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Vol. 12. No. 5.

SATURDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 1957.

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NOTES

Rugby League Champions, Lancashire League Champions, Lancashire Cup Holders. Those are the honours which belong to Oldham, our visitors to-day, to whom we offer a most sincere welcome.

Last season—at least as far as trophies are concerned—was the best in the club's history, what is more they are still playing like champions and are not likely to let St. Helens take away from them next week the Lancashire County Cup, without a terrific struggle. To win at Knowsley Road, however, is a feat few teams accomplish and none leave the Saints' ground without knowing they have been playing.

Oldham are back to full strength which means International Alan Davies is fit again after missing several games following an injury received in Australia. It will be interesting to see how he fares against hard tackling "Will-o-the-Wisp" Harry Archer now fully recovered from a troublesome back injury. And of particular interest will be the duel between Frank Pitchford and Sol Roper. The boy from Pica has had the better of their encounters so far and for that matter all others he has met this season, a fact which must have been noticed elsewhere.

Our victory at Keighley last Saturday was well merited and again showed the value of good backing up on the part of our forwards both in attack and defence. Even when Stamper was withdrawn after the interval to fill the wing berth following Johnson's shoulder injury they trampled the Keighley pack to ribbons, and there was no more welcome sound to Lowe and his colleagues than referee Watkinson's call for time. Ted Toohey was at his best at the base of the scrum, and he received excellent support from Harry Archer, whose crash tackles on Verrenkamp were a feature of the match. Big John O'Neil was in good form, too. His try after selling a couple of choice dummies was a beauty and a sporting crowd showed their appreciation just as they did when Ike Southward celebrated his demob with a fifty-yard sprint for a touch down. But whatever the result to-day let us hope that this will be a game to remember purely for its entertainment.

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REFEREES

Many supporters may have wondered how reports on referees are dealt with, whether they be good, bad or indifferent. The following information may enlighten them a little.

A club is entitled to submit a report on the referee. In some competitions the competitive clubs are obliged to submit such report, or the league may instruct a club to send in a report on the referee in every game in which they are concerned.

From time to time summaries of these reports are sent to referees so that they get a true picture of their performances, satisfactory or otherwise.

If a club criticises the decision of a referee on a point of law a full description of the incident should be included in the report in order that the matter can be taken up with the official concerned.

It is most important to comply with this instruction, as the observer who makes the report may himself be wrong. Club officials must not question the referee about the conduct of a game, nor shall they address any criticism, verbal or written, favourable or adverse to him. Any referee who feels that he has been unduly harassed should report the matter to the League Secretary.

Subject to the provisions of the game, Laws of the Game, No. 21, Section 9, the referee may if he so desires state to the press and club officials why he has given a particular decision. Quite often during a game a correct decision is given by a referee but the exact circumstances governing the decision are not readily apparent to the observer.

A statement of fact by the referee can readily clear up the matter and speculative comment and controversy can be avoided.

If a referee is of the opinion that a team is not playing in accordance with what is intended to be the correct spirit of the game he should report the club concerned to the League Secretary and submit all relevant details

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WORKINGTON TOWN FIXTURES

(NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

		POINTS				POINTS	
		F. A.				F. A.	
Aug. 17—York		H	25 15	Dec. 26—Barrow		A	
" 21—Wigan	.....	A	11 35	" 28—Leeds	.....	A	
" 24—Bradford	.....	A	3 13	1958.			
" 26—Barrow	.....	H	15 0	Jan. 1—Leeds	.....	H	
" 31—St. Helens (L.C.)	.....	H	12 16	" 4—Blackpool	.....	H	
Sept. 7—York	.....	A	3 32	" 11—Widnes	.....	H	
" 14—Rochdale	.....	H	33 6	" 18—Rochdale	.....	A	
" 21—Keighley	.....	A	8 5	" 25—Oldham	.....	A	
" 28—Oldham	.....	H		Feb. 1—Bradford	.....	H	
Oct. 5—Leigh	.....	A		" 8—R.L. Cup (1st Rd.)	.....	A	
" 12—Liverpool	.....	H		" 15—Featherstone	.....	A	
" 19—Warrington	.....	A		" 22—R.L. Cup (2nd Rd.)	.....	A	
" 26—Whitehaven	.....	H		Mar. 1—St. Helens	.....	H	
Nov. 2—Swinton	.....	A		" 8—Salford	.....	A	
" 9—Warrington	.....	H		" 15—Widnes	.....	A	
" 16—Keighley	.....	H		" 22—Leigh	.....	H	
" 23—St. Helens	.....	A		" 29—Swinton	.....	H	
" 30—Liverpool	.....	A		Apl. 4—Salford	.....	H	
Dec. 7—Wigan		H		" 5—Whitehaven		A	
" 14—Bramley		A		" 12—Bramley		H	
" 21—Featherstone		H		" 19—Blackpool		A	

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