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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 He'ens	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		28—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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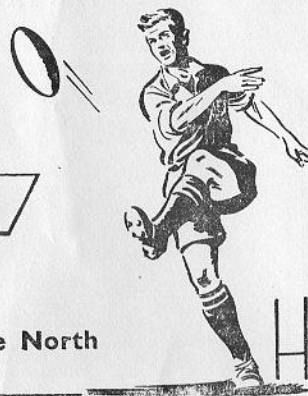


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No. 8—Saturday, October 11th, 1958

Kick-off 3.0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. ROCHDALE HORNETS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

One more record has come to our club in appearing in the Lancs. Cup Final for three successive years. Although we have been lucky with the draw having played all three matches to the final on our ground against Whitehaven, Wigan and Widnes respectively. Our semi-final with Widnes on Tuesday, 30th September was played under depressing conditions of very heavy rain in the first half, but under the conditions we consider the teams gave a display worthy of the occasion. A heavy greasy ball and mistakes must happen and Widnes made one mistake too many which cost them the match. There is no doubt that our scrum half, Frank Pitchford touched top form in this match running very well in chasing a loose ball and that vital pick up whilst at full speed to give our side a lead of five points which we held on to the end of the match.

There is no doubt that the Widnes team are a greatly improved team from last season and much will be heard of this team during the season.

Some critics say that our players desire a dry ground to play—don't all teams require this—but it is obvious that a good team will play good football under any conditions by adapting themselves to such conditions. So we go on to the final full of confidence in meeting St. Helens at Swinton on 25th October, 1958.

On Saturday last we recorded a good victory at Warrington by 20 points to 13 points in a game which in some parts was good and brought the finer points of the game from our players and also from the Warrington players, one or two little incidents between players just marred what could be styled a very good game, but these incidents will happen.

We were unfortunate to have Dereck Turner injured after twenty minutes of the second half, a damaged elbow being the trouble, but an X ray at the Warrington Infirmary did not show anything broken and we are confident that Turner will report fit and possibly have a rest in this match.

OUR VISITORS

It is indeed a privilege to give a special welcome to our visitors from Rochdale to-day. Many are the stirring battles we have had on this ground and played before a ground capacity. Nothing would suit us better than to see the Hornets back to their former glory amongst the leaders of the game. We consider they are on the right track, Rome was not built in a day and neither can you make a football team in one season or even two seasons.

A REAL KICK IN THE PANTS FOR THE "Pass at all costs" FANS

By Cyril Briggs

Wigan said it. Not that headline, but the fact that tap penalties by the cherry and whites are now almost taboo. The Central Park officials who enjoy some of their rugby from an attractive glasshouse—Pressmen at Wigan ground have been perched like hens in a skyscraper coop on their many visits—have decreed that taps are no longer tops.

I'm pleased that this official announcement has come from the Wigan club, because not so very long ago, and in the post war era at that, we were taught that to kick the ball was to show one's ignorance of the code.

It was pass, pass and pass, until it came to pass—at one celebrated cup tie in Yorkshire. I'm not rubbing it in, I'm merely stating facts, or rather repeating 'em, Wigan's opponents that day were Featherstone Rovers. Wigan must win, thought most folk. The Central Park fans must have lost a packet, more cash in fact all the pickpockets who have ever invaded Pontefract or another Yorkshire racecourse had descended on the Post Office Road ground on that rare old day in 1952.

Wigan had the edge—so they thought—Wigan's classical handling had put paid to so many clubs. But the Yorkshire lads remembered that they had in the full-back role a fellow who could "lamp" a ball from one Featherstone street to the other with remarkable ease. He was able to do so even when on the threshold of his retirement. And that's when the Rovers got Freddie Miller from his beloved Boulevard. Everything went pretty well for a time until Freddie began to make the Wigan backs chase the ball 20 or 30 yards or even more. Some people had forgotten that when you run and retrieve the ball as it bounces towards your own line, you must get back again to your original standing position!

ELEMENTARY MISTAKES

Sounds elementary, but Wigan made elementary mistakes that day. Soon the Wigan backs, who were used to sailing through the opposition with inter-passing in the best text book style, began to wear frowns not smiles. This was alright for Fearless Freddie, but not for Wigan. Post Office Road ground is rather on the small side, or so it would seem to me, and I have been "Featherstone way" a **gut** few times (that's **Bratford** dialect). So when the Wiganers were constantly forced back, they found two or three opponents on their collars before they could take any reasonable precautions.

