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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—Rochdale H.	Away		Dec. 7—		
(Charity Match)			14—Liverpool	Away	
17—Halifax	Home	3-0	21—Whitehaven	Home	2-30
22—Barrow (Thurs.)	Away		25—Swinton (Wed.)	Home	2-30
24—Wakefield	Away		26—Hull (Thurs.)	Away	
26—St. Helens (Mon.)	Home	7-0	28—Warrington	Away	
31—Barrow (L.C.)	Home	3-0	Jan. 4—Leeds	Home	2-30
Sept. 2—Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away		11—Barrow	Home	2-30
7—Halifax	Away		18—Widnes	Away	
14—Warrington	Home	3-0	25—Workington	Home	3-0
21—Leigh	Home	3-0	Feb. 1—Wigan	Away	
28—Workington	Away		8—R.L. Cup		
Oct. 5—Hunslet	Home	3-0	15—St. Helens	Away	
12—Rochdale	Away		22—R.L. Cup		
19—Hull	Home	3-0	Mar. 1—Blackpool	Home	3-0
26—Blackpool	Away		8—Widnes	Home	3-0
Nov. 2—Wakefield	Home	3-0	15—Whitehaven	Away	
9—Salford	Away		22—Rochdale	Home	3-0
16—Liverpool	Home	2-30	29—R.L. Cup semi-final		
23—Leigh	Away		Apl. 4—Swinton (G.F.)	Away	
30—Salford	Home	2-30	5—Wigan	Home	3-0
			7—Huddersfield (E.M.)	Home	7-0
			12—Hunslet	Away	
			19—Leeds	Away	

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No. 9—Saturday, 16th November, 1957

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL CITY

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Last Saturday's match, at Salford, was a tough affair, and although we won we were up against stubborn opponents. The Salford team must be congratulated for putting up such a glorious defence, especially in the second half, which kept our flanks, on several occasions, short of the line. One must admit that Salford are a very much improved team from last season, and on the form they displayed last Saturday, very few teams will come away from Weaste victorious. The match was undoubtedly one of the hardest we have had this season.

Half-Time Interval

Spectators have noticed what a long interval ten minutes does seem in our recent league matches. It is far too long from a spectators point of view, and more so from the point of view of the players. The Northern Rugby Football League have now informed all clubs that the half-time interval shall be of five-minute duration, but where the two clubs agree in any match and wish to extend the interval to ten minutes, then the referee shall grant the necessary permission.

This club has always favoured a five-minute interval because the players, all heated up and perspiring at the break are apt, with a long interval to get chilled—with obvious results. All players cannot be put into a heated room at half-time, and we think that the latest move for a five-minute interval is a sensible one.

International Match—November 23th, 1957

It is possible for the International match at Wigan, on Saturday, 23rd November, we shall have a few players taking part in the match against France. We play Leigh at Leigh on this date, and to help the Leigh club financially, we offered to play the League match under the floodlights at Leigh on Wednesday, 27th November. The Leigh club have refused our offer so the match stands as per fixtures.

For those who wish to attend this match, tickets are on sale from the Wigan Secretary, Central Park, Wigan. The prices are as follows: 12s. 6d. Main Stand—river side; 7s. 6d. New Stand—popular side. Please send stamped and addressed envelope with your remittance and apply as early as is possible.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

by JACK STEELE "Warrington Guardian Series"

Will there be two divisions in Rugby League Football? Not if some of the clubs who were at the bottom half of the league last season have anything to do with it. But the remarkable feature about the league this season is that quite a lot of teams who finished in the top half last season are now among "the dead men"—below the half way mark.

Of course, many strange things can happen before the season ends, but the way things are going now, it does look as if one or two clubs with big reputations are going to be among the league's "poor relations."

CHANGE OF TUNE?

Will these clubs change their tune when the two divisions scheme is before the Council again? I know that there is a change of face in certain areas, and we may see the unwieldy set-up changed before long. I hope so.

Let us look at the two divisions scheme from an entirely new standpoint. In a recent issue of the "News Chronicle," Mr. B. Manson, a former league chief and a Swinton director for many years, says "no" (and a big "no" at that) to slicing the league in half. He quotes clubs that have dropped out of the professional handling code because of the two divisions scheme.

