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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	26	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

9-1-60

wspfield

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No. 15, Saturday, January 9th, 1960

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WAKEFIELD

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The shock of the season happened on Saturday last when our first team were well and truly beaten by Liverpool City. There is no doubt about it the Liverpool team always play a good game against us and in the past we have had difficulty whenever we have recorded a win.

On Saturday last our team that played absolutely touched rock bottom and whatever move we tried there appeared a Liverpool player on the spot to stop any try scoring movement. The unfortunate part of this defeat is that we had three players reporting unfit or not match fit upon arrival at Liverpool and this meant a reshuffling of the team just prior to the match.

Ike Southward had to play centre to John Noon on the wing, but much as Ike tried in the centre there is only one place that he can be a positive danger to the opposition, and that is on the wing. The result of the match was a great disappointment to the large number of our supporters who made the journey to Liverpool, the greater disappointment after our great displays of the two previous matches against Swinton and Hull at Watersheddings. To make the result look much worse was that the Liverpool team had a match the previous day against Blackpool.

However these mediocre displays do happen to the best of teams and we cannot afford to lose many more matches otherwise we shall be out of the final honours for the season. The last time we were beaten at Liverpool, as great a surprise as this latest one, may be a happy omen, for on that occasion we went forward and secured the League Championship—who knows what can happen with our in and out form.

LATEST SIGNING

We consider that we have signed on professional forms an up and coming second row forward in Thomas Parker of the Lock Lane Club (Castleford). This player is twenty years of age, 6 ft. and weighs 13 and a half stone, and has been one of the outstanding forwards of his junior team who have reached the first round of the Challenge Cup.

Parker played a trial in our "A" team at Watersheddings against Workington "A" on December 26th and was chosen to play against Leeds "A" at Leeds on Monday, 28th December. The press reported that this player had refused to play in this match, but this is not correct. The reason is that Parker had been training with the Leeds Club with a view, we presume, of eventually being signed by the Leeds Club. Parker has a brother who plays centre for Leeds. One can understand the feeling of the player when he asked to be excused.

This player was duly signed by our club and will come to live and work in the town. Coming from a football family, Parker has every attribute to make the grade. We wish him a successful future with us.

OUR VISITORS

Today it is a delight to entertain Wakefield Trinity and without doubt the leading Yorkshire side this season.

Much time and money has been spent by the Wakefield Committee in building up a team to what it is today and their reward is the good football that is being served up by the players. They appear a certainty to figure in the first four play-offs of the Championship, having lost only three matches out of 22 played, scoring 570 points to 261 points against.

There is no doubt that our team will have to show the form they put over in our last two home matches, Swinton and Hull, but our visitors are in our opinion stronger opposition than the two mentioned teams, so we must expect a grim struggle, and we hope a victory to our team.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

The Supporters' Club are holding a Dance on Friday, 22nd January in the Princess Ballroom, King Street, Oldham. The Rugby Queen for 1960 will be selected at 10-0 p.m.

Tickets, 5/- each, may be obtained from the Artizan's Rest, Yorkshire Street, Oldham.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

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

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

NEW RULES LENDS A KICK TO THE CODE

writes Cyril Briggs

Official comment from the Rugby League Headquarters in Leeds is that more schoolboys and youths are now playing under the banner of the professional handling code. It's quite an interesting situation and augurs well for the future of the game. R.L. must continue to foster the spirit among boys and youths of the three counties where the game is played, but it may be a few years before the 30 senior clubs in the Northern League feel the benefit from this influx of young stars.

What the R.L. wants very badly at the moment are ready made stars. The Junior Leagues are able to supply only a small percentage of the number required. That's why the standard of play has fallen off in recent years. The R.L. then looks to the Rugby Union to supply it with the right type of player and in the right numbers as well.

WARNING NOTICES

Of course, the R.U. clubs, especially the less fashionable ones, are reluctant to allow their best players to depart to the rival code, and in many dressing rooms there are warning notices to those who are in two minds whether to leave the XV aside code for ever.

These warning notices have been re-printed from the official R.U. documents and the letters are large enough for even near sighted persons to see, although if a chap is not too happy about his eye-sight, he should not be playing rugby of any kind.

The R.L. code's methods for the past few years have been laced with a definite R.U. angle. The latest ruling about the "tap penalty" means that there will be far more kicking to touch from penalty awards. And as punting to touch is one of the fundamentals of the R.U. code, it will be clear to anyone that R.U. converts were being encouraged on all sides to "come over" to the opposite game.

When the R.L. game became merely the handling code and teams were able to hold the ball for ten minutes and sometimes quarter of an hour on end, the game as a spectacle was losing some of its interest. Therefore we had a change in the play the ball rule, which stopped a lot of the bumping and barging and keen scrimmaging which was not only vigorous but of definite interest to those who preferred free for all tussles instead of open rugby.

