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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—	Rochdale Hornets	Away
16—	Halifax	Home 3-0
19—	Blackpool	Away
23—	Wakefield	Away
30—	Whitehaven (L. C.)	Home 3-0
Sept. 2—	Workington	Home 6-15
6—	Halifax	Away
13—	Wakefield	Home 3-0
20—	Rochdale H.	Away
27—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
Oct. 4—	Warrington	Away
11—	Rochdale H.	Home 3-0
18—	Liverpool	Away
25—	Hunslet	Home 3-0
Nov. 1—	Featherstone	Away
8—	Featherstone	Home 3-0
15—	Salford	Away
22—	Leeds	Home 2-30
29—	Wigan	Away
Dec. 6—	Widnes	Home 2-30
13—	Workington	Away
20—	Wigan	Home 2-30

Date	Opponents	Venue
25—	Swinton	Home 2-30
26—	Hunslet	Away
27—	St. Helens	Away
1959		
Jan. 3—	Leigh	Home 2-30
10—	Barrow	Away
17—	St. Helens	Home 2-30
24—	Salford	Home 3-0
31—	Leeds	Away
Feb. 7—	Warrington	Home 3-0
14—	Leigh	Away
21—	R.L. Cup	
28—	Whitehaven	Away
Mar. 7—	R.L. Cup	
14—	Hull	Away
21—	Barrow	Home 3-0
27—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
28—	E.S.	
30—	Hull (E.M.)	Home 3-0
April 4—	Liverpool	Home 3-0
11—	Widnes	Away
18—	Whitehaven	Home 3-0

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No. 5—Monday, September 16th, 1958

Kick-off 6-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

This evening sees the second round of the Lancashire Cup and against such worthy opponents as Wigan. What better attraction could we have that a visit from our old friends and foes. What a wonderful tradition both clubs have and the great contests of the past are still memories. The name Wigan stands elevated in the Rugby League world. What club has greater consistency for this last 30 years than the Wigan Club. Always welcome as visitors anywhere not only by the good football that is assured but from the drawing power of a good financial return.

Ourselves, we have not forgotten our exit from the Challenge Cup on February 8th last when at home we were defeated by Wigan by 8 points to nothing, and who eventually went on to win the Challenge Cup at Wembley. To-night we hope to seek revenge for this cup defeat but our team must be in top class form to achieve this, it is not beyond them. We hope to have a real good game, of this we can be assured, and may our team succeed. There is another incentive, that is that the winners of to-nights match entertain Widnes at home in the semi-final and with a possible entry into the final.

One must not count the chickens before they are hatched because this Widnes team is considerably improved from last season and their young players have come on considerably.

THE ITALIAN VENTURE

Much has been said for and against certain Italian Clubs turning from Rugby Union to our game, in fact 25 clubs are named. The writer is certainly in favour of extending our game to all countries, some people say look to the home clubs.

The Rugby League must extend we must go onwards. Although our extension in this country is not as we would want it, if we get the opportunity to extend overseas by all means do so.

A gift of £2,000 is proposed to give to the Italian Clubs as a starting point. It does not say that these Italian Clubs would embrace professionalism, that is up to them, they would possibly play our game as amateurs as in New Zealand and Australia and hire a professional player-coach. What is £2,000 to the Rugby League if you are extending your game. Did not France, Australia and New Zealand commence in these humble

THE MIGHTY MEN OF WIGAN

By Cyril Briggs

The word "Wigan" has no longer become a music hall joke. The pier is still there; the "dirt rooks" (colliery refuse tips to you) and the cobbled streets are part and parcel of the town's tradition but not once in Northern Union or R.L. history has anyone dared laugh at the Wigan club. Wiganers, of course, chuckle at the mention of Flimby and Van Heerden.

In a celebrated cup-tie in the not so dim and distant past, Wigan beat the Cumberland junior team by more than 100 points. There are many versions of the celebrated cup-tie at the Athletic Grounds at Rochdale when Van Heerden, the electrifying South African winger, flashed over for a try and score under handicap.

It is still claimed by many people who saw that match, that the South African—he was bigger than Van Vollenhoven in many respects—dived under the tummy of a police horse to get the try. There are denials of this story, but there has been no denial of the fact that Van Heerden did score a sensational try that day.

DREAMS OF THE PAST

Wiganers older than myself, still dream of the days of Jenkins and Leytham. It is said that Leytham was one of the "best ever." His name, together with other stars of the past, are carved in stone at Central Park, while the mighty deeds of the teams of bygone days are inscribed on the boards to the main ground entrance. There's a list of triumphs as long as my arm, and yet the name Wigan did not appear in the list of R.L. Challenge Cup winners for a long while.

But the records have tumbled since then. Wigan were the first winners of the challenge cup at Wembley. Syd Abram, the former referee, who has done some rattling good work for Blackpool Borough, was the first R.L. man to get a try at the famous stadium.