OTHER MISSING CLUBS

All very well, and I don't refute Mr. B. Manson's statements. But let Mr. Manson come back to more recent times. Can I remind him that St. Helens Recreation, Carlisle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Pontypridd, Cardiff, Streatham and Mitcham, Acton and Willesden and London Highfield packed up when the two divisions scheme was NOT in existence. So those irrefutable facts cancel out Mr. Manson's argument.

And who said that R.L. was going back? Maybe in certain areas where clubs have not kept abreast of the times. R.L. will not go back when more than 100,000 people are watching the senior teams each week, and a few more thousand witnessing the "A" team matches.

SWINTON WILL COME

I mention this state of affairs to show that R.L. is not in such an unhappy position as some folks who don't want two divisions wish us to understand. I don't include Mr. Manson among the pessimists because he has stood by the Swinton club, and the league also, through thick and thin.

And, what is more, he has a perfect right to his own opinions. (May I further transgress Mr. Programme Editor and say that Swinton will come again. If you look through their record this season, you will see that they have been beaten several times by a very narrow margin. Good luck Swinton, and Mr. Manson).

MISSING THOUSANDS?

Now back to two divisions. If Oldham are playing at home to Liverpool City or Doncaster, what happens to the thousands who will absent themselves? They stay away because they consider "the game won't be worth watching." Some people like to see big scores, but what happens to the supporters of the club that has been trounced?

It is all very well at soccer to be beaten by five or six goals, but when a R.L. result runs up to half a century or more, then R.L. does look and seem a farce to lots of people.

R.L. must sort out the strong from the weak. If, say Oldham were playing stronger Yorkshire sides instead of Batley, Dewsbury or Doncaster, interest and "gates" would be greater.

The percentage on "gates" even in the first division could be pooled for all clubs to participate. And don't forget that this pooling system is of great assistance to the weaker clubs. Only on Saturday last there was a share out, and each club received £200. Nice money for those clubs who are against two divisions!

BIG "GATES"

The opponents of two divisions have to remember that if there is a big attraction in Leeds, St. Helens, Wigan or Oldham, they will get their cut of the "gate." Between Wigan and St. Helens towns on Saturday there was a joint "gate" of 50,000.

That was because these clubs were in a position to pay big money for stars. If Van Vollenhoven and Mike Sullivan had not been appearing at Knowsley Road and Central Park respectively, do you think that there would have been a big increase in attendances? Of course not.

The weaker clubs have their own futures to sort out. If they want to appear in division one then it is up to them to show more enterprise and better football. The four up, four down promotion and relegation scheme could be introduced, and couldn't there be a cup competition for each league?

GIVE IT A TRIAL

There is nothing to stop the county fixtures from being played so that Liverpool, Blackpool, etc., would still have big attractions at their grounds. Why not give the scheme a trial, for say, three seasons, and if it is not working satisfactorily by then, it could be dropped.

It should be remembered that there is a call in some areas for a THIRD Division. You may laugh about this one, but clubs like Cadshead and Irlam, Twelve Apostles (Leigh), Thatto Heath, Ince All Blacks and so forth could join this league.

It could be a County League, with a similar league for Yorkshire. There must be towns in both counties which could support such teams and if care was taken not to clash the fixtures with senior clubs in the districts nearby, then I'm sure it would be a success.

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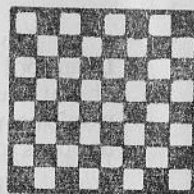
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Red and White

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- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NOON, J.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—KELLETT, A. B.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D. G.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

LIVERPOOL CITY

Green and White

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- 2—HALTON
- 3—SENIOR
- 4—HUNT
- 5—SILLEY
- 6—BALSHAW
- 7—ADAMS
- 8—CARTLEDGE
- 9—LANNON
- 10—PAYNE
- 11—KNIGHT
- 12—HOUGHTON
- 13—DAVIES

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Referee: Mr. T. W. WATKINSON of Pendlebury

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Holland, St. Helens (Yellow)

Mr. J. Tyrer, Leigh (Crimson)

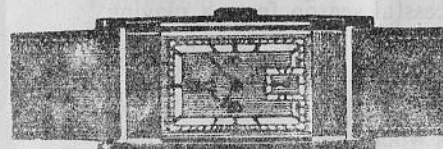
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OUR VISITORS

It is always a pleasure to welcome to Watersheddings Liverpool City. Teams like Liverpool are a credit to Rugby League, and we should stop and wonder how such teams have kept the banner flying, and what a life this club has had.

