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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 10	Rochdale H. (Charity Match)	Away	Dec. 7		
17	Halifax	Home 3-0	14	Liverpool	Away
22	Barrow (Thurs.)	Away	21	Whitehaven	Home 2-30
24	Wakefield	Away	25	Swinton (Wed.)	Home 2-30
26	St. Helens (Mon.)	Home 7-0	29	Hull (Thurs.)	Away
31	Barrow (L.C.)	Home 3-0	28	Warrington	Away
Sept. 2	Huddersfield (Mon.)	Away	Jan. 4	Leeds	Home 2-30
7	Halifax	Away	11	Barrow	Home 2-30
14	Warrington	Home 3-0	18	Widnes	Away
21	Leigh	Home 3-0	25	Workington	Home 3-0
28	Workington	Away	Feb. 1	Wigan	Away
Oct 5	Hunslet	Home 3-0	8	R. L. Cup	
12	Rochdale	Away	15	St. Helens	Away
19	Hull	Home 3-0	22	R. L. Cup	
26	Blackpool	Away	Mar. 1	Blackpool	Home 3-0
Nov. 2	Wakefield	Home 3-0	8	Widnes	Home 3-0
9	Salford	Away	15	Whitehaven	Away
16	Liverpool	Home 2-30	22	Rochdale	Home 3-0
23	Leigh	Away	29	R. L. Cup sem.-final	
30	Salford	Home 2-30	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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THE PAVILION :: WATERSHEDDINGS



SEASON - 1957-58

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - 3d.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS**WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS**

The shock of the season came to our members and supporters on Saturday, 8th March, when we were somewhat surprisingly defeated on our own ground in the Third Round of the Challenge Cup competition by our old friend and foe—Wigan. What a glorious opportunity we have missed of making our first trip to Wembley, and what a disappointment to all our members and supporters who had banked on this being "our year."

There is no doubt that on the day we were well and truly beaten by a superior team and to explain the form of our team on this day is no mean task. There is sting enough in the defeat, but the whole team had an off-day and that in itself is a bitter disappointment. We are, of course, concerned that the team should lose a match, but we are greatly concerned that the team should play such poor football. And so we try to find an explanation for this unexpected reverse, and, we may say, important reverse—these surprising falls from excellence to badness, from brilliance to blundering.

However, our Wembley year has gone for another twelve months, when we hope to have another crack and be lucky enough to come out on top. We must now concentrate upon finishing at the top of the Rugby League table, and we think that we can safely forecast a home match in the top-four play-off. Of course, one can never tell. Football is such a strange business and often the mighty have fallen by the wayside when all was set for a glorious finish.

We have sufficient confidence in the players' ability to pull off the Championship once more, and also the Lancashire League championship. In this, we are having a close run with St. Helens and cannot afford to drop a single point, otherwise all will be lost, and in this respect we have slightly the harder of the remaining fixtures. St. Helens have completed their away Lancs. fixtures while we have still two to play—Leeds and Swinton. We both have to play Widnes and Wigan at home, so the next week or so should make the position fairly clear.

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CONSISTENCY MY MAN, THAT'S THE THING!

by CYRIL BRIGGS

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

Whenever I chat to Soccer or Rugby Union supporters, they sometimes accuse the Rugby League—officials and rules—of having an inconsistent outlook. Soccer people, in particular, try very hard to understand our way of life and find it most complicated. Take, for instance, the championship of the Northern League. "Surely," they say as their foreheads wrinkle, "the team at the top of the table SHOULD carry off the championship trophy?" Then we try to explain the "first-four" system. The more we say causes the followers of the other codes to add that they just cannot understand our mentality.

Of course, this championship argument has gone on for many years. Teams at the top of the league often have nothing to show for a season of great achievement and endeavour. It is possible, under present rules, for a team to win all its league games and then lose the play-off! I know that it is highly improbable for a side to win all its league fixtures, but it could happen, couldn't it? And it has been the case in the past when a team has topped the league for most of the season and then has had to forego a cup.

CONSISTENCY REQUIRED

Rugby League is not consistent. For a long while there was hostile opposition to the abolition of the "two-leg" system for the first round of the Challenge Cup. The extra "leg" made all the difference between overdrafts and solvency for some clubs. But when some bright spark came along and pointed out that the trophies should be scrapped and new ones acquired for the new-fangled competition, people began to search their consciences.

In the first place, the Rugby League Challenge Cup, and the County Challenge Cup competitions were inaugurated as knock-out tournaments, and yet for a while, we turned a blind eye to the original rules of those competitions. Taken all round, the three competitions became farcical. We had the case of a weak club suddenly rising to the occasion in the "first-leg" and beating one of their more fashionable relatives. But in the replay, it was usually all over bar shouting. It was the end of the smaller club in the replay, especially when the game was played away from home.

A home draw in the "first-leg" meant nothing in the long run. Supporters of the smaller team were lulled into a sense of false security. Their team could work wonders and then, in the "second-leg" lose by a cricket score. So a change was made and the converts to our code began to understand the mysteries and complexities of cup competitions, but only up to a point.

THE COUNTY COMPETITIONS

As I have indicated in earlier paragraphs, Rugby League is not consistent. We make the top team of the Northern League play off for the cup which is rightly their property for twelve months. But we don't make the same demands on the teams who top the County competitions! If we must have a play-off amongst the four leading Northern League teams, why not a play off in the Lancashire and Yorkshire Leagues?

