

QUALITY

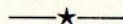
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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
1959			19	Dewsbury	home 2-30
Aug. 8	Rochdale (Charity)	home 3-0	25	Swinton	home 2-30
15	Leeds	home 3-0	25	Workington	away 2-30
18	Dewsbury	away 7-0	1960		
22	Salford	away 3-0	Jan. 2	Liverpool	away 2-30
25	Warrington	home 6-30	9	Wakefield	home 2-30
29	Whitehaven	away 3-0	16	Leigh	home 2-30
Sept. 5	Halifax	away 3-0	23	St. Helens	away 3-0
8	Halifax	home 6-30	30	Widnes	away 3-0
12	Hunslet	home 3-0	Feb. 6	Salford	home 3-0
19	Widnes	home 3-0	13	R.L. Cup	
26	Blackpool	away 3-0	20	Wakefield	away 3-0
Oct. 3	AUSTRALIA	home 3-0	27	R.L. Cup	
10	Barrow	away 3-0	Mar. 5	Leeds	away 3-0
17	Workington	home 3-0	12	Wigan	home 3-0
24	Warrington	away 3-0	19	Leigh	away 3-0
31	Barrow	home 3-0	26	Hunslet	away 3-0
Nov. 7	Rochdale	away 3-0	Apr. 2	Liverpool	home 3-0
14	Blackpool	home 2-30	9	St. Helens	home 3-0
21	Whitehaven	away 2-30	15	Swinton G. F.	away 3-0
28	Rochdale	home 2-30	16	E. S.	
Dec. 5	Wigan	away 2-30	18	Whitehaven	home 3-0
12	Hull	home 2-30	23	Hull	away 3-0

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No. 13 Friday, 25th December, 1959

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

To our Players, Members, Supporters and friends beyond the Seas, we
wish them the old wish—**A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Like Christmas that comes once a year, our good friends from Swinton also come once per year at Christmas and it is to them we extend a welcome, a very special welcome at this time of the year. The Swinton Club are enjoying their best season for a considerable time and are putting some good scores up against doughty opponents, and what is more are playing grand football, football worthy of the name of Rugby League, but like other clubs it is a mystery why they are not better supported with the type of football that warrants better patronage. However it is an amazing thing that "gates" all round in the sporting world are down and clubs have all sorts of explanations as to why this has come about.

We look forward to today's match as a real test for our players to bring the best out of them, and only the best will do in today's match. Swinton have always run us to a close match at Watersheddings with an odd win in and between. Let us have the real Festive Spirit today and a game, a crowd worthy of the occasion, and we hope a home win.

Saturday last saw our first team score a convincing victory over Dewsbury at home by 46 points to 7 and there is no doubt that with a little luck the score would have been greater. These huge scores do the game no good. To an outsider it would appear not to be a game at all, race horses against cart horses. We often criticise our team as their inefficiency at times, but the Dewsbury Club have a great task on hand in building up a side to even hold its own. Our team no doubt excelled itself with some very smart moves and good strong running and were worthy of the great scoring match.

MEMBERS CHRISTMAS DRAW

May we express thanks to all members who have sold and purchased tickets for the Christmas Draw. Again it has been a big success and will show a net profit of over £500. This amount is placed to a Players Benefit Fund.

Adverting to last Saturdays match, one cannot refrain to mark the great improvement in one of our players, and we hate to make comparisons, in the form shown this season of our centre, Johnny Noon. What great football this player is showing this season and in our opinion he has not reached his best yet.

His form this season made him a shadow team selection for the Test match, evidence that other people had noticed his form. A local boy, who had never played junior football, he came from the Continuation League, an ex-captain of the Town Team, he was recommended by that long serving official of the Continuation League, Mr. Jack Mitchell, and what a good capture and a grand club man Johnny has been. On present form honours are sure to come his way and they will be worthily gained.

DAVID GODDARD

The injury to David Goddard our 17 year old "A" team hooker is not as serious as first expected. The Specialist had diagnosed torn ligaments of the knee and we expect this player to be out of action at least one month.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Boxing Day, Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM "A" v. WORKINGTON "A"

Monday, December 28th, Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HULL

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MORE T.V. IS THE ANSWER

writes Cyril Briggs

The R.L. **must** keep the game before the television viewers otherwise solid professional handling code followers may eventually become ardent swimming, show jumping or boxing enthusiasts and forget their former popular sport. Fortunately, there are some far-seeing men on the R.L. Council. They know full well the propaganda value of television, and therefore are keen that permission should be given for the televising of all or part of the big matches.

This week I received a note from a Lancashire man who has been living in London for three years. He is an ardent rugby fan, and even if he cannot see his popular sport every week, he often comes North for the important fixtures, he seeks out the next best sport, which is R.U.

