

PARKSIDE PERSONALITIES

Another of our younger players who made rapid progress to senior status was Brian Lawrence Gabbitas. A local boy who went to Cross Flatts School, he continued his football with our junior teams and was quickly marked out for professional registration. This was accomplished on the 19th February, 1952.

BRIAN GABBITAS

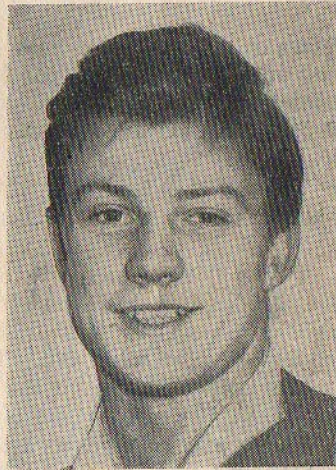


Photo by courtesy of the
Yorkshire Evening News.

Commencing with the "A" team in 52/53, he played on 10 occasions with them and was promoted to the first team on December 26th, 1952, v. Hull, at Parkside. A further 16 appearances to the end of the season consolidated his claim to the stand-off half position. After two matches the following season, Brian was called to do his National Service, and he was then only to play on 13 occasions with us during that season.

A member of the famous Royal Signals team, he had the honour of being on the winning side in the Army Cup Final. This team included Boston and Jackson, and with these two players he played for the British Army XV. Brian has also attained Junior International honours.

A single young man, he is employed by the Leeds Corporation as a clerk. His height is 5ft. 9in. and weight 11st. 12lb. So far, he has made 52 first team appearances, scoring five tries, and as we put it, he makes the openings for others to complete.

The outstanding match in his memory is, singularly enough, one which we lost, but which he states was the most exciting. This was the second leg of our cup-tie at Workington, when Paskins ran through our team to score the winning try just before the final whistle sounded.

The Parksider

Saturday,

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CLUB CHAT

Just how much injuries can cause havoc and chaos with a team which had settled down to be a winning combination is not fully realised until it happens. Team selection then becomes a bogey. Seven of the first team unavailable—Clues, Smith, Shaw, James, Snowden, A. Burnell and W. Burnell (tonsilitis).

Clues, as you know, will be absent for over two months, and we trust that he will find his father on the way to recovery after the sad bereavement in the family.

Apart from Snowden (broken collar bone), and possibly Shaw, we are hoping the others affected will soon be fit. But what has happened now? Although depleted we have another three injured — Gabbitas and Hirst seriously and Gunney hors de combat.

Those of us who were at Barrow were compelled to admire the fighting spirit of a grand team who never gave in, even though numerically at a disadvantage. This spirit will carry us through our troubles backed by your loyal support.

We would place on record our appreciation of our friends at Barrow for their excellent attention to the injured players.

Though our "A" team was raided for the first team, they gave a grand show even though defeated against a strong Halifax "A" team. The tackling was not all that could be desired, but they certainly made

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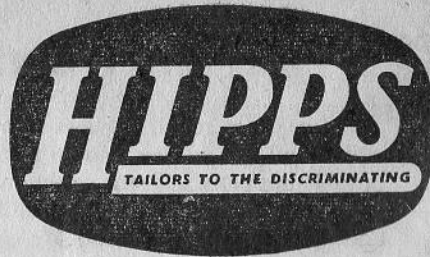
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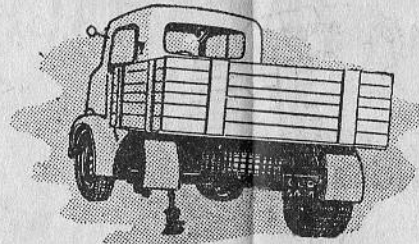
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CLUB CHAT—continued

a game of it. They also have their quota of injuries, no less than four being unavailable. Well, these things happen, and no good is done by moaning. We look forward to having a full-strength team, when we can then carry on the good start made this season.

Though deposed from the leadership of the League, we still lead all-comers in the Yorkshire League.

You will have seen where we are one of the eight clubs to play under floodlight with the match being televised (Commercial). We play Leigh at Shepherds Bush, London, and the amended date is now Wednesday, November 9th. The final is on November 16th between the two clubs winning by the largest margin of points.

Five weeks ago we went to Oldham and came back successful for the first time since the war. Today we meet again, but with a vastly different team. We expect our opponents to go all out for winning points, but, shall we say, "Hunslet expects that every man this day will do his duty." Oldham have built up a grand team and are receiving wonderful support, so today's game should be one of a very high standard.

The new Rugby League Manual, a book describing every law of the game in detail and one to settle all arguments is now on sale — 2/9d. post free — from The Rugby League, 180, Chapeltown Road, Leeds, 7.

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