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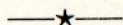


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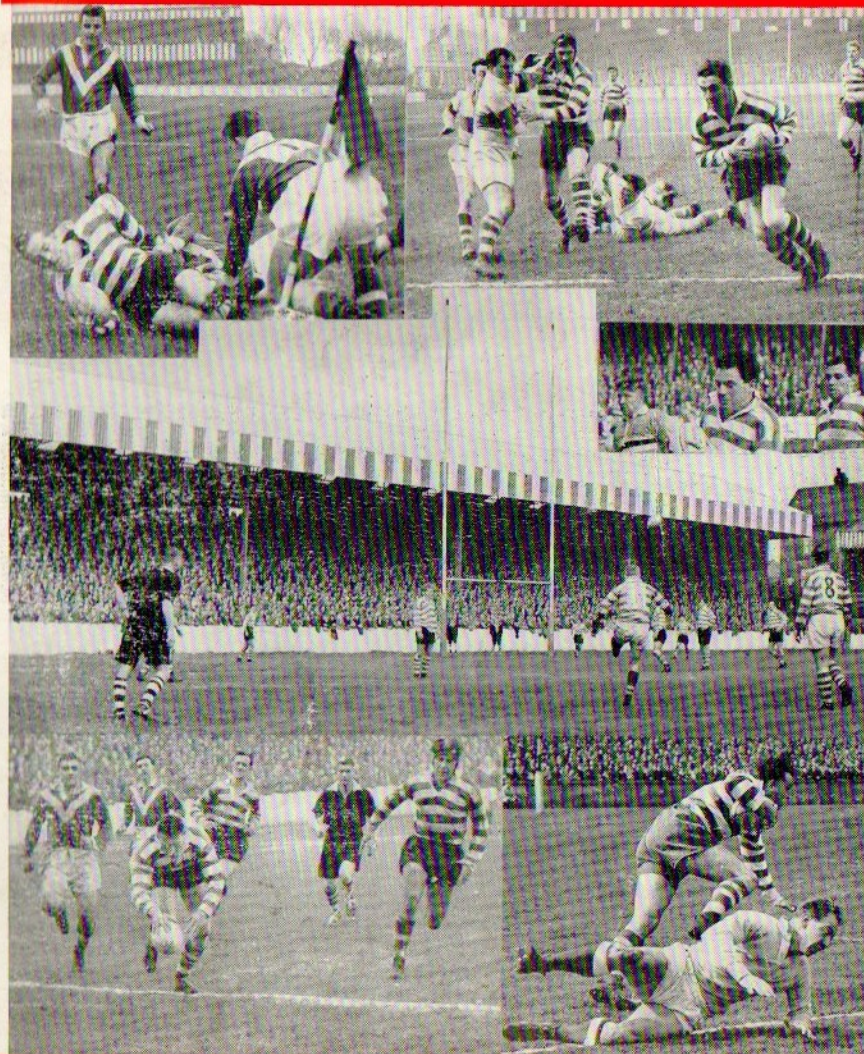
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Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
1959			19	Dewsbury	home 2-30
Aug. 8	Rochdale (Charity)	home 3-0	25	Swinton	home 2-30
15	Leeds	home 3-0	25	Workington	away 2-30
18	Dewsbury	away 7-0			
22	Salford	away 3-0	1960		
25	Warrington	home 6-30	Jan.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

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No. 14, Monday, December 28th, 1959

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HULL

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Owing to the Festive holidays this programme is written prior to the Swinton and Workington matches and we hope that the readers are in a good frame of mind with two recorded victories.

The going is very hard with three matches in four days and we trust that our players will have spent a Happy Christmas both from a playing point of view and from a financial one.

Today it is a pleasure to entertain the Hull Club who are noted for their open play. This match should have been played on the 12th December, the day when the final Test match was played and on this day the attendances at the League matches reached a very low level.

So today is a testing time to see what size of a "gate" we get through our postponement from 12th December. Our visitors are a strong combination especially in the forwards and have two current Test players in Tommy Harris and John Whiteley so we can expect a real forward tussle to get on top.

