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Fixtures for the Season

1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1955-56	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 13	—Rochdale H. (Charity)	.....	Away 3-0	26	—Swinton (Mon.)	.....	Home 2-30
20	—Broughton R.	.....	Away 3-0	27	—Blackpool (Tues.)	.....	Away 2-30
27	—Blackpool (Lancs. Cup)	.....	Away 3-0	31	—Whitehaven	.....	Home 2-30
30	—Rochdale H. (Tues.)	.....	Away 7-0	Jan. 2	—Workington (Mon.)	.....	Away 2-30
Sept. 3	—Hunslet	.....	Home 3-0	7	—Whitehaven	.....	Away 2-30
10	—Leeds	.....	Away 3-0	14	—Workington	.....	Home 2-30
17	—Warrington	.....	Home 3-0	21	—Widnes	.....	Away 2-30
24	—York	.....	Away 3-0	28	—Rochdale H.	.....	Home 3-0
Oct 1	—Featherstone	.....	Home 3-0	Feb. 4	—Leigh	.....	Home 3-0
8	—Hunslet	.....	Away 3-0	11	—1st Round C.C.	.....	3-0
15	—Barrow	.....	Home 3-0	18	—Wigan	.....	Home 3-0
22	—Warrington	.....	Away 3-0	25	—Featherstone	.....	Away 3-0
29	—New Zealand	.....	Home 3-0	Mar. 3	—2nd Round C.C.	.....	3-0
Nov. 5	—Leigh	.....	Away 3-0	10	—York	.....	Home 3-0
12	—Liverpool	.....	Home 3-0	17	—Blackpool	.....	Home 3-0
19	—Wigan	.....	Away 2-30	24	—3rd Round C.C.	.....	3-0
26	—Widnes	.....	Home 2-30	30	—Swinton (G.F.)	.....	Away 3-0
Dec. 3	—Liverpool	.....	Away 2-30	31	—Leeds (E.S.)	.....	Home 3-0
10	—Salford	.....	Away 2-30	Apr. 2	—Barrow (E.M.)	.....	Away 3-0
17	—Salford	Home 2-30	7	—Broughton R.	Home 3-0
24	—St. Helens	Away 2-30	14	—St. Helens	Home 3-0

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—IN THE OLDHAM EDITION OF THE—

MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE**OLDHAM v. WHITEHAVEN****WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

Far from being a Merry Christmas! Our first team have had one of the most unhappy experiences for a long time—losing three matches in succession is something unusual for us. Our aspiring for a place in the first four has received a very serious setback and we must now depend on other clubs losing to bring us into the limelight once again.

In our first holiday match at St. Helens on Saturday last, our opponents had most of the game territorially, and they managed to score two tries, against one by our team, but goal kicking as a result of silly infringements, made the score look better than the final result should have been—eighteen points to seven points. Our backs never seemed to get going, but along with the forwards gave magnificent support in defence, all to no purpose and we were defending for long periods.

On Boxing Day at Watersheddings against Swindon we met a very unexpected defeat by ten points to eight points. The match was played under heavy ground conditions, and one must admit that the match was lost by lack of tactics and bad goal kicking. A try against us for obstruction early in the game appeared to upset our team but they fought back to secure a lead of eight points to three points. Conditions by now made open play most difficult, but we still persisted in playing the open game and many handling mistakes was the result. We retired beaten at home for the second time this season in the League tourney.

On Tuesday last our away match at Blackpool just about touched rock bottom, and it was the surprise result of the day when we were beaten by Blackpool by nine points to five points. Playing in the face of a gale wind during the first half, our team managed to keep the score against them to nine points to five points. Stupid infringements cost us six points. Upon resuming at half time we had the wind behind us and the exploitation of play the ball when in possession of the Blackpool team was one long monotony of how to keep the ball from your opponents and the game became a very dull affair. Try as our team did they could not pierce the Blackpool defence. One can say that Blackpool had possession of the ball for thirty minutes out of the forty minutes. It was a case of what we have we hold.

