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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—	Rochdale H.	Away	Dec. 7—		
	(Charity Match)		14—	Liverpool	Away
17—	Halifax	Home 3-0	21—	Whitehaven	Home 2-30
22—	Barrow (Thurs.)	Away	25—	Swinton (Wed.)	Home 2-30
24—	Wakefield	Away	26—	Hull (Thurs.)	Away
26—	St. Helens (Mon.)	Home 7-0	28—	Warrington	Away
31—	Barrow (L.C.)	Home 3-0	Jan. 4—	Leeds	Home 2-30
Sept. 2—	Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away	11—	Barrow	Home 2-30
7—	Halifax	Away	13—	Widnes	Away
14—	Warrington	Home 3-0	25—	Workington	Home 3-0
21—	Leigh	Home 3-0	Feb. 1—	Wigan	Away
28—	Workington	Away	8—	R.L. Cup	
Oct. 5—	Hunslet	Home 3-0	15—	St. Helens	Away
12—	Rochdale	Away	22—	R.L. Cup	
19—	Hull	Home 3-0	Mar. 1—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
26—	Blackpool	Away	8—	Widnes	Home 3-0
Nov. 2—	Wakefield	Home 3-0	15—	Whitehaven	Away
9—	Salford	Away	22—	Rochdale	Home 3-0
16—	Liverpool	Home 2-30	29—	R.L. Cup semi-final	
23—	Leigh	Away	Apr. 4—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
30—	Salford	Home 2-30	5—	Wigan	Home 3-0
			7—	Huddersfield (E.M.)	Home 7-0
			12—	Hunslet	Away
			19—	Leeds	Away

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SEASON - 1957-58

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Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HALIFAX

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is another era of our club in the opening of the football season of 1957-58, and it will be the 85th season for the Club, but not at this ground. The Watersheddings ground was opened in season 1889 and our club played six seasons of Rugby Union prior to the big split of 1895, when the then Northern Union was formed.

Many glorious seasons of football have been witnessed on this ground and opinions may differ, but we consider that last season was the best of all from an all-round football display. Last season we had some magnificent games at Watersheddings and also away from home, with the result that we won three major cups out of four, which speaks for itself. The past has gone with the remembrance of a great season in 1956-57, but what does the future hold? We are confident that once again we shall be a power in the game, and that we shall serve up the football that gives value for money, with satisfaction to all who watch this game of Rugby League.

Our playing staff has been added to by two first-class players in Rowley Moat, out-half, from Hull, a player we have a great opinion of, and who we think will fit in with the scheme of things at Watersheddings. Our other signing is Roger Dufty, a second row forward from London Irish, R.A.F., and Middlesex County player. This player comes to us with a good reputation in Rugby Union, and was on the fringe of Irish International honours. Although eligible to play for Ireland, this player has never resided in Ireland, and was born at Wolverton, Nr. Oxford. Again, we expect all the good recommendations and skill that this player has, but it is a big change coming from the Union game to Rugby League, and we must give this player time to settle down to the changed conditions. The ability and physique are there, and we are confident that much will be heard and seen from Dufty.

We have one departure from Watersheddings, the player being Arthur Tomlinson, who, on the 29th of June last, emigrated to New Zealand, having secured a good position there. It is not Arthur's intention to play football in New Zealand. We wish him well in his new environment.

IT COULD BE THE GREATEST SEASON EVER IF . . .

by JACK STEEL, "Warrington Guardian Series"

A Rugby League philosopher once said that the professional handling code COULD be the greatest game as far as a spectacle is concerned over all spring, summer and autumn sports, providing club officials, players and referees remembered the book of rules and acted accordingly. They were wise words, but so often are they ignored even by some people who urge the introduction of revivals and reforms.

You will note that our philosopher made no reference to spectators — that long-suffering section of the community, which, despite a lot of disappointments and set-backs, has kept the code alive since the "great split" from the Rugby Union over the vexed question of "broken time." Yet the body of men and women onlookers is not immune from criticism by reason of their actions when the tempo of the match has been quickened and nerve systems are running even faster.