OLDHAM STADIUM LTD.

As Greyhound racing is no longer being held at Watersheddings, the Committee have not yet come to a decision to what use to put the ground to (the football club own the ground only and not the stands etc.) It can be made long enough and wide enough for another football pitch and if this course is adopted it would be a boon to the juniors and school-boys of this town.

However a decision will be arrived at during the next few weeks when an announcement will be made.

WEMBLEY FINAL, 1960

If you intend to go to the Challenge Cup final at Wembley, which will be played, Saturday, 14th May, 1960, kick-off 3-0 p.m., now is the time to apply for tickets as advance booking will receive priority at the end of December, 1959.

Application for seating tickets, 25/-, 15/-, 12/6 and 7/6 and Ground tickets at 3/- should be made to the Secretary, The Rugby Football League, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds 7. A stamped addressed envelope should be enclosed with each enquiry or application. If you want to make sure of your tickets, **apply early.**

THE LAWS OF THE GAME

The Laws of the game are now undergoing a change as from the 4th January, 1960. First is the Tap Penalty and secondly the Advantage Law at the Scrum.

The Tap Penalty will be abolished and the Law will read, "The Players of the side against which the penalty kick is awarded shall not advance beyond the mark until the kick has been taken."

The above amendment simply means that we revert to the procedure which was in force prior to the introduction of the tap penalty. The players of the non-kicking side can stand on or in line with the mark and the kicker will then have to retire from the mark in order to clear the heads of the opponents, who incidentally are not allowed to raise their arms above their heads.

The amendment referring to the abolition of the advantage law as applied to scrummaging is as follows.

The amendment means that where there is one offender he must be penalised even though the other side get the ball from the scrum. In case of a mutual infringement then the ball must be put in until it comes out in the correct manner.

Offending players could, of course, be cautioned or in extreme cases be dismissed for persistently offending.

It is up to all supporters of our game to make themselves conversant with this alteration of the Laws of the Game.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday, January 2nd, 1960 — OLDHAM "A" v. LIVERPOOL "A"

Saturday, January 9th, 1960 — OLDHAM v. WAKEFIELD

Saturday, January 16th, 1960 — OLDHAM v. LEIGH

Kick-off for each match 2-30 p.m.

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PLAYING CONDITIONS ARE BETTER TODAY

writes Cyril Briggs

Better playing conditions, both on and off the field, improved equipment such as shoulder pads, metal studs, soft-toed shoes, as well as training under floodlight, more gear in the ambulance room to deal with injuries, and more luxury travel. These are some of the things which have improved the lot of the R.L. follower.

Take the Watersheddings and other pitches for instance. Up to a few years ago, it was a case of mud and more mud at this time of the year. All kinds of efforts were made to obtain better drainage, and in the finish new drains and so forth had to be tried.

But when we compare those bad conditions of a few years ago with those of the present time, we realise that the turf, though badly knocked about here and there, is certainly much better. It is the same in other parts of the Rugby League. Yet the old enemies, Jack Frost and Bill Snow still remain.

BEAT THE WEATHER PLAN

Efforts to beat this couple of "match threateners" have proved ineffective. Artificial aids have only had minor success and whether it is right or wrong, some officials think that such aids damage the turf. Some years ago Warrington shook the R.L. world with a beat the weather plan.

Many tons of specially river washed sands were placed on the Wilderspool pitch. The end result was a smooth sandy beach, equal to any portions of the famous Blackpool stretch. And how imposing it looked! There was not a blade of grass showing. But who was worried about grass at that time? All Warrington officials were concerned about was the fulfilling of fixtures.

Came the day for the first game under these exceptional conditions. Many matches, soccer and Rugby included, were postponed because of the hard state of the grounds. But Warrington sent out a press release, "We will never be closed." Everything as I have said, was perfect. The scene looked beautiful, except there were no Windmills, or Dancing Girls.

There was a terrific crowd on each of the home matches and the games were often termed, "Battles of the beaches." Yes, there was a rubbing of palms at Warrington when the gate money was being counted. The golden era was certainly there even if the word sovereign wasn't mentioned.

