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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		18—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		Apl. 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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No. 8—Saturday, 2nd November, 1957

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WAKEFIELD

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Whilst one hates to turn or look back, this is an occasion when one can do so with safety, and, with a certain amount of pleasure.

Our last first-team match played on Watersheddings was on Saturday, 21st September—this is quite a long time to be absent from headquarters and much has happened in the interim.

This glorious team has retained the Lancashire Senior Cup and to dispose of Barrow and Warrington at Watersheddings, St. Helens at St. Helens, and Wigan on neutral ground speaks wonders for the magnificent lot of players that is possessed by this club.

Our only defeat of the season was received at Watersheddings at the hands of St. Helens, when, unfortunately, we lost Jack Keith in the first few minutes of the game and laboured under a handicap that we could not overcome. What a different tale to tell on our visit to St. Helens for the 3rd Round of the Lancashire Cup. With a full team all the game we simply ran away with the Saints to win with a clear 20 points. This was a real shock to the Saints supporters who, incidentally, gave wonderful praise to our team. By this victory, if any team deserved to win the cup it was Oldham, and in the final at Swinton there was no doubt of the efficiency of our team and the final score of 13-8 did not represent the game. So we march on with one cup in our possession and hope that our team will continue to show that form which they are capable of and will carry us on from success to success.

The writer has had official experience with this club for over thirty years and can say without fear of contradiction that this present team is the best balanced team that has represented the club in that period. Some great players have been connected with the club, but to play as a team is another matter. We have great players in our team now, but they are playing as a unit and the team is young enough in years to continue the type of football the Rugby League crowds like. Wherever we go we are always welcome visitors and the spectators do give appreciation to the grand football that is served up by the team.

OUR VISITORS

To-day, we entertain, in a return match, visitors from Wakefield, and we give them a welcome to Watersheddings. At present they are at the head of the league, having played 13, lost one, and made a draw against us on August 24th, and won the remaining 11. Their only defeat was at Bradford on 19th October when the lost 11-10.

A SOCCER IDEA — BUT IT'S GOOD

by **JACK STEELE** "Warrington Guardian Series"

Clubs will be asked shortly to vote one way or another on the duration of the match interval. It is five minutes for league and cup-ties — until we reach the time for Wembley. Then it is ten minutes for the interval break and we follow soccer's idea. But only in that particular instance.

It is claimed that the Wembley dressing rooms are such a long way from the playing pitch that the teams should have additional respite, and why not with all the ceremonials which are part and parcel of the Wembley final (the teams come in two by two)?

Against Colleague's Views

Two fellow writers — Eddie Waring, of the "Sunday Pictorial" and Eric Thompson, of the Wigan edition of the "Lancashire Evening Post" are much against the new idea. In the case of Eddie, he thinks that players would suffer at the Bradford Northern ground in very wet or cold weather if the interval was extended.

I have not examined the position very closely, but have the rest of the clubs to suffer because the Bradford facilities (said to be among the best in the league) are not equal to those of other clubs? Bradford should make some extra provision for both teams near one of the main stands.

Batley have (or had) an additional rest room near the pitch and at the interval teams would not have to trapse the long distance to the changing room and back again. A similar sort of thing happens at Watersheddings, and also at Whitehaven.

I should like to point out that at Warrington, the home team have their dressing room closer to the tunnel than the visitors' room. This means a much longer walk for the visiting team and the real breather for them must only last 130 seconds!

To Mr. Thompson I say "hocey" to the suggestion that the spectators may lose continuity with the game. Why, if Eric goes around the pubs and clubs of Goose Green, Platt Bridge, and many other points North, South, East and West of Wigan's River Douglas, he will find fans discussing events of 25 and 50 years ago! Surely a longer interval would allow Eric, who is engaged in evening newspaper work (and it is warm work, phoning and writing "copy") a welcome breather.

Better For Players

From a players' point of view, a longer interval would be welcome, especially for those who have had a knock and have had to seek the attention of the trainer. The ten minutes break would allow players to

freshen up, and we might see much better play after the interval. Those tedious train and motor coach journeys to Yorkshire and Cumberland (and vice versa) can play havoc with players. I'm sure an extra five minutes would be like a swig from the small bottle.

And we must remember those people who pay the bobs and two bobs at the gate. They too want an extra breather. Under present circumstances there isn't time to have a quick cup of tea, and there are scenes on some grounds — including Bradford — which are not nice for the wife or girl friend to see. You know what I mean.

The longer interval would be as much of a handicap to me as to some of my journalistic and broadcasting colleagues. That extra five minutes means that reports would have to hustle still more to reach one or other of the B.B.C. studios after the game. The time factor is against us already, but five minutes — well we can make that up somehow.

Never 3-30 p.m. Again

I think I am doing justice to a writer in an old Oldham programme for his stand against the 3-30 kick-off. Before the war, the afternoon was almost over before R.L. got under way, and what inadequate reports we got in many evening papers those days!

In some instances today we see very little published of second half play, even though the kick off had been brought forward half an hour (earlier in the Winter months).

In the alleged "good old days" we could not even get the result in some evening papers, and had to wait until the "Empire" arrived the next morning.

We grumble about publicity nowadays, but our fathers had to put up with more handicaps. And there was no T.V. or radio in the old, old days.

The 3 o'clock kick off has given the code a real boost, for there is more space in the evening newspapers and on the B.B.C. programmes. League tables are available, even in editions where the soccer charts have not been brought up to date. We never want to go back to the bad old kick off days.