INTERESTING INFORMATION

And moving among the XV aside adherents he hears some interesting information which he has passed on to me. Even some R.U. spectators stay at home when R.L. is screened. They have said so and while there are no actual figures to show how many Southerners do look in when a R.L. game is featured by one or the other of the television organisations, it is correct to say that the professional game has an impact on those who often attend the R.U. fixtures.

A midlands correspondent also notified me some time ago that when R.L. allowed an important fixture to go on the "tele." the attendances at the bigger R.U. matches showed a marked falling off.

And more opinions from other sports where R.L. has not been played for years. When Widnes played Huddersfield at Naughton Park last season, the heavens opened and the ground was turned into a sort of paddy field. That did not prevent a South Wales (I repeat, South Wales) viewer from taking up his telephone and ringing Bill Johnson, the Widnes secretary, and telling him that he had thoroughly enjoyed the match, and would like to see more like it. I happened to be at this particular game and there was nothing extraordinary about it.

But in a follow-up letter the South Walian repeated his eulogy and hoped that more and more professional rugby would be shown to the people of the Principality. Evidently this Welshman knew quite a lot about rugby because he mentioned certain aspects of the 13 aside code which he claimed made it more spectacular than the game from which it broke away in 1893.

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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY W. B.
- 2—SOUTHWARD I.
- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—NOON J.
- 5—NESTOR V.
- 6—KELLETT A.
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—JACKSON K.
- 9—McINTYRE L.
- 10—DUFTY R.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—ROBINSON G.
- 13—HAYNES G.

Referee:

Mr. H. HARRISON,
Horbury

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SWINTON

Blue

- 1—GOWERS
- 2—STOPFORD
- 3—McGILLICUDDY
- 4—SMETHURST
- 5—CRITCHLEY
- 6—PARKINSON
- 7—THOMAS
- 8—THOMPSON
- 9—LEECE
- 10—LAMB
- 11—SMITH
- 12—MOSES
- 13—BLAN

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. P. Dawson, St. Helens, Yellow
Mr. A. E. Jones, Warrington, Crimson

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Well, I suppose that this individual will be delighted to learn that there were two hour's viewing on the B.B.C. network on 21st November on the occasion of the Second Test and also December 12th for the Third Test between Great Britain and the Australian Tourists.

Now my reply to a Southern friend's note is that the R.L. have been trying to push the game down there for years. Ever since the R.L. Challenge Cup final was transferred from the North to Wembley there has been a moan from thousands of dyed-in-the-wool rugger men who argue that one of the show-pieces should not be taken from their midst.

These people argue that they are the backbone of the game and their opinions should be respected by the powers-that-be.

This wrangle has gone on for years, but it is slowly losing its tempo as well as its velocity. R.L. folk in Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cumberland as well as very many from the border counties, now realise that the R.L. final contains more glamour at Wembley than it would at any northern venue.

BIGGEST EVER

Even though the 1954 final re-play at Odsal Stadium attracted the biggest-ever gate known for a sporting event in England (103,000) the £. s. d. was down by £11,000 as compared with the same year's Wembley takings where only 81,700 saw the clash between Warrington and Halifax.

The Wembley final has stood the test of time even in the face of the strongest opposition. And the people who grumble about having to make the annual trek to Wembley often refuse to purchase a 3/- ground ticket. They are delighted to pay four times that price for a stand seat, but would boycott a match if such charges were made for a final at a Northern ground.

The R.L. is hoping every year to fill Wembley Stadium. They have come close to getting a complete sell-out with 95,000 on two occasions (there are more seats for a R.L. final than a F.A. final) but the "no more room" notices have never yet been displayed by rugger officials.

BETTER CHANCE

So R.L. must do something about the millions of Southern sports folk. Just one match per season is not enough to whet their appetites, but with three, four or even more screened games, then there is a better chance of R.L. getting a hold in the South.

It has been claimed in recent seasons that the majority of people at Wembley for the big match every May are Southerners. Now we have to remember that the crowd includes former residents of Northern towns and cities, but the London aspect is now more important than ever it was. R.L. must have an instrument of propaganda if it is to spread its appeal. T.V. seems to be the perfect medium.

INFLATED TRANSFER FEES

The sky is the limit is rather apparent what some clubs are asking for players who are on the transfer at the clubs request or the players request. A player without any honours is now in the £4,000 class and unknown players are listed at £1,000.

This inflation of prices cannot go on and R.L. clubs with the exception of one or two clubs cannot afford such prices. Clubs in distress from a playing point of view get panicky to buy the ready made player. Thousands of pounds are expended on players that are not much better than what clubs possess. One must remember that the stars in our game today have all been juniors and coupled by the ability and willingness to be coached have reached international rank. It is the same in all sports.

