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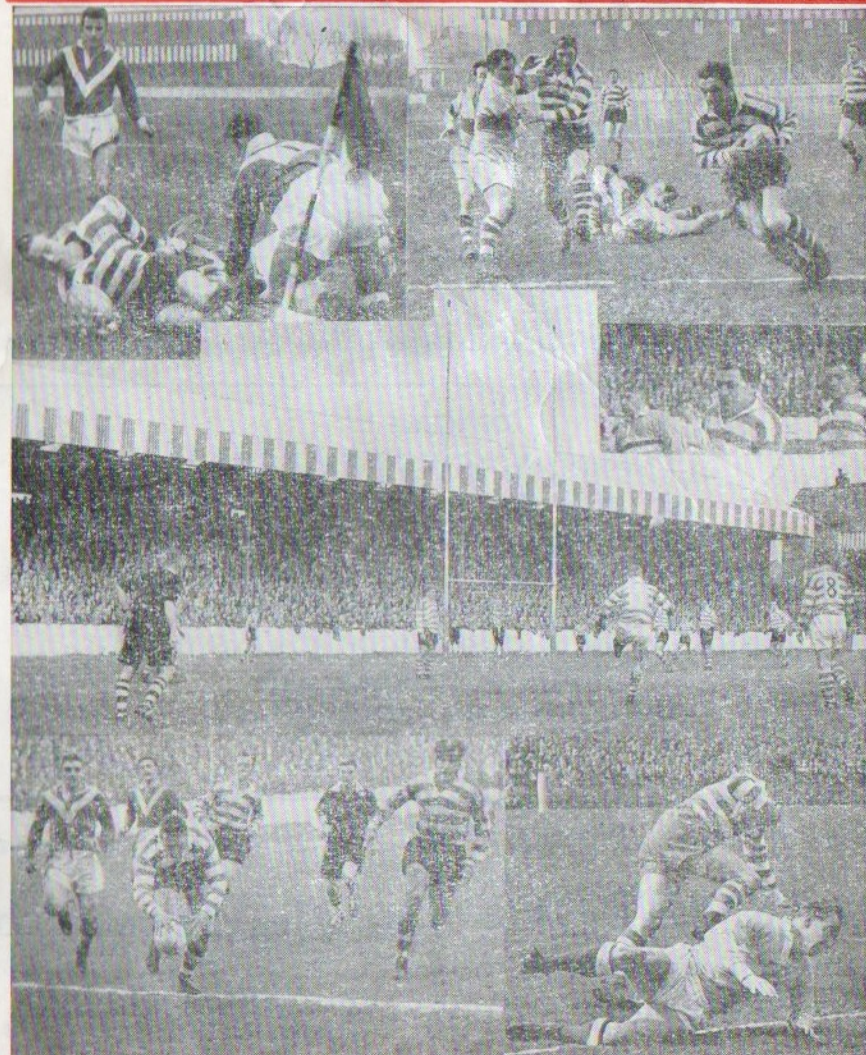
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SEASON — 1962-63

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No. 6—Tuesday, 2nd October, 1962

Kick-off 5-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

In our last home match against Rochdale Hornets although the game was nothing to write home about, another victory was recorded. The score of 22 points to 7 points appears convincing, but it was one of those games where more brawn is shown than science, the finer arts of the game were missing, hence the disappointment of the spectators.

We have now completed our fixtures in the Western League and on Saturday next commence the First Division series. A little explanation would not be out of place in stating that the Western League consists of Lancashire and Cumberland Clubs and the Eastern League consists of Yorkshire Clubs. Each Club has played eight matches. Now we come to the big boys consisting of 16 clubs which are supposed to be the cream of the Rugby League. Several suggestions have been put forward by our members regarding the Fixture List. The chief one appears to be, why commence with the Eastern and Western Leagues when the weather is supposed to be good. Consider our own fixtures, we have met in the Western League, Barrow, Leigh, Whitehaven, and Rochdale, home and away all in good weather. Our first four fixtures in division one, up to and including November 24th are, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Workington and Leeds. These four clubs must be considered crowd pullers providing the weather is kind to us. No one can guarantee the weather but one has always a better chance at the commencement of a season, and without money one cannot go very far.

OUR VISITORS

Welcome to St. Helens to Watersheddings this evening, in the semi final of the Lancashire Cup. Although several of the old faces are missing from their team, Terry, Rhodes and Large, they have some very capable exponents of the game as replacements. Two who will be making their debut at Watersheddings this evening are Coslett, full back and Killeen, wing. Coslett is an ex Welsh Rugby Union full back and Killeen a winger from South Africa. Both appear to have settled down to our game and without doubt St. Helens did a good stroke of business in acquiring these players. One player who will be absent will be Alex Murphy, that ace scrum half, who was injured on the Australian Tour.

Whatever the composition of our team this evening, they will have to give of their best and we can expect a ding dong game right up to the final whistle.

INJURED PLAYERS

The majority of clubs are complaining about the number of injured players they have on their list. We, ourselves, have never had such a great number on the injured list. Why has all this come about with the grounds in perfect condition. Is it the result of opponents standing offside, thus creating the crash tackle.

However, on the 6th of October we may see different tactics employed as the Amendments to the Laws of the Game come into operation on that day. We reprint these for the benefit of our readers and supporters so they can be fully conversant with the changes. We hope that it will cut out a lot of this standing offside by players.

1. **HOKER.** 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 advantage 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 of 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.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY INJURIES?

