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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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OLDHAM v. BLACKPOOL

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Time is now moving very quickly towards the end of the season and the tension of League and Cup is growing with several clubs. Matters are now shaping themselves out a little, but who knows what will happen between now and Easter.

Our last two matches have been away from home. At St. Helens in the league and Blackpool for the second round of the Challenge Cup. The St. Helens match will be long remembered owing to the manner in which they gained victory (5-4). The try which was allowed, and converted, caused considerable discussion both by the Press and the supporters of both teams, but in the opinion of the referee—Mr. R. Gelder—it was a try, and he must be the sole judge whilst on the field of play. The game was played under bad weather conditions, but we must say that the St. Helens ground stood up well under the test, and the ground conditions were, of course, the same for both sides. It will have been noticed by the memory-men that this was one of the rare occasions when we did not cross our opponents line.

The draw for the second round of the Cup decreed that we visit Blackpool. We have some none too pleasant memories of this venue. The narrow ground and the one hundred per cent spirit of these boys were obstacles to our team and have caused us trouble on previous visits. Here again, the narrowness of the ground is enjoyed(?) by both teams, and before the match we could very well say that we could not expect to have a harder game this season.

It came as a shock when Blackpool scored the first try—and a very good try it was—which was converted, and our only reply was two goals. No doubt many of our spectators had visions of the Leigh debacle last season because this was the state of affairs up to eight minutes from time. Our players seem to realise the position they were in—losing play and a shock defeat of the round. The team then came to life and we were treated to a display of football which we are more accustomed to. Ayres and Cracknell ran in tries and one goal from Ganley put us in round three of the Cup after a match which had had our supporters on tenderhooks with the vision of Wembley getting dimmer and dimmer.

WEMBLEY FINAL SHOULD HAVE MORE PUBLICITY

by CYRIL BRIGGS

(Sports Editor, "Warrington Guardian Series," and B.B.C. Reporter)

It's almost Wembley time again. And it's also the time when we hear the old cry, "play the Challenge Cup final in the North." The number of die-hards who say that the Cup Final should be played in that part of the country which supports the code week in week out, and throughout every season, is slowly but surely falling. There was a terrible outcry when the scheme to play the final at the Empire Stadium at Wembley, was mooted. "Suicide," said some. "Robbery," said others.

INTEREST STILL THERE

But despite the luke-warm attitude of many, and the fact that the first-ever final at Wembley in 1929 (it was between Wigan and Dewsbury) failed to attract 50,000 people, the interest has never dropped. On two or three occasions the stadium has been filled to capacity. The R.L. final at Wembley provides more seating accommodation than the Soccer final, and that is the reason why we have not yet seen 100,000 spectators at Wembley.

The "bring the final back to the North" advocates always push the statement down your throats that there was the biggest assembly at any sporting event (except the first Soccer Wembley final) when Warrington and Halifax played the Challenge Cup final at Odsal Stadium, Bradford in 1954. This was in the evening and had followed the first-ever draw at Wembley. The R.L. officials thought that something like sixty or seventy thousand people would be attracted to the game.

THE FORGOTTEN FANS

What this band of people forgot was that there were no counter attractions of any note to affect the "gate" on that May evening. They also forgot that the huge number of people engaged in the distributive trades in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumberland (and perhaps Cheshire, and one or two other border counties) would have an opportunity to see the match. It was a night out for them—and thousands of others as well. The argument is a sound one, but there are many snags to a Northern final.

Ask the people who paid good money for seats and never saw the Odsal game. Ask the people who turned up at half-time after spending many hours on the road and found their seats occupied by gate-

crashers. And ask those people who went to the game and saw little of it because of the fact that the Bradford bowl is not yet complete.