ALMOST THEIR PROPERTY

Wigan won the Lancashire Challenge Cup so many times after World War Two, that people in this South-West Lancashire Town hardly raised a cheer when the cup was brought home. The cup was merely returned to Central Park. It almost became Wigan's property.

Wembley triumphs and Northern championship victories. Talk to any R.L. fan in Wigan and they will allow details and results to roll around their tongues like a Frenchman enjoying a glass of his favourite wine. Some supporters of other clubs, annoyed with the Wigan success, used to say "its Wigan and Wales." And it was just that! Jim Sullivan, Jack Morley and Gerry Shea are but three names to tickle the memory. Sullivan is the fellow who earned a few Pressmen a nice sum of money over his long period of playing days at Central Park.

The money came to the writers sending off stories to various papers on a "lineage" basis. And the phrase they used was "Sullivan kicked the goal." They said it, and wrote it hundreds and hundreds of times. The name Sullivan is still a great name in R.L. One Wigan director confessed that when the famous full-back became Wigan's trainer after the war it was always a case of "Jim Sullivan's boys," when the team won. When the side was beaten, the fans called the 13 "The director's team."

DAYS OF SHEA

Gerry Shea was the Welsh professional boxer who caused big men of Welsh Rugby Union a few grey hairs. They wondered whether a pro boxer could be a real Rugby Unionist. They changed their minds and Gerry was perhaps the first "golden boy" of R.U. in the Principality.

There have been colourful figures at Central Park by the hundred. We remember the forceful "Darky" Bennett later to shine at Bradford. Van Rooyen, whom Wigan "gave" to Widnes and he helped them to win the Challenge Cup at Wembley against a St. Helens side equally if not better than the present outfit.

Tommy Howley, Danny Hurcombe, and many others made Wigan Rugby a tradition in the North. Happily the tradition has been carried on through the years. Joe Egan, Ernie Ashcroft, Jack Cunliffe, and Martin Ryan are known throughout the world. The "Wigan and Wales" tag was dropped a long, long while ago because Wigan directors bought the best the world of Rugby could produce. Brian Nordgren and Cecil Mountford have led many a defence a merry dance and will never be forgotten by friend or foe.

STARS OF TO-DAY

Tonight a sparkling Wigan side are here to attempt to put the club's name in the County semi-final once again. Eric Ashton, Mick Sullivan, Billy Boston, Brian McTigue and the rest of the brilliant team are welcomed for the style of Rugby they play. That style of play is as traditional in R.L. as the cherry and white jersey. Long may the two live in a game which is still the best in world.

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19

OLDHAM

(Blue and White)

- 1—GANLEY W.B. 5 GOALS
- 2—CRACKNELL R.
- 3—DAVIES A. 1 TRY
- 4—NOON J.
- 5—ETTY J.
- 6—KELLETT A.
- 7—~~SPURRIER~~ F. PITCHFORD 1 TRY
- 8—ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9—KEITH J. 1 TRY
- 10—DUFTY, R.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER D.

Referee:

Mr. R. GELDER
Wakefield

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7

WIGAN

(Cherry and White)

- 1—CUNLIFFE, J. 2 GOALS
- 2—CHISNALL, R.
- 3—~~BOSTON, W.E.~~ ASHCROFT
- 4—ASHTON, E.
- 5—SULLIVAN, M.
- 6—~~BOLTON, D.W.~~ BOSTON
- 7—~~THOMAS, R.D.~~ BOLTON
- 8—BARTON, J.
- 9—SAYER, W. 1 TRY.
- 10—McTIGHE, B.
- 11—CHERRINGTON, N.
- 12—COLLIER, F.
- 13—~~PLATT, R.~~ EVANS

Touch Judges:

J. E. Sydall, Eccles (Yellow)
D. T. H. Davies, Pendlebury (C'son)

For . . .

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PLAYING STAFF

Name & Birthplace	Height	Weight	Name & Birthplace	Height	Weight
	ft. in.	st. lb.		ft. in.	st. lb.
FULL BACKS					
Mee, L., Leigh.....	5	8—10	8	Pitchford, F., Leigh.....	5 7—11 6
Ganley, B., Leigh.....	5	9—12	7	Stirrup, F., Leigh.....	5 7—10 10
THREE-QUARTERS					
Ayres, D., Oldham.....	5	10—12	8	FORWARDS	
Cracknell, R., H'field.....	5	11—13	4	Carruthers, I., Oldham	5 10—11 10
Davies, A., Leigh.....	5	10—13	8	Chatterton, D., Widnes	6 0—13 7
Etty, J., Batley.....	5	11—13	2	Byrne, B., Leigh.....	5 10—12 7
Edwards, J., St. Helens	5	11—12	6	Duffy, R., Oxford.....	6 1—14 10
Pendlebury, B., Leigh...	5	10—13	0	Goddard, P., Sheffield...	5 10—13 4
Needham, R., Oldham...	5	9—12	0	Govan, J., Golborne...	5 11—14 4
Nestor, V., Leigh.....	5	10—11	12	Hunter, J., Leigh.....	6 0—14 7
Noon, J., Oldham.....	5	9—12	6	Jackson, K., Oldham...	6 0—14 12
O'Brien, J., Oldham...	5	9—11	0	Keith, J., Hunslet.....	5 11—12 11
Sims, G., Leigh.....	5	10—10	10	Little, S., Carlisle.....	6 1—14 8
HALF-BACKS					
Daley, F., Wigan.....	5	9—12	10	Lomas, H., Oldham.....	6 0—15 1
Hatherall, B., Leigh.....	5	6—10	7	Lloyd, K., Ashley.....	6 0—13 8
Jones, A., Oldham.....	5	7—10	10	McKeown, D., Oldham...	6 1—13 4
Kellet, A., Ovington...	5	10—11	11	Rogers, J., Leeds.....	6 0—15 1
Laverty, L., Oldham...	5	6—10	13	Rowbottom, R., Widnes	6 0—15 7
Moat, R., Hull.....	5	7—11	4	Turner, D., Ossett.....	6 1—14 2
				Vines, D., Newbridge...	5 10—15 2
				Watson, J., Oldham.....	6 1—13 6
				Winslade, C., Maesteg...	6 1—15 0