A Memorable Season

Whatever section of the R.L. you belong to, it really behoves man, woman, and child to make season 1957-58 a memorable one in our history. R.L. should flourish to unknown regions if only WE (and I'm including members of the Fourth Estate, to which I have the honour to belong) remember our individual responsibilities and don't involve ourselves in a tug of war among ourselves. It should be a big pull — one way!

PLAYERS who will no doubt benefit in some way or another from the bigger club bank balances, will please everyone if they forget all the sharp practices that are known; play strictly to the official guide and avoid getting the better of their opponents by unsporting actions. R.L. is a game where it is very easy to "get your own back." But remember, it is the genuine sportsman who wins in the long run.

Clean Play

Play cleanly and try at all times to make the game as attractive as you possibly can. R.L. is sadly lacking in new ideas on the field of play. So you players get thinking up some new moves to thrill the crowds. Excite the spectators and they'll bring along more of their pals to the next match, thus helping the game, the club and yourself.

OFFICIALS will never satisfy the general public if they set up an iron curtain between themselves and their supporters. Be as open as you possibly can without going to the lengths of letting secret information slip out and defeat your own objects.

The public likes keeping abreast with the times, and your own followers, who get as many jibes as yourselves, from Soccer fans, will be delighted to talk about the enterprise of R.L. So feed the Press and your own official programmes with more and more information. The only way R.L. can get more publicity for the code is for it to be talked about in club, pub, office, workshop and home.

So don't be Sphinx-like and "say nowt." That's how some horrible rumours start. You can make or mar your club by a tight tongue. That little extra information, plus your own effort behind the scenes, will be well worth it.

REFEREES can make Saturday afternoons pleasant ones if they are strictly impartial to the utmost degree. It takes two teams to make a match, but a referee, who is not on his toes for the whole of the eighty minutes, can spoil it all by a single decision. If a ref' is not feeling up to the mark, even on the morning of the match, he should "return" the appointment card—phones are always available—and allow someone else to take over. R.L. is full of young men who wish to prove their worth.

Can we have clearer signals? You know why you have decided on this or that. But the spectators are often puzzled. So, in your spare time, practice giving better signals. Be a keen disciplinarian, but please be ready at all times to advise players on their faults.

SPECTATORS have a very important part in the game. There are as many do's and don't's for them as for any other section. Late arrival at the ground may seem to be of little consequence, but if you get to the match half an hour before kick-off instead of five minutes before—when there are long queues at the turnstiles—the man on the gate will be very pleased. We take too much for granted and if we will co-operate in this little matter, the gateman will be glad even if he doesn't say so.

Cheer your own favourites by all means, but always remember that your club will attain greater prestige if you lavish praise on the visitors when they deserve it. If you must yell disapproval, then don't put yourself in a spot by showing ignorance of the laws.

Read the official guide from cover to cover and re-study it over and over again. The slow-hand-clap is an American import we could well do without, so let's drop it.

PRESSMEN are growing in numbers if we are to count 'em in the boxes. Most of them are fighting a keen battle over space values—even in their own offices where there's ever so much interest in Soccer and Racing. The Busby Babes, Birmingham Wembley stars, and so forth are not the be all and end all of sport. They are great in the eyes of some, but we of R.L. couldn't care less. If we did then we would be at Old Trafford, St. Andrew's, Main Road, or even Boundary Park.

Rugby League is our game and we are fighting for it whatever odds are against us. Most of our interest in the round ball is the round coins we sometimes get out of the pools. We are often accused of bias and unkind criticism. We are not infallible, but we have a new duty to R.L. in the new term.

We must aim for more space; give as much credit (when it is there) to the less fashionable clubs as we do to the big noises; strive for brighter reports, and push the attendance angle as much as possible. Often there are counter attractions and, even then, R.L. gets the biggest public support. When that happens, please say so, then the circulation departments will get a kindly nudge.

R.L., aided by a sympathetic Chancellor and covered by law for the bob-a-week sweeps, must not relax. Greater endeavour in a season when there will be a lot of easy money, will pay handsome dividends in the years ahead. So it's a challenge to all.

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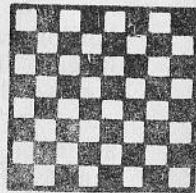
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Red and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B. (Capt.)
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—AYRES, D.
- 5—ETTY, J. W.
- 6—MOAT, R.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—LITTLE, S. D.
- 12—DUFTY, R.
- 13—TURNER, D.

