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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	26	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 semi-final	
30	Salford	Home 2-30	Apr. 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 AND VIEWS

Last Saturday's match at Watersheddings was one to remember—not particularly for the display of good football against our opponents of the day, Hunslet—but more for the record breaking, and making, by our captain, Bernard Ganley.

Records say that Jim Sullivan kicked 204 goals (some say 206), but which ever figure happens to be the correct one, his record has now gone by the board. Bernard Ganley has already kicked 208 goals and has yet a few more matches to play this season.

This is a great record, not only for the player himself, but also for the Club, and taking into consideration that our team has not scored as many tries this season as we reasonably expected, then the feat is more to be appreciated.

Discussions will take place and comparisons made between Sullivan's day and the present time. We now play with a smaller ball, but this can have advantages or otherwise, or, one can ask, are there more infringements in the game now than then. Without doubt, the game has altered somewhat, but the kicking of the ball and the size of the uprights are still the same as in days of yore.

Ganley's records up to Saturday last is as follows:

3 matches against France
3 Challenge Cup matches
4 Lancashire Cup matches
32 League matches

Total, 42 matches. Goals kicked, 208. Average, slightly under 5. Tries, 5
Quite considerable, eh!

The match against Hunslet was an enjoyable one to watch and the Hunslet players never gave up trying even when twenty-three points behind at half-time. In the second half they treated us to some really good football and caught our team on the wrong leg with three good tries. The Hunslet players must be congratulated upon the open display they gave and for giving full value for money to the good crowd of spectators.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE AMATEUR MOVEMENT ?

by CYRIL BRIGGS

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

Season after season we hear suggestions about re-organizing the amateur section of the Rugby League game. And season after season we hear grumblings about this or that scheme having misfired, and that junior organisations and teams are in difficulties.

But many people who are active Rugby League supporters are often guilty of a misconstruction of the present position of the amateur clubs. Here I want to give points "for and against" in order that the picture will be perfectly clear. Here is the official viewpoint. Secretaries of local leagues and those who claim to be secretary-organisers are paid accordingly by the Rugby League. The fee is not a large one, but after all most league officials (secretaries and treasurers) are paid by their leagues.

ON THE PUBLIC PARKS

Help to individual clubs is given by the R.L. They assist in ground rents wherever possible, although in certain places the City or Borough Corporations allow teams to play on the public parks without fees. Here I should point out that there are certain parks which don't present a pretty picture as far as pitches are concerned. Dressing room accommodation is also far from satisfactory. Yet in quite a number of areas the changing rooms, and washing facilities are extraordinarily good with hot and cold water showers laid on besides the baths.

Then again in about eight areas the R.L. own grounds which are for junior football only. There would be far more grounds of this nature if the property could be bought. Remember here that the British Playing Fields Society, which in effect is a "pup" off the R.L. is very well off. There are demands for other grounds to be bought, but unfortunately in some industrial areas suitable sites cannot be found.

THOSE PRE-SEASON GAMES

Most clubs in the league allow amateur teams to use their grounds for occasional games, but there are cases where juniors have either to pay for the use of the senior pitch, or pass over part of the gate. In certain instances the pre-season games, which at one time were run exclusively

for charitable purposes, have now been given over to help junior football. But there are some clubs who refuse to allow these curtain raisers to be played. Here I think that the R.L. should order all the senior clubs to play pre-season games so that the gates could be devoted to junior football funds.

£5 PER SEASON

In one area the senior clubs retains the money from the pre-season match and then doles out the cash when it is required for amateur league purposes. The scheme appears to work quite well and each junior club secretary receives £5 per season so long as his club completes its fixtures. The money is for expenses such as telephone calls, bus fares, stamps and shoe leather!

This idea gives adults an additional interest in juniors. It is ex-players who are required in large numbers to instruct the amateurs in the various points of the game and also to help with team selection, training and also to treat injuries. This may seem to be a tall order, but all the same there must be men who are prepared to do this job. However they must be well recompensed for their efforts.

RUGBY UNION THREAT

I think that an additional drive should be made for the amateur movement and possibly a series of meetings held to see how the juniors can be helped. At the moment Rugby Union is a threat to the amateurs of the Rugby League. In some schools the boys are trained in the art of the R.L. game. Then after leaving school many of them join up with the local Rugby Union clubs which are springing up here and there and have as many as half-a-dozen teams.

These boys claim that the social side of Rugby Union is far superior to R.L. They also prefer to play occasional matches in other towns rather than figure in local parks. A change of scenery is what they desire. It is not a case of snobbery. At one time there was a full time official organiser for R.L. amateurs. But I felt that his territory was too extensive. It would be better, I think, if there was a paid organiser, and a full time one at that, for each county. Much has to be done for the amateur movement and I think complete re-organisation, plus new policy would bring about the desired effect. After all, the amateur movement is the life-blood of the professional game. A better deal for the juniors will produce all the players that are required by the senior clubs. And clubs would save a lot of hard earned cash. Remember too that all converts from the 15-a-side game are not a success in our code.

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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—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—DUFTY, R.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—LITTLE, S. D.
- 13—TURNER, D.

