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April 25, 1925. FINAL Oldham v HULL

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Sat., April 25

Leeds Football Club, 1924-1925.

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JOTTINGS.

The contesting teams for to-day's Final are Hull Kingston Rovers and Oldham.

The position of the two clubs in the Rugby League Table is as follows:—
Hull Kingston Rovers, second; having played 34 matches, won 25, lost 6, drawn 3. Percentage 77.94. Their scoring record is 75 goals, 114 tries, 492 points, as against their opponents' 27 goals, 39 tries, 171 points.

Oldham, who hold the fifth position in the League, have played 34 matches, won 21, lost 12, drawn 1. Percentage 63.23. Their scoring record is 67 goals, 133 tries, 533 points, as against their opponents' 39 goals, 39 tries, 245 points.

Hull Kingston Rovers last Saturday played Wigan at Craven Park, for the right to figure in the Final of the League, and they were successful in defeating Wigan, and now appear in the Final for the Cup and the Final of the League.

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Jottings—Continued.

Oldham have appeared in the Cup Final on four occasions, in 1899, 1907, 1912, and 1924, and have been successful once. That was in 1899, when they defeated Hunslet by 2 goals, 5 tries, 19 points, to Hunslet 3 goals, 1 try, 9 points.

Hull Kingston Rovers have only once previously appeared in the Cup Final. That was in 1905, when they were defeated by Warrington, by 2 tries, 6 points, to nil.

Hull Kingston Rovers, from a playing point of view, have had a wonderful season. It is true that the Club has previously participated in the Final honours of the season, and has also held the championship of the Northern Rugby League, but until the present season it had never attained to the dignity of champion of the Yorkshire County League or reached the final of the premier League and qualified for the final of the Challenge Cup in one campaign.

The Rovers have gained the place they now hold by wonderfully consistent football. They made a flying start, and they experienced only temporary checks at long intervals. The result has been that since the campaign began they have been amongst the leaders. After occupying the first place in the League for several months, they only lost it to Swinton in mid-February. Last Saturday's contest at Craven Park, in the semi-final of the Rugby League Championship,

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Jottings—Continued.

constituted the team's tenth match in League and Cup Ties within 28 days, and in these games only 19 players have been called upon, which we must all agree has been a most wonderful performance, and a credit to the players and the management of the Club. It will be interesting to give the names of the players who played for the Rovers in their last Final on April 29th, 1905, against Warrington. The teams were as follows:—

Hull Kingston Rovers. H. Sinclair; G. H. West, W. Phipps, A. W. Robinson, and W. Madley; J. Barry and J. Gordon; A. Starks (capt.). W. T. Osbourne, A. Kemp, A. Windle, G. Ellis, A. Spackman, F. Gorman, and D. Reed.

Warrington.—J. Hallam (capt.); T. Kenyon, G. Dicknison, D. Isherwood, and J. Fish; E. Brooks and D. Davis; G. Thomas, A. E. Bondman, A. Naylor, J. Jolley, F. G. Shugars, J. Preston, W. Swift, and J. Harner.

Referee.—Mr. J. Bruckshaw, Stockport.

Anthony Starks, who captained the Rovers side, had won Yorkshire and English Rugby Union international honours before going from Castleford to Hull, where he is still identified with Kingston Rovers as a popular member of the directorate.

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Teams and Scoring Sheet, Sat., April 25, 1925.

