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Vol. 10 No. 14.

SATURDAY, 22nd JANUARY, 1955.



-JOHN- -PEEL-

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- 7 ROPER
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- 9 LYMER
- 10 KEY
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NOTES

With the exception of Huddersfield no club in the Rugby League is more closely linked with Cumberland than our visitors to-day, Oldham.

Tom Fletcher and Oldham were synonymous and the same might also be said in the case of Joe Ferguson. "Old Tom" and "Fergy" as they were affectionately known brought honour to Cumberland and gave excellent service to the Water-sheddings side for many, many years.

Indeed Joe played 25 full seasons for Oldham.

Tom Fletcher was also a very popular figure on Rugby Union grounds in the North of England and well do I remember and still appreciate the excellent advice he gave me as my foot approached the rickety ladder of fame. He was a good judge of a footballer as Leeds had reason to remember, appreciate aye and regret, for they, apart from making several useful signings on Tom's advice missed many more by ignoring it.

Yes, they might have had Albert Brough, Bob Taylor, Duggie Clark, Martin Hodgson, Fred Ashworth and the best Rugby Union scrum-half I ever saw—"Bumley" Little.

And of course one cannot mention Oldham without some reference to genial Jimmy Parkinson, a popular figure on every Rugby League ground, Joe Coulthard, Jack Lewthwaite, son of Joe Lewthwaite of Hunslet, who could never make up his mind whether to rejoice because Cumberland had beaten Yorkshire or feel sorry for the "Tykes."

And lastly, Fred "Basher" Ashworth who joined the Committee last season and like his fellow Cumbrians is doing a grand job with a good deal less vigour than when he took the playing area. But what of Oldham to-day. They've certainly been in the news of late with their amazing run of successes accumulating bonuses, and the inevitable crash which we had hoped would have been saved for

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to-day. Griff Jenkins' boys are certainly a good solid side from Leeds-born hooker Keith to full-back Ganley. In Frank Pitchford, a this season's recruit to the senior ranks they have a scrum-half of rare promise and well in the line for an England cap in the near future. But, he'll have nothing on our "Sol", a very much improved player during the past month; certainly the biggest bundle of energy in the Rugby League and second to none as a defender, and that is just where his partner Ken Faulder scores, too, no outhalf has had the better of him yet.

The duel at centre should be most interesting. I have always admired the play of Alan Davies who, like "Eppie" Gibson, was I thought unlucky to miss the trip to Australia. But I cannot see the visitors' skipper getting his own way against Tony Paskins now back to something like his best form. Nor will Young Barrow, a this season's discovery, find "Eppie" as easy to push around as so many centres he has opposed to date.

Oldham have switched their wingers and the clash between Dick Cracknell and Ike Southward bristles with interest. Ike has improved by leaps and bounds during the past weeks as many a full-back will testify and few wingers can match him as a defender.

Bill Ivill has the job of looking after Terry O'Grady. The Oldham man may have a slight advantage in pace, but Ivill will nip any threat in the bud with his devastating crash tackle once a feature of the play of the Battens who also learned their football at Fitzwilliam.

Finally, there's Lancashire County full-back, Bernard Ganley, and it will be interesting to see how much improved Joe Vickers fares against him. Joe is, of course, by far steadier under pressure and if the Oldham man has anything on him it is only as a goalkicker.

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WORKINGTON TOWN FIXTURES

(NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

POINTS.			POINTS.		
F. A.			F. A.		
1954.					
Aug. 14—Featherstone	A	29 23	Dec. 11—St. Helens	A	2 16
" 16—Leigh	H	18 6	" 18—Swinton	A	21 10
" 21—Featherstone	H	17 3	" 25—Barrow	A	3 5
" 23—Whitehaven	A	2 7	" 27—Liverpool	H	14 2
" 28—Hull	A	4 31	1955.		
Sept. 4—Warrington	H	18 29	Jan. 1—Widnes	H	15 2
" 6—Whitehaven	H	15 4	" 8—Salford	A	36 0
" 11—Swinton	H	27 0	" 15—Leigh	A	Post.
" 18—Hull	H	19 0	" 22—Oldham	H	
Oct. 2—Wigan	H	28 20	" 29—Swinton	H	
" 9—Oldham	A	13 23	Feb. 5—Wigan	A	
" 16—Widnes	A	5 10	" 19—Liverpool	A	
" 23—Salford	H	7 0	" 26—Warrington	A	
" 30—Rochdale	A	5 0	Mar. 19—Huddersfield	H	
Nov. 6—St. Helens	H	15 11	Apl. 2—Belle V.R.	H	
" 13—Blackpool	A	10 4	" 8—Barrow	H	
" 27—Belle V.R.	A	3 9	" 9—Huddersfield	A	
Dec. 4—Blackpool	H	14 2	" 11—Hull K.R.	A	
			" 16—Rochdale	H	

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