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## Fixtures for the Season

1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1954-55	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 7	—Rochdale (Charity)	Home	3-0	Dec. 18	—Keighley	Away	
14	—Wakefield T.	Away		25	—Swinton	Home	2-30
21	—Batley	Home	3-0	27	—		
25	—Salford (Wed.)	Away	7-0	Jan. 1	—Belle Vue R.	Home	2-30
28	—St. Helens	Away		8	—Leigh	Away	
Sept. 4	—Barrow	Away		15	—Warrington	Home	2-30
11	—1st Round Lancs. Cup			22	—Workington	Away	
14	—Liverpool (Tues.)	Home	7-0	29	—Rochdale Hornets	Home	3-0
18	—Batley	Away		Feb. 5	—Barrow	Home	3-0
25	—Wakefield T.	Home	3-0	12	—First Round R.L. Cup		
Oct. 2	—Blackpool	Away		19	—St. Helens	Home	3-0
9	—Workington	Home	3-0	26	—		
16	—Rochdale Hornets	Away		Mar. 5	—Second Round R.L. Cup		
23	—Hull	Home	3-0	12	—Belle Vue Rangers	Away	
30	—Liverpool S.	Away		19	—Widnes	Home	3-0
Nov. 6	—Blackpool	Home	3-0	26	—Warrington	Away	
13	—Widnes	Away		Apl. 2	—Wigan	Home	3-0
20	—Whitehaven	Home	2-30	8	—Swinton (Friday)	Away	
27	—Wigan	Away		9	—Hull	Away	
Dec. 4	—Salford	Home	2-30	11	—Keighley (Mon.)	Home	3-0
11	—Whitehaven	Away		16	—Leigh	Home	3-0

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- ◆ **JIMMY BREEN** Ace reporter

in the **OLDHAM EDITION** of the  
**Manchester Evening Chronicle**

**OLDHAM v. HULL****WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

This evening we play our last Northern Rugby League game of the season and we welcome entertaining visitors from Hull. Like ourselves the Hull Club have had one great disappointment this season in being the defeated finalists of the Yorkshire County Cup, Halifax proving their victors.

The Hull Club can be styled as one of the teams in the Rugby League that do play the open game and we have had many tough but enjoyable games both at Watersheddings and at Hull. Let us hope that today's game will give us that thrill and enjoyment as a grand finale to a wonderful playing season we have had and a fitting result that our team deserves.

The Hull team have some very capable talent on view today.

**Colin Hutton**, full back, is captain of the side and was secured on transfer from Widnes, a fine team man and a glutton for work (last season he set up a new Club goal-kicking and point-scoring record).

**W. Drake**, the winger, is twin brother to Jim Drake who is playing in the forwards, and both come from the York junior club, Heworth.

**Roy Francis**, the coach of the team, has had 18 years' experience on the Rugby field, having seen service with Wigan, Barrow and Warrington prior to his present club.

**Carl Turner**, centre, is a quiet-spoken Welshman who is tremendously keen on the game and a player to be respected.

**Ivor Watts**, winger, hails from Cumberland, fearless in a tackle and has a fine turn of speed.

**Brindle**, out-half, secured on transfer this season from Wigan, a player of much promise and steeped in the Wigan style of play.

**Finn**, scrum-half, still another Lancastrian, also secured on transfer this season from St. Helens.

**Scott**, forward, one of the best forwards in the R.L., originally a second-row man but now a convert to the front row in the ranks of the heavy brigade.

**Harris**, hooker, a Welsh international, toured Australia with the last touring team, probably the fastest hooker (loose play) in the game, his handling and backing up are superb.

**Jim Drake**, as previously stated, is twin brother to William Drake.

**R. Coverdale**, a forward who is a glutton for work and a full eighty minutes' man.

**Harry Markham**, an outstanding forward, big and strong and a wonderful player at backing up.

**John Whiteley**, loose forward, a West Hull boy. Has already played for England. A player delightful to watch and a pleasure to know.

