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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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WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

It appears ages since we played a match at home but here we are again after an absence of three Saturdays in which events have moved swiftly and we have been very much in the limelight and one of the most discussed teams in our game.

In our match against Rochdale Hornets on October 11th, this is the last time we played at home, our supporters had a shock of nearly witnessing a visiting victory. After having a commanding lead our team appeared to rest on their laurels and allowed our visitors to come within four points of making a draw and appeared to be well on top at the finish.

Our visit to Liverpool on October 18th produced a good victory by 28 points to 13 points in a game which was a pleasure to witness, good sportsmanship on the field. Credit must go to Liverpool players for the manner they played or one should say played the open game when the Liverpool players knew they were up against it as regards the scientific art of the game. Congratulations to Liverpool for an entertaining game.

Saturday, 25th October was a red letter day for our club, inasmuch as we were appearing in the final of the Lancashire Cup for the third successive year and hopeful of securing the trophy for the third time. The game was witnessed at Swinton by a large crowd, and one must admit that it was not one of the best finals we have appeared in, but we gained the day by 12 points to 2 points.

Although St. Helens had their hooker injured in the early part of the game, we have no doubt we should have won the day even if this accident had not occurred.

Accidents will happen in any game much as we have experienced in the past from our point of view, and we think it grossly unfair by a section of the National Press for their unfair and unsportsmanlike comment on the play of our team in this final. The man who retaliates when an injustice has been done to him by an opponent always get the sticky end of the stick and so it was in the match at Swinton.

Some comments in the press about our robust play are very much uncalled for and it is obvious that some so called writers who style themselves as experts are lacking in tact and one may say brain power. To single out a team for such comment is a lack of knowledge of what is going

EXTEND THE COUNTY TOURNAMENT

By Cyril Briggs

Those whose fortune it was to witness the Lancashire v. Yorkshire title play off at Leigh under the Kirkhall Lane lights on Wednesday last week, must have felt that more county games could be played during the season. It was not a new departure to play the county fixture with the Tykes under the Leigh illuminations, but this late evening start opens up the possibility of playing the county championship on a new basis. For instance, Leigh ground is equipped with a fine floodlighting system, and there are similar installations at Bradford Northern's ground at Odsal.

SUFFICIENT VENUES

With Elland Road (Leeds United ground), Hull City's enclosure at Boothferry Park, and Workington "Reds" Borough Park equipped with floodlights there are now sufficient venues to play the Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland games on a home and away basis. When the county championship was inaugurated many years ago, the sponsors could not have imagined that sufficient artificial light would eventually be generated to allow evening games to take place after dark. Rugby League was first in the field with floodlit games. In pre-war days we had the old London Highfield club operating under floodlit conditions at the London White City, but I'm afraid the idea did not catch on.

WELL SUPPORTED

Back to Elland Road and Boothberry Park. Quite recently Leeds and Hunslet played on the Soccer ground and a fine crowd turned up to see this "Derby" fixture. Then again we have had huge gate at Boothferry Park to see Hull and Rovers fight it out in the late evening. In their early seasons Workington Town played on the Soccer ground before they built their own spacious enclosure at Derwent Park. I should imagine that the "Reds" would allow a Rugby game to take place on their pitch because things are not going too well for Soccer up in Workington and every penny will count in the days ahead.

Now if Workington Soccer club refused to allow R.L. to be played again at Borough Park, new ground might be made at Carlisle where the United have a fine floodlighting system in operation. The United recently allowed a Rugby Union game—North of England v. the South of Scotland to be played at Brunton Park and about 4,000 people turned up. If R.L. was again played in the Cumberland capital then I'm sure Rugby minded people from all over the county would turn up to cheer their own players against the "invaders."

ENTERPRISING CLUES

With Oldham, Wigan and St. Helens showing terrific enterprise, I wouldn't be at all surprised if they should follow the Leigh lead and have their own lights installed. I'm sure the people of these towns who are noted for their support of the Rugby League game, will be only too delighted to watch evening matches. And if Lancashire officials, who are noted for their bright ideas, did not want to play all the county fixtures under the Leigh lights, then they might be persuaded to break new ground and fix the games for Old Trafford (Manchester United's ground) or even the Liverpool venues.

IN CHESHIRE TOO

Crewe Alexandra languishing at the foot of Division Four of the Soccer League, have found enough cash to have their own lights. Perhaps, if R.L. is still interested in introducing the game into new parts, would agree to "Other Counties 13" joining the County competition and playing a game in Cheshire. Why I'm pushing this point is because Cheshire were at one time members of the county tourney and winners at that! I'm sure that the people of South Cheshire would turn up to see such a match. It would certainly help R.L. from a propaganda point of view.

WHAT ABOUT WALES?

And what has become of South Wales? Have the R.L. decided to shake the dust of the Principality from their shoes? Surely there would be sufficient support for a Yorkshire v. Welsh Counties fixture at the huge Ninian Park Stadium. That would show the Rugby Union "fellahs" of South Wales that we were still a virile force in the North, even if we cannot hope to enter some of the exclusive Welsh "Social" (note the quotes) clubs.

EXPANSION NEEDED

This season has shown a bigger interest in County games because the officials have made it clear to all the players that these are not friendly fixtures and it is not a question of playing under half steam. So there is a huge field for expansion if the Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland committees will take this opportunity. I think it will be Lancashire because the bright moves are usually thought up at the Grand Hotel meetings in Manchester.

And while on the subject of bright ideas, who will be the first to make a definite move towards there introduction of the R.L. Combination? The two "A" teams leagues wants a shot in the arm. When the R.L. Combination was going before the war, the best reserve teams in Lancashire and Yorkshire were members.