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- 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. R. GELDER,
Wakefield

HULL

Black and White

- 1—BATESON
- 2—COWAN
- 3—SAVILLE
- 4—KERSHAW
- 5—WANKLYN
- 6—MATTHEWS
- 7—FINN
- 8—EVANS
- 9—HARRIS
- 10—DRAKE J.
- 11—SYKES
- 12—DRAKE J.
- 13—WHITELEY

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Heap, Rochdale, Yellow Flag
Mr. E. Cunningham, Widnes, Crimson

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PLAYERS COMPLAINED

Then it happened, and only a few people had thought about it. "It" was the monsoon. Soon the Wilderspool beaches became "paddy fields." Even the Wire players complained about the clinging mud, and it took them some time (and the opposition) to scrape the "slutch" out of their eyes and ears.

The ladies in charge of the club's laundry were also full of complaints because they had extra work in getting the shirts and shorts reasonably clean. In those days we did not have the great claims from certain manufacturers, because the "tele." was not quite such a raving success as it is today.

Still, Warrington were, or had, made plenty of hard cash. Then at the end of the season when the pitch had dried out, and the sun popped through the clouds the Wilderspool pitch was as hard as concrete. The drains were useless because they were blocked by silt. Picks and shovels were almost useless. Eventually, the drains were replaced and even seasons later the Wilderspool pitch was not up to normal.

Loads of new soil had to be used and at last there was a bevel on the ground, and the last of the big payments of rejuvenation had been met. So Warrington are not likely to bring sand to Wilderspool again in the same quantities.

That is a side-light of the trials and tribulations of the folk who want to beat nature, but I must move back to the opening paragraph and ask whether with all these improvements and innovations the standard of rugby is any better than it was before the war? Maybe we have faster forwards, for the outcry for years was to rid our clubs of the scrummage sloggers whose weight was the main attribute in the tight packing.

A NEGATIVE EFFECT

The faster forwards are here, but while they have shown up well in some attacking movements they have had a negative effect on the opposition's back division! It is this negative stuff that really upsets me. And I think that some club coaches should concentrate a little more not on how to stop the opposition's attacking plan, but in devising methods of beating the other team by real attractive movements.

We have reached a stage when few new movements are attempted, especially from set-play. You take particular notice of this point in the next half a dozen games. There may be some exceptions to the rule, but there is far too much orthodox play, and it's time too that the 10 yards rule for scrummaging down is abolished.

If the line which runs parallel to the touch lines was altered to 15 yards (the 5 yards would make a lot of difference), we would then see more play around the blind side of the scrum. Under present conditions we see very few half backs and loose forwards moving around the "blind" side of the scrum. The gap is too small, or generally so.

I do not of course blame club coaches for this out-dated rule, but I'm sure that if they press their directors for a change it might be made. After all, the tap penalty and the advantage at the scrum is being dropped.

The abolition of the tap penalty will probably lead to more scrummaging—and less mobile forwards. But we will have to be like the once famous statesman who continually told us before World War One that, "We would have to wait and see."

This is an opportune time for good resolutions could I (and most R.L. supporters will join in the appeal) request that each club coach tries to perfect four new moves each week. That will be 16 per month. And by the end of the season there could be more attractive play all round. As I have stated, "Players never had it better," no matter how they complain. Ask some of the "owd-uns" they'll tell thee—and how.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The supporters' club are holding a Rugby Queen Dance at the Princess Ballroom, on Friday, January 22nd, 1960 Tickets 5/- each can be obtained from 242 Roundthorn Rd., Artizan's Rest, Princess Ballroom.

In the Town Hall, Oldham, on February 6th, there will be a Dance in aid of the Testimonial Fund for Jackson, Keith and Winslade. Tickets 5/- each obtainable at the Pavilion, Artizans Rest or from any of the players. Roll up and make this a bumper do.

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	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	0
G. Kelly, Rochdale ...		5	11	13	3	G. Sims, Leigh		5	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	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		
Duffy	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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