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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	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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## OLDHAM v. HULL

### WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Today is the last match of the season to be played at Watersheddings and it is also a red letter day inasmuch as a win today will put us in the final of the League Championship for the second year in succession so we can put this match down as the most important match of a very eventful season.

What a wonderful season we have had. For the second year in succession we have finished at the head of the N.R.F. table, surely a great honour and a model of consistency. In this period of two years we have played 76 matches, lost 9 and drawn 1, thus winning 66 matches, a very good record indeed. During the past season we have only lost 2 matches away, a club record.

Looking back upon our match last Saturday, one can safely say it was not a classic, and the type of football displayed was not in keeping with the football we have been accustomed to, home or away. Although Workington were minus four of their stars their deputies put all they had into the game and we may say that this match produced the best tackling and cover defence seen by any visitors at Watersheddings this season. Try as hard as our players did they could not get out of the clutches of an opponents tackle.

It was not the type of game that will attract converts to the code. The win, which was well deserved by our team, put us at the head of the Lancashire League and made us undisputed champions for the second year in succession. We hope to have the Cup and medals presented to our captain prior to the kick-off of today's match.

### OUR VISITORS

Once again it is a pleasure to welcome the Hull Club to Watersheddings. We have pleasant memories of the recent League match on Wednesday, April 16th, when in a great game, especially by our players, we won very easily by 43 points to 9. On this day, our players excelled themselves and we must give credit to the Hull boys for not shutting the game up. They continually tried the open game but they were up against a rampant team who ran in nine tries.

## CHAMPIONSHIP REMINISCENCES

by CYRIL BRIGGS

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

How is it that the Northern Championship final invariably provides better Rugby and more thrills than the Challenge Cup final? We have various excuses—the strange surroundings of Wembley, the "butterflies" which are caused by the importance of the occasion, and the supposedly tricky winds around the Stadium which goal-kickers often blame for missed shots. The vast Wembley arena may be the cause of dropped passes and failure by many players to attempt something unorthodox, but when the teams in the Northern Championship do battle, they are playing on a pitch on which both sides have previously figured in a number of league games or cup-ties.

It may be that the more homely atmosphere in the North enables teams to give a better all-round show than they would do if they met at Wembley. But believe me, I'm not campaigning for "bring the Final back to the North" scheme. As far as vastness is concerned, Odsal Stadium certainly has its points as we well remember in 1954 when Warrington in a re-play with Halifax, drew 103,000 people, the biggest gate ever recorded for a professional gate in this country, although there were various guesses about the first Wembley Soccer game attendance.

### PAST FINALS

Here are some memories of finals for the Championship Cup—a play-off system which causes our Soccer friends to throw up their hands and say, "we cannot understand it at all. In our game, the leading club takes the title." But Soccer people should remember that all Northern clubs don't clash, in fact, it is possible for a couple of clubs to miss each other for a decade!

I'm digging deep into the memory, so don't condemn me if I make a mistake or two. I have only the Official Rugby League Guide at my elbow and that, apart from the actual winners and runners-up, tells you nothing else. My first Championship day was in season 1921-22 when the Oldham and Wigan teams met at The Cliff, Broughton, now the home of Manchester United 'A' team. At the time, Broughton Rangers were the occupiers of The Cliff.

Oldham were beaten in that game and I think that Hall, a light-haired centre was in the losing side. And wasn't Tighe, the scrum-half for Oldham? In the Wigan side was Jerry Shea, the dark and handsome South Walian, who made such a big name in Welsh international Rugby Union before "turning" to the professional code. Shea, I well remember,

scored a try after a smart interception. He was, of course, a big attraction with the Wiganers. He was also a pro. boxer and that nearly got him into hot water over this point with the Welsh Big Five—the men who control R.U. in the Principality.

A jump now to 1926. This final was played at St. Helens—one of the few finals which have been played at Knowsley Road. It was played during the General Strike and there were no means of public transport—everyone had to make the journey as best they could. I have never seen so many bikes in my life. Hundreds of folk made the journey by "shanks." Wigan won. Those were the days of Jim Sullivan and the great winger, Johnny Ring.

### INSUFFICIENT ACCOMMODATION

Then came another final at the ground which, at the time, was one of the biggest and best in the league—Wilderspool. Now Warrington have been outstripped by many others, although Soccer grounds have taken preference since it was decided that there was not sufficient accommodation on certain R.L. grounds. Swinton collared the trophy against St. Helens Recs., a team which was much feared in those days, and a club which I think could have been saved.

Swinton beating Featherstone in 1927-28 brought a off the remarkable achievement of winning four cups in a year. They also captured the Salford Royal Hospital Cup in the same season. Names like Billo, Rees, Jack and Frank Evans, Brockbank, Pearson, Blewer, Strong, Morris, Beswick, etc., come to mind when we discuss the team from Station Rd. in those days. Brockbank is now a Blackpool Borough director. He has a remarkable record of having played in a R.L. final, trained a team for the Challenge Cup, and managed one for the same competition. And he was on the winning end each time. Some record!

The remarkable fact about the next two seasons is that Huddersfield followed the example of Swinton and won the title on each occasion. Leeds were their victims, and although Leeds have always been one of the leading sides in R.L., they have never yet won the Championship. Swinton were back the next year as champions, and whisper this—Leeds were runners-up.