How Wigan officials then thinking of Wembley and all the trimmings, wished Jim Sullivan was young enough to be on the field to face up to Miller. But there was not a kicker to place the ball further than the

Rovers' full-back. So it went on and Featherstone players cheered on by Yorkshire collier that could be mustered, grew confident. It became worse for Wigan, because when Miller had the advantage of playing down the slope, Wigan team had no counter tactic. Wigan lost, but they never forgot the lesson. Rovers went to Wembley.

ANOTHER FREE-BOOTER

And so with the aid of a free-booter of the ball, gaining as much limelight over the R.L. sticks as a certain racehorse in its prime, Wigan with Fred Griffiths as full-back have changed their style. I know the tap penalty, and the tap past the mark, have changed in style over the years, but Wigan directors like others, have shown progressive ideas by putting a little kick into the game instead of carrying out the handling code too far.

Pass pass and pass. It was O.K. and nice to watch, but when a player found that he had to dribble the ball, tap it over an opponent's head, or gain a few yards with a grubber kick, he was "lost." He could not make the right contact with toe and ball. He was as much out of touch with the game as a chap who left the North years ago and then returned to find the official guide written and re-written.

Tries were lost through lack of kicking. Players got a real hammering (they call it "murder" in some parts) because they could not conserve energy by resorting to a touch kick. Close marking meant that sometimes half a dozen handling movements produced only 6 yards.

So the bull-dozing tactics at play-the-ball were brought into play with hands, knees and bumps adaisy as much in action as free-style wrestlers in a free for all.

WATCH GANLEY & PITCHFORD

Then someone realised that the ball was there to kick as well as to catch. Jimmy Ledgard helped to kick St. Helens out of the Lancashire cup by pretty kicking. And so the fashion changed. Instead of the non-kickers wearing the sack, they got just that!

Look at Bernard Ganley in action. See how he boots the ball. There's the proper approach to the ball, both for the punt and place kick. Follow Frank Pitchford's "stab" kick and watch the ball rolling towards a set mark. You must gain ground somehow in R.L. But not at all costs.

When I was constantly harping on this kicking policy, I was told to mind my own business. But when I quoted Jim Brough and Jack Walkington saying that Warrington lost a game at Hunslet because Gerry Helme, a fine kicker at any time, was not allowed to even attempt a touch kick, a few people changed their ideas. The lesson was learnt that day. It was raining pretty heavily, and Warrington caught a cold in more ways than one!

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OLDHAM

Red and White

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2—CRACKNELL R. - 1 TRY
3—DAVIES A. - 1 TRY
4—NOON J.
5—ETTY J.
6—KELLETT A.
7—PITCHFORD F. - 1 TRY
8—JACKSON K.
9—KEITH J. - 1 TRY
10—DUFTY R.
11—WINSLADE C.
12—McKEOWN D.
13—LITTLE S.

Referee:

Mr. J. FLANAGAN,
Keighley

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18

ROCHDALE HORNETS

(Red White & Blue)

- 1—CAHILL E.
2—BUXTON R.
3—JONES L.
4—SHORT N.
5—RALPH A.
6—CHISNALL J.
7—FISHWICK J.
8—SCHOLES A.
9—DAGNALL R.
10—HANSON W.
11—PARSONS G.
12—BAILEY R.
13—PARR J.

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Tyrer, Leigh (Yellow Flag)
Mr. N. Winstanley, Wigan (Crimson)

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Before the war we heard the moan that exchange kicking between full-backs was a waste of time. But did the grumblers ever try to beat an opponent when both were standing close to touch and a slip could mean the loss of 60 yards and a roasting by forwards for being such a chump in failing to catch the ball or booting it "on the full" in that duel.

WEMBLEY LESSON

When Leeds and Barrow met at Wembley in 1957 we saw some nice kicking exchanges between Pat Quinn and Lewis Jones of Leeds against Joe Ball of Barrow. The Rugby Unionists, who we hope to convert for one Saturday in every May, liked this stuff. They had never seen it before. It was a new kicking theme, because in their pet game, one full-back **must** break off after a kick or two, or his opponent will get the plaudits for gaining 20 yards.

