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WIGAN v. OLDHAM

(NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

SATURDAY, 1st FEBRUARY, 1958

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL NOTES . .

Unfortunately some typically English wintry weather prevented our game being played at Leigh last Saturday, but at the time of writing conditions are much milder, and we hope that these conditions persist for to-day's very important game. With a blank date on the 18th January our lads have not played for three weeks, and so it is vitally important for to-days' game to be played in order to get them back to match fitness in time for the Cup-tie next Saturday. Oldham's match was also postponed last Saturday and so both sides should be pretty well at full strength, with the bumps and bruises sustained in the heavy Xmas and New Year programme having subsided.

The first Four position is still wide open, and this match against Oldham is going to be vital in many respects. Firstly, if we can win, it will greatly enhance our chances of gaining a place in the First Four, and secondly as we have not beaten Oldham since the 1951-52 season it would be a great fillip to the confidence of our team, and would stand us in good stead for the Whitehaven match next week. Oldham seem to have been a bogey side of ours for far too long, but on the face of it we have a better chance of ending the losing sequence to-day than ever.

OUR VISITORS

There is no doubt that Oldham are the outstanding team in the game at the moment, and indeed have been for a season or two. They play as a team and back up superbly, they are very fit, and they have that most vital of all assets, speed. The basis of their success, like that of most great sides is in their pack. Jackson, Vines, Winslade, Little and Turner are all forwards of international class, and their cohesive attacking play is a joy to watch. Besides having the strength they also have the skill and this skilful play makes Oldham the team they are. They have developed a great deal of play from the present play-the-ball system, and show far more football from the play-balls than any other present day team.

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Hockey ————— Lacrosse

In the backs they are not generally as strong, but they have three very outstanding players in Ganley, Davies and Pitchford. Although Ganley is not everyone's idea of the ideal full-back in general play, his goalkicking prowess is amazing and he has been the saviour of the Oldham side on quite a number of occasions this season. There can be no better centre playing football than Alan Davies, if indeed there are any as good. He has every attribute of the great player, and should be a leading light on the Tour of Australia this summer. Frank Pitchford also is a great player, and strongly in the running for a tour place. Altogether a most attractive side, and one which is sure to provide a fine spectacle for what should be a substantial crowd.

R.L. CHALLENGE CUP FIRST ROUND

Next Saturday sees the Wembley trail start in earnest with the two junior clubs, Orford Tannery and Lock Lane, joining the thirty senior clubs in the First Round proper. We have been fortunate in getting a home draw, but after playing away throughout the Lancashire Cup competition earlier this season and at Leeds in the First Round of the Cup last year, we feel that this good fortune is not undeserved. Whitehaven will certainly provide tough opposition for they have won their last six League games, and must be playing with confidence. Last year they reached the Semi-final tie (although it should be pointed out that they played all their earlier ties at home), and there is no lack of confidence about their approach to this year's competition. According to reports they are going to have special training at the seaside during the coming week, and they intend to be at physical peak next Saturday. The enthusiasm among the Whitehaven supporters is also high, and they have taken their full allocation of Stand and Ringside tickets. They estimate a following of about 4,000 people will come down for the game. Our own share of Stand Tickets were put on sale earlier this week, and at the

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time of writing there were still a few left. However, an announcement will be made to-day over the loudspeaker, if there are still some left for sale.

OUR "A" TEAM

Our "A" Team were also without a match last week-end, but return to duty to-day with a difficult Combination fixture at Oldham. We have a great chance of the Lancashire Combination Championship and to-day's result could have a great bearing on the final positions. Elsewhere in this programme may be found the Combination table up to and including 11th January.

CUP FINAL TICKETS

Limited numbers of seating tickets at 15/- and 7/6 are still available at the Rugby League offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. A stamped addressed envelope and the remittance to cover the cost of tickets should be sent with all applications. Seating tickets at 25/- and 12/6 have been sold and no further application for tickets at these prices can be entertained.

