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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

A Merry Christmas is the old saying, but the Christmas just passed has not been so merry for us for the fact that of the matches played we only won one and that was away at Warrington on Saturday last.

Our defeat at home on Christmas Day by Swinton was one which shocked all our fans, in fact, it was a double defeat, as this match also counted in the Lancashire League, and the defeat as such may prove to have been very serious when the final figures are published. There is no doubt about it, our team was dead off form on Christmas Day. Two gift tries were given which were promptly converted—very serious mistakes, both of them—as no team can afford to take liberties against opponents who are always on the alert. However, we can take defeat in the right spirit, even though it stings, and look back on our mistakes in the hope that similar ones are not made in the future.

Our visit to Hull on Boxing Day showed a greatly improved team and although beaten, we gave Hull a hard game. Hull eventually won by 12 points to 5 points. We had our scoring chances and could, with a little luck, just have won the match, but, unfortunately, we failed at the crucial moment. The Hull club had their best gate of the season, 27,000 people paying for admission.

Our third holiday match, at Warrington, involved us playing a much improved team, and although we were minus Davies, Winslade, Vines and Pitchford, our deputies filled the bill with credit, although here, once again, we were somewhat lucky to win the match, and a great deal of credit must be given to our ace goal-kicker and full-back—Bernard Ganley.

So far so good and we keep in an exalted position amongst the leaders of the Rugby League, but we cannot afford to make many more slips, every match as far as we can calculate must be a winner to keep us number one or two in the Northern Rugby Football League and, to remain Lancashire Champions. We shall have to improve our attack.

In our last three matches we have only scored three tries, this will not do. More penetration must be made by our players. We are missing those length-of-field-movements which used to leave our opponents standing. Our old form must surely return and then we shall be in a better

"UNEASY LIES THE HEAD THAT WEARS A CROWN"

by Cyril Briggs

It's tough getting to the top; it's tougher remaining there, and it's even hard work going down, because the "friends" you have met going up, don't like you so much. Let's take the cases of the Wigan and the Warrington clubs. They enjoyed golden eras. Their supporters followed them everywhere. Then came the slips and the departure of well and trusted players, who were forced to hang up their boots because of age—or for other reasons—making things more difficult.

The two teams I have mentioned, found at almost every ground that the home club's supporters forgot for one day their criticism of their team and the selectors. These fans went to the match with one set purpose—to see the downfall for Wigan or Warrington as the case might be. Every good piece of work by the home team was cheered to the echo, yet there were times when Wigan or Warrington scored fine tries amid complete silence from the home fans, but with wild cheering from the smaller section who had accompanied the visitors.

It was all very hard indeed for the Warrington and Wigan players because they found it pretty much the same wherever they went. It was almost like a cup-tie every week. All opponents wanted to rub the star team's noses into the ground and their reputations in the mud. When the slips came, the going was tougher. Everyone, even the refs, appeared to be "out for their blood." The matches at home were a little better—but not much!

Criticism fairly oozed out of the crowd of so-called supporters, and, added to this, a section of the Press which had hailed past performances with big headlines, had suddenly neglected to send representatives to the match. The reporters were otherwise engaged—at the enclosures of the up-and-coming clubs! One bad break seemed to follow another, and before long, the carping critics among the fans were beginning to suggest that even the weakest team in the league could play better Rugby than Warrington or Wigan.

The critics have been out in increasing numbers in the past few weeks and so the Oldham players and officials have had more than their share of blame. The defeat by Swinton, followed by the set-back at Hull made the tongues wag overtime. Now let us see what really happened. Any club can have an off-day, and usually that off-day coincides with an encouraging display from the opposition!

Wasn't this the case in the Swinton game? The Lions, like any other team are capable of playing above their normal form. They can click as they have never clicked before. Form is a very fickle thing.

No Excuses!

Am I looking round for excuses? No! not a bit of it. Who would have thought that Liverpool City would have beaten Barrow so convincingly after Barrow had run Warrington into the ground to the tune of 25-15? Then Warrington were only beaten by a point by Oldham. Bernard Ganley's goal-kicking has never been so accurate—or welcome! Yes, anything can happen on a football ground and there is added uncertainty at holiday times.

A few, if any, teams will win at Hull. The Boulevard has its own kind of atmosphere and the roar of the Threepenny Stand fans has to be heard to be believed. It is said on Humberside that the supporters in the Threepenny Stand are worth at least five points to Hull when giving their lungs a real exercise. And you can imagine what happens at holiday time when the trawler-men are back in port and in holiday mood.

Sober Thoughts

The defeat of St. Helens by Salford made Oldham's critics begin to sober down. No team can play extraordinary stuff all the time, and, whether we like it or not, there are now many clubs who are well capable of tearing up the form book. What club will relish a visit to Hull, Workington, Warrington or Salford when the cup-ties come round? And we have to realize that cup football is altogether different from league stuff.

I cannot see Oldham dropping down beyond the "first four" level. They have plenty of good talent on hand when some of the stars are missing. I realize that, on Saturday, Warrington were without Albert Naughton, Alf Arnold and Laurie Gilfedder, but weren't Don Vines, Charlie Winslade, Alan Davies and Frank Pitchford absent from the Oldham side.

As I have said in the opening, it's hard being at the top. While Oldham have lost valuable points to Swinton and Hull, the position is not desperate. Lots of Oldhamers have been yelling for first team opportunities for certain players in the reserve team. Well, these players have had a good chance of being "blooded" with the stars. They will have gained much useful experience. They will do better next time, and the time afterwards.

Get Saving!

Now, before I wish you all a Happy New Year, let me make a forecast before the first round draw of the Challenge Cup is made. It is that one team that has not been to Wembley will be there on May 10th. That's about seventeen weeks away. Start putting half-a-crown away each week, it will help to foot some of your expenses, because Oldham could be one of the contestants at that famous Stadium.

