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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10—	Rochdale H.	Away
	(Charity Match)	
17—	Halifax	Home 3-0
22—	Barrow (Thurs.)	Away
24—	Wakefield	Away
26—	St. Helens (Mon.)	Home 7-0
31—	Barrow (L.C.)	Home 3-0
Sept. 2—	Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away
7—	Halifax	Away
14—	Warrington	Home 3-0
21—	Leigh	Home 3-0
28—	Workington	Away
Oct. 5—	Hunslet	Home 3-0
12—	Rochdale	Away
19—	Hull	Home 3-0
26—	Blackpool	Away
Nov. 2—	Wakefield	Home 3-0
9—	Salford	Away
16—	Liverpool	Home 2-30
23—	Leigh	Away
30—	Salford	Home 2-30

Date	Opponents	Venue
Dec. 7—	14—Liverpool	Away
	21—Whitehaven	Home 2-30
	25—Swinton (Wed.)	Home 2-30
	26—Hull (Thurs.)	Away
	28—Warrington	Away
Jan. 4—	Leeds	Home 2-30
	11—Barrow	Home 2-30
	18—Widnes	Away
	25—Workington	Home 3-0
Feb. 1—	Wigan	Away
	8—R.L. Cup	
	15—St. Helens	Away
	22—R.L. Cup	
Mar. 1—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
	8—Widnes	Home 3-0
	15—Whitehaven	Away
	22—Rochdale	Home 3-0
	29—R.L. Cup semi-final	
Apl. 4—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
	5—Wigan	Home 3-0
	7—Huddersfield (E.M.)	Home 7-0
	12—Hunslet	Away
	19—Leeds	Away

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WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Our last two away matches, against Hunslet and Liverpool, have been very near things and we left victory until the dying minutes of the matches. At Hunslet, with our full available team out, we were hard put to in a match against a team that on the day's form will go far this season, in fact, it was one of the hardest matches this season, although we missed several scoring chances we must compliment the Hunslet team upon the grand show they put up. The large following we had at this match had possibly come, resigned to defeat, in fact, some of our supporters had left the ground and were awaiting their coaches when they heard the final score. So far so good, but we do not like leaving victory until the last minute.

With Liverpool, we were up against a team that has a wonderful team spirit and enthusiasm and we always appear to run up against this spirit when we visit Liverpool. As at Hunslet, victory was left until the last two minutes. Although we must state that our team was shorn of Winslade, Little, Vines and Cracknell (a formidable lot to have missing from your team), our deputies did not completely fill the bill, and at times we were hard pressed to keep our opponents out. Territorially, they had the major portion of the game, and we were somewhat lucky to come away with a victory.

Several of our players appeared to have an off-day, and when your half-backs appear to be off form, the rest of the team have a difficult task on hand. However, we keep on winning, and that is the principle that matters, although we must admit that we are not playing the same type of classical football we put over last season. Perhaps one must not be too critical, for the players are human beings and all are subject to have an off-day feeling sometime. We have been, and are accustomed to, such a rich diet of football by our team that we expect it every match. This the players try to give, but there are times when your opponents can dictate the game and may possibly put you off your own style. However, we have nothing to complain about, we are riding on top of the world and are the envy of the sporting world in our game.

MOVES AND MORE ATTACKING MOVES ARE WANTED

By Cyril Briggs, Sports Editor, "Warrington Guardian Series" and B.B.C. Reporter

I have often been told (and in straightforward terms at that) to stand among the popular side supporters and gain a **real** insight into the R.L. game. Force of circumstances prevents me from so doing, yet I often feel that I am missing something by not mixing among the men and women who are really the salt of the Rugby League World. And they can also be the pepper and vinegar as well, when they are annoyed.

Listen to the men in pubs, clubs, workshops and offices and then dot down in a note-book the points which you think will make the R.L. code a better game to watch. The sifting of the sand from the spice is often very helpful. Now one of the biggest arguments from the man on the terrace is that the R.L. game is not as attractive as it ought to be.

Stern Struggles

He will laud the game to the heavens when it has been a sparkler, but unfortunately these days, we don't see sparkling fixtures every week. We have our pulses running faster and faster when Wigan, St. Helens, Wakefield and one or two other clubs visit Watersheddings, but after that there are too many foregone conclusions.

