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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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3rd Round, Rugby League Challenge Cup

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

It has always been a great day at Watersheddings and also at Central Park, Wigan, when Oldham and Wigan meet. Many have been the great games played before capacity crowds. To-day is a tit bit of the third round of the Rugby League Challenge Cup. Who would not have the honour of entertaining our friends from Wigan on such a day as this. The name Wigan is respected throughout our game and we must consider ourselves fortunate in being drawn at home against such a worthy team. What has happened in the past matters little to us, it is to-day that is important. What a glorious game one must expect from two such worthy opponents.

Cup-tie fever and blazing the trail to Wembley. One great team must disappear from the competition. Both teams are worthy of Wembley from an attraction point of view, but then both are decreed not to meet at Wembley, and to-days match is the luck of the draw. However may the best team win, and our friends will forgive us if we say we are in for a home win.

Pen pictures of the Wigan team:

- J. Cunliffe**—36 years, 5ft. 9ins., 12st. 7lbs. Longest serving member of the side. Has gained all the honours the game has to offer. Toured Australasia in 1950 and 1954. Former local junior.
- W. J. Boston**—23yrs. 5ft. 11ins., 15st. Product of Welsh Rugby Union, he toured after only six games with Wigan, and broke try scoring record. Also member of last years World Cup Team.
- E. Ashton**—23 years, 6ft. 1in., 14st. Captain of the side. Former St. Helens junior he has had a remarkable rise in the game since signing 3 years ago. Went straight into the first team as a winger, surprise choice for World Cup team.
- E. J. Ashcroft**—32 years, 5ft. 11in., 12st. 9lb. Another player with a distinguished record with the club, played 16 years, toured twice and gained all the medals. Former local junior.
- M. Sullivan**—23 years, 5ft. 8in., 11st. Signed from Huddersfield for a record fee earlier in the season. Current holder of the left wing for the Test team. Has played in two World Cup series.

CUP-TIE FEVER

by CYRIL BRIGGS

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

What makes cup-ties different from the ordinary league game? Some people say the answer to the question is easily supplied; others add that there is no such thing as "typical cup-tie stuff," but when there is any suggestion of a trophy at stake, up shoots the players' socks and up soars the supporters' blood pressure.

You at Oldham to-day, will sense the atmosphere even a couple of hours before kick-off. Care to look around and you will see the troubled faces of some of your fellow spectators. They belong to the section who take things very seriously indeed. A slip by the ref. or the touch judge allows this chap to let steam off, and woe betide the opposing forward who tackles a bit on the rough side.

HE'S ON EDGE

The chap who doesn't get het up so much in the office or workshop when things are going wrong is altogether different at the football cup-ties. He too is on edge and, believe it or not, he may be wearing a rosette. If his wife asked him to wear a carnation at the office he would blankly refuse, but when there is a cup-tie around he is in an entirely different world.

But give me the fellow who likes to add a bit of humour to the situation, although he is every bit as enthusiastic about the game as the next fellow. Any bit of levity helps the crowd to enjoy the afternoon.

Let the ref. get in the way of a pass, or suddenly loose his foothold, and the cup-tie crowd yell with glee. But we see less and less of the mascots at Rugby grounds these days, although rattles and bells are as popular as ever, especially among the younger folk.

A lot of publicity was given to the Blackpool Soccer duck a few years ago. But this is not the first time a duck has been used for a mascot. A Rugby club, and a Lancashire one at that, dressed up a pet duck at cup-tie time, but, alas, it did not bring them much luck, although much laughter was created when it waddled onto the pitch.

FUNERAL SCENE

At another pre-war game we had "a funeral party." By some means or another the local humourists collared a coffin and painted it in the colours of the opposition. Then, complete with bearers, they paraded down to the ground. What a yell it caused in some circles, but another section thought it was a joke in all bad taste.

Then, a joke invented by some clever linotype operators. After a certain well-known team had been well whacked, they set up in type an obituary notice, complete with "career," of the respected and departed team! The heading, the list of mourners, collection of wreaths, even down to the floral tribute from the opposition in club colours, looked like the real thing. Then there was the usual undertaker's footnote, but the "undertaker" in this case was the opposition team's coach.

So well was the "obituary" printed that thousands of copies were made by typists and handed around club, office and workshop. It was the laugh of the week.

FUNERAL CARDS

But, of course, there were some who said, "bad taste." This obituary notice was even more imposing than the funeral cards with black borders which were sold after the big games in pre-war days. This was indeed a favourite with the street grafters. They had two lots of cards printed before-hand and whatever happened (unless it was a draw), they had the card ready for the occasion. And there was a ready sale, too.

Before my time, it was a regular sight at matches to see Warrington supporters wearing a tin fish in their button-holes. This emblem was to indicate that they were disciples of the great Jack Fish, the master-winger, who, some say, was even more spectacular than Brian Bevan.

Jack was the man who perfected the terrific acceleration and then the sudden stop which had the opposition in a tangle and the best of car breaks beaten to a frazzle.

HUNSLET WAR-CRY

At one time, when Hunslet were making most of the headlines, the Parkside supporters also made the news. They were first in the field with their battle-cry — even before the Newcastle United fans roared "Blaydon Races," and Birmingham followers sang, "End of the Road."