CHAOTIC SCENES

There were chaotic scenes in and around Bradford that night, and there are a few Pressmen who did not like the arrangements. But let us not blame the Northern Club for any crowd discomfort. The fact was, that the big crush was not expected. And even with all the excitement at Odsal that evening, there was nothing like the polish of a Wembley final. Warrington won the Cup that night, but I'm sure that the players would have preferred to return home with the trophy from London rather than from Bradford—and it's no reflection on the Yorkshire city.

WEMBLEY GLAMOUR

There is a certain glamour about Wembley which is impossible to gain elsewhere. The Odsal pitch was bare in patches for that re-play, whereas a few days previously the teams had fought out a draw on the best football turf it is possible to produce in the land. The mighty stadium at Wembley has the atmosphere which cannot be recaptured at any R.L. ground. The show by the guards' bands is something of a spectacle which is talked about for years by those who have seen it. The players, who sometimes as nervy as a kitten when they walk side by side onto the ground, will tell you it has always been their ambition to figure in a Wembley final.

JOB WELL DONE

Wembley do the job well. You can see every move and tackle. There's no crushing on swaying terraces; no danger of breaking your neck; and no danger of being hurt even on the highest point in the enclosure.

Wembley is a perfect setting for the final and positively one of the very few R.L. grounds where newspaper writers, press photographers, news-reel cameramen and B.B.C. commentators can do their job in comfort.

It has been said that the London Press does not do the game full justice. Maybe, but gradually the metropolitan newspapers are beginning to see the light of day. Last year's final between Leeds and Barrow had a much better Southern Press than the previous season.

I think more and more people who live in the South would be attracted to the R.L. final if there was an intensive publicity campaign. There are many angles to publicity and they could be pushed for all they were worth.

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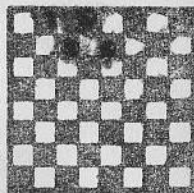
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- 4-NOON, J.
- 5-ETTY, J.
- 6-NESTOR, V.
- 7-PITCHFORD, F.
- 8-ROWBOTTOM, R.
- 9-KEITH, J.
- 10-VINES, D.
- 11-WINSLADE, C.
- 12-McKEOWN, D.
- 13-DALEY, F.

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- 5-FODEN
- 6-BRENNAN
- 7-DUNN
- 8-WRIGHT
- 9-MUNDY
- 10-GRUNDY
- 11-WALSH
- 12-STANDISH
- 13-HEALEY

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Mr. J. Tryer, Leigh (Crimson)

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

Touch Judges:

Referee: Mr. H. HARRISON of Horbury

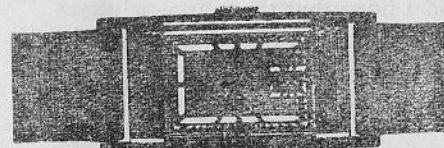
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I realise that Wembley Stadium has its own publicity department and has its own ideas about boosting the final. But I do think if the tube trains, street hoardings were well placarded and space taken in the London and suburban newspapers, we would fill the stadium to capacity.

Of course, it's a big undertaking. But I'm sure that one or two Rugby League minded Pressman from the North could put more power into advertising the final. They would have to be guaranteed a certain amount of money to spend, and also be rewarded for their efforts.

After all, clubs are willing to spend many thousands of pounds on signing a single player.

The time is ripe for such a move and I hope that the matter will be raised as soon as possible with the Rugby League Council. In the meantime what about a nicely coloured stamp being printed for the occasion?

This could be three or four times larger than the ordinary postage stamp and issued to clubs, junior leagues, supporters clubs, and even to firms to attach to their correspondence. Surely this would provide some advertisement for what is really the big game of the season.

Sweet are the uses of advertisement!