In the present era, Oldham people are now experiencing the same kind of days which Wiganers, Warringtonians and the merry folk of Huddersfield once enjoyed. It is the league system which is wrong, although if you get around a bit, you must agree that even when Liverpool City, Bramley and the weaker clubs have met the fashionable sides, their own form shows some kind of improvement in the weeks which follow.

Unfortunately for the code, the improvement is not great enough or sustained, and it is here where the ordinary supporter of R.L. has a grumble. He says that there should be far more variety in R.L. and I have to agree with him. There is far "too much of a muchness" about present-day methods. Spectators are simply yearning for more planning on attack. There is far too much negative play in R.L.

"The Negatives"

One team (you know without me spelling out the name) were dubbed "the negatives". They could snuff out attack after attack. It was not attractive to watch, although it was effective as far as their "points against" column was concerned. A sudden breakaway, or a few penalty goals, gave this team quite a number of victories, but lots of people who didn't care who won the fixtures, so long as they saw good Rugby, were not happy.

I have said it before, and I make no apology for repeating this point is it not possible for leading teams to give us at least two new attacking moves each week? That would work out at eight in a month, and a total of 70 or more before the season ran out. Surely two a week is not putting anyone out of step. I realise that the stoppers, the sloggers and the spotters would negative a lot of the ideas, but surely some moves (there's nothing new under the sun, we are told) would stand up to any pre-arranged spotting plan.

Unforgettable Scene

The other week I saw 20,000 fans in an unforgettable scene. It happened at Warrington, and not only is it well worth describing, but it will show what I and thousands like me, are really after. The game was hotting up to daring deeds, and harder tackling. St. Helens had the most of their stars in determined mood. Then suddenly the Saints' passing went wrong. The ball flew to Edwards, the Warrington half back. Off he went for the line. He could not make it, and he knew it.

But he foxed everyone on the crowded ground, and even the St. Helens players, when he whipped a pass around his back and into the hands of a player who really did not expect it. The fans were speechless for a second or two and then the roars began.

Now Watersheddings habitués have seen Edwards at work. They saw him in a cup-tie earlier in the season. Edwards tip-toed through the Oldham defence as if he was giving a perfect demonstration of a song title which made the hit parade before the war. The people who saw the try scored could not contain themselves — they roared their approval.

Try Getters

Now if Edwards can bring out two moves in two games, and they were try getters, besides having excitement written all over them, surely we can expect more from players with much greater experience than Edwards. He is a teenager. We who have seen R.L. played before Edwards was born, have a few pet moves in our minds, and what is more, we would like them brought into reality again.

Now I'm not saying that Edwards is the saviour of R.L. He has a long way to go, and I think he has lots to learn about speed, etc. Neither am I saying that the Oldham team is not serving up the thrills. In addition, there is no criticism of the present planning at Watersheddings.

I say this because I have known Griff Jenkins much longer than the majority of Oldham followers. But all clubs in the R.L. MUST show us something new week by week if the game is to progress in ALL districts.

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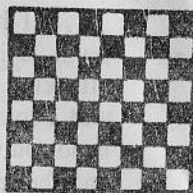
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2—CRACKNELL, R. 1 TRY
3—NESTOR, V. KELLETT 1 "
4—DAVIES, A. 1 "
5—ETTY, J. 1 "
6—DALEY, F. 1 "
7—PITCHFORD, F. 1 "
8—JACKSON, K.
9—KEITH, J.
10—VINES, D. G.
11—LITTLE, S.D.
12—DUFTY, R.
13—TURNER, D.

WHITEHAVEN 12

Chocolate and Blue

- 1—McKEOWN, J. 3 GOALS
2—KING, P.
3—McMENEMY, R.
4—MORGAN, R.
5—STEPHENSON, C. 1 TRY
6—GARRETT, W. 1 "
7—BANKS, W. 1 "
8—McALONE, W.
9—McKINNEL, J. SHORT
10—VINCENT, R. HYNICA
11—SHORT, T. CLOSE
12—TEMBEY, J.
13—ROBINSON, G.

Referee: Mr. G. WILSON of Dewsbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. D. T. James, Liverpool (Scarlet) Mr. N. Winstanley, Wigan (Yellow)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

ALL
THE
RESULTS

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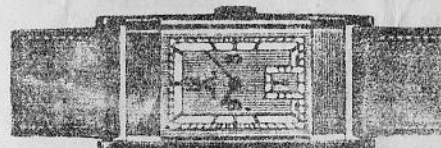
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Oldham's Tricks

Oldham MUST have pulled a good few tricks out of the hat to have reached their present position, but have they or other clubs gone the full hog in the attacking plan? Let me tell you about two moves that I have never seen repeated in the last 20 years.