HALIFAX

Blue and White

- 1—OWEN, G.
- 2—ASQUITH, R.
- 3—MATHER, W.
- 4—PALMER, G.
- 5—FREEMAN, J.
- 6—DEAN, K.
- 7—KEILTY, S.
- 8—THORLEY, J.
- 9—MOYSER, S.
- 10—HELLIWELL, J.
- 11—HOLMES, J.
- 12—CLIFFT, C.
- 14—TRAILL, K.

ALL
THE
R.L.
NEWS

Referee: Mr. E. CLAY of Rothwell

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Hyde, Manchester (Red)

Mr. F. S. Rowley, Barrow (Blue)

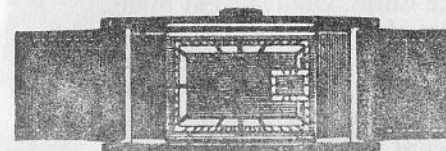
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Spotlight . . .

No. 1

WILLIAM BERNARD GANLEY

Born at Leigh, Lancashire

Age, 28 years

Height, 5ft. 9in.

Weight, 12st. 7lbs.



As a boy he attended Leigh St. Joseph's and Leigh Grammar School and played Soccer. Served in the Army in the Lancs. Fusiliers in Austria and later became Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps. Graduated at Manchester University with B.A. in the Department of Economics.

He signed professional forms with Oldham in 1951 and in the same season broke the goal-kicking record for the Club. He appeared in the England Shadow team in 1952 and has played twice for Lancashire.

In season 1956-57, he broke his own record by kicking 194 goals, he also scored two tries.

Son of a famous father—Bert Ganley, who played for Leigh, Leeds and Huddersfield—he has proved himself both on and off the field of sport. He took his "final" for Chartered Accountancy in May, 1958, and apart from being a Bachelor of Arts, he is still a bachelor but nevertheless the ladies perfect man.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington

This table will be completely brought up to date with each issue of this Programme

Home Team on left. Away Team on top. Home Team's score given first.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Home		Away		F.	A.	Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.			
Barrow							
Blackpool							
Leeds							
Leigh							
Liverpool							
Oldham							
Rochdale							
Salford							
St. Helens							
Swinton							
Warrington							
Whitehaven							
Widnes							
Wigan							
Workington							

This table will be completely brought up to date with each issue of this Programme

OUR VISITORS

What better visitors and opponents could we have for the opening of the season than in Halifax? Many are the stirring games we have had, and always to a good crowd, which proves the attractiveness of our opponents today. Here are some records of the Halifax Club:

Founded: 1873.

Ground: Thrum Hall, Halifax.

Colours: Blue and White Jerseys.

League Champions: 1903; 1907; (runners-up three times).

R.L. Cup winners: 1903; 1904; 1931; 1939; (runners-up six times).

Yorkshire Cup winners: 1908; 1944; 1954; 1955; (runners-up three times).

Yorkshire League winners: 1909; 1921; 1953; 1954; 1956; (runners-up five times).

Leading scorers last season: Owen, 91 goals; Freeman, 48 tries (new club record).

LAST SEASON'S HONOURS

How good is your memory? Doubtless many will recall the Wembley finalists, the score, and who won the thrilling Odsal League Final, but who could name all the major trophy winners and runners-up for the last season? Here, to jog your memory, is the list.

Trophy	Winners	Runners-up
League Championship	Oldham	Hull
Rugby League Challenge Cup	Leeds	Barrow
Lancashire League	Oldham	Barrow
Lancashire Cup	Oldham	St. Helens
Yorkshire League	Leeds	Hull
Yorkshire Cup	Wakefield T.	Hunslet

LEADING SCORERS LAST SEASON—all matches

Goals	Tries
L. Jones (Leeds) 197	W. Boston (Wigan) 60
W. B. Ganley (Oldham) 194	J. Lewthwaite (Barrow) 51
C. Hutton (Hull) 166	J. Freeman (Halifax) 48
F. Dyson (Huddersfield) 150	J. W. Etty (Oldham) 43

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