When Hunslet supporters began to sing, "We've swept the sea before boys" you could bet your last penny that the Parksidiers were well on the way to victory. In recent seasons Hull fans have exercised their lungs with the battle cry of "Old Faithful". We heard it at Maine Road when the black and whites beat Halifax in the last minute with a Colin Hutton penalty goal.

BLACKPOOL ROCK

Blackpool Borough certainly added a touch of colour and humour when two of their girl supporters presented the captain of the opposing team with a gigantic stick of rock. The stick printed all the way through with "Blackpool Borough" was afterwards forwarded by the player receiving the gift, to the local children's hospital. And what better gift could they have received.

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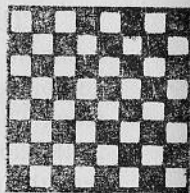
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OLDHAM

Blue and White

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

WIGAN

Cherry and White

- 1—CUNLIFFE
- 2—BOSTON
- 3—ASHTON
- 4—ASHCROFT
- 5—SULLIVAN
- 6—BOLTON
- 7—THOMAS
- 8—BARTON
- 9—SAYER
- 10—McTIGUE
- 11—CHERRINGTON
- 12—COLLIER
- 13—EVANS

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Touch Judges:

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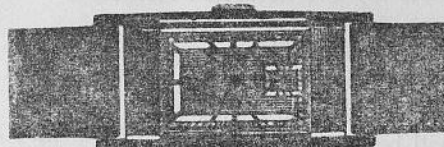
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Though there does not seem to be as much humour about the cup ties these days as there was before the war, there are still some humourists in action. Imagine the laughter created by the Hull fish porters who before sending out fish boxes to a certain Lancashire town chalked "to the mugs".

Hull had beaten a team of stars a few days before and the result was plainly written on the boxes! But we see much more colour at Wembley where supporters really let themselves go. Coloured hats are seen in thousands, and almost everyone has an outsize rosette.

Once at the Stadium I saw Wilfred and Mabel Pickles wearing Halifax colours. But Wilf has still to pay me the bob he bet on Halifax and lost.

COLOUR CLASH

The colour clash at Watersheddings today complicates matters, but nevertheless the cup-tie atmosphere will be hovering around. You will detect it right at the kick-off and even at the finish when supporters will be dashing on the field to congratulate the winners

Oldham and Wigan are desperate to get to Wembley. Whichever team wins today they will certainly be a great attraction in the final. But there is still one more step to take before that happens!

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	30		23	Stirrup	9		
Ayres	14		3	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	26		13	Daley	21		1
Etty	32		10	Noon	17	13	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	13		
Pitchford	30		9	Carruthers	3		
Jackson	28		2	Winslade	22		3
Keith	31		9	Davies	17		14
Vines	23		1	Kellett	4		1
Little	29		9	McKeown	1		
Duffy	8			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			30-13	.....	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	21-11	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	11-11	16-5		27-16	16-9			7-11	14-16	.....			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		15-10		10-10	17-11	42-5	8-3	.....

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

- D. Bolton**—20 years, 5ft. 6½in., 10st. 10lb. Gt. Britain stand-off, former schoolboy star, signed for the club at the age of 16 Regular first teamer since 17 years of age.
- R. Thomas**—29 years, 5ft. 6in., 10st. 8lb. Signed from Swinton, product of Welsh Union where he played in a trial.
- J. Barton**—24 years, 6ft. 1in., 17st. Signed from the Leigh club two years ago. Had bad luck with injuries but recently made successful comeback. Product of Wigan junior football.
- W. Sayer**—23 years, 5ft. 9in., 12st. Product of local junior game he is rapidly making the grade since his demob from National Service last summer.
- B. McTigue**—27 years, 5ft. 9in., 15st. 10lb. Started his sporting career as a boxer and was rated a good prospect at the time he decided to concentrate on rugby, after a few games in the Wigan junior league as a centre, he signed for Wigan, should have played in the tour trial last week.
- N. Cherrington**—22 years, 5ft. 11in., 15st. 4lb. Local product, he started out as a wingman, has already played for England.
- F. Collier**—24 years, 6ft. 1in., 15st. 9lb. Another local product who is expected to reach international standard.
- R. Evans**—18 years, 5ft. 10in., 13st. Signed from the junior game during last season, he has quickly made the loose forward spot his own.
- T. O'Grady**—24 years, 5ft. 9in., 13st. 9lb. Product of Oldham junior football. Transferred from senior club just over 12 months ago Member of the 1954 tour.
- W. Bretherton**—27 years, 5ft. 8in., 14st. 7lb Although a junior product, he was signed from St. Helens.
- T. Rossi**—23 years, 6ft. 2in., 14st. 12lb. An Italian who came over to try his luck with the league game, has rapidly improved and appears to be well on the way to making a name for himself.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF, 1958

The Management Committee of the N.R.F.L. have decided that the semi-finals of the League Championship—i.e. the top club play the fourth club and the second club play the third club, on the grounds of the first and second clubs respectively—shall be played on Saturday, 3rd May, 1958. The clubs concerned may, if they think that the televising of the F.A. Cup final (which is played at Wembley on this date) would hit their gates, may arrange alternative dates.

The draw for the semi-finals will be televised by the B.B.C. at about 5-50 p.m. tonight. Numbers will be allocated to clubs alphabetically. The draw will be made by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the League.

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