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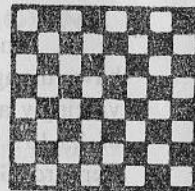
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OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D.
- 11—LITTLE, S. D.
- 12—LOMAS, H.
- 13—TURNER, D.

LEEDS

Blue and Amber

- 1—DUNN, J.
- 2—HEMMINGWAY
- 3—McLELLAN, K.
- 4—JONES, L.
- 5—GARSIDE
- 6—WHITEHEAD, T.
- 7—STEVENSON, J.
- 8—SKELTON, A.
- 9—PRIOR, B.
- 10—ROBINSON, D.
- 11—TOMLINSON, C.
- 12—DICK, A.
- 13—WARD, F.

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Referee: Mr. R. GELDER of Wakefield

Touch Judges:

Mr. D. Halliday, Swinton (Yellow) Mr. S. J. Heesom, Warrington (Crimson)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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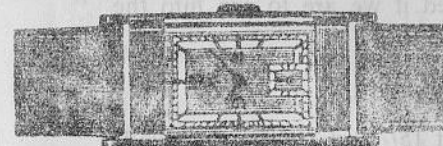
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OUR VISITORS

What an attraction the name Leeds stands for in the sporting world even in good days and bad days from a playing point of view. We at Watersheddings are always delighted to have them as visitors, always an attraction and always playing football of the highest grade. This season Leeds are in the Lancashire League, having finished the top Yorkshire Club last season, and are therefore transferred to the Lancashire Section to level the clubs up. However from a playing point they are not enjoying their sojourn in the Lancashire League and are having only a moderate season so far. However they are a team that we always enjoy playing against and many are the great battles of the past witnessed by large crowds. Today's game can only be one of the best, from exponents who are quite capable of creating a surprise. Our team will have to be in top form and more penetration will be required if we are to run into the excellent form our team has shown in the past.

CUP FINAL TICKETS

Limited numbers of seating tickets at 15/- and 7/6 are still available at the Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7. A stamped addressed envelope and the remittance to cover the cost of tickets should be sent with all applications.

Seating tickets at 25/- and 12/6 have been sold and no further applications for tickets at these prices can be entertained.

SUPPORTERS' CLUB NEWS

The Officials and Committee of the Supporters' Club would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and supporters a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Forthcoming items of interest are centred round three dances, the first of which will be held at King Street Stores on Tuesday, January 21st. At this Dance, the contender from the Oldham district for the Rugby League Queen is selected. So come on girls, on with the best bib and tucker and let us show the R.L. that we can produce beauties as well footballers.

On February 21st, the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs are holding their Annual Dance, and at this event, the actual Rugby League Queen is selected. Supporters from all over Lancashire and Yorkshire will be there so let us show them how well we can support and welcome them. This is the event of the year, and we at Oldham are honoured in being selected as the host town for the evening.

Saturday, March 1st, is of course, the main annual event of the Oldham Branch, and it takes place at the Town Hall. More details will be given of this in future notes.

We are urgently in need of members to volunteer for certain duties immediately prior to home games. The job's a piece of cake and only takes about half-an-hour before kick-off to perform. Why not come forward and let us see you.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE TABLE

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Team	Home				Away				F.	A.	Pts.
	P.	W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.				
St. Helens	18	7	0	0	9	0	2	359	158	32	
Oldham	16	6	0	2	8	0	0	328	187	28	
Wigan	16	6	0	2	5	0	3	351	173	22	
Workington	15	5	1	1	5	0	3	222	177	21	
Warrington	17	6	0	2	2	1	6	259	191	17	
Salford	17	6	0	3	2	1	5	214	228	17	
Widnes	16	5	0	3	3	0	5	207	151	16	
Leigh	14	6	0	2	2	0	4	181	177	16	
Leeds	13	6	1	1	0	0	5	269	191	13	
Whitehaven	14	5	0	2	1	0	6	214	228	12	
Barrow	15	5	0	3	1	0	6	195	289	12	
Rochdale	17	3	1	5	3	0	5	194	283	12	
Liverpool	17	4	0	4	0	1	8	176	348	9	
Swinton	12	1	0	4	2	0	6	146	241	6	
Blackpool	16	1	0	6	0	0	9	178	393	2	

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	24	147	2	Turner	22		7
Cracknell	24		15	Stirrup	8		
Ayres	6		2	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	23		9	Daley	14		
Etty	24		9	Noon	16	10	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	10		
Pitchford	22		7	Carruthers	2		
Jackson	23		2	Winslade	14		3
Keith	24		9	Davies	11		12
Vines	15			Kellett	4		1
Little	22		6	McKeown	1		
Duffy	7			Laverty	1		
				Lomas	1		

News & Views—continued

frame of mind and more comfortable as to the future. Let us start to-day and show the Leeds team what we are capable of. The whole Rugby League world looks to Oldham to keep the prestige and the finer points of the game before them.

BRIEFS

This season, for the first time, we have an arrangement with Swinton for the pooling of the "gates" of Christmas Day and Good Friday. It was our wish that this fixture should be reversed each year but our Swinton friends did not like the idea but did the next best thing by the pooled "gate" arrangement

Much has been said in the Press of a certain player named Malcolm Phillips of Oxford University, and a possible choice for England at R.U.

This boy is the son of one of our old players, Joe Phillips, who played on the wing. Joe was on the books of this club from December, 1922, to August, 1931.

Press reports have it that Malcolm has Welsh qualifications, but this is not so as the boy was born within five minutes walk of this ground.

He is destined for Government Service in the Diplomatic Corps. Good luck, Malcolm, both in your career and in the sporting world.

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