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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. ST. HELENS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

Today is a red letter day for 32 clubs who begin blazing the Wembley trail and all are optimistic even to the two amateur clubs are full of hope of making a show. Some stern battles are sure to be the order and there must be some surprise results.

This is a knock-out competition and some of the best clubs fall by the way side. Luck plays an important part in this competition, to be drawn at home is an advantage, or should be, but this does not always run true to form. To play at Wembley is a great honour to appear on the sacred turf. The Challenge Cup final commenced to be played at Wembley in 1929 and has continued with the exception of war years to be played there.

Some clubs have never achieved the honour of playing there and this club is no exception and only once have we appeared in the semi-final, so near yet so far. For the last few years we have always thought that our Wembley year is to be, but somehow we have failed to achieve this long thought of ambition. Of course, some great teams have appeared at Wembley but it is not always the best teams that appear there.

Today, we commence once again in an effort to see if this be our Wembley year and what finer opponents and better opponents could we have at Watersheddings than the St. Helens Club.

A great task lies ahead of us today in our efforts to knock our opponents out of the cup. What a pity that we should meet in the first round as one must surely say good bye to the Challenge Cup.

However we give a welcome to the St. Helens Club and hope that the game will keep up the great traditions of both clubs. This being a cup-tie, the tension is greater than a league match, both sides will require a little luck and the run of the ball can turn a match either way. Our boys will have to be in top form to record victory and we hope that when the final whistle is sounded that our team will go into the draw for the second round which takes place this evening on television at 5-45 p.m.

So good luck to our boys in their efforts today.

WHO GOES TO WEMBLEY?

By Cyril Briggs

The mighty letter "W" again hovers on the horizon this afternoon to be coupled with Wembley and the Rugby League challenge cup, yet out of half a dozen teams whose names begin with the 23rd letter of the alphabet, we might not get even a single representative at the famous Middlesex ground on May 9th.

Wakefield Trinity look strong enough to go far. Here at Belle Vue are many players of talent, with three South Africans competing for regular first team places. Trinity are one of those clubs who are renowned cup fighters. It seems to be in their blood, although they have made but one trip to Wembley. If Trinity get over the Swinton hurdle—and the Lions are not roaring very strongly these days—a home tie even against the league's best could put them in a nice position.

WORKINGTON HAPPIER NOW

Strange how some teams click in time for the cup ties. All over the Rugby League people have been saying, "What's gone wrong at Workington?" The medical profession in West Cumberland have worked overtime attempting to reduce the number of injured players on an oversized casualty list. At last they have succeeded and the Town are another solid and formidable force again. They should get through, although Featherstone have some old scores to settle and also play well away from home in cup-ties.

Warrington, like Workington, know quite a lot about the Wembley turf and the much publicised eddies which are supposed to upset goal-kicking. I may be wrong, but I hardly think Warrington are not quite good enough to reach Wembley a fifth time, although they should beat Keighley, a team which has never beaten the Wires in a cup tie.

The reason for my gloomy outlook about Warrington is because of lack of balance. There's any amount of experience, plus a smattering of youth in the pack, but the forwards are not quite the equals of those which took the side to the Empire Stadium in 1950 or 1954. So many times this season have I seen the Wire's droop when they have had a good chance of victory.

NEARLY "MADE IT"

Continuing the "W" theme, Whitehaven nearly made the final in 1957. But for that controversial Stevenson drop kick (???) Whitehaven

would have been opposing Barrow. Unless this is one of the "turn ups" of the round, Liverpool should go out at the Recreation Ground, but only after a very keen fight.

Now for the chances of Wigan and Widnes, two other clubs who have tasted victory and defeat on the lush Wembley turf. As good as Leeds can be, as much as they have improved in the last two months, Wigan, should rise to the occasion, and that expensive back division must "click" sometime.

