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1954



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SEASON 1954-55

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WIGAN v. OLDHAM

(NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

SATURDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1954.

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OFFICIAL NOTES...

Judging by performances Oldham must be reckoned the outstanding team of the season to date, and today's match should be one of the most attractive matches of the term at Central Park. The Watersheddings team have at the moment only lost one League match, and that surprisingly enough at Salford. As they have already played half their away matches this is a remarkable achievement, particularly as their victories away from home include Wakefield, St. Helens, Barrow, Rochdale and Widnes. Although the team consists mainly of players who have been on the books some years, these players have this time settled into a powerful and swift moving formation. With hooker Keith getting plenty of possession the backs are playing fast, attractive football, and the threequarter line of Cracknell, Barrow, Davies and O'Grady must be one of the finest striking forces in the game. At scrum-half young Pitchford has improved tremendously and was in the Lancashire shadow team earlier in the season.

The pack is also showing improved form with Winslade and Goldswain constructive players. However, they are missing Tomlinson at the moment who is under suspension.

We rightly expect one of the finest matches of the season, and despite Oldham's fine performances if we keep up the form shown at Barrow we should stay in winning vein. Oldham's League performances to date are as follows:—

Home: Won 6, Drawn 0, Lost 0. Away: Won 8, Drawn 0, Lost 1.
Points For: 303. Points Against 141. Position in Table: 1st.

THE BARROW MATCH

There is little doubt that our team surprised many followers of the game (not a few in Wigan) by their superb win last Saturday. Every man played well, and we

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were fully worthy of the two points. In possession we always looked more dangerous and more of a striking force than Barrow, and our backs were much the cleverer and handled better than their opposites. In addition our pack proved better than the much praised Barrow six, and helped pave the way for a fine win. It was a most thrilling game with the lead changing hands four times and there was some grand open football, despite the sticky nature of the ground. It is interesting to note that only 5,600 watched the Barrow v. Darlington F.A. Cup-tie, whereas nearly 11,000 watched our game at Craven Park. This is surely proof of the great interest in Rugby League in the Barrow area. It was our fifth away win of the season and so we hold our place in the First Four, only two points behind Oldham, the leaders.

OUR NEW SIGNING

We wish to welcome to Central Park our latest acquisition, Michael McGillicuddy, an outside-half or centre signed from Widnes last Tuesday. He has had some outstanding games for Widnes this season, and was placed on the transfer list at his own request on Monday evening. We knew that several Lancashire clubs were interested and so a deputation went over to Widnes and the player was signed less than eighteen hours after being put on the list. He is 5ft. 10in., 11st. 11lbs. and 23 years old. Everyone will join in wishing "Mike" the best of luck in the Wigan colours.

THE "A" TEAM

Our "A" team received a setback after their recent good form when Barrow won at Central Park last Saturday. Barrow "A" have only lost one match this season, and gave another dour display to win with a penalty goal in the last few minutes. The centre of the field was in bad condition and offside tactics somewhat spoiled the game as a spectacle. Highton kicked two penalties for Wigan.

AFTER THE MATCH—

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

The sheeting on the Spion Kop cover will be completed for today's match and we now have covered accommodation for approximately 16,000.

Considering the atrocious day and the effects of the televising of the World Cup Final, the attendance of 15,954 at the Leigh match was satisfactory. Receipts were £1,482. Our average attendance and receipts for the eight home League games played to date are 13,281 and £1,092.

Our five ever-presents this season are Ronnie Mather, Brian Nordgren, Tommy Parr, Don Platt and Harry Street.

The following is an interesting quote from the official Barrow programme last Saturday: "Judging by honours records, Wigan are, without doubt, the most successful club in the R.L. and all clubs count their visit as the chief attraction in their league programme."

We have already won on four grounds where we lost last season, namely Hunslet, Keighley, Whitehaven and Barrow.