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	31	169	3	Turner	29		7
Cracknell	29		20	Stirrup	8		
Ayres	13		3	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	25		12	Daley	20		1
Etty	31		10	Noon	16	10	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	12		
Pitchford	29		9	Carruthers	2		
Jackson	28		2	Winslade	21		3
Keith	31		9	Davies	17		14
Vines	22			Kellett	4		1
Little	29		9	McKeown	1		
Duffy	7			Laverty	1		
				Lomas	1		

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	.....	19-16	14-18	14-4		10-27	29-10	22-12	12-18	9-7	25-15		24-10		5-12
Blackpool		.....	16-11	9-15	15-8	5-34	12-17	5-14	7-17	5-13	14-18	13-18	9-12		
Leeds	52-12	68-6	.....	13-12				25-25	23-5	20-10	12-8		18-8	17-5	3-13
Leigh				.....	18-11	14-24	12-5	12-7	15-5	24-3	8-2	25-14			13-18
Liverpool	18-3	33-8	9-30		.....	11-15		19-24	4-28	8-4	9-18			11-39	4-19
OLDHAM	24-5		17-10	23-5	28-12	.....		34-12	7-21	9-17	17-15	28-12			
Rochdale	11-15	28-20		2-7	4-4	21-29	.....	10-16	5-10		16-12	15-8	10-17		5-19
Salford		10-9			16-3	5-14	15-4	.....	12-7		10-8	18-3	5-16	7-14	
St. Helens	35-7		36-7	11-9	27-8	5-4	51-0		.....	43-11	14-2	26-9			29-6
Swinton		16-5		27-16	16-9		7-11	6-7	14-16	.....		5-2	0-6	5-28	13-20
Warrington	16-14	19-6			36-6	14-15		20-16	11-13	32-6	.....		28-2	21-5	10-5
Whitehaven	14-4	38-17	14-5	4-2			40-8	16-13	7-15	26-10	28-12	.....	29-19	6-16	
Widnes		30-3	21-3		21-7	2-12	4-13	12-3	13-22	15-12		11-2	.....	11-28	
Wigan	48-5	30-13	20-17	7-9	44-5	6-9	22-10		9-12		22-13		18-5	.....	35-11
Workington	15-0		36-0		22-11	13-24	33-6				10-10	17-11	42-5	8-3	.....

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

OUR VISITORS

It is a special welcome we give to the babes of the league, Blackpool. Blackpool is often referred to as "Oldham by the Sea" and well may this statement apply in regards to their football team. They have five ex-Oldham players on their registered list and two directors who are natives of Oldham—Messrs. Berry and Mills. Mr. Mills served for a period on the Oldham Committee.

With our team reduced in strength by the absence of four players on international duty, we may expect a dour struggle for the victory we must achieve. We cannot afford to drop any points whatever, especially Lancashire League points. We have very faith in our team and know they will give of their best and give us a resounding victory.

THE ROAD TO WEMBLEY

Whilst our players were waiting for their meal at the Cliffs Hotel, Blackpool, they were glued to the T.V. awaiting the draw for the next round. What a cheer when we came out of the bag as a home team, and what an extra cheer when we knew that our opponents would be our old friends (and foes) from Wigan.

This will mean that our fixture with Widnes will have to be revised—making it that we shall have three matches to squeeze in at the end of the season (Hull, Workington and Widnes)—making a very heavy programme for players and officials alike. We shall not, however, have to pay Widnes for loss of profits owing to having to play the match mid-week. The rule states: "That when a league fixture is postponed from a Saturday or a general holiday to a mid-week date compensation shall be paid, a sum equal to one-third of the share of the receipts paid to the club who should have fulfilled the away fixture, such sum not to exceed £200."

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations once again to our four internationals, Messrs. Ganley, Davies, Little and Turner who have been selected to play for Gt. Britain against France at Grenoble. Our best wishes go with them for success in the match and a safe journey.

May we commiserate with Ken Jackson who misses this match owing to a thumb injury received at Blackpool.

It is a great honour to the club as well as the men when they are selected for international duty. Four, and it should have been five, internationals out of one side is a great blow and it is only due to the fact that we have such strong reserves that we can meet Blackpool with any hope of success whatsoever. We consider that the Gt. Britain selectors have been particularly kind to us because we have many others well worthy of international status.

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