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- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—NOON J.
- 5—~~B. J. J.~~ Sims ~~TE~~
- 6—KELLETT A.
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—JACKSON K.
- 9—KEITH J.
- 10—LITTLE S.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—McKEOWN D.
- 13—TURNER D.

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- 8—MOORE
- 9—WARD
- 10—HOCKLEY
- 11—CLAMP
- 12—JONES
- 13—LAMBERT

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The gates were much bigger than they are for some of today's "A" team matches. R.L. is still keeping its head above water, and is not dying the gradual death so often forecast by the Dismal Jimmies. But enterprise is required in days when the people of England are getting to know more about the professional handling code because of the additional interest shown by T.V. and Radio.

SCHOOLBOYS COUNTY MATCH

Congratulations to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Schoolboys for the excellent County match played on our ground on Saturday last. Over 2,500 people paid to watch the boys give a real good exhibition of Rugby League. There is no doubt that if these boys could be kept in Rugby League when they have left school much would be heard of many, budding stars of the future. These boys are brought up in the game and there is no doubt they have the build and the ability even as schoolboys. It speaks wonders for the teachers who have coached these boys to such a standard. The R.L. game has nothing to fear if the schoolboys of to-day are encouraged **MORE**. The school teachers are doing wonderful work for the game in the running of school teams and they deserve every encouragement not only from the R.L. Headquarters but from every senior club in the league.

As we have previously stated in our programmes there is no poverty in the senior clubs today, attendances at senior matches are nothing to go off. The Pools Organisation which every club must now run is a golden nest egg. Large donations from senior clubs should be given to all junior R.L. organisations.

These are the life blood of our game, potential stars are on the doorstep, the international of the future is a junior today somewhere, it simply wants encouragement and developing.

Finally we say congratulations to all teachers who sponsor schoolboy football.

OUR VISITORS

Today we welcome the Featherstone Club to Watersheddings who are infrequent visitors to our ground. Their visit follows very quickly of our match at Featherstone on Saturday last when we won by 30 points to 8 points. One wonders if these home and away fixtures in alternate weeks are conducive to the good spirit of the game. Little incidents on the field of play are apt to be still in the minds of individual players, whereas if the fixture is scheduled apart incidents are often forgotten. However we do not make the fixtures and there must be a reason in the making of the fixtures that we and Featherstone clash two weeks together. We trust that the game will be an entertaining one and worthy of R.L.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	16	76	1	Winslade	16		3
Cracknell	15		9	Little	11		4
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	5		1	Noon	12	11	5
Etty	9		3	Edwards	2		
Kellett	16	1	9	Vines	5		
Jones	2		2	Turner	15		1
Rowbottom	11		1	Stirrup	6		2
Keith	17		8	McKeown	12		2
Lomas	2			Sims	8		6
Davies	13		13	Hatherall	2		
Pitchford	8		4	Mee	1		
Dufty	8		1	Jackson	4		

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	.....														25- 5
Blackpool		.....	6-19	8- 7		12-34			19-26		21-20	23-20	9-21		
Leeds		32-20	.....		59-20		12-23				17-47			17- 8	
Leigh		25-26		.....			21-5			9-22					20-15
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	.....	13-28									
OLDHAM		44- 3				.....	22-18								30- 4
Rochdale		7-11		10- 5		13-14	.....	16-26	5-15				16-15	16-23	
Salford							.....	12-28				16-22			
St. Helens								.....			15-7				
Swinton	13-6								.....			25-10	6- 0		
Warrington			32-15		23-26				15-29		.....				
Whitehaven					24-15			19-10				.....		24-12	
Widnes							34-11	35-10	25-16		13-17		.....		
Wigan	49-16			26-12						24- 8		39-16		.....	
Workington				19- 4				19-12	10-10	9-10		17- 9	14-34		.....

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

on in all matches, yes in all sports. Can any of these experts name how many players have been dismissed from the field this season and what clubs they belong to? We admit having two players dismissed, but one must not forget this, we are a team that is riding on top of the world as regards open play, fitness and attraction wherever we go.

What team in our game would not welcome a visit from Oldham? Every club we visit looks forward to the day of our visit, hoping for a fine day and capacity crowd. We know we are up against it on all grounds we visit as it appears to be a great honour to secure a win over Oldham, hence that extra effort on behalf of our opponents to pull all out for victory. One must say, and in this we are blowing our own trumpet, we are good members of the Rugby League but it is obvious that certain National Reporters are against us, but this does not trouble us one iota.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NOTES

Owing to the pressure of news in the Programme we have not had space for any notes for the past few weeks.

Several events are imminent, but foremost, of course, is the Annual Dance at the Town Hall, Oldham on, Saturday, 29th November, at 7-30 p.m. This is the day we play Wigan at Central Park, and we hope that night to have added yet another Lancashire "Scalp" to our belts. Tickets may be obtained at either canteen or from the Artizan's Rest, Yorkshire Street, Oldham.

Our ground has without doubt assumed a new look during the close season. The Supporters' Club are to affix a "football clock" to the top of the score board in order that spectators may see the progress of the match as far as time is concerned. This clock will be of the "80-minute" variety as can be seen on a few grounds in the Rugby League and on most continental football grounds.

We would like to point out to spectators that this is for their guidance alone—the referee will still be the sole judge of time.

The flag pole which is now (if the kids haven't had it for the Nov. 5th celebrations) past its best is to be replaced by an **aluminium** one which will be something of the periscope type. When we don't want it out, we wind it in—stop laughing, you'll see.

Roger Dufty, who has been suffering from tonsillitis has been to see a throat specialist. It is hoped he will make a speedy recovery and will be available for early duty.

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