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

No doubt most supporters are aware that the Supporters' Clubs which exist at most clubs are organized on a national basis.

The National Federation of Supporters' Clubs are responsible for the tie-up in ideas etc., between the various Supporters' Clubs. They are again going to present the Annual Rugby Queen Dance at the Hill Stores, Oldham, owing to it being such a huge success last year.

Last season our quota of tickets for this event was soon exhausted and whilst tickets are not yet available, if you do not want to be the "first-too-late," place your order as soon as the notice appears in this programme.

The Lancashire clubs who have a Supporters' Club have formed a Lancashire Federation, and for the inaugural stages, our Secretary Mr. C. Lingard has been appointed Lancashire Federation Secretary.

There are several branches of the Supporters' Club throughout the town. Some of these branches are good at crib, some at dominoes, some at billiards, and others at darts. These branches are open for a challenge from all-comers. The stakes—a gallon of best mild.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	7	38	1	Winslade	7		3
Cracknell	7		4	Little	4		2
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	5		1	Noon	2		
Etty	1			Edwards	2		
Kellett	7		3	Vines	5		
Jones	2		2	Turner	6		1
Rowbottom	3		1	Stirrup	4		
Keith	7		4	McKeown	6		2
Lomas	2			Sims	4		3
Davies	3		6				
Pitchford	1						
Duffy	1						

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....														
Blackpool	.....	.....				12-34							23-20	9-21	
Leeds		32-20	.....												
Leigh				.....			21-5								20-15
Liverpool				20-16	.....										
OLDHAM						.....									30-4
Rochdale							.....	16-26	5-15						
Salford								.....							
St. Helens									.....		15-7				
Swinton	13-6									.....			6-0		
Warrington			32-15		23-26						.....				
Whitehaven												.....		24-12	
Widnes									25-16		13-17		.....		
Wigan	49-16													.....	
Workington								19-12				17-9			.....

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

circumstances and what have we got to-day. It is for the good of the game and not our English R.L. Some people may argue that £2,000 should go to help English R.L. Clubs who **MAY** be in a sorry position. What a statement, I doubt that any club is that way, in fact they were never better off financially, admitted not from football, but from the Pools Organisation run by the various clubs, if not all the clubs. This pleading poverty is all piffle when we read of clubs paying thousands of pounds or offering it when their gate receipts for the season do not exceed £10,000. We say, advance R.L. in as many countries as it is possible and encourage the younger end, that is the schools to take up our game. Although the English R.L. does encourage the amateur game in this country, much more can be done by individual clubs in assisting the local leagues by way of a grant from the large amounts that are being received from the Pools. Say a grant of 5% from the Pools to the local leagues would help considerably and the Lotteries Act would not be infringed in any way by such a gift.

PLAY-THE-BALL INTERPRETATION

Some referees have been ordering a scrum if the ball is kicked forward by the player of the ball at the play-the-ball and the first man to pick it up is tackled. This is wrong. The intention of the interpretation is to reduce, to some extent, the chances of a team retaining possession by completely closing up the game.

Therefore if the player playing the ball taps it, picks it up himself **and is tackled** then a scrum is formed where the tackle is made. If the player playing the ball **heels** the ball then a scrum is formed if the player of his side who picks it up, is tackled. It is the player who picks the ball up following the heel who is regarded as the acting half-back for the purpose of the interpretation and not necessarily the player who positions himself as acting half-back for the play-the-ball.

If a player attempts to heel a ball but the player marking manages to get his foot to it and kicks it clear of the play-the-ball, then the new interpretation will not apply. It only applies to the two cases referred to above, i.e. a player plays the ball to himself or heels it himself to a player behind him.

Signal for above infringement

Where a scrum is ordered following the above infringements the referee after signalling a scrum, should point to the offending player and with both hands, mime the passing of the ball. This will indicate that the player in question should have passed the ball.

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