WORLD CUP

We should like to offer sincere congratulations to our World Cup team on their magnificent performances in France. They have brought great prestige to our game by their wonderful sporting play, and never before has Rugby League had such publicity, particularly from the National Press.

The R.L. are issuing a Souvenir Brochure of 24 pages, art paper, to commemorate this competition. It contains reports by well-known journalists of all the matches, photographs of the players and action photographs. Copies may be had from the Secretary, Rugby Football League, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, 7. Price 2/- (plus. 3d. postage).

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WIGAN
(Blue)

Full Back:

1—PLATT

Threequarters:

2—BOSTON
3—BROOME
4—ASHCROFT (Capt.)
5—NORDGREN

Half Backs:

6—FLEMING
7—PARR

Forwards:

8—ARMSTRONG
9—MATHER
10—HAYWARD
11—McTIGUE
12—GRIFFIN
13—STREET

OLDHAM
(Red and White)

Full Back:

1—~~GANLEY~~ STIRRUP

Threequarters:

2—CRACKNELL
3—MITCHELL/BARROW
4—DAVIES (Capt.)
5—O'GRADY

Half Backs:

6—~~STIRRUP~~ DALEY
7—PITCHFORD

Forwards:

8—OGDEN
9—KEITH
10—JACKSON
11—WINSLADE
12—LITTLE/LOMAS
13—GOLDSWAIN

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NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(up to and including 20th November, 1954)

	P.	Home			Away			Points		Pts.
		W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	
Oldham	15	6	0	0	8	0	1	303	141	28
Warrington	16	8	0	0	5	1	2	365	172	27
St. Helens	16	6	0	1	7	0	2	326	151	26
Wigan	16	8	0	0	5	0	3	327	152	26
Leigh	15	8	0	0	4	1	2	384	145	25
Huddersfield	16	7	0	1	4	0	4	369	236	22
Bradford N.	16	5	1	2	5	0	3	220	176	21
Workington	15	7	0	1	3	0	4	205	170	20
Halifax	14	7	0	1	2	1	3	222	120	19
Leeds	14	5	0	2	4	0	3	250	160	18
Rochdale	13	5	2	2	2	0	2	173	108	16
Barrow	14	5	0	2	3	0	4	213	153	16
York	14	4	0	1	4	0	5	177	155	16
Wakefield	15	6	0	2	2	0	5	269	231	16
Featherstone	16	6	0	1	2	0	7	222	196	16
Hunslet	16	6	0	2	3	0	6	213	235	16
Keighley	16	5	0	3	3	0	5	222	256	16
Castleford	14	4	0	3	3	0	4	231	187	14
Salford	14	5	0	2	1	1	5	157	157	13
Hull	15	4	0	4	1	2	4	178	213	12
Whitehaven	15	4	1	3	1	0	6	128	233	11
Liverpool	14	4	0	4	1	0	5	202	270	10
Hull K.R.	15	4	0	4	1	0	6	182	346	10
Swinton	15	3	0	5	1	0	6	179	236	8
Widnes	13	3	0	4	1	0	5	128	209	8
Belle Vue	14	0	0	6	4	0	4	104	265	8
Bramley	13	2	1	4	1	0	5	131	239	7
Batley	15	1	0	6	2	0	6	102	228	6
Doncaster	16	2	1	4	0	0	9	151	309	5
Dewsbury	14	2	0	5	0	0	7	133	294	4
Blackpool B.	16	0	0	8	0	0	8	138	461	0

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WIGAN PLAYERS' RECORDS Season 1954-55

FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including 20th November, 1954)

	Appearances	Tries		Appearances	Tries
Armstrong, A.	14	—	Grundy, T.	1	—
Ashcroft, E. J.	11	6	Hayward, D. J.	2	—
Bolton, D.	9	5	Horrocks, T.	5	—
Boston, W. J.	11	10	Hurst, R.	1	—
Brindle, D.	6	1	Lambert, R.	1	—
Broome, J.	16	4	Mather, R.	18	3
Cherrington, N.	6	4	McTigue, B.	17	3
Clubb, P.	4	1	Nordgren, B. C.	18	23
Collier, F.	2	—	Parr, T.	18	8
Cunliffe, J.	4	1	Platt, D.	18	2
Featherstone, J. J.	13	1	Silcock, N. D.	6	1
Fleming, J.	4	2	Street, H.	18	1
Gee, K.	2	—	Williams, T. R. R.	1	—
Griffin, F.	8	—			

Total number of Tries: 77.