Not for a long while have there been so many injuries at this time of the season in the Rugby League game. Broken bones (and not a few broken hearts!) sprains and pains have been so numerous that there have been queues outside the ambulance rooms at most of the grounds.

—(writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

One would not have anticipated this sort of thing happening in Regional football where clubs who will ultimately depart to first and second division football, have been clashing.

If the present tempo in the number of casualties is not stopped then what will happen when the much promised close tussles are occurring in division one? Surely the closer the encounter the more likelihood of mishaps happening? I have already been to a number of well known grounds and studied the pitches. All of them are in excellent condition, with ample turf covering.

The reason for the improvement in playing pitches is because of many important facts. Clubs have spent considerable sums on improving drainage and calling in the expert touch. Then again most clubs have practice grounds and the wear and tear of regular pitches is not so heavy as was the case a few years ago.

FALLS ARE CUSHIONED

One would imagine that with thick turf to soften or cushion falls for the players, there would be less casualties. One would also have thought that with players training hard, (probably harder than ever) their limbs and muscles would be more resilient to the hard knocks which happen in present day Rugby. But no, many beds have been occupied in the towns' hospitals by injured Rugby League players.

And appointment books in Specialists' offices have been well marked by visits from stars and juniors who have required a little extra advice than the club doctor or G.P. could offer.

But with the lot of the professional rugby player having improved so much in comparison to pre-war seasons and training sessions being more thorough and conducted by qualified men, the question may be asked whether our methods are wrong, particularly those dealing with training.

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- 5—SIMMS., T.
- 6—NESTOR
- 7—JONES
- 8—MUMBERSON
- 9—McINTYRE
- 10—GODDARD
- 11—BOTT
- 12—SMETHURST
- 13—ROBINSON

Referee :
Mr. M. COATES
of Pudsey

ST. HELENS
(Blue & White)

- 1—COSLETT
- 2—VOLLENHOVEN
- 3—SULLIVAN
- 4—SMITH
- 5—KILLEEN
- 6—BENYON
- 7—HEATON
- 8—ARKWRIGHT
- 9—HARPER
- 10—WATSON
- 11—TEMBEY
- 12—HUDDART
- 13—MAJOR

Touch Judges :
Mr. H. Horsman, Gatley (Yellow Flag)
Mr. N. M. Pugh, Salford (Crimson)

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Presentation

Birthday

I asked a well-known sportsman about this point and having had charge of the preparation of many leading boxers, both amateur and professional, he said that certain exercises should be introduced to prevent leg ham-string trouble. Now I don't doubt the sincerity of this expert's view, but I don't think we had so many playing accidents even when there were less trainers and so forth on the clubs' training staffs.

I cannot think that players are less vigorous than they were before the war, but we must start to review this amazing crop of injuries, and study new methods. Perhaps we are expecting too much from the players. Perhaps the training they receive at the twice-weekly or even three-night sessions are too much, having regard to their daily jobs. And perhaps their vocations are not helping the rigorous training schedules.

MORE "NEEDLE"

We can expect extra "needle" when the First Division matches commence this coming Saturday, and I know that certain clubs who have big injury lists are already viewing the outcome with some apprehension. It would be an interesting experiment to discover whether players who are part timers are more prone to injury than those who put rugby as a full time job.

Are some of the heavier manual jobs too difficult for the rugby player who has often to play two games in a week (at times those matches can be most exacting). There must be some reason for this growing number of casualties. Referees have been told to stop rough play and to apply the firm hand when there are suggestions of sharp practices.

In the past few years referees have been told to punish men who try to affect head tackles, while any form of judo is outlawed. The double tackle was also ruled out, and tripping is punishable by instant dismissal—or should be.

With all these protections against the man in possession we are still finding clubs grumbling about methods by some teams, and there have been numerous occasions when teams have finished the game with a man or men short.

I don't think our Rugby League players of today are getting "soft", but there should be some inquiry into the unprecedented number of mishaps. This sort of thing is harmful to the victims, and it is more harmful to the game. Our opponents still think we are almost as bad as the "grunt and groan sport" called free style wrestling. We have to show our rivals that Rugby League is NOT brute strength and ignorance.

MALCOLM PRICE

Malcolm Price is still making slow recovery after his serious injury on August 28th last. He is still in hospital and is now allowed to walk round the ward as a leg stretcher. As to how long he will stay in hospital that is a matter for the medical and hospital staff at the Manchester Jewish Hospital.

INJURED TOURISTS

There may be glory in being selected as a tourist to Australia and New Zealand and still greater glory in winning the "Ashes", but some players pay a heavy price for such fame. In the 1958 tour of Australia and New Zealand there were three great players who never recovered from their injuries. A. G. Moses full back of St. Helens, Phil Jackson centre of Barrow, and our own Ken Jackson prop forward, who were ultimately forced to retire from the game as a result of injuries received. These men were players who were right at the top of their careers. Ken Jackson has never been capably replaced by our club, and there is no compensation for the loss of the player.

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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.	8	2	12	Nestor	5		
Lord	10	6		Kellett	2		
Holden	4	2		Pycroft	4		
Price	5	1		Patterson	5	1	1
Simms, T.	10	3		Jones	1		1
Noon	10	6	4				
Pitchford	5						
Robinson, G.	9	1					
McIntyre	10	1					
Goddard, P.	9						
Bott	10						
Parker, D.	8	2					
Smethurst	7	1					
Mumberson	8						

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	40-9	19	FEATHERSTONE R.	Away	
8	Lancs. County Cup Competition			26	HULL K. R.	Home	
15	BARROW	Away	15-13	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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