Leeds however, may upset Wigan's plans and if they do so, they could be a very hard side to beat in subsequent rounds. Wigan's pack is suspect at the moment. A team that can hold the Cherry and Whites in open play can cause panic among the backs, as was shown by the Widnes team in their recent Central Park win. And while I consider the Naughton Park 13 as the "dark horses" of the competition, I cannot exclude from my memory that Leeds defeat of the Naughton Park team on a paddy field. If Leeds can do that on heavy going, what can they do on a firm surface which will suit their fast men?

TEAM WORK and ENTHUSIASM

But the brand of Rugby Widnes are producing at the moment, is reminiscent of the McCue, Millington, Topping, Silcock, and Shannon days. The teamwork and enthusiasm is trusty as it is keen and once over the Hull Rovers hurdle they could upset a lot of good sides at home.

I now refer to what has been termed "the match of the round" because the cloud which seems to have enveloped Watersheddings is slowly but surely being driven away. The winners of this "all ticket" tie, can be strongly fancied for a Wembley visit, but it just depends on how the winners are paired in the second round. "All Oldham" believe it is their team for the final and the cup.

Barrow, who have written a glorious chapter to the Wembley story, have previously beaten Salford, today's opponents in the tournament. A favourable tie in round two might do Barrow players a lot of good, although only the best will beat Salford at the Willows.

One of the hardest tasks any club can face is to build up a side which has slipped because several stars have departed, or hung up their boots for good. Huddersfield, unfortunately find themselves in this position. The name Huddersfield was at one time as much imposing as the letter "W" is in today's R.L. Teams knew that if they were drawn against Huddersfield at Fartown or even on their own ground, it was going to be a match where slow coaches were sure to be made to look foolish and teams not well versed in skilful play left in a tangle.

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OLDHAM

(Blue and White)

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

Referee:

Mr. E. CLAY,
Rothwell

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ST. HELENS

(Red and White)

- 1—MOSES A.G.
- 2—VAN VOLLENHOVEN K. T.
- 3—GREENALL D.
- 4—FEARIS P.
- 5—PRINSLOO J.
- 6—HOWARD
- 7—MURPHY A.
- 8—TERRY
- 9—BOWDEN E.
- 10—BRIGGS B.
- 11—KARALIUS D.
- 12—HUDDART R.
- 13—KARALIUS V.

Touch Judges:

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ERNIE ASHCROFT'S TASK

I thought when I saw Huddersfield in action recently and Ernie Ashcroft giving the side encouragement that a revival was on the way. Perhaps I, like others who remember the great days at Fartown, was expecting too much. But if Bradford are beaten the Huddersfield fans will forget a lot!

Of course I have not forgotten other sides possessing the imposing letter "H" to their names. But Hull, though they seem already booked for round two, don't seem to have the requisite ability behind the scrum to make a long cup run, but Hunslet could surprise the rest of the teams by riding majestically on the road to Wembley. They appear to have that brand of power and drive so necessary in a cup-tie. Halifax and Hull K.R. don't strike me as men to fear this term, while the rest of the contestants seem unequal to the future tasks, although some may figure in round two. But the luck of the draw might suppress more teams as it will in today's fixtures.

BRIEFS

Never have we had such a season as this for injuries to players, the last three years we were riding on top of the world as regards injuries, but this season has made up for a lot. Several times our first team has been depleted but we have managed to bring off victory when all was against us. What is the reason for more injuries? Is the game getting tougher?

Tonight we are holding a dance at the Town Hall and the proceeds are for the Frank Daley Testimonial Fund. We hope for a good attendance.

Work has now commenced in the erecting of the time clock on top of the score board which the Supporters Club are giving to the Club. The frame-work is being laid down and we expect the whole work to be completed by our next home match. Thanks to our Supporters Club.

CUP FINAL TICKETS

If you want a SEATING ticket for the Rugby League Cup Final it is essential to apply immediately to The Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapletown Road, Leeds 7. Send your remittance together with a stamped and addressed envelope.