GOALS SCORED

Nordgren, B. C. 60

Total number of Goals: 60.

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Halifax v. Wigan

SATURDAY, 4th DECEMBER

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WIGAN WALLGATE ... dep. 11-25 a.m.

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*

FIRST TEAM

"A" TEAM

1954							
Aug. 7		Warrington (Ward Cup) A	14-27	Warrington (Charity) ...H	24-10		
14	.....	Hunslet	A 10- 9	Warrington	H 17-17		
21	.....	Hunslet	H 16- 6	Leigh (Lancs. Shield) ...A	12-13		
25 (W.)	.....	Bradford Northern	A 0-11				
28	.....	Liverpool City	A 26-16	Liverpool City	H 37-12		
Sept. 1	.....			Leigh (Lancs. Shield) ...H	15-17		
4	.....	Keighley	H 44- 2	St. Helens	A 7-31		
6 (M.)	.....	Rochdale Hornets	H 12- 9				
11	.....	Leigh (Lancs. Cup)	A 10-21	Warrington (Friendly) ...A	13-21		
18	.....	Keighley	A 24- 7	St. Helens (Friendly) ...A	5-28		
25	.....	Bradford Northern	H 20-11				
Oct. 2	.....	Workington Town	A 20-28	Workington Town	H 40-19		
9	.....	Widnes	H 35- 5	Widnes	A 15-21		
16	.....	Whitehaven	A 18-12	Whitehaven	H 13-14		
23	.....	Blackpool Borough	H 39- 2	Blackpool Borough	A 25- 9		
30	.....	Leigh	A 7- 8	Leigh	H 39- 0		
Nov. 6	.....	Whitehaven	H 28- 5	Whitehaven	A 9- 8		
13	.....	Leigh	H 8- 6	Leigh	A 7- 2		
20	.....	Barrow	A 20-15	Barrow	H 4- 5		
Dec. 27	.....	Oldham	H	Oldham	A		
4	.....	Halifax	A	St. Helens	H		
11	.....	Halifax	H				
18	.....	Liverpool City	H	Liverpool City	A		
25	.....	Salford	H	Salford	A		
27 (M.)	.....	St. Helens	A	Rochdale Hornets	A		
1955							
Jan. 1	.....	Warrington	H	Warrington	A		
8	.....	Belle Vue Rangers	A				
15	.....	Swinton	A	Swinton	H		
22	.....	Belle Vue Rangers	H				
29	.....	Widnes	A	Widnes	H		
Feb. 5	.....	Workington Town	H	Workington Town	A		
12	.....	R.L. Cup (1st Round)					
19	.....	Leeds (Friendly)	H				
26	.....	Rochdale Hornets	A	Rochdale Hornets	H		
Mar. 5	.....	R.L. Cup (2nd Round)		Salford	H		
12	.....	Barrow	H	Barrow	A		
14	.....			Leigh (Friendly)	A		
19	.....	Warrington	A	Warrington (Friendly) ...H			
26	.....	Swinton	H	Swinton	A		
Apr. 2	.....	Oldham	A	Oldham	H		
8 (G.F.)	.....	St. Helens	H				
9	.....			Leigh (Friendly)	H		
11 (E.M.)	.....	Salford	A				
16	.....	Blackpool	A	Blackpool	H		
23	.....						
30	.....	R.L. Cup Final					