RULINGS ON POINTS OF PLAY

All concerned are requested to note that henceforth a try cannot be scored by pushing the opponents' forwards into their own in-goal in a scrum and then dropping on the ball when it is still in the scrum.

Referees and clubs have recently been circularised on this point of play following a meeting of the Rules Revision Committee, who ruled that in the absence of any ruling to the contrary, it was permissible for a try to be scored in the manner described above. A recommendation was however made to the Council that a new ruling be introduced and this recommendation was approved.

Henceforth the collapsing of the scrum for the purpose of dropping on the ball constitutes an infringement and the game is restarted with a 25 yard drop-out or a 5 yards scrum, depending on whether the attacking or defending side committed the infringement.

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Query: The ball is bouncing in the in-goal area and when in the air is simultaneously touched by the feet of the defender and the hands of an attacker, the ball then going dead. How is the game re-started?

Answer: With a 25-yard drop-out.

Query: The ball is heeled from the scrum and the half-back instead of picking it up kicks it back into the scrum. What is the decision?

Answer: A penalty kick if done deliberately.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

Up to and including 11th January, 1958

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wigan	13	11	2	0	256	116	22
St. Helens	16	11	5	0	328	225	22
Salford	18	11	7	0	282	263	22
Rochdale Hornets	16	10	6	0	176	216	20
Warrington	18	9	9	0	365	272	18
Barrow	16	9	7	0	252	243	18
Swinton	17	9	8	0	266	259	18
Widnes	15	8	7	0	237	195	16
Oldham	13	7	6	0	213	158	14
Leigh	12	6	6	0	197	184	12
Workington Town	16	6	10	0	215	242	12
Whitehaven	14	5	9	0	184	265	10
Blackpool Borough	14	3	11	0	149	310	6
Liverpool City	14	1	13	0	121	293	2

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MEMORIES OF THE LATE MR. JOHN COUNSELL

Extracts from the diary of Mr. John Counsell, famous Wigan director and Rugby League administrator, this week takes us through 1920.

1920

January—Messrs. John Wilson and Sid. Foster appointed Australian Tour managers.

January 29th—Attended Wigan Football Club Committee meeting. The forwards intimated they would not play on Saturday unless they got the same pay as back players.

January 31st—The Wigan back players refused to go to Swinton with the emergency forwards the Committee had called on. The "A" team match took place at Central Park, Wigan "A" winning easily.

February 7th—At Rochdale. Rochdale nil, Wigan 5. Wigan "A" 29, Rochdale nil.

February 11th—At arbitration case: Wigan Committee v. Wigan Forward Players.

Award given in club's favour.

March 3rd—Before 32,000 spectators at Wigan. Wigan 12 points, Huddersfield 8. Gate £1,700 16s.

March 17th—Wigan 11, Rochdale H. 3. Gate £560.

March 20th—Wigan 6, Widnes 7. Gate £760.

March 27th—At Halifax. Semi-final for N.U. Cup. Wigan 12, Hull 5. Gate £1,600.

April 10th—At Leeds. Final for N.U. Cup. Wigan 10 points, Huddersfield 21 points. Gate £1,938.

August 20th—Selling season tickets: a big number being sold.

September 4th—Before a big crowd at Central Park. Wigan 16, Warrington 5.

September 13th—Monday. Committee meeting. Signed Messrs. Howley and Roffey, two Welshmen.

September 25th—At Central Park, before 20,000 spectators. Wigan 18, Rochdale 5. Gate £925.

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7—BOLTON or
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9—SAYER
10—McTIGUE
11—CHERRINGTON
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Half Backs:

6—DALEY
7—PITCHFORD

Forwards:

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9—KEITH
10—VINES
11—WINSLADE
12—LITTLE TRY
13—TURNER

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(up to and including 25th January, 1958)

