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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—Rochdale Hornets	Away		25—Swinton	Home	2-30
16—Halifax	Home	3-0	26—Hunslet	Away	
19—Blackpool	Away		27—St. Helens	Away	
23—Wakefield	Away		1959		
30—Whitehaven (L.C.)	Home	3-0	Jan. 3—Leigh	Home	2-30
Sept. 2—Workington	Home	6-15	10—Barrow	Away	
6—Halifax	Away		17—St. Helens	Home	2-30
13—Wakefield	Home	3-0	24—Salford	Home	3-0
20—Rochdale H.	Away		31—Leeds	Away	
27—Blackpool	Home	3-0	Feb. 7—Warrington	Home	3-0
Oct. 4—Warrington	Away		14—Leigh	Away	
11—Rochdale H.	Home	3-0	21—R.L. Cup		
18—Liverpool	Away		23—Whitehaven	Away	
25—Hunslet	Home	3-0	Mar. 7—R.L. Cup		
Nov. 1—Featherstone	Away		14—Hull	Away	
8—Featherstone	Home	3-0	21—Barrow	Home	3-0
15—Salford	Away		27—Swinton (G.F.)	Away	
22—Leeds	Home	2-30	28—E.S.		
29—Wigan	Away		30—Hull (E.M.)	Home	3-0
Dec. 6—Widnes	Home	2-30	April 4—Liverpool	Home	3-0
13—Workington	Away		11—Widnes	Away	
20—Wigan	Home	2-30	18—Whitehaven	Home	3-0

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kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HALIFAX

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Today is the official opening of the Northern Rugby League season and a long waited day for fans in all areas. All clubs are optimistic to start a new season for raising hopes and trusting that their particular teams will do better than last season. All cannot be at the top and I think this coming season will see one or two surprises. Clubs that have relied upon youth during the last season are now twelve months older from experience and here is where we may find the spirit to win and fitness will prevail in one or two surprise teams of the season. We at Watersheddings are hoping that we shall carry on where we left off the seasons league encounters, but this will be hard work owing to injuries, the absence of Davies and Pitchford still overseas till the end of August. We are hopeful that our reserve strength will carry us through. We have during the close season signed seven juniors and from their physique and their ability we are hoping that with correct coaching they will eventually improve our "A" team and a feeding line for the first team. Every opportunity will be given these new signings along with our present up and coming young players to make good in the game. The junior of today must be a future international.

OUR VISITORS

What greater attraction could we have for the opening of the season in visitors from Halifax. Today is the meeting of the respective Champions of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Leagues of last season. Our visitors finished No. 6 in the Northern Rugby Football League last season. We expect one of the hardest games of the season and our team will no doubt realise that only the best from them will achieve victory. So we say welcome to Halifax.

THE CLOSE SEASON

The close season has been very quiet at Watersheddings as with other clubs regarding the signings of new players and very few transfers have been effected. Outside that activity plenty of hard work has been put in at Watersheddings, evident by the erection of the new cover at the Watersheddings Street end of the ground. On the face of things it looks a simple matter to erect a stand but when one realises the difficulties that have had to be faced by the foundations of such a project and the weather conditions that have been all against outside building, it is a successful end to a good project. The Stand is 220 feet long and 54 feet deep. It is

THE "NEW INTERPRETATION"

By Cyril Briggs

The new play-the-ball instruction has got off to a most favourable start. Most people who have attended the pre-season cup games, will agree that far more open play has been seen. I have not lost sight of the fact that when clubs meet in a "charity game" there is a reeling of light-heartedness about passing and tackling than one would normally see in a league or challenge cup game. But I think those clever boys who are always attempting to get around the rules, and introduce their own interpretations, are going to find the new instruction not at all to their liking.

CHOPPING & CHANGING

One of the main criticisms of R.L. since the war have been against the play-the-ball rule. We have chopped and changed the rule and at one time the rule of "onside if you are behind the ball, even by an inch or two" threatened to bring clubs into the bankruptcy court. It was changed although there are still some officials and spectators (and sports writers too) who thought that the rule did not have a proper chance to prove its real worth. I do hope that the present rule (officially described as "the new interpretation") will have an opportunity to show it has something better to offer than the one in vogue last season.