From Jack Steele's Note-book

The only Yugoslav in the R.L. game is Milan Kosanovick, the Bradford Northern No. 9, who is known to the Odsal fans as "Kos". And who do you think has gone behind the "Iron Curtain?" None other than Harry Sunderland, the B.B.C. commentator and columnist.

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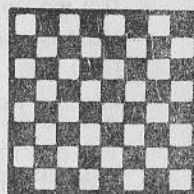
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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—STIRRUP, F.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R. (Capt.)
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—DUFTY, R.
- 13—JARMAN, A.

WAKEFIELD

Red and Blue

- 1—LOCKWOOD
- 2—HIRST
- 3—FOX
- 4—METCALF
- 5—COOPER
- 6—HOULDEN
- 7—ROLLIN
- 8—HARRISON
- 9—SHAW
- 10—COVERDALE
- 11—HAIGH
- 12—FIRTH
- 14—CHAMBERLAIN

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Referee: Mr. G. PHILLPOTT of Leeds

Touch Judges:

Mr. H. Hyde, Manchester (Yellow) Mr. S. J. Heesom, Warrington (Red)

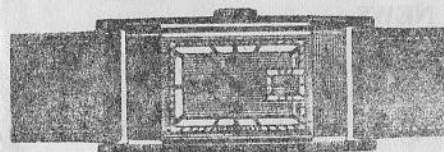
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POOL'S PROGRESS

Did you know that since the start of the Pools Organization, over £5,000 has been paid in prizes, and that the Club has benefitted to the extent of over £4,500.

Every shilling of this £4,500 is earmarked for future ground reconstruction, which in turn means greater comfort for all.

Bigger prizes are anticipated in the near future, so why not become a Pool's Agent and enrol your friends and neighbours and give them a chance to share in the weekly prizes.

The Pool's Office is in Denton Street (behind Woolworth's) and is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 7-30 p.m. to 9-0 p.m., and Saturday morning from 9-30 a.m. to 1-30 p.m.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

We have quite a few members in the Ashton, Audenshaw, Droylsden and District area and we would like to bring to their notice that a concert is to be held at the Railway Hotel, Guide Bridge, on Tuesday, November 12th, at 8-0 p.m.

The branch at the Plough Inn, Werneth, is also holding a concert on Tuesday, 19th November.

We would be pleased if all interested persons will rally round and make these two events a huge success.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	—					10-27									24-10
Blackpool		—		9-15		5-34	12-17			5-13		13-19			
Leeds	52-12	68-6	—					25-25	23-5					18-8	
Leigh				—				12-7							
Liverpool					—				4-28		5-18				13-18
OLDHAM				23-5		—			7-21		17-15			11-39	
Rochdale	28-20					21-29	—					15-8			
Salford					16-3		15-4	—			10-8		5-16		
St. Helens			36-7						—		14-2	26-9			
Swinton									14-16	—				5-28	
Warrington		19-6			36-6						—				10-5
Whitehaven		38-17					40-8	16-13				—		6-16	
Widnes									13-22	15-12			—		
Wigan	48-5		20-17	7-9										—	35-11
Workington	15-0					22-11	13-24	33-6				17-11			—

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

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Team	Home				Away				F.		A.	Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.	W.	D.	L.				
Wigan	8	3	0	1	4	0	0	2	221	75	14	
St. Helens	8	3	0	0	4	0	1	1	168	79	14	
Oldham	7	2	0	1	4	0	0	0	161	90	12	
Workington	8	4	0	1	1	0	2	2	134	110	10	
Leeds	7	4	1	0	0	0	2	2	210	112	9	
Warrington	7	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	108	67	8	
Whitehaven	8	3	0	1	1	0	3	3	146	125	8	
Salford	7	3	0	1	0	1	2	2	91	84	7	
Leigh	5	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	54	64	6	
Rochdale	7	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	99	157	6	
Widnes	6	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	73	109	4	
Swinton	4	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	44	64	2	
Barrow	5	1	0	1	0	0	3	3	51	152	2	
Blackpool	9	0	0	6	0	0	3	3	93	250	0	
Liverpool	6	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	44	159	0	

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	15	89	2	Duffy	3		
Cracknell	14		8	Turner	14		6
Ayres	5		2	Stirrup	4		
Nestor	13		5	Jarman	7		1
Etty	14		5	Daley	7		
Moat	6		2	Noon	8		6
Pitchford	14		3	Rowbottom	1		
Jackson	14		1	Carruthers	2		
Keith	13		5	Winslade	8		1
Vines	12			Davies	4		7
Little	14		5				

Our Visitors—continued

Although five of our stars are away playing for Gt. Britain, we are confident in the reserves who are taking their places and we hope to achieve victory. It will be a great battle as we are up against a young, forceful team, which is full of ideas of how to play the game. We hope that the game will be worthy of the two leading clubs in the league.

BRIEFS

Congratulations to our five players, Messrs. Ganley, Davies, Jackson, Little and Turner, in being selected to represent Gt. Britain in the match against France at Toulouse, to-morrow.

A great honour to the players and to the club. May they all have a successful match and the team return victorious.

Five players from one team in an International match is not a record. Wigan had seven players in a test match in Australia in 1950.

Prior to the transfer of M. Sullivan from Huddersfield to Wigan at a fee of £9,500, we had the costliest pair of wing-threequarters playing to-day. Dick Cracknell and Jack Etty, both Yorkshiremen, cost the club just over £7,000, but what an investment they have been to the club.

We had an interest in Sullivan. One may say, a large interest by the sum we were prepared to pay. But to go to £9,500 was beyond our limit.

Several Newspapers give different numbers for the total of Bernard Ganley's goal-kicking figure. Up to date, he has kicked 89 goals in League and cup-ties—fifteen competitive matches.

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