STRONG KICKING

Now a R.U. player who has more than the average "kick", in that he can place the ball on some given spot, or within a yard or so, can now find his fort in the R.L. world. The stronger the kicker the better. The new

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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY W. B. G
- 2—SOUTHWARD I. T
- 3—DAVIES A.
- 4—NOON J.
- 5—SIMS G. T
- 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. M. COATES,
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WAKEFIELD

Red and Blue

- 1—ROUND G. V.
- 2—SMITH F.
- 3—SKENE A. T. T
- 4—FOX N. G
- 5—ETTY J. T
- 6—POYNTON H. T
- 7—HOLIDAY K.
- 8—WILKINSON J.
- 9—OAKES G.
- 10—SAMPSON M.
- 11—VINES D.
- 12—FIRTH A.
- 13—LAMMING D.

Touch Judges:

Mr. G. Battersby, Barrow, (Yellow)
Mr. W. Unsworth, Ashton-in-M., Crim

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penalty law will require players to hit the ball very hard and those men who can gain distance in their punts are on a good thing.

The kicking part in R.L. has been sadly neglected for years, and now the legislators are finding that there is little end-to-end play. Often the game is one of negative methods and defences generally cancel out clever attacking play. Giving the ball extra air in punting should help the game to provide more interest.

In the old days, the job of a full back or stand off half was to try and chase around the opposing full back. The sole purpose was to tire out the big and heavy footed forwards.

A mistake by a full back or even by any defender in dealing with a long raking kick meant not only the loss of a great deal of territory but also the chasing around of forwards who were never classed as "mobile."

AUSSIE METHODS

Then came the Australians with a few bright methods. They brought to this land with their touring sides forwards who could outpace even some of our wing threequarters. The new style had been set and except for prop forwards and hookers, the back three men of any pack of forwards can often cover much ground and in a matter of seconds.

The R.L. game has not always made full use of its backs and I contribute to the claim that far too often do forwards nip into handling movements instead of doing the job on hand—harrassing the opposition backs.

Even when Jim Sullivan and Jim Brough, two of the greatest ever converts to R.L. full back play were winning their spurs they found their natural aptitude in being able to punch the ball harder than most other players, enabled them to take the limelight and help their colleagues to victory.

Afterwards they brought other methods into play, but Sullivan and Brough hit the ball hard and often, much to the annoyance of the opposition full backs who did not have the same strength in their kicks.

And so the R.L. game covers another cycle. We have had the officials who have made the game fetish of possession and passing. They have yelled at players who even attempted to introduce a kick to touch. "Take the boots off 'em and that'll larn 'em" was the dictum which was preached over and over again. Once a team got possession the idea was to keep it like a bag of gold.

PUSHED BACK

But what eventually came were the wily ones who with special attention to close marking spoilt attacking plans and even pushed back the handlers time and again. It was all very disconcerting to the team with the ball and their supporters. They accused the opposition of sharp practices, when all that was being accomplished was smart plus anticipatory tackles.

Teams were slow to react to those clubs with negative ideas. This "stop 'em at all costs" style was growing. One team—were often blamed. The crowds slow hand-clapped and stamped—even at Wembley. But the criticised team were trying to drive their opponents into making mistakes. After all, what could you do when the other team were holding onto the ball like dear life?

So the R.L. game is changing slowly. Early this year the tap penalty goes, and also the advantage at the scrum. R.U. players who decide to commercialise on their football abilities, will make a mark in the professional game—that's if they have not forgotten to punt the ball correctly. The man who can also kick with either foot will be in great demand all round.

BRIGHTER RUGBY

He's the man who will take all the penalty kicks whether they are from a "place" position or to the right or left of the field when shots to touch are called for. It's all so interesting, and may be a move towards the combination of more R.U. rites.

Each rugby code can learn from the other, but I feel the R.L. folk in the past have ignored the good points of the Union game, for various reasons. Now they are seeing the folly of such an act. At last the light has been seen. Let us hope it will lead to brighter rugby.

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LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	24	136		Davies	22		11
Southward	13		14	Robinson	18		2
Ayres	2			Quinlan	3		3
Noon	25	8	18	Stirrup	4	2	1
Sims	18		6	Smith	4		
Kellett	26	1	13	Nestor	15		10
Hatherall	3			Petley	1		
Jackson	18		1	Pitchford	18		3
McIntyre	19		4	McKeown	9		2
Goddard	14		1	Jones	1		1
Winslade	19		4	Pendlebury	2		
Dufty	22		5	Cawthra	1		
Pugsley	5		1	Haynes	4		
Keith	14		1	Mumberson	1		

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

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

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

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