### GLORIOUS HULL!

Then we saw the rise of St. Helens and Salford, although Swinton were usually "thereabouts" in the next few seasons. Warrington tried vainly to win the cup for the first time, and then we saw Hull in their glory against Widnes, who like Leeds, have yet to win this competition. Widnes, however, have only once been runners-up. "All Leeds" was at Elland Road, the home of Leeds United Soccer club in 1937-38, when

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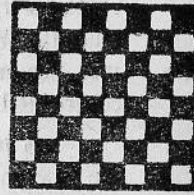
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### OLDHAM

Red and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—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 P.
- 2—WATTS I.
- 3—COOPER B.
- 4—SAVILLE B.
- 5—DANNATT G.
- 6—BROADHURST F.
- 7—FINN T.
- 8—SCOTT M.
- 9—HARRIS P.
- 10—HAMBLING B.
- 11—SYKES C.
- 12—DRAKE W.
- 13—WHITELEY, J.

Referee: Mr. M. COATES, Pudsey

Touch Judges:

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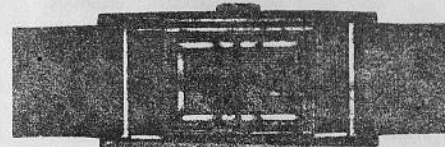
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Leeds lost once again, this time to their near neighbours, Hunslet. Salford and Castleford used Maine Road, Manchester, when we saw the rise in attendances. When the competition was resumed after the war, Manchester City's ground was the usual venue.

Wigan were then in their prime and after accounting fo Huddersfield, they beat Dewsbury in a thrilling game. Jim Ledgard was a member of the Dewsbury side on that day. At last Warrington won the cup. This was in 1948 when they beat the talented Bradford Northern team. Huddersfield then enjoyed a great run, beating Warrington by a point in a thriller the next season

### SHOCK FOR HUDDERSFIELD

Wigan shocked a Huddersfield team, although shorn of many 'stars' who were bound for Australian skies with the touring team. We saw the rise of Workington who, led by Gus Risman, beat a depleted Warrington side. It was in this game that Albert Johnson broke his leg and never played again. Wigan were back again among the honours and after such a long break, St. Helens, now a power in the League, beat Halifax.

### List of Appearances and Performances—First Team only

(Up to, and including, Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	41	218	5	Turner	39		12
Cracknell	41	4	27	Stirrup	9		
Ayres	23		6	Jarman	9		1
Nestor	31		17	Daley	23		1
Etty	42		16	Noon	19	13	10
Moat	6		2	Rowbottom	13		
Pitchford	41		16	Carruthers	5		
Jackson	39		6	Winslade	32		3
Keith	40		12	Davies	26		19
Vines	24		1	Kellett	14		3
Little	38		13	McKeown	4		
Dufty	16		2	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	62-3	10-27	29-10	22-12	12-18	9-7	25-15	20-21	24-10	11-25	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	4-19
Leeds	52-12	68-6	.....	13-12	7-13	11-26	26-13	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	28-9	14-23	13-18
Liverpool	18-3	33-8	9-30	7-31	.....	11-15	18-9	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	10-8
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	4-12	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	7-15
St. Helens	35-7	25-11	36-7	11-9	27-8	5-4	51-0	42-7	.....	43-11	14-2	26-9	14-7	32-7	29-6
Swinton	11-11	16-5	52-9	27-16	16-9	18-28	7-11	6-7	14-16	.....	17-14	5-12	0-6	5-28	13-20
Warrington	16-14	19-6	13-28	8-13	36-6	14-15	61-16	20-16	11-13	32-6	.....	39-10	28-2	21-5	10-5
Whitehaven	14-4	38-17	14-5	4-2	17-14	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	32-2	10-10	17-11	42-5	8-3	.....

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

Warrington, who had beaten Halifax in the R.L. Challenge Cup replay accounted for Halifax by superior goal-kicking on a sun-drenched maine Road pitch. Warrington, however, could not make it a hat-trick, and Hull who had given them a real shock in the semi-final, put paid to the luckless Halifax side. A wonder goal from Colin Hutton gave Hull the title after twenty years of much endeavour. Then it was Oldham's turn. The club and the followers had waited much longer than Hull, but this time, the game was played at Odsal, Bradford, the venue of this year's final.

It was a hectic final and also a hectic finish. Oldham had led, deservedly, until the closing stages. Then Hull put on the pressure and gained a late try. There were terrific cheers from the Oldham section of the huge crowd when Hutton failed to repeat his winning shot of the previous season. It was a great season for Oldham—three cups in major competitions and the "Law Cup" to go alongside them.

#### Our Visitors—Continued

This, of course, was a league match, and we can expect something different today. This match will be played on a cup-tie basis. Every man of both teams will strive to give his best in an effort to appear at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, on May 17th, with the object in view of winning a Championship medal, and the great honour of being connected with the Championship winners.

Our team will need to be on its metal. Let us forget the April 16th match. Let us treat this match as just another stepping stone to the final. Our players are confident that they will pull off the victory and give the public and the press something to talk about. The next step? Why, of course, the great event . . . the Final.

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