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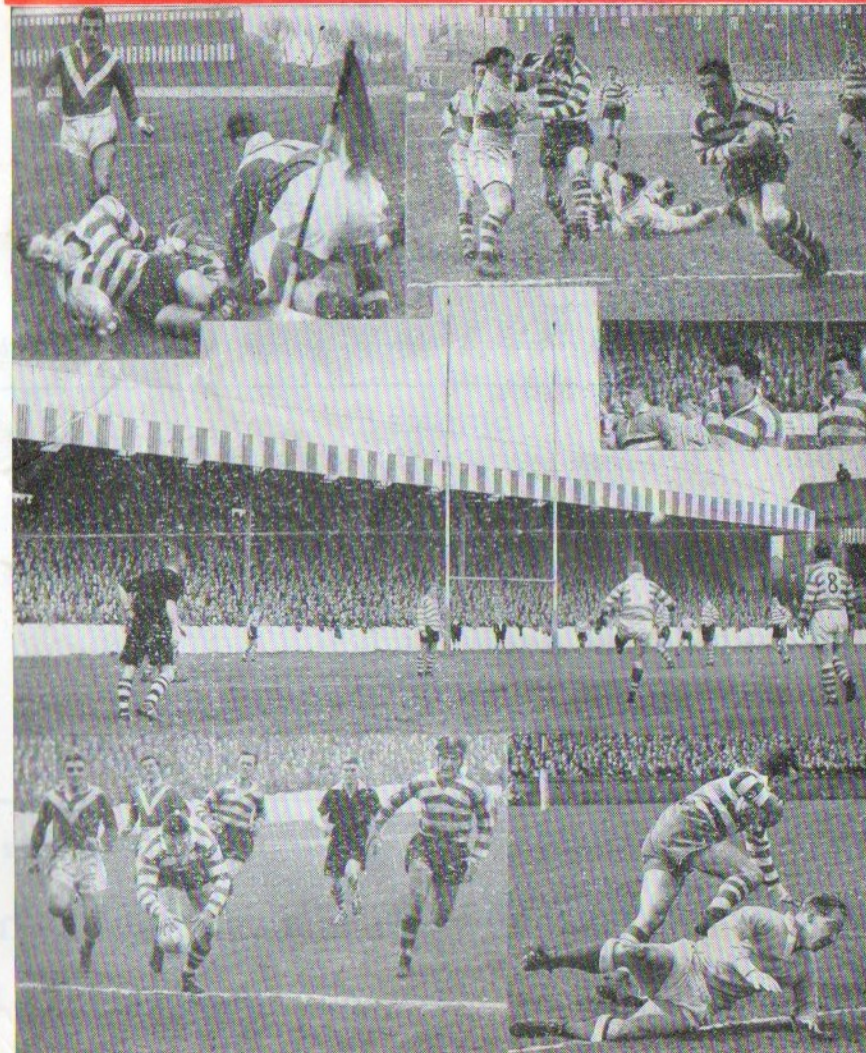
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SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 4—Tuesday, 18th September, 1962

Kick-off 6-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Our victory at Whitehaven in the first round of the Lancashire Cup on Friday evening, 7th September was a very well merited victory by 11 points to 2 points. One wonders if the team travelling overnight to these distant parts has an effect on their performance. Our team travelled on the day of the match, but one must admit it was a 6-30 kick-off. We consider our team suffered no ill effects provided the diet on the day of the match is carefully watched and the time available also suitably considered. Travelling 140 miles in a coach can become somewhat tiresome, but our team played inspired with the will to win and completely outstayed the Whitehaven team with their stamina. It would be unfair to individualise, as we consider every man played his part with a well earned entry into the second round of the Cup.

OUR VISITORS

Tonight it is a pleasure to entertain the Hornets from Rochdale, in the second round of the Lancashire Cup. In the first place we must not take anything for granted with our opponents inasmuch that we had a shock defeat at the hands of the Hornets so recent as August 28th when they recorded a well merited victory by 10 points to 2 points. This was a very unfortunate match for us, as we lost the services of two players injured, but quite accidental. However this evening we hope to have ample revenge and enter round three of the cup, but no doubt the Hornets will have a say in this. Our team will have to be in top form as our opponents will be inspired by their victory over Barrow in the first round at Rochdale and also by the shock defeat upon us in the Western League.

INJURED PLAYERS

Malcolm Price is making a slow recovery from his abdominal injury, he is maintaining slow progress and we must leave him in the very capable and efficient hands of the medical and hospital authorities. As one who has been privileged to see him for a few moments, Malcolm is very cheerful and in his own words he thanks all at the hospital for what they have done for him, wonderful is the word. He offers his thanks to all those who have enquired about him and to all who have written to him with the "get well cards."