	P.	Home			Away			F.	A.	Pts.
		W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.			
St. Helens	27	13	0	0	11	0	3	609	237	48
Oldham	25	9	0	2	12	1	1	521	298	43
Hull	26	13	0	0	5	1	7	646	288	37
Feathersons Rovers	27	11	0	2	7	0	7	440	314	36
Workington Town	25	10	1	1	7	0	6	413	280	35
Wigan	25	11	0	2	6	0	6	551	304	34
Halifax	25	10	1	2	6	0	6	572	300	33
Wakefield Trinity	26	9	1	2	6	1	7	472	358	32
Salford	27	11	0	3	4	1	8	376	325	31
Widnes	25	9	0	4	6	0	6	374	325	30
Leigh	26	10	0	3	5	0	8	392	319	30
Whitehaven	27	12	1	2	2	0	10	450	398	29
Warrington	28	10	0	3	3	1	11	449	375	27
Hunslet	24	8	1	3	5	0	7	391	379	27
York	24	8	1	3	4	1	7	398	319	26
Bradford Northern	26	8	0	5	4	2	7	409	387	26
Leeds	26	10	1	2	2	0	11	462	457	25
Huddersfield	25	9	0	4	3	1	8	388	452	25
Barrow	27	9	0	5	3	1	9	394	529	25
Bramley	26	8	0	5	3	2	8	354	501	24
Rochdale Hornets	26	6	1	6	5	0	8	319	446	23
Hull Kingston Rovers	27	6	2	5	4	0	10	325	485	22
Swinton	26	5	2	5	4	0	10	354	419	20
Keighley	26	6	0	8	2	2	8	353	369	18
Blackpool Borough	26	5	0	8	4	0	9	363	495	18
Batley	25	7	0	6	1	0	11	317	412	16
Liverpool City	28	5	0	9	1	1	12	326	533	13
Castleford	26	4	1	8	1	0	12	340	535	11
Dewsbury	25	2	2	8	2	0	11	248	688	10
Doncaster	26	2	0	12	0	0	12	147	628	4

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	H	19-16	14-18	14-4	10-27	29-10	22-12	12-18	25-15	24-10	5-12				
Blackpool	H		16-11	9-15	15-8	5-34	12-17	5-13	14-18	13-18	9-12				
Leeds	H	52-12	68-6			25-25	23-5	20-10	12-8	18-8	17-5	3-13			
Leigh	H				18-11	14-24	12-5	12-7	15-5	24-3	8-2	25-14	13-18		
Liverpool	H	18-3	33-8			11-15		19-24	4-28	8-4	9-18		11-39	4-19	
Oldham	H		17-10	23-5	28-12			34-12	7-21	9-17	17-15	28-12			
Rochdale	H	11-15	28-20		4-4	21-29		10-16	5-10	16-12	15-8	10-17	5-19		
Salford	H		10-9		16-3	5-14	15-4	12-7		10-8		5-16	7-14		
St. Helens	H	35-7		36-7	11-9	27-8		51-0		43-11	14-2	26-9		29-6	
Swinton	H		16-5		27-16	16-9		7-11	6-7	14-16			5-28	13-20	
Warrington	H		19-6		36-6	14-15		20-16	11-13		28-2	21-5	10-5		
Whitehaven	H	14-4	38-17	14-5	4-2		40-8	16-13	7-15	26-10	28-12		29-19	6-16	
Widnes	H			21-3		21-7	2-12	4-13	12-3	13-22	15-12		11-2	11-28	
Wigan	H	48-5	30-13	20-17	7-9	44-5			9-12		22-13		18-5		35-11
Workington	H	15-0		36-0		22-11	13-24	33-6		10-10	17-11			8-3	

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

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WIGAN PLAYERS' RECORDS Season 1957-58

FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including 25th January, 1958)

	Appear- ances	Tries		Appear- ances	Tries
Abram, R.	1	—	Griffiths, W. F.	2	—
Armstrong, A.	17	2	Halliwell, F.	4	—
Ashcroft, E. J.	18	6	Highton, D.	1	—
Ashton, E.	28	24	Hooper, J. R.	1	—
Barton, J. T.	1	—	McGurrin, B.	21	6
Bolton, D. R.	20	14	McTigue, B.	25	6
Boston, W. J.	22	26	Mather, R.	4	—
Bretherton, W.	22	2	Morris, L.	3	1
Cherrington, N.	28	19	O'Grady, T.	30	22
Chisnall, R.	7	4	Platt, D.	9	1
Collier, F.	22	1	Rossi, T.	3	—
Cunliffe, J.	17	0	Sayer, W.	26	3
Evans, R.	20	1	Sullivan, M.	12	3
Griffin, F.	5	1	Thomas, R.	21	—