We consider that it is better to expend the price of one star player on a coaching school for as many youngsters as possible and bring your own stars along. Some will argue that this takes time but a club would be amply repaid by the results. Not that all youngsters reach senior rank, some fall by the roadside and these want weeding out. This is where expert coaching comes in and a coach of proved ability is worth his weight in gold to any club.

Take example of some of the great Soccer Clubs and their development scheme to bring their own stars into being. Boys capable of making the grade in Rugby League football are on every clubs doorstep, they simply want developing. It is the easy thing in the world to buy the ready made stars, and in some cases this has proved not successful. There is greater honour in developing your own players, even if it takes three or four years than going the easy way and buying success.

PLAYING STAFF

Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.	Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.
D. M. Ayres, Oldham		5	8	12	2	D. McKeown, Oldham		5	10	13	6
J. Buckley, Oldham		5	10	12	10	L. McIntyre, Wigan		5	11	13	6
B. Byrne, Astley		5	9	11	10	A. Mumberson, As'tria		6	0	15	6
D. Chatterton, Widnes		6	1	15	6	V. Nestor, Leigh		5	8	12	2
A. Davies, Leigh		5	11	13	1	R. Needham, Oldham		5	10	12	9
R. Dufty, Middlesex		6	1	14	7	J. Noon, Oldham		5	9	12	4
F. Daley, Wigan		5	9	12	7	J. O'Brien, Oldham		5	8	11	2
J. Edward, St. Helens		5	11	13	1	T. Ogden, Oldham		6	0	12	9
J. Govan, Golborne		5	10	13	8	R. Pugsley, Bridgend		5	11	13	10
P. Goddard, Sheffield		5	11	14	3	J. Petley, Warr'ton		5	9	11	10
W. B. Ganley, Leigh		5	9	12	8	F. Pitchford, Leigh		5	7	12	0
B. Hatherall, Leigh		5	6	10	12	B. Pendlebury, Leigh		5	9	13	1
A. Jones, Oldham		5	6	10	12	S. Quinlan, Cork		5	10	12	10
K. Jackson, Oldham		6	1	15	4	G. Robinson, W'ven		6	1½	15	0
G. Kelly, Rochdale		5	11	13	3	Gr. Sims, Leigh		5	9½	11	0
A. Kellett, Halifax		5	10	12	0	I. Southward, Work'ton		5	11	12	8
J. Keith, Leeds		5	11	12	8	R. Smith, Oldham		5	11	15	4
K. Lloyd, Tyldesley		5	11	13	13	C. Winslade, Maesteg		6	0	14	12
H. Lomas, Oldham		5	11	14	4	G. Warburton, War'ton		5	10	12	6

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	21	115		Davies	19		8
Southward	10		11	Robinson	15		2
Ayres	2			Quinlan	3		3
Noon	22	8	14	Stirrup	4	2	1
Sims	16		6	Smith	4		
Kellett	23	1	10	Nestor	14		10
Hatherall	3			Petley	1		
Jackson	16		1	Pitchford	15		3
McIntyre	16		4	McKeown	9		2
Goddard	14		1	Jones	1		1
Winslade	16		3	Pendlebury	2		
Dufty	19		5	Cawthra	1		
Pugsley	5		1	Haynes	1		
Keith	14		1				

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Dewsbury	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	Swinton	St. Helens	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....	15-4	40-13		22-29	22-5	6-21						10-16		
Blackpool	.....	14-5	15-30		13-29			7-46		5-12	5-11	10-20		15-5	
Dewsbury	.....	9-24	26-15		7-35	14-18			15-20	11-29			7-35	9-30	
Leigh	12-12	.....	22-0		11-7	25-12	14-14						22-22		
Liverpool	.....	.....	.....		11-9	6-18	20-14	6-45	16-19					14-5	
OLDHAM	20-9	24-5	46-7		.....	25-3				6-10		24-12		28-2	
Rochdale	18-13		10-6		0-45	.....		7-12	4-40	5-8				10-12	
Salford	13-5		26-0		12-12	.....				7-15	23-14	23-6			
Swinton		61-7		63-8		.....		9-32						32-3	
St. Helens	59-17		40-17		26-2	40-11		.....						11-12	
Warrington	24-10	30-12	48-12		26-8	27-8					30-2	16-6			
Whitehaven		33-13		5-0	23-9	34-10		12-15	7-0	.....				20-4	
Widnes	36-0		25-2	24-5		14-3		14-27		22-5	.....			7-8	
Wigan		47-3			17-6	27-7	8-18	37-6		31-12	16-12	.....			
Workington			28-13	5-12	26-11			10-18					0-6		

Home Team on Left...Away Team on Top...Home Team's score given first

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