Alan Kellett will be out of the game at least another six to eight weeks with a broken forearm. The hospital authorities are keeping a close inspection on the arm and we must leave him with them in the hope of an early and complete recovery.

Keith Holden is still having trouble with his thigh muscles and only rest and intensive treatment will cure this complaint. Once again we are hopeful of an early recovery.

AMENDMENTS TO LAWS OF THE GAME

When the two divisions come into operation on the 16th of October, 1962 (or the 5th if any matches are brought forward from the Saturday afternoon), the following amendments to the Laws of the Game will come into operation :-

1. **HOOKEE** The hooker will strike for the ball with the foot further from the point of entry of the ball into the scrum.

Note: Referees must insist that players pack square in the scrum and that the open side prop-forwards and hookers do not advance their feet before the ball enters the tunnel. Referees must be severe on the rule breakers if this new amendment is to be given a fair trial.

2. **FINDING TOUCH FROM PENALTY KICK.** If the penalty kick is kicked into touch without being touched by an opponent, irrespective of whether it goes into touch on the full or bounces in the field of play beforehand, then at the resulting scrum the side which takes the penalty kick will have the advantages of putting the ball into the scrum and the loose head.

Note. The object of this amendment is to increase the deterrent value of a penalty kick, an aspect of play which has been engaging the attention of the Council since the tap penalty was abolished. The general opinion was against a reversion to the tap penalty because of the negative play which it created, and consequently some other solution had to be found. If players are convinced beforehand that a penalty kick now means not only loss of ground but an odds-on chance of losing possession, then the petty infringements, e.g., deliberate off-side at play-the-ball, which have recently been prevalent in the game, will be considerably reduced.

3. **BALL EMERGING FROM SCRUM.** The ball will not be considered to have emerged fairly from the scrum unless it emerges from behind the second row of forwards.

The above amendments to the Laws of the Game were decided by the International Board at its meeting in August. The first amendment is definitely adopted, and the second and third amendments are being tried this season with a view to adopting them at a later date.

"I WISH WE HAD HIM!"

The wide field of journalism is pock marked with so many pitfalls, that a writer, whether he be of mature age or even the rawest cub reporter, has to be extremely careful what he writes otherwise he will soon slip up. Quite recently, and I may add unwittingly, I annoyed some keen Rugby League folk by suggesting that a member of their favourite team would fit into the scheme of things equally as well elsewhere.

(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

There were certain qualifications to this statement in order to placate the "local" enthusiasts, but there is no knowing what constructions can be placed on the most simple and straight forward suggestion. Perhaps experience has told us all to be wary; that certain happenings can be easily repeated and nobody likes having a march stolen upon them.

Now how many times a week do supporters fall into the same trap as myself? The answer is hundreds if not thousands, of times. In all quarters we hear before, during and especially after a match, out-spoken enthusiasts saying "I wish we had so and so in our team". And they are entitled to that opinion whether anyone likes it or not. It is an expression of free speech and I see no reason why it should be stopped.

STARS IN COLLECTION

When Bradford Northern bought player after player from this or that area they must have caused a feeling of annoyance to other clubs who would have liked to have signed certain of the Odsal stars. The Northern collection of stars was such that Bradford played at Wembley on three consecutive post war occasions.

The same sort of thing happened at Salford when Lance B. Todd was mainly responsible for a brilliant array of talent, he must have caused some heartburnings in dressing rooms and boardrooms in Rugby League circles. The mere expression that a player could dovetail into the scheme of things elsewhere cannot be construed into a cryptic policy.

Let us take a peep at the official guide to see whether any offence has been committed. Rule six under standing orders reads "when a club is convicted of illegally approaching players connected with other clubs in the League, it shall not afterwards be allowed to accept the player or players concerned as playing members of their club".

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- 6—EVANS
- 7—FISHWICK
- 8—BIRCHALL
- 9—SIVILL
- 10—KETTLETON
- 11—JONES
- 12—KILDUFF
- 13—PARR

Touch Judges :
Mr. J. Grayley, Rainhill (Yellow)
Mr. E. Lawrenson, Warrington (Crim.)

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ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE

That is plain enough, so whether you support Barrow, Huddersfield or Oldham, you are free to select your own fancies, even if your imagination sometimes may run away with you.

Many years ago when I was wrestling with the many rules and other complexities of Rugby League football, I had no sympathy at all with the local clubs which insisted that it had the first chance of refusal of a player or players, connected with a junior league in their area.

PRIVILEGES

I'm always a defender of free speech so surely my youthful thoughts on the privileges of the junior league players is defiance of a ban on the free movement of the amateur. Once a junior league official took a promising forward to another club outside the town. There was an inquiry of course and the official was suspended and the player got a good ticking off. Now that undemocratic law has been dropped. And a good job too.