First as Wigan Highfield, then London Highfield, Liverpool Stanley and now Liverpool City, the carry on courageously in the heart of a great soccer stronghold. A very proud club indeed, when they can tell the Rugby League that they do not require financial assistance but that they prefer to carry on under their own steam and volunteer workers.

Although they are not enjoying a successful season from a playing point of view—being third from the bottom of the N.R.F. League table. To date they have played 15, won 3, and lost 12, having scored 185 pts. with 337 pts. against. This team does attempt to play the open game, far different from the Wigan Highfield days when one always knew they had been playing after visiting Highfield at Wigan.

However, we hope that to-day's game will give us that enjoyment and satisfaction which comes from watching two teams play the game as it should be played and in a true sporting manner.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....	19-16				10-17							24-10		
Blackpool		.....	16-11	9-15		5-34	12-17			5-13		13-18			
Leeds	52-12	68-6	.....					25-25	23-5				18-8		
Leigh				.....			12-5	12-7							13-18
Liverpool					.....			19-24	4-28		9-18			11-39	
OLDHAM				25-3		.....			7-21		17-15				
Rochdale	11-15	28-20				21-29	.....					15-8			
Salford					16-3	5-14	4-15	.....			10-8		5-16		
St. Helens			36-7						.....	43-11	14-2	26-9			
Swinton									14-16	.....				5-28	13-20
Warrington		19-6			36-6						.....			21-5	10-5
Whitehaven		38-17					40-8	16-13	7-15			.....		6-16	
Widnes									13-22	15-12		11-2	.....	11-28	
Wigan	48-5		20-17	7-9	44-5									.....	35-11
Workington	15-0				22-11	13-24	33-6				10-10	17-11			.....

Home Team on left. Away Team on top. Home Team's score given first.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Team	Home				Away				F.	A.	Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.	W.	D.	L.			
St. Helens	10	4	0	0	5	0	1	4	224	97	18
Wigan	10	4	0	1	4	0	1	3	272	101	16
Oldham	8	2	0	1	5	0	0	4	175	95	14
Workington	10	4	1	1	2	0	2	1	164	133	13
Warrington	9	4	0	0	1	1	3	1	139	82	11
Leeds	8	4	1	0	0	0	3	2	221	128	9
Salford	9	3	0	2	1	1	2	1	120	117	9
Whitehaven	10	3	0	2	1	0	4	1	155	151	8
Leigh	6	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	63	71	8
Rochdale	9	2	0	2	1	0	4	1	115	184	6
Widnes	6	2	0	2	1	0	2	1	84	131	6
Barrow	7	2	0	1	1	0	3	1	85	169	6
Swinton	6	0	0	3	1	0	2	1	68	127	2
Blackpool	11	1	0	5	0	0	5	1	125	290	2
Liverpool	8	0	0	4	0	0	4	1	68	227	0

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	16	98	2	Dufty	4		
Cracknell	16		10	Turner	15		6
Ayres	5		2	Stirrup	5		
Nestor	15		6	Jarman	8		1
Etty	16		5	Daley	9		1
Moat	6		2	Noon	10	4	7
Pitchford	16		3	Rowbottom	2		
Jackson	15		1	Carruthers	2		
Keith	15		7	Winslade	10		1
Vines	14			Davies	4		7
Little	15		5				

WITH THE AMATEURS

The Rugby League have allocated from the 1954 Australian Tour profits the sum of £3,500 to the Amateur Committee of the Rugby Football League, to be available for Junior and Schoolboy football. £1000 will be available for the development of Schools' football, and £2,500 for Amateur football.

With reference to the £2,500 available for Amateur football, this will be allocated for the development of Continuation and Intermediate football, applications for development to be given individual consideration by the Amateur Committee. With reference to the £1,000 allocated to Schoolboy football the County Schools Organization will be asked to offer their own views on how this money could best be applied for the development of Schoolboy football.

Who says that The Rugby League does not look after the amateur side of the game? They are all for development and encouragement for boys and youths to come into our game.

ALL ARGUMENTS SETTLED

Let's have no more arguing how many? where? or when? our captain W. B. Ganley, full-back, has compiled his goal-kicking figures this season.

This is official: Halifax 6, Barrow 6, Wakefield 3, St. Helens 2, Barrow (cup) 10, Huddersfield 10, Halifax 5, Warrington (cup) 6, Warrington 4, Leigh 7, Workington 6, St. Helens (cup) 7, Rochdale 7, Wigan (cup) 2, Blackpool 8, France 5, Salford 4. Total 98 goals.

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