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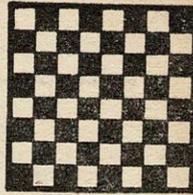
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### OLDHAM (Red and White)

- 1—STIRRUP, F./GANLEY, W.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R. (Capt.)
- 3—BARROW, R. KELLETT
- 4—ETTY, J.
- 5.—O'GRADY, T.
- 6—DALEY, F./KELLETT, A. B.
- 7.—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—OGDEN, H.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—JACKSON, K.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—TOMLINSON, A./LITTLE, S. //
- 13—GOLDSWAIN, B. V.

### HULL (Black and White)

- 1—HUTTON //
- 2—DRAKE, W.
- 3—FRANCIS
- 4—TURNER
- 5—WATTS
- 6—BRINDLE
- 7—FINN
- 8—SCOTT
- 9—HARRIS
- 10—DRAKE, J.
- 11—COVERDALE
- 12—MARKHAM
- 13—WHITELEY

Referee: H. Squires, Ossett

Touch Judges:

D. Halliday, Swinton (Red).

E. Bleasdale, Warrington (Blue)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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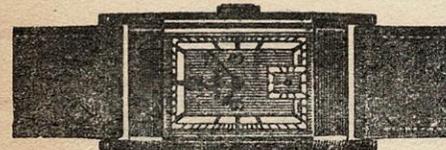
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### TESTIMONIAL MATCH—L. PLATT

Arrangements have now been made for the Lawrence Platt Testimonial match to be played at Watersheddings on Saturday, 21st May, 1955, kick-off 3 p.m. The Huddersfield team have agreed to come along and play our first team. All players will give their services. Arrangements have been made to have the World Cup on view also. Tickets for this match will be on sale shortly and we hope the public will respond and support this worthy beneficiary.

We have agreed to our first team playing Halifax at Halifax on Saturday, 28th May, in a testimonial match for Stan Keilty, after this we consider our players will have earned a rest from the season's strenuous campaign.

The Counties of Lancashire and Yorkshire are rich in football stories and we may recall one about a cotton mill which was built some little way from the ground in 1889—Oldham's first season at Watersheddings. The chimney of this mill could easily be seen from the ground with the name and date "Ruby, 1889," facing the ground. Bad times came to the cotton industry and the mill was demolished 20 years ago.

The story goes that when the mill chimney ceased to face the ground reminding one of Oldham's first season, the team never seemed to reach their previous heights, and that it was an ill omen when the chimney was destroyed. However, the Oldham Committee were not superstitious enough to build another chimney to restore their luck. Time marches on and we think we have killed this superstition, with diligence and hard work of the Committee in a thorough and practical manner, to give once more this grand ground the first-class team which it so deserves.

### RECORDS AND FIRST MATCHES

Attendance, 28,000, February 24th, 1912, Oldham v. Huddersfield.

First Northern Union (now Rugby League) Challenge Cup Final, played May 1st, 1915.

First Northern Rugby League Championship Final played May 5th, 1928.

First Lancashire Challenge Cup Final played November 19th, 1927.

First visit by New Zealand touring team, November 23rd, 1907.

First visit by Australian touring team, December 26th, 1908.

Record receipts, £3,004, Oldham v. Wigan, 1st round Challenge Cup, February 12th, 1955.

### BIG OCCASIONS

Many representative matches were played at Watersheddings in the early days of the Northern Union. In 1915 Huddersfield thrashed St. Helens by 37 points to 3 in the Final of the Northern Union Challenge Cup, while on November 19th, 1927, the Lancashire Challenge Cup Final was played on the ground, Swinton beating Wigan by 5 points to 2 before a crowd of 16,436 (receipts £1,274 14s. 3d.). The following year, on May 5th, 1928, Swinton and Featherstone Rovers played in the Northern League Championship Final, Swinton winning before a crowd of 15,583 (receipts £1,139).

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