There are loop-holes to many things. For instance a junior league player, if he is under 16 can switch to the R.U. code without any trouble at all. And by so doing he often gets a chance of a larger signing on fee if he switches back to the professional game after a year or two in the XV aside code.

I have heard some Rugby League officials describe this attitude as unfair having regard to the amount of money poured into schoolboy and amateur rugby by the senior clubs. Let us not forget that for one youth who makes good in second class or first grade R.U. there are many failures. Even some schoolboy Rugby League stars don't come up to scratch in the XV aside game.

This signing of youngsters on their 16th birthday is usually to prevent them from getting Rugby Union ideas

In the long run, and despite failures, a lad who has been coached in Rugby League has a certain style which pinpoints him to the many Rugby League "scouts" who dodge about the country searching for potential talent.

It was indeed a happy thought when the Rugby League decided that a young player was free to go where he wished. As much as we abhor the tone of the loud mouthed know alls, the Rugby League would be poorer if the average supporter was not allowed to air his views on the constitution of the team. After all, the people who choose the town's team every week are men who spent some time or another criticising or applauding on the stand and terrace.

BRIEFS

The transfers of Large and Rhodes from St. Helens to Leigh was a good move on the Leigh club's part, and it is a sign that some players are not partial to playing in the supposed second division of the N.R.F.L. It is an indication that not all future transfers will be one way traffic from second division to the first division.

The total attendances of the 15 Cup ties in round 1 was 105,376. In 1952 it was 134,380, and in 1948 168,832. Although ideal weather conditions prevailed, it is obvious we are slipping back somewhat. Has our game lost some of its attractiveness or have the people migrated?

There is one book issued by the Rugby League that should be in the possession of all supporters. It is the Manual of Rugby League Football and the price is 2/6 plus postage 6d., to be obtained from the Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. This edition is well worth the money.

The Manual is not confined to the laws of the game only. It deals with other matters which are of importance to the referee, players and clubs and is of good interest to the spectator. One of the best 3/- worth connected with our game.

Great interest is being shown for the first appearance of Arthur Rowe in our teams. Our own supporters are awaiting the day and several London papers wish to be represented when "the day arrives". We all wish him the best of luck.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS — SEASON 1962

(Including all Matches to date)

Player	App.	T.	G.	Player	App.	T.	G.
Sims, G.	7	2	12	Nestor	2		
Lord	7	4		Kellett	2		
Holden	3	1		Pycroft	2		
Price	5	1		Patterson	2	1	
Simms, T.	7	3					
Noon	7	3					
Pitchford	5						
Robinson, G.	6						
McIntyre	7	1					
Goddard, P.	6						
Bott	7						
Parker, D.	7	2					
Smethurst	4						
Mumberson	5						

FIXTURES AND RESULTS — SEASON 1962/63

OLDHAM'S SCORE GIVEN FIRST

Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.	Date	Opponents	Grd.	Rslt.
Aug. 18	WHITEHAVEN	Away	8-18	26	SWINTON	Home	.....
21	BARROW	Home	17-0	29	WARRINGTON	Home	.....
25	LEIGH	Home	16-10	Jan. 5	ST. HELENS	Away	.....
28	ROCHDALE	Away	2-10	12	HALIFAX	Home	.....
Sept. 1	WHITEHAVEN	Home	.....	19	FEATHERSTONE R.	Away	.....
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			26	HULL K. R.	Home	.....
15	BARROW	Away	.....	Feb. 2	WIDNES	Away	.....
22	ROCHDALE H.	Home	.....	9	R.L. Challenge Cup 1st Round		
29	LEIGH	Away	.....	16	HULL	Away	.....
Oct. 6	WORKINGTON T.	Away	.....	23	ST. HELENS	Home	.....
13	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	.....	Mar. 2	R.L. Challenge Cup 2nd Round		
20	LEEDS	Away	.....	9	FEATHERSTONE R.	Home	.....
27	WAKEFIELD T.	Home	.....	16	WARRINGTON	Away	.....
Nov. 3	WIGAN	Away	.....	23	HULL K. R.	Away	.....
10	WORKINGTON T.	Home	.....	30	WIDNES	Home	.....
17	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	.....	Apr. 6	BRAMLEY	Home	.....
24	LEEDS	Home	.....	12	SWINTON	Away	.....
Dec. 1	WAKEFIELD T.	Away	.....	15	HULL	Home	.....
8	WIGAN	Home		20	BRAMLEY	Away	
15	CASTLEFORD	Home		27	CASTLEFORD	Away	
22	HALIFAX	Away					

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