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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue
Aug. 9—	Rochdale Hornets	Away
16—	Halifax	Home 3-0
19—	Blackpool	Away
23—	Wakefield	Away
30—	Whitehaven (L.C.)	Home 3-0
Sept. 2—	Workington	Home 6-15
6—	Halifax	Away
13—	Wakefield	Home 3-0
20—	Rochdale H.	Away
27—	Blackpool	Home 3-0
Oct. 4—	Warrington	Away
11—	Rochdale H.	Home 3-0
18—	Liverpool	Away
25—	Hunslet	Home 3-0
Nov. 1—	Featherstone	Away
8—	Featherstone	Home 3-0
15—	Salford	Away
22—	Leeds	Home 2-30
29—	Wigan	Away
Dec. 6—	Widnes	Home 2-30
13—	Workington	Away
20—	Wigan	Home 2-30

Date	Opponents	Venue
25—	Swinton	Home 2-30
26—	Hunslet	Away
27—	St Helens	Away
1959		
Jan. 3—	Leigh	Home 2-30
10—	Barrow	Away
17—	St Helens	Home 2-30
24—	Salford	Home 3-0
31—	Leeds	Away
Feb. 7—	Warrington	Home 3-0
14—	Leigh	Away
21—	R.L. Cup	
28—	Whitehaven	Away
Mar. 7—	R.L. Cup	
14—	Hull	Away
21—	Barrow	Home 3-0
27—	Swinton (G.F.)	Away
28—	E.S.	
30—	Hull (E.M.)	Home 3-0
April 4—	Liverpool	Home 3-0
11—	Widnes	Away
18—	Whitehaven	Home 3-0

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OLDHAM v. LEEDS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

The unexpected happened at Salford on Saturday last when we lost surprisingly by 14 points to 9 points. This was a double defeat for us as the match also counted in the Lancashire League as well as the Northern Rugby Football League. However we have to lose sometime but that is not the point in question, it is losing by definite bad play on the part of our team. The sting is not in the defeat itself but in the indifferent form shown by the team on this occasion. Why has this come about and why have we lost that snip in our passing that was at times bewildering there must be a reason for it and we must find the reason for it.

Our team never got really going at Salford, of course they were up against a somewhat improved team from last season and on the day were a much better combination than our players. Their passing was good and having the major possession of the ball from the set scrums our fellows had to do the chasing for long periods.

When we did get the ball our play was to stereotyped and we came up a very good cover defence. Not that we did not get the chance to score at least three times through too much individualism and the chances went astray and we retired a well beaten side. The game as a whole was an enjoyable one played in good sporting spirit but the light fog that enshrouded the ground made play a little difficult to watch in the last quarter.

However we live to fight another day with hopes of better things to come and return to top form that has earned us a good reputation for open play.

"A" TEAM FOOTBALL

It is regretted than more interest is not taken in "A" team football by the powers that be and it is a sad state of affairs that "A" team football has drifted to such a low ebb that several "A" teams are disengaged on several Saturdays during the season. What is the reason of this and why should it come about and why cannot it be altered.

In the Northern Rugby Football League there are 30 senior clubs and all run "A" teams. These clubs comprise of 14 Lancashire Clubs and 16 Yorkshire Clubs and for purpose of equalization Leeds are nominated as a Lancashire Club making 15 clubs in each County.

These 15 senior clubs in each County play one another, home and away and our Club has fixtures with 5 Yorkshire Clubs, namely, Halifax, Wakefield, Featherstone, Hunslet and Hull, these are selected each year

ARE REFEREES GETTING TOUGH?

By Cyril Briggs

Has the instruction gone around to R.L. referees—**Get Tough?** It would seem like it when you consider the number of dismissals from the field of play in the last fortnight. Recently I watched Blackpool Borough go down to Leeds in a game which often lacked “bite.” However, referee A. E. Durkin of Dewsbury, not only got his book out two or three times, but had “talks” with certain players.

Mr. Durkin, one of the best referees I have seen this season—I liked the way he made prompt decisions—dished out penalties right, left and centre but even then the players continued to break rules.

Warrington must have thought that fresh instructions had gone out from headquarters to referees because Mr. K. R. Rathbone, of St. Helens, doled out 17 penalties to Hull Kingston Rovers. Warrington lost because of Kellet's accurate goal-kicking. Warrington got only four penalty kicks, not free kicks.