Tickets at 25/-; 15/-; 12/6 and 7/6 can be reserved NOW.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	28	123	1	Little	22		5
Cracknell	22		13	Daley	2		
Nestor	9		3	Noon	20	16	8
Ayres	12		3	Edwards	2		
Etty	20		6	Turner	22	1	1
Kellett	28	1	13	Stirrup	7		2
Jones	2		2	McKeown	19		2
Rowbottom	20		1	Sims	12		8
Keith	26		10	Hatherall	2		
Lomas	5			Mee	1		
Davies	24		16	Jackson	10		
Pitchford	22		8	Kelly	10		1
Dufty	11		1	Quinlan	3		1
Winslade	30		6	Goddard	3		
				Lloyd	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	.....	13- 9			21-14			28- 8	5- 7				2-7	17-23	25-5
Blackpool	9-17	.....	6-19	8- 7		12-34	10-20		19-26	9-17	21-20	23-20	9-21		
Leeds		32-20	.....		59-20	18-15	12-23		12-11	12-16	17- 47	18-12		17- 8	
Leigh	27-5	25-26	11-16	.....		11-7	21- 5	15-20	6-10	9-22		20-3		15-25	20-15
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	.....	13-28					8-44	22-16	11-26	18-36	10-32
OLDHAM		44- 3	13-12	19-16		.....	22-18			8-7	19-8		44- 8	21-18	30- 4
Rochdale	7-11	20-10		10- 5		13-14	.....	16-26	5-15		5-13		16-15	16-23	
Salford	19-10			12-16	8- 6	14- 9	16-4	.....	12-28		16-22	19-15			
St. Helens	71-15		38-12			22- 6	42-12		.....	32- 3	15-7	27-3		13- 9	
Swinton	13-6	27-15	3-26				23-11			.....		25-10	6-0	7-22	25-3
Warrington		25-8	32-15	15-13	23-26		19- 0		15-29	5-15	.....			5-18	30-4
Whitehaven			8-0	8-17	24-15			19-10	2-25		19-2	.....	2-14	24-12	0- 2
Widnes	17- 8	46- 7	5-16				34-11	35-10	25-16	17-5	13-17		.....		21-15
Wigan	49-16			26-12	45-7	19-7		31-14		24- 8		39-16	7-11	.....	
Workington	21-2		16-8	19- 4		0-23		19-12	10-10	9-10	32-15	17-9	14-34	.....	

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

PEN PICTURES—ST. HELENS

Moses A. G. Secured on transfer from Salford F.C. Toured with the last team to Australia. Been unlucky with injury received whilst on tour. A grand attacking full back.

Van Vollenhoven K. T. A great wing three-quarter from S. Africa who can score what looks impossible tries. A real star in our game and a grand personality.

Fearis P. One of our own players who arrived at St. Helens via Halifax and Blackpool. Has been in great form with his goal kicking this season and heads the list by his great kicking.

Greenall D. A long serving member of the side and has received all honours in the game. Still a grand player as centre.

Prinsloo J. Another import from S. Africa and is rapidly making a name in the game, strong and forceful and is coming into the Van Vollenhoven class.

Howard H. B. A local boy and utility player who makes a great combination with the scrum half Murphy.

Murphy A. Another local boy who has risen to the top and is now labelled No. 1 scrum half. Toured with the last team to Australia and was a great success.

Terry Still another local and has taken the place of that great hearted player Alan Prescott. Terry is a full eighty minutes player and is doing a great work in the open.

Bowden E. An Oldham junior recently signed by St. Helens from Rochdale Hornets at a big fee. Knows how to get the ball back by his clean hooking.

Briggs B. A native of Wakefield and signed by his present club from Huddersfield, can play second row and is a good ball distributor.

Karalius D. A native of Widnes and has secured a position in the first team by consistent good play, is brother to loose forward.

Huddart R. A native of Whitehaven and played for his local club. Secured on transfer by St. Helens from Whitehaven at a record fee. Toured Australia in 1958 and was a success. A forward that can run and distribute the ball with efficiency.

Karalius V. Recognised as one of the best loose forwards playing the game today, has secured all honours a demon tackler and a menace to opposing scrum halves.

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