading player in that ill-fated tour of the New Zealanders last season. **L.**

Brown, wing threequarter, also of Auckland, and **L. Mason**, forward, of Christchurch, were also members of the last touring team. Then they have **R. M. Kinnear**, the Scotch International threequarter back; **Johnny Ring**, a well-known performer at Watersheddings; **W. J. Booyesen**, half back, of Paarl, South Africa; **G. W. Van Rooyen**, a famous forward from Stynberg, South Africa; and also another Colonial threequarter back in the person of **W. F. Oliver**, from Johannesburg. Apparently the Wigan club have a wealth of talent to select from, but whether they can place on the field thirteen players who can cope successfully with Swinton is quite another matter. Wigan had a bit of a shock at Broughton last Saturday, where the Rangers succeeded in beating them. Have they recovered from that shock?

Some Swinton "Lions."

On paper, Swinton may not appear so rich in talent as their opponents; but nevertheless they have a very capable and brilliant list of players to choose from. There may, perhaps, not be so many "stars," but at the same time Swinton can place a team on the field capable of showing all that is best in our game. During the past few seasons they have played delightful football, win or lose, and have very rightly earned for themselves a great affection in the hearts of

continued on page 11.

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TEAMS.

SWINTON

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|-------|
| | 5 | G. T. |
| 1. Pearson, J. | | |
| 2. Evans, F. | | |
| 3. Halsall, H. (Capt.) | | |
| 4. Evans, J. | | |
| 5. Brockbank, C. | | |
| 6. Evans, B. | | |
| 7. Rees, W. | | |
| 8. Strong, M. F. | | |
| 9. Blewer, H. | | |
| 10. Morris, H. E. | | |
| 11. Hodgson, M. | | |
| 12. Cracknell, R. H. | | |
| 13. Beswick, F. | | |
| Sulway, W. | | |

WIGAN

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|
| | 2 | G. T. |
| 1. Sullivan, J. | | |
| 2. Ring, J. | | |
| 3. Kinnear, R. M. | | |
| 4. Davidson, B. | | |
| 5. Brown, L. | | |
| 6. Binks, A. | | |
| 7. Booyesen, D. J. | | |
| 8. Bennett, J. | | |
| 9. Beetham, T. | | |
| 10. Stephens, F. | | |
| 11. Van Rooyen, G. W. | | |
| 12. Mason, L. | | |
| 13. Sherrington, J. | | |
| Abrams, S. | | |

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thousands of followers of the game. The **Evans** figure very largely in the recent successful history of the Swinton club. The two brothers, **Bryn Evans**, half back, and **Jack Evans**, centre threequarter, are justly looked upon as the brains of the team. These two players are the sons of Jack Evans of Llanelly, a famous player who represented the Principality against Scotland and Ireland in 1896, and against England in 1897, prior to joining Swinton. Then there is another **Evans**—**Frank** of that ilk. He hails from Llanelly, and is looked upon as one of the most dangerous wing threequarters at present in the game. Frank has obtained all

the honours possible, and was one of the successes of the last Australasian tour. In **Brockbank** Swinton possess a glorious raider, and Wigan will have to be very careful as to what scope they give him. Of the Swinton forwards, who are a very capable set, **Hodgson**, the youthful Cumbrian, appears to be developing into a really first-class artiste.

Who'll Win?

It is generally admitted that we ought to see a really first-class game between the two contesting clubs this afternoon. Naturally, each section of fol-

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lowers will have a "fancy"—a strong "fancy"—for their own team. Locally, we may say that opinions as to the respective merits of the two teams has been pretty equally divided, and where you may have met six persons who fancy the chances of Wigan, you could easily run up against another half a dozen who tell you that Swinton cannot lose. We only hope that fine weather may favour the encounter, and that the best team may win.

Coming Events.

Next Saturday the St. Helens team are due at Watersheddings and an interesting game may be looked forward to. The Saints are doing very well this season and next to Swinton, occupy the highest place of any Lancashire club in the League. The week following we are due at Wakefield to meet the Trinitarians, and then the following Saturday, December 10th, we shall be entertaining **Swinton** on our ground. That is a fixture which is being eagerly anticipated, and all being well there will be a busy afternoon at Watersheddings that day.

Next Saturday, at Watersheddings

Saturday, November 26th, 1927.

St. Helens v. Oldham

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B	BATLEY	E	LEEDS
	v. HUNSLET		v. HUDDERSFIELD
C	OLDHAM ATHLETIC	F	SALFORD
	v. WOLVERHAMPTON		v. LEIGH

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