Let's have variety in R.L. Pass when you must pass; kick when you must kick, but let us not overdo one or the other. One of these days we will see the old "up and under" producing a try in the very last second of the game, and probably changing the actual result. It may be not so fancy, but "bulldozing" too is not so entertaining only when you have five minutes to spare in watching building demolition operations.

NOTICE TO SEATHOLDER MEMBERS

Any seatholder member requiring a seat ticket for the final at Swinton should apply by post enclosing coupon "O" remittance and stamped addressed envelope to the Secretary, Pavilion, Watersheddings.

In addition to the quoted prices, tickets ringside seats are priced at 5/-. Seatholder members are allowed until October 15th to apply for one ticket per member. After this date if any tickets are available they will be on sale to other members.

OLDHAM SCHOOLS RUGBY LEAGUE

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(Schoolboys County Match)

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LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	12	55	1	Winslade	12		3
Cracknell	12		7	Little	9		4
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	5		1	Noon	8	11	4
Etty	5		3	Edwards	2		
Kellett	12		5	Vines	5		
Jones	2		2	Turner	12		1
Rowbottom	9		1	Stirrup	5		1
Keith	13		7	McKeown	8		2
Lomas	2			Sims	7		5
Davies	9		9	Hatherall	1		
Pitchford	5		2	Mee	1		
Duffy	7		1				

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Leeds	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....														25- 5
Blackpool	.....	.....	8- 7		12-34				19- 26			23-20	9-21		
Leeds		32-20	.....		59-20		12-23								
Leigh				.....			21-5			9-22					20-15
Liverpool			16-20	20-16	.....										
OLDHAM						.....									30- 4
Rochdale						13-14	.....	16-26	5-15						16-23
Salford								.....				16-22			
St. Helens									.....		15-7				
Swinton	13-6									.....		25-10	6- 0		
Warrington			32-15		23-26				15-29		.....				
Whitehaven					24-15							.....			24-12
Widnes							34-11		25-16		13-17		.....		
Wigan	49-16									24- 8				.....	
Workington				19- 4				19-12				17-9	14-34		.....

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

In manager coach Bryn Goldswain they are on the right lines and if our old player and stalwart cannot achieve success at Rochdale we do not know of anyone better acquainted with the game who can bring success. So welcome to the Hornets and may we have a game to-day worthy of the occasion and the setting.

CUP FINAL

The Lancashire Cup final between Oldham and St. Helens will be played at Swinton on Saturday, 25th October, 1958, and is **NOT** an all-ticket match. In the event of a draw the replay will take place at Wigan the following Wednesday. The Wigan and Swinton grounds were the only venues put forward for the final.

If in the event of a replay, which is unlikely but one never knows what happens, the Lancashire and Yorkshire County game scheduled for Wednesday, 29th October and to be played at Leigh will be postponed.

The prices for stand tickets for the final are 12/6 and 10/6 for the main stand, and 10/6 Townsend Road Stand, all seats. The Swinton ground has a holding capacity of 48,000 which has never been fully taxed.

The President of Lancashire County, is Mr. Jack Eddon of Swinton, and his wife will present the cup to the winning team and also medals to the runners up.

The referee for the match will be Mr. R. Gelder of Wakefield.

BRIEFS

As both St. Helens and Oldham wear red and white jerseys—we have hoops and St. Helens one broad band—it will be necessary for a change of colours for the Lancashire Challenge Cup final.

Dennis Ayres is having a little trouble with a knee injury and was due for specialists report upon such injury yesterday. We hope that the injury is not too serious as we are at present running somewhat light in reserve back strength.

Vincent Nestor having finished his initial training at Catterick is now stationed near Newton Abbot in Devon. We are hoping to secure a transfer to a Northern depot shortly then we may secure his services when required. Difficulty in securing leave from his present depot was the result in not appearing in our "A" team on Saturday last.

Many of our old timers will remember Jack Stephens the centre we signed from Gloucester and who did great service whilst playing for us. Jack returned to his home town after football service and has a very good position with the Hawker Siddeley group of Aircraft.

Unfortunately Jack has fallen a victim of ill-health and is confined to bed. We all hope that Jack will make a good recovery. He has always taken an interest in his old club and in a letter from him, states that Rugby League is of great interest to many people in Gloucester.

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