A very poor consolation for our players and more so when we reflect on the brilliant performances that our team have given prior to the holidays. However we must make amends for this setback and provide football of the highest order.

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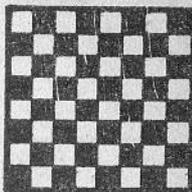
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OLDHAM

(Red and White)

- 1.—STIRRUP, F.
- 2.—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3.—NOON, J.
- 4.—DAVIES, A.
- 5.—ETTY, J.
- 6.—NESTOR, V.
- 7.—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8.—OGDEN, H.
- 9.—KEITH, J.
- 10.—LITTLE, S. D.
- 11.—ROGERS, J.
- 12.—GOLDSWAIN, B. V.
- 13.—TURNER, D.

WHITEHAVEN

(Chocolate and Blue)

- 1.—McKEOWN, J.
- 2.—SMITH, W.
- 3.—GARRETT, W.
- 4.—LOWDEN, S.
- 5.—MULLINDER
- 6.—NIXON, J.
- 7.—REID, J.
- 8.—McALONE, W.
- 9.—McGUINNESS, J.
- 10.—KILLEN, G.
- 11.—McCOURT, S.
- 12.—ROBINSON, G.
- 13.—SHORT

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Referee: Mr. M. Coates, Pudsey

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Grayley, Widnes (Red Flag) Mr. D. Halliday, Swinton (Blue Flag)

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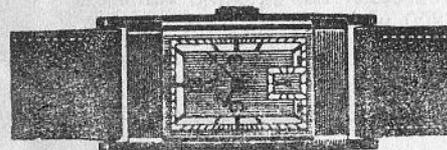
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OUR VISITORS

We welcome to-day at Watersheddings the Whitehaven Club from what we may call the outpost of our game in the north.

One can visualize the long journeys that the two Cumberland clubs, Whitehaven and Workington have to make each time they play in Lancashire or Yorkshire, and we accept both clubs as worthy members of the Rugby League.

The Whitehaven Club are having a moderate season, but quite recently have run into form and are playing good and attractive football. To-day we can expect a game that will be interesting. Our team will not have to take liberties with the opposition, as they are a full eighty minutes team, and are capable of springing a surprise, so it will be up to our players to be in top form to achieve victory.

BRIEFS

The Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League are considering the position of referees very closely, and spend some considerable time in going through the list on reports that clubs forward regarding referees. Reforms are taking place and it is intended that the retiring age for referees should be 50 years of age (at present it is 55 years of age), and that this should take effect as from the commencement of the 1956/57 season, and that under no circumstances could the age limit be extended. It is also agreed to request the Lancashire Combination and the Yorkshire Senior Competition to relinquish their responsibilities in regard to "A" team appointments of referees in order that there could be some central control establishment over referees.

Considering the weather conditions we had a very excellent attendance on Boxing Day against Swinton, 12,640 spectators paying the sum of £1,053. The attendance and receipts for Christmas Day, 1954 against Swinton was 10,452 spectators paying £858, which to our opinion is that a Boxing Day fixture is a better proposition than a Christmas Day fixture, it has proved so these last few years.

The expense of running a football club nowadays is a very expensive job, and several clubs are hard put to in making ends meet, in fact some clubs are losing money very rapidly, and there must be only one end to this, unless some rigid economy is exercised. The increases in the rateable value of professional football clubs has gone up by leaps and bounds, and has added a further burden to the already overtaxed resources. The rateable value on our club has been increased from £285 to £800 which means that our last payment for rates being £350, our payment next year will come to £1,000 at the present rate in the pound.

FORTHCOMING MATCHES

January 7th, 1956. Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
"A" TEAM v. WHITEHAVEN "A"

January 14th, 1956. Kick-off 2-30 p.m.
1st TEAM v. WORKINGTON

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