SPECTACULAR MOVEMENTS

I realise, having seen practice matches, and a pre-season cup game, that there are certain anomalies. But let us have a real trial for the new idea. What I, and thousands of others, have seen in the early trial games, have been spectacular movements. There has also been almost a total elimination of bullocking, barging and rough-house stuff by defending forwards carrying the ball, plus let us get our own back tactics by the men going into the tackler. There were all sorts of rough stuff in those skirmishes, and what the spectator saw, sometimes the referee did not.

SCREAMS FROM THE FIELD

So there were screams from the touch line and on the field as well. Players have been known to approach referees with complaints about eye-gouging and other unsporting methods in these free style wrestling bouts round about the try line. One or two teams had earned the reputation as "the bulldozers." At one match last season one club severely criticised another for the unspectacular manner in which they had achieved a victory. There had been more than a dozen play-the-balls before a try had been scored. The opposition had no chance whatsoever to gain possession as the ball was played by the back-heel method which was brought off to a fine art.

SOMETHING TO CHEER ABOUT

And how many times have we heard people complain that there would no longer support R.L. until the barging was cut out. "That's not football" they would claim and we, in our own quiet way, had to agree with them. Barging was a blot on the game. As I have already indicated, the results of the pre-season fixtures have shown that the crowds have had plenty to cheer about. Let's take a peep at the results of last Saturday's games and see what happened in try scoring. The full total of touchdowns was Seventy Three.

AVERAGE OF EIGHT TRIES

These tries were scored in nine games, an average of eight. That state of affairs should please everyone and we cannot say that even in one case was a top team playing one of the chopping blocks. And the results too were close. Barrow 14, St. Helens 10; Halifax 37, Huddersfield 35; Salford 18, Swinton 23; Warrington 21, Wigan 29; Workington 11, Whitehaven 8. Nobody can complain that any of these matches did not produce thrills and close verdicts.

REASONABLE TRIAL

Now I do not claim that the new idea is without its faults. But I'm prepared to support the R.L. in its aim to give the "ruling" (it has not been officially adopted) a reasonable trial. I'm sure that before long some officials will be writing to Mr. Bill Fallowfield, the R.L. secretary, pointing to get around the rules, and introduce their own interpretations, are of the present day law is the urge for more and more open play. I'm sure the general opinion in the past is that tackled player and acting half backs have been too prone to bring the game down to a wrestling match.

GAME NOT DYING

But surely if an acting half back beats an opponent and then by a crafty upfield kick (not a long one) gathers possession perhaps 25 yards ahead, before being tackled he should have a little more compensation for his enterprise than the amount of ground gained. The present ruling says "scrum down." Now if we say that the new ruling encourages more and more open play, surely the incident I have described falls into that category. Anyhow, there will be a few more points to discuss before the rule gets official blessing. In the meantime spectators should remember to live and let live. R.L. will prove that it is not dying!

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- 7—JONES A.
- 8—LOMAS H.
- 9—KEITH J.
- 10—VINES D./ROWBOTTOM R.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—McKEOWN D.
- 13—LITTLE S.

Referee:

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HALIFAX
(Blue and White)

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- 2—SNOWDEN A.
- 3—BURNETT J.
- 4—PALMER J. G. (Capt.)
- 5—WILLIAMS K.
- 6—DEAN K.
- 7—JONES B.
- 8—THORLEY J.
- 9—TAYLOR J.
- 10—WILKINSON J.
- 11—JARMAN A.
- 12—SPARKS B.
- 14—CLIFFT C.

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UNLUCKY HALIFAX

So near and yet so far. How many times have Halifax supporters' muttered this phrase after cup finals? At Wembley in 1954 the side drew with Warrington. In the replay there were only a few points in it. Griffiths narrowly missed a late penalty shot at Wembley.

*

In the same season Halifax ran Warrington ever so close in the Northern Championship final at Maine Road, the home of the Manchester City Soccer club. It was only Harry Bath's remarkable goal-kicking which rescued the Wires from certain defeat.

*

No doubt Thrum Hall supporters' can remember other incidents of this nature. But what about the dramatic ending to the 1956 Northern Championship at Maine Road (surely Halifax's most unlucky ground.) Colin Hutton won the cup for Hull in almost the last second of the game with a goal kick.

PLAYING STAFF

Name & Birthplace Height Weight
ft. in. st. lb.