NO SCREENING—PLEASE

There were screams from certain quarters after the Lancashire Cup final, and we all now what happened in the “boo final” at Wembley, which resulted in a certain noted journalist getting the cold shoulder for what he said over the “mike.” But one would like to know if it is a case of “no sending off” in a final.

Of course, it would be a minor tragedy at Wembley if this happened, but I think no player should be “screened.” If he is cautioned once, then a second time it should be the “sin bin” for the whole afternoon. The “get the key men” attitude will not help R.L. It will get it into disrepute.

But is the man who strikes the blow the chief offender? Not always. I once saw Eric Batten ordered off at Odsal when he was not entitled to such punishment. He was a victim of circumstances. Let me explain. Batten had kicked the ball towards his opponents' line. The referee and nearside touch judge had quite rightly followed the flight of the ball.

STILL HELD ON

Yet here was the snag. Batten was held in a tackle and though he tried to struggle free, an opponent held him firmly. Batten went so far as to say “the ball has gone” or words to that effect. There was still no “kidding” the tackler and he fastened on to Batten like a leech.

By this time Batten was all het up. So were some of the Northern supporters. The winger used more force than was necessary and at that very moment the ball was hoofed back to where the struggle was taking place. Then everyone saw what happened and Batten got marching orders.

After the game I told former Warrington and Dewsbury player Bill Stockley, now retired from refereeing, what had happened and he saw the incident in a different light. But he could do little about the matter for the touch judge had also gained the same impression as Bill had done before the sending-off action.

TEETH IN IT!

There are many other instances when the retaliator has suffered more than the instigator. I remember one special occasion when Jimmy Tranter, the Warrington man whose hook tackle lifted many men off their feet without any suggestion of the stiff arm, was bitten by an opponent. In went Jim to the Disciplinary Committee showed them the teeth marks made on his arm by the vicious opponent. But the committee did not give Jimmy the benefit of the doubt.

I don't think the general body of supporters will be satisfied with the R.L. laws until more authority is vested with touchjudges. These men see tries scored after forward passes and knock ons, but they can do nothing about it.

If the touch judge is considered a responsible person by the authorities, then he should be more than a mere flag-wagger. I have always believed that the present duties of the touch judge could be performed quite adequately by a 15-year-old lad who can boast a knowledge of a mere smattering of the laws.

ON THE SPOT

I'm putting some touch judges on the spot. So often do we see them backing away from a ruck of players who rush over the touch line. I realise that everyone soon thinks of self-preservation when there is danger around, but surely the touch judge should remember that it is usually the player's feet which breaks the chalk line and not his eyes.

I know some referees who take a pride in their physical condition, in fact some of them train regularly at senior grounds. There are various qualifications for referees and touch judges, but what about putting the men on the side line through a speed test? Surely that's one way of getting 'em at the right place at the right time.

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- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—JACKSON K.
- 9—KEITH J.
- 10—McKEOWN D.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
- 12—LITTLE S. D.
- 13—KELLY G.

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- 12—WARD
- 13—DICK

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Are Referees Getting Tough?—continued

Nowadays referees are expected to send reports to headquarters about touch judges who are apt to make mistakes. This idea should have been adopted many years ago. It would have saved many arguments, and perhaps changed a result or two.

Some seasons ago there was an allegation that "referees were spoiling the game." Whether that was true or false I wouldn't like to argue, but I have seen some of the new names this season and they are quite good. The constant shake up in the Grade One and Grade Two lists shows that the R.L. is alive to the subject of improved control of games.

But is sending off of players the real answer to ungentlemanly conduct on the field of play? I don't think so. Make the penalties more severe. Then a fellow would be inclined to keep his temper. But don't think I want R.L. to become a parlour game.

OUR VISITORS

It is always a pleasure to entertain the Leeds Club for we are sure of a game that is worthy of the Rugby League, so here's a welcome to Leeds, officials and players.

It is also a pleasure to welcome one of our old players, Joe Warham, who is coach to the Leeds Club, this being his first season with the club.