Total number of Tries 142

GOALS SCORED

Ashton, E.	10
Cunliffe, J.	61
Griffiths, W. F.	8
Highton, D.	7
Platt, D.	29

Total number of Goals: 115

Trips by Train

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FIXTURES AND RESULTS, 1957-58

FIRST TEAM

"A" TEAM

		F. A.		F. A.
Aug. 10 ...	Warrington (Ward C.) H	15-14	Warrington (Friendly) A	20-24
17 ...	Swinton A	28- 5	Swinton H	30-14
21 ...	Workington Town H	35-11		
24 ...	Huddersfield H	25- 7	Liverpool (Friendly) ... A	26-11
28 ...	Widnes A	28-11		
31 ...	Swinton (Lancs. Cup) A	18-10	Blackpool (Lanc. Sh.) H	40-10
Sept. 7 ...	Wakefield Trinity A	16-23	St. Helens A	12-13
11 ...	Leigh (Lancs. Cup) ... A	12- 2		
14 ...	Leeds H	20-17	Leigh (Friendly) A	
21 ...	Whitehaven A	16- 6	Whitehaven H	23- 5
25 ...			Warrington A	19-13
			(Lancs. Shield Semi-F.)	
28 ...	Barrow H	48- 5	Barrow A	Pstpd.
Oct. 1 ...	Rochdale (L.C. S.F.) A	52- 0		
5 ...	Liverpool City A	39-11	Liverpool City H	28- 9
12 ...	Hull H	56- 8	Whitehaven A	11-10
			(Lancs. Shield Final)	
19 ...	Oldham (L.C. Final) ...	8-13	Swinton (Friendly) ... H	38-10
26 ...	Leigh H	7- 9	Leigh A	19- 7
Nov. 2 ...	Warrington A	5-21	Warrington H	13-24
9 ...	Liverpool City H	44- 5	Liverpool City A	20- 3
16 ...	Leeds A	5-17	Warrington (Friendly) H	11-18
23 ...	Hunslet A	17-25		
30 ...	Wakefield Trinity H	23-10		
Dec. 7 ...	Workington Town A	3- 8	Workington Town H	24- 3
14 ...	Widnes H	18- 5	Widnes A	25-14
21 ...	Hull A	5-37	St. Helens H	13- 5
25 ...	Salford A	14- 7	Salford H	20- 8
26 ...	St. Helens H	9-12		
28 ...	Blackpool Borough H	30-13	Blackpool Borough A	Pstpd.
Jan. 1 ...	Warrington H	22-13		
4 ...	Halifax A	16- 8	Widnes H	19- 5
11 ...	Rochdale Hornets H	22-10	Rochdale Hornets A	10- 6
18 ...			Salford (Friendly) ... H	37- 5
25 ...	Leigh A	Pstpd.	Leigh H	Pstpd.
Feb. 1 ...	Oldham H		Oldham A	
8 ...	R.L. Cup 1st Round		Leigh (Friendly) H	
15 ...	Hunslet H		Workington Town A	
22 ...	R.L. Cup 2nd Round		Salford (Friendly) ... A	
Mar. 1 ...	Rochdale Hornets A		Rochdale Hornets H	
8 ...	Halifax H		Swinton A	
15 ...	Blackpool Borough A		Warrington A	
22 ...			Blackpool Borough H	
29 ...	Whitehaven H		Whitehaven A	
Apr. 4 ...	St. Helens A			
5 ...	Oldham A		Oldham H	
7 ...	Swinton H			
12 ...	Salford H		Salford A	
16 ...	Huddersfield A			
19 ...	Barrow A		Barrow H	