FULL BACKS

Mee, L., Leigh..... 5 8-10 8
Ganley, B., Leigh..... 5 9-12 7

THREE-QUARTERS

Ayres, D., Oldham..... 5 10-12 8
Cracknell, R., H'field... 5 11-13 4
Davies, A., Leigh..... 5 10-13 8
Etty, J., Batley..... 5 11-13 2
Edwards, J., St. Helens 5 11-12 6
Pendlebury, B., Leigh... 5 10-13 0
Needham, R., Oldham... 5 9-12 0
Nestor, V., Leigh..... 5 10-11 12
Noon, J., Oldham..... 5 9-12 6
O'Brien, J., Oldham..... 5 9-11 0
Sims, G., Leigh..... 5 10-10 10

HALF-BACKS

Daley, F., Wigan..... 5 9-12 10
Hatherall, B., Leigh..... 5 6-10 7
Jones, A., Oldham..... 5 7-10 10
Kellett, A., Ovington... 5 10-11 11
Laverty, L., Oldham... 5 6-10 13
Moat, R., Hull..... 5 7-11 4

Name & Birthplace Height Weight
ft. in. st. lb.

Pitchford, F., Leigh..... 5 7-11 6
Stirrup, F., Leigh..... 5 7-10 10

FORWARDS

Carruthers, I., Oldham 5 10-11 10
Chatterton, D., Widnes 6 0-13 7
Byrne, B., Leigh..... 5 10-12 7
Dufty, R., Oxford..... 6 1-14 10
Goddard, P., Sheffield... 5 10-13 4
Govan, J., Golborne... 5 11-14 4
Hunter, J., Leigh..... 6 0-14 7
Jackson, K., Oldham... 6 0-14 12
Keith, J., Hunslet..... 5 11-12 11
Little, S., Carlisle..... 6 1-14 8
Lomas, H., Oldham..... 6 0-15 1
Lloyd, K., Ashley..... 6 0-13 8
McKeown, D., Oldham 6 1-13 4
Rogers, J., Leeds..... 6 0-15 1
Rowbottom, R., Widnes 6 0-15 7
Turner, D., Ossett..... 6 1-14 2
Vines, D., Newbridge... 5 10-15 2
Watson, J., Oldham..... 6 1-13 6
Winslade, C., Maesteg... 6 1-15 0

LAST YEAR'S FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES & SCORERS

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 FOOTBALL LEAGUE FINAL TABLE FOR SEASON—1957-58

	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.

interesting to note the amount of principle materials used on this building, such as 70 tons of steel and 260 tons of concrete. The retaining wall contains over 200 tons of concrete and steel. The Stand will hold approximately 7.000 people and is an added luxury for our patrons. There is no increase in the charge of admission to this stand, the price of admission is 2/-, the same as last year. This Stand has been built from the proceeds of the Pools Organization, a very splendid achievement on their behalf. 15 months of hard work, collection of shillings, is what you see today. So you, who read this programme, may be a subscriber, if so, you see something for your subscription. A further addition to the buildings at Watersheddings is the erection of players toilets adjacent to the dressing rooms, something that has been required for this last fifty years, and has now come into being.

BRIEFS

A great cricket captain—Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, of Hampshire issued the famous words to his team at the opening of the season in cricket. "Entertain or perish." May we adopt this statement at Watersheddings.

John Etty has entered a private nursing home on Monday evening last for a nasal operation. We trust to have him back in the field with the least possible delay.

Centre Vin Nestor reports for service in H. M. Forces on August 21st. He is due at Catterick to the Royal Signals, the same regiment as Roy Needham. Needham and Nestor will be the only two players we have in the services.

Ken Jackson is making splendid recovery from his cartilage operation and the knee is now free from all bandage etc. He hopes to have the O.K. for training during the next few days.

LAST SEASON'S RECORDS

Biggest win last season: 44-10 v. Barrow, August 22nd, away.

Biggest Defeat last season: 7-21 v. St. Helens, August 26th, home

Northern League position last season: First (But defeated by Hull in semi-final of championship play-off, 20-8)

Lancashire League position last season: First

Top try scorer last season: R. Cracknell, 28

Top goal kicker last season: B. Ganley 224, (also all-time record)

Record gate last season: 23,000 v. Wigan, R. L. Cup Third Round

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