HULL
Black and White

- 1—BATESON
- 2—WATTS
- 3—SAVILLE
- 4—COOPER
- 5—HARRISON
- 6—BROADHURST
- 7—FINN
- 8—SCOTT
- 9—HARRIS
- 10—HAMBLIN
- 11—SYKES
- 12—DRAKE, W.
- 13—WHITELEY

Referee: Mr. E. CLAY of Rothwell

Touch Judges:

Mr. S. Webb, Warrington (Yellow) Mr. W. Unsworth, Wigan (Crimson)

OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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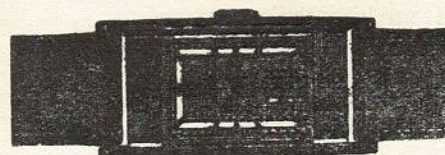
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BRIEFS

A considerable number of people are not aware that our ace kicking full back joined this club as a centre after having had trials with Leigh as a centre. Evidently the Leigh club had forgotten him and he came to Oldham. Ganley joined us as an amateur and eventually made the grade as a full back. We don't think either parties have regretted.

Harold Lomas is making progress from his cartilage operation but we doubt whether we shall see him in action this season. The extra rest will give him more confidence to return to the fray, commencing next August.

Our hooker Jack Keith has now scored 10 tries this season and it is a proud boast of his to tell Bernard Ganley that he always scores them around the posts to give him a better chance to kick the goal and takes a pride in saying that he has been instrumental in Ganley kicking so many goals. Although this is said as a joke, all the 10 tries scored by Keith have been near the posts, rather unique!

List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	39	208	5	Turner	36		10
Cracknell	38		25	Stirrup	9		
Ayres	20		6	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	30		16	Daley	23		1
Etty	39		15	Noon	19	13	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	13		
Pitchford	38		14	Carruthers	5		
Jackson	36		3	Winslade	29		3
Keith	37		10	Davies	23		17
Vines	24		1	Kellett	11		3
Little	32		12	McKeown	4		
Dufty	13		1	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	Swinson	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....	19-16	14-18	14-4	62-3	10-27	29-10	22-12	12-18	9-7	25-15	20-21	24-10		5-12
Blackpool	9-5	.....	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	7-13			25-25	23-5	20-10	12-8	9-5	18-8	17-5	3-13
Leigh	12-8	28-20	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	7-31	.....	11-15		19-24	4-28	8-4	9-18	8-18	2-15	11-39	4-19
OLDHAM	24-5	21-11	17-10	23-5	28-12	.....	27-0	34-12	7-21	9-17	17-15	28-12	17-15	19-7	
Rochdale	11-15	28-20	19-14	2-7	4-4	21-29	.....	10-16	5-10	9-5	16-12	15-8	10-17		5-19
Salford	18-15	10-9	15-7	12-24	16-3	5-14	15-4	.....	12-7	5-10	10-8	18-3	5-16	7-14	
St. Helens	35-7	25-11	36-7	11-9	27-8	5-4	51-0	.....	43-11	14-2	26-9		14-7	32-7	29-6
Swinson	11-11	16-5	52-9	27-16	16-9	18-28	7-11	6-7	14-16	.....		5-12	0-6	5-28	13-20
Warrington	16-14	19-6	13-28	8-13	36-6	14-15		20-16	11-13	32-6	.....	39-10	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	4-10
Widnes	31-8	30-3	21-3	15-6	21-7	2-12	4-13	12-3	13-22	15-12	17-21	11-2	.....	11-28	10-11
Wigan	48-5	30-13	20-17	7-9	44-5	6-9	22-10	42-2	9-12	26-7	22-13	28-6	18-5	.....	35-11
Workington	15-0	57-8	36-0	11-7	22-11	13-24	33-6	32-2	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 a pleasure, this evening, to welcome the Hull Club to our ground. This is a re-arranged match from October 19th last—the date we played the Lancashire Cup final.

The Hull club have a very consistent record in the League tournament of recent seasons and have always been around the top of the table. They hold the record of the consistent scoring machine this season, having, up to last Saturday, scored 911 points in 27 games. This evening's game will be their last in the League this season and it is obvious that they will finish in the top four—either No. 3 or No. 4, this will depend upon the result of Workington's remaining matches.

We can expect a dour struggle this evening and our team will have to be in top form to bring off the win. A very strong point in the Hull team is the forwards, every man an expert at his job. Our forwards will have to get on top, once this is done, there will be no doubt about the ultimate result. However, we hope to have a game worthy of the name of Rugby League from two very good teams.

THE TOURISTS

If we are successful in appearing in the League Championship final at Odsal, Bradford, on Saturday, 19th May, our selected tourists, Messrs. Davies, Pitchford, Jackson and Turner, will leave London Airport, on Monday, 21st May, 1958. They will be away approximately 14 weeks and it appears we shall be without their services for the first few matches of next season.

Whilst they are away, the Tourists will receive £3 per week, plus the sum of £20 for the purchase of presents, etc. Their wives will receive £3 per week plus 10s. 0d. for each child. The Tourists will also receive 30% of the profits of the Tour. Australia is football-mad at the moment and a reasonable estimate of this profit share is around £200 per man. This makes the average of £22 per week per man. Not bad going seeing that all expenses are paid, carried across the world free, and invited to places where, as an individual, they could never visit. Good luck to all the touring party.

NEXT FIRST TEAM HOME MATCH
OLDHAM v. WORKINGTON

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