The formation of a Rugby Club in Leeds dates back to 1864, but the present Leeds Club traces its birth, however, to the foundation in 1870 of the St. John's Club, the old "Amber and Blues." St. John's for a year or so, confined their membership to the church class area. Leeds St. John's played their last season as St. John's in 1889-90 and their first as the Football Section of the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Co. Ltd., the following season.

So today this is the Leeds Club and very worthy members of the Rugby League. The possess one of the finest grounds in the North of England, and who has not heard of Headingley, and today the glorious traditions of Headingley are cherished just as zealously by the present Board of Directors, which aims continually to improve amenities and accommodation and to provide entertainment of the highest class for all true lovers of sport.

Let us hope today's game lives up to the reputation of the games we have seen in the past against Leeds, good football, a good crowd of spectators and for all something to talk about.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	17	79	1	Winslade	18		4
Cracknell	17		10	Little	11		4
Nestor	3		1	Daley	1		
Ayres	5		1	Noon	14	14	5
Etty	10		3	Edwards	2		
Kellett	18	1	9	Turner	16		1
Jones	2		2	Stirrup	7		2
Rowbottom	13		1	McKeown	13		2
Keith	19		8	Sims	9		7
Lomas	2			Hatherall	2		
Davies	15		13	Mee	1		
Pitchford	10		4	Jackson	6		
Dufty	9		1	Kelly	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	.....				21-14										25-5
Blackpool		.....	6-19	8-7		12-34			19-26	9-17	21-20	23-20	9-21		
Leeds		32-20	.....		59-20		12-23				17-47			17-8	
Leigh		25-26		.....			21-5	15-20		9-22					20-15
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	.....	13-28						22-16			
OLDHAM		44-3				.....	22-18								30-4
Rochdale		7-11		10-5		13-14	.....	16-26	5-15				16-15	16-23	
Salford						14-9	.....		12-28			16-22			
St. Helens							42-12		.....		15-7				
Swinton	13-6									.....		25-10	5-0		
Warrington			32-15		33-26				15-29		.....				30-4
Whitehaven					24-15			19-10				.....		24-12	
Widnes			46-7				34-11	35-10	25-16		13-17		.....		
Wigan	49-16				26-12					24-8		39-16			
Workington					19-4			19-12	10-10	9-10		17-9	14-34		

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

according to the position in the final table of the Northern R.F.L. and the fixtures are made by the Secretary of the Northern Rugby Football League.

Each County Secretary makes "A" team fixtures and Lancashire finds itself with several Saturdays vacant and it is just possible that each Lancashire Secretary can make a friendly match, but these are very rare. A solution to this lamentable state of affairs would be that each "A" team in Lancashire play one another and the five Yorkshire Clubs that make up the first team fixtures, have fixtures, home and away with their Yorkshire opponents of the first team, this could be then called The Rugby League Combination and no interference would be made with the respective Lancashire and Yorkshire Combination Leagues.

It would give "A" teams of each Club a total of 38 matches during the season and they would be occupied each Saturday. Some clubs may complain of the expense of travelling, but as we have stated before there is no poverty amongst Clubs now they are all running a Pool or what is called a Development Society. Let these Development Societies develop "A" team football and encourage "A" team football more Travel is a poor excuse for "A" teams and it is the **Game** that matters.

BRIEFS

It is pleasing to report that Sid Little has passed a specialists report of being 100% fit and we welcome him back to the team after an absence of one month.

Frank Daley is still suffering the after effects of a broken finger but hopes to resume shortly. Frank will have been with this Club 10 years on the 31st January, 1959 and the Rugby League Council have granted us permission to hold a benefit or testimonial for this whole-hearted player when he has completed the ten years service. More news of this will be issued later.

Leonard Mee, our up and coming "A" team full back is slowly recovering from a damaged shoulder also Terry Ogden is making progress from a bone grafting operation on his foot.

We are as usual each year sending four "A" team boys for a training course at Bisham Abbey (near Maidenhead) on Saturday, 4th July, 1959 to July 11th, 1959. This is a very intensive training and coaching scheme and our young players have benefitted much from this course. Consider that Messrs. Ayres, Noon, Davies and Pitchford have all attended this course and have given us results. The fact that a full team of internationals could now be picked in Rugby League by the boys who have attended Bisham Abbey. In fact a team could be called Bisham Abbey Old Boys v. Other Nationalities for some deserving cause.

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