On the old St. Helens Recs ground at City Road, another small half-back hit the headlines with a sensational move. The player was "Wee" Pierce. The ball came to him on the opponents' "25". He looked well covered until he held the ball head high and pretended to throw it to his winger. At the same time he cut out three of his own men. The defenders took the audacious "dummy" and the cover was beaten to a frazzle.

Remember Joe Doyle, the Barrow half back now Frank Daley and Frank Pitchford, don't think I'm getting at you)? He wen to Australia and showed them a thing or two. In one memorable game the ball was whipped out on the wrong side of the Barrow pack. The ball went to from No. 7 to No. 6 — or almost. Doyle got a flyer and went between them both. He had only a matter of a dozen yards to go, but the crowd and the opposition were simply dazed.

I once passed on the tips to an international half-back. No names please, but he never tried 'em. They are there free for the taking. You are crying for new attacking ideas and if they come at a gradual rate, R.L. will be pushing up those attendance figures. Do you agree or don't you?

OUR VISITORS

To-day, it is our privilege and pleasure to entertain at Water-sheddings, the Whitehaven Club—the torch-bearers of our code in the distant north.

They have not had a too successful season, lying as they do, about mid-way in the Lancashire League, having got 12 points from thirteen matches, and a little lower in the N.R.F.L.

We can expect a good game from the Whitehaven Club at any time—remember their shock defeat of St. Helens in the Challenge Cup last year.

Unfortunately, we shall not see them at their strongest to-day as they will be without Gibson, their player-coach, and Huddert, their star-forward.

Nevertheless, let us hope that to-day's game will be a fast and open one and that both sides, and the spectators, will have a most enjoyable afternoon's football.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Team	P.	Home			Away			F.	A.	Pts.
		W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.			
St. Helens	15	6	0	0	8	0	1	329	128	28
Oldham	13	5	0	1	7	0	0	276	144	24
Wigan	13	5	0	1	4	0	3	298	141	18
Workington	13	5	1	1	3	0	3	197	169	17
Warrington	13	5	0	1	2	1	4	200	141	15
Whitehaven	13	5	0	2	1	0	5	202	200	12
Leigh	11	4	0	2	2	0	3	146	153	12
Widnes	12	4	0	2	2	0	4	163	193	12
Leeds	11	5	1	0	0	0	5	246	168	11
Salford	13	4	0	2	1	1	5	169	188	11
Barrow	12	4	0	2	1	0	5	162	244	10
Rochdale	14	3	1	3	2	0	5	161	246	10
Liverpool	13	2	0	4	0	1	6	107	297	5
Swinton	10	1	0	4	1	0	4	109	186	4
Blackpool	13	1	0	6	0	0	6	148	320	2

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	20	129	2	Dufty	5		
Cracknell	20		14	Turner	19		7
Ayres	6		2	Stirrup	7		
Nestor	19		9	Jarman	9		1
Etty	21		7	Daley	11		
Moat	6		2	Noon	15	10	10
Pitchford	21		6	Rowbottom	6		
Jackson	19		1	Carruthers	2		
Keith	20		9	Winslade	14		3
Vines	15			Davies	8		11
Little	18		6	Kellett	2		
				McKeown	1		

Players' Benefits

Much has been said and written regarding the granting of a benefit match after a period of 10 years' service of a player with ONE club. Writing personally, the writer considers it a long period for a player to give — service of 10 years. Appendix is a list of players on the register of this club, and one will notice that several will never qualify, taking the ages of the players into consideration.

The Management Committee of the Northern Rugby Football League have now issued a questionnaire to all clubs as to their opinion of the following proposal:—

Any player placed by a club on the open transfer list — at the behest of such club, shall, in the event of the transfer being effected, pay to the said player a sum of not exceeding 10 per cent of the accepted fee, provided the said player did not receive more than £500 — in cash or kind — when registered by the club, and a sum of five per cent if the player received less than one thousand pounds, but more than five hundred pounds. Any player placed on the transfer list AT HIS OWN REQUEST, provided that he has served the club for not less than five years, shall receive 2½% of the accepted fee, the signing-on terms as above to apply in this case also. Any period of service less than five years shall not be deemed of sufficient service to warrant payment to a player who requests to be placed on the open transfer list.

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