I cannot give an answer to that question, except to say that if we did so, there would be no close season. But surely, some of my readers may say, this is a strong point for two divisions?. Yes, it is. And I should think that quite a big section of the Watersheddings crowd today would never tire of seeing Oldham play Wigan, St. Helens, Halifax, Workington, and other leading teams, rather than the weaker sides in the League—with all due respects to Blackpool. Rugby League wants something warming. You in Oldham, Wigan, St. Helens, and supporters in other spots where teams have a chance of reaching the top-four before the end of the present season, have something to look forward to.

THE BITE HAS GONE

But we in Warrington are placed in almost the same category as Doncaster, etc. There are a few good games to watch before the end of the season, but for us, the bite has gone out of the fixture list. Now, if there were two divisions and there was a top-four play-off for the leaders of Division II (as separate from the team topping the league who should be champions), we would see a keener interest maintained for some time.

At one time we used to see the Lancashire Cup final. It was a supplementary to the league and always a popular event. Personally, I would like to see this tournament revived but it should be in the same category as the first-four play-off. I strongly support the move to present the championship trophy to the leading club at the end of the season. We saw the folly of the "two leg" system. There should be a first-four competition and let it be that—just to the letter.

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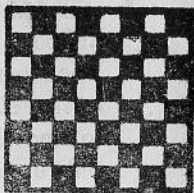
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- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—AYRES, D.
- 5—ETTY, J. W.
- 6—KELLETT, A. B.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—McKEOWN, D.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

ROCHDALE HORNETS
Red, White and Blue

- 1—CAHILL
- 2—BUXTON
- 3—JONES
- 4—SHORT
- 5—CORSI
- 6—CHISNALL
- 7—FISHWICK
- 8—LIVESEY
- 9—DAGNALL
- 10—SCHOLLS
- 11—PARSONS
- 12—BAILEY
- 13—PARR

ALL
THE
RESULTS

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Touch Judges:

Mr. W. Unsworth, Wigan (Crimson) Mr. V. J. Craven, Poulton (Yellow)

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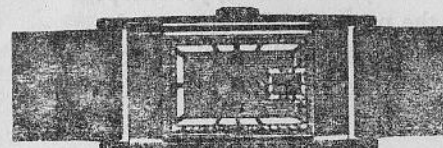
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Remember too, that we have had cases where clubs have had points in hand and have sat comfortably in second place, knowing that they would get a home game, even if they lost two of their remaining matches.

This is all against the spirit of the game. I don't say that games have been thrown away, but we have had cases where teams have not tried too hard knowing that they were certain of a home fixture in the play-off. I know that the present play-off has been in vogue for many years and has also been a rare money spinner, but does money always count, even at the expense of gates? Not in these days when lotteries are rolling in cash! Such money raisers may not always be with us, yet except for a few innovations here and there, plus the payment of a few transfer fees, the lotteries have not provided the average supporter with a great deal of extra comfort. And after all, who consistently pays the humble bob for the weekly sweeps? Me, and . . . you!

Tuesday next, 25th March

OLDHAM v. WIDNES
at Watersheddings. Kick-off 5-20 p.m.

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	33	175	3	Turner	31		8
Cracknell	32		22	Stirrup	9		
Ayres	16		4	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	26		13	Daley	22		1
Etty	34		10	Noon	18	13	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	13		
Pitchford	32		10	Carruthers	3		
Jackson	30		2	Winslade	23		3
Keith	33		9	Davies	19		14
Vines	24		1	Kellett	5		1
Little	31		10	McKeown	2		
Dufty	9			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	2-13	
Leeds	52-12	68-6	.....	13-12				25-25	23-5	20-10	12-8		18-8	17-5	3-13
Leigh	12-8		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	9-5	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	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		11-13	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	10-11
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.

OUR VISITORS

It is always a pleasure to welcome the Hornets from Rochdale to Watersheddings, even when the skies are grey for them. The Hornets appear to be on the upgrade now, and we must congratulate them upon entering the semi-final of the Challenge Cup—an honour which they so richly deserve by their play up to date in the competition. To beat Hull at Hull in the first round was the best achievement of the day and was contrary to the opinions(?) of all the experts.

Although we are not now particularly concerned who wins the Challenge Cup, we do hope that Hornets will have the honour of being one of the contestants on the final day. The Challenge Cup is a knock-out competition and surprises must be expected.

The match to-day will be keenly contested and the Hornets will be out to show that their recent form is no flash-in-the-pan. Our team will have to give of their best to overcome the new Hornets make-up. Press reports state that the Hornets are now yards faster than they were earlier in the season, this can be put down to the making of a running track at their ground for the players. This is an essential part of the make-up of any team. Is this new inspiration from our late trainer—James Heywood—who now trains the Hornets.

THE WHITEHAVEN VICTORY

With Davies, Vines and Winslade damaged against Wigan, we journeyed to Whitehaven hopefully, knowing that the replacements would put up a good show. This they did, and we must compliment the team on their wonderful display, especially in the first half when we had the vintage of football we have been so used to.

Our team treated the Cumberland supporters to the game as it should be played — quick passing, strong running, and backing-up to perfection. The try scored by Sid Little will long be remembered by those who saw it. No team opposing us could have stopped it. What a revelation from the previous week. Ten minutes of football as shown in this first half would have seen our friends from Wigan “down the road.”

For winning the Lancashire Senior Cup, the team were given a week-end at Keswick. Leaving Oldham on Friday tea, they arrived at their destination at 10-0 p.m., having had a meal en route. Saturday was a gloriously sunny day, and the team enjoyed a morning walk. An early lunch, and to the match, which paid a good dividend. Saturday evening was left to the boys and they enjoyed an invitation to the local dance-hall. Sunday morning saw the party return in sunny weather and a grand ride through the lakeland which was enjoyed by all.

A great win and a great outing was voiced by all.

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