HULL K. R.	3 pts Score Goals Tries	OLDHAM.	16 pts Score Goals Tries
<u>FULL BACK</u>		<u>FULL BACK</u>	
1 L. Osborne ...		1 E. H. Knapman ...	
<u>THREE-QUARTER BACKS</u>		<u>THREE-QUARTER BACKS</u>	
2 L. Harris ...		2 S. Rix Centre...	
3 J. Cook ...		3 A. Woodward ...	
4 J. E. Houlst ...		4 E. Davies C. ...	
5 G. Austin ...		5 R. Farrar W ... 2r. 2.	
<u>HALF BACKS</u>		<u>HALF BACKS</u>	
6 J. McIntyre ...		6 J. A. Corsi W ... 1r.	
7 J. Raynor ...		7 G. Hesketh ...	
<u>FORWARDS</u>		<u>FORWARDS</u>	
8 J. R. Wilkinson 1r		8 B. Beynon ...	
9 F. Boagey ...		9 H. Weston ...	
10 G. H. Wilkinson		10 A. Tompkins ...	
11 C. W. Westerdale		11 J. Collins ...	
12 F. Bielby ...		12 R. Sloman ...	
13 A. Carmichael ...		13 A. Brough ... 1r.	
Reserves— 14 Britton		14 H. Hilton (capt) ...	
15 Clark		15 A. Baker ...	
16 Binks		16 P. Carter ...	
17 Lyons			

Referee, R. Jones. Touch Judges, F. Fairhurst and W. K. Hirst.

After the Match visit

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Jottings—Continued.

Councillor E. W. Brown, the genial chairman, was formerly a playing member of the Hull Football Club, whose old county three-quarter, Billy Jacques, is now a successful trainer of the Rovers. Both are Hull born men, who when the Rovers last qualified for the final round of the Challenge Cup, were active members at the Boulevard. Time brings many changes.

The results of the Rover's performances in this Year's Cup Competition are as follows:—

FIRST ROUND.—Home: Rovers 9 points, Bramley nil.

SECOND ROUND.—Home: Rover 13 points, Wigan Highfield 5.

THIRD ROUND.—Away: Rovers 5 points, Keighley nil.

SEMI-FINAL.—Wakefield: Rovers 7 points, Leeds 6 points.

Oldham have been looked upon now for many years as one of the leading clubs in the Rugby world, as they have generally been a very consistent team. Last season, when Oldham reached the Cup Final, they were drawn at home in the first three rounds. This year they had to go to Leigh in the first round, but afterwards had the luck of the draw. The outstanding feature of Oldham's play has been their defence. So far they have taken part in four cup games without having a try scored against them, and have scored 52 points to 2, which

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Jottings—Continued.

is a most remarkable record. Their weakness will probably be their forwards, as of late the Oldham side has been held up owing to their forwards being unable to get possession at the scrummages in anything like their turn. The Club have a young "hooker" in Lister, but he is ineligible to take part in the tournament, having played in one of the qualifying rounds for his club in Cumberland. Oldham are regarded good enough for anything in the back division, but the result of the game will largely turn on how the Oldham pack acquit themselves. If the Rovers get the ball anything like as frequently as the Hornets did, they will win. Still, the Oldham forwards are sturdy fellows, and if they play the correct game the Rovers will have a hard time.

It is singular that Oldham and Kingston Rovers have not met since February, 1920. Since the Cup was first competed for Oldham and the Rovers have been drawn together only on two occasions. On February 27th, 1909, Oldham defeated the Rovers at Oldham by 8 points to 7. On February 18th, 1911, Oldham tackled the Rovers at Hull, and again won by 9 points to 7. Since the formation of the Northern Union in 1895 these sides have met on 25 occasions, and Oldham have won no less than four-fifths of the games.

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Jottings—Continued.

Oldham's record in the Cup Ties this season is as follows:—

FIRST ROUND.—At Leigh: Oldham 5 points, Leigh *nil*.

SECOND ROUND.—At Oldham: Oldham 12 points, Warrington 2 points.

THIRD ROUND.—At Oldham: Oldham 26 points, Featherstone Rovers *nil*.

SEMI-FINAL.—At Wigan: Oldham 9 points, Rochdale Hornets *nil*.

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The Directors intend making a very big effort this year to obtain at least 1,000 new members for the Club. It is intended shortly to issue a Souvenir of the Company, which will contain photos of the players and officials of the various sections connected with the Company.

Further particulars will be announced later.

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