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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	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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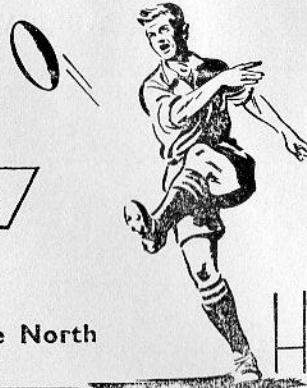


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No. 20—Saturday, 4th April, 1959

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. LIVERPOOL CITY

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS

A very happy Easter has been spent by our first team in success at Swinton on Good Friday and a good victory over Hull on Easter Monday. Victories in a double sense in that our opponents were contestants, along with ourselves, for positions in the first four of the League Table.

St. Helens appear to be certain to finish on top unless something very much unforeseen happens. This means that, in the main, six clubs are fighting for the remaining three positions. This should maintain the interest in the league until the last match.

It will no doubt be of interest to supporters to see the outstanding fixtures of the top seven clubs.

St. Helens—Played 32. Points, 55.

Home—Workington, Hull, Liverpool

Away—Halifax, Swinton, Oldham

Hunslet—Played 33. Points, 50.

Home—Bramley, Halifax

Away—Batley, Hull, Oldham

Swinton—Played 33. Points, 47.

Home—Bramley, St. Helens

Away—Whitehaven, Castleford, Liverpool

Wigan—Played 33. Points, 48.

Home—Workington, Rochdale

Away—Widnes, Wakefield, Blackpool

Oldham—Played 31. Points, 45.

Home—Hunslet, Salford, St. Helens, Liverpool, Whitehaven

Widnes, Barrow

Hull—Played 32. Points, 43.

Home—Dewsbury, Hunslet, Halifax

Away—St. Helens, Batley, Bramley

Wakefield—Played 30. Points, 45.

Home—Hull K.R., Wigan, Bramley, Keighley

Away—Keighley, Bradford, York, Dewsbury

We are hopeful, provided that our our players steer clear of any injury and with a little luck, that we shall occupy one of the four positions when the final reckoning comes along. This would be a splendid achievement in view of the unlucky season we have had due to injuries and to sickness and the transfer of two star forwards.

We have lost matches where we expected victory and won when all appeared lost. But that is all in the luck of the game.

ROUND AND ABOUT

QUICK WORK DID IT

Our game with Hull on Monday evening last did not finish until shortly before seven o'clock. Half-an-hour later, the score and the club's placing in the Northern League was broadcast on one of the B.B.C.'s overseas sports bulletins.

This means that ex-Oldhamers, as well as Oldham lads serving in the forces in various parts of the world, were acquainted within a few hours of the fact that we had beaten Hull in the vital match by five points to nil. Our club officials gave every co-operation to the B.B.C. in an effort to rush the result through.

"ANOTHER BATTLE FOR BRITAIN"

The junior league funds in Lancashire will benefit from the sale of Mr. Bennett Manson's book, "Another Battle for Britain," which has been selling well. Mr. Manson was one of the managers on the recent Australasian Tour when the "Ashes" were re-captured.

The book gives some very interesting data of the tour, especially of the Test matches. It also contains many good action pictures and also cartoons. Inquiries for the book, price 5s. 0d., should be made to the Secretary's office or to Mr. Manson, c/o Swinton Football Club.

JUNIOR OFFICIAL'S DEATH

It is with regret that we record the sudden death of Mr. Noel Worfolk, the Oldham Amateur Junior Rugby League's treasurer. Mr. Worfolk had been interested in the welfare of the junior league players for several years and was not only an efficient official, but a keen worker for the furtherance of the cause.

He served on the Lancashire Amateur Committee as the Oldham representative. Thirty-three years of age, he had many friends in the area. We associate ourselves with the many expressions of sympathy to the relatives in their great loss.

THE CATTERALL CUP

Recently, the Oldham Boys put up a very good show against the Warrington Boys in the final of the "Catterall Cup." Oldham lost by 12 points to six against a team which has won this trophy many times since it was inaugurated in 1947 by Mr. A. H. Catterall, a director of the Warrington club. Mr. Catterall has been keenly interested in schoolboy and junior league football for many years.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Player	A.	G.	T.	Player	A.	G.	T.
Ganley	34	142	1	Little	27		5
Cracknell	24		13	Daley	2		
Nestor	13		5	Noon	24	16	10
Ayres	12		3	Edwards	2		
Etty	22		6	Turner	22	1	1
Kellett	33	1	13	Stirrup	7		2
Jones	2		2	McKeown	23		2
Rowbottom	20		1	Sims	15		9
Keith	31		12	Hatherall	2		
Lomas	8		2	Mee	1		
Davies	29		18	Jackson	16		
Pitchford	28		9	Kelly	11		1
Dufty	13		1	Quinlan	3		1
Winslade	34		6	Goddard	3		
McIntyre	1			Lloyd	1		
Pugsley	4			Smith	1		
Southward	3		2				

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		15-18	21-14			28- 8	5- 7	10-5			2-7	17-23	25-5
Blackpool	9-17	.....	6-19	8- 7		12-34	10-20	11-10	19-26	9-17	21-20	23-20	9-21		
Leeds	16-13	32-20	.....		59-20	18-15	12-23		12-11	12-16	17-47	18-12		17-8	17-10
Leigh	27-5	25-26	11-16	.....		11-7	21- 5	15-20	6-10	9-22	4-23	20-3	13-7	15-25	20-15
Liverpool	12-11		16-20	20-16	.....	13-28	17-15	7-18	20-40		8-44	22-16	11-26	18-36	10-32
OLDHAM	39-13	44-3	13-12	19-16		.....	22-18			8-7	19-8		44- 8	21-18	30- 4
Rochdale	7-11	20-10	5-21	10-5	19-12	13-14	.....	16-26	5-15		5-13		16-15	16-23	10-18
Salford	19-10			12-16	8- 6	14- 9	16-4	.....	12-28		16-22	19-15		15-38	
St. Helens	71-15	46-11	38-12			22- 6	42-12		.....	32- 3	15-7	27-3	38-4	13-9	
Swinton	13-6	27-15	3-26	10-18	35-10	8-19	23-11	11-11		.....	22-18	25-10	6-0	7-22	25-3
Warrington		25-8	32-15	15-13	23-26		19- 0		15-29	5-15	.....	42-8	11-7	5-18	30-4
Whitehaven	38-0	43-7	8-0	8-17	24-15	14-3		19-10	2-25		19-2	.....	2-14	24-12	0- 2
Widnes	17- 8	46- 7	5-16		37-10		34-11	35-10	25-16	17-5	13-17	13-23	.....		21-15
Wigan	49-16	29-11	32-3	26-12	45-7	19-7		31-14	19-14	24- 8		39-16	7-11	.....
Workington	21-2	12-0	16-8	19-4	42-0	0-23		19-12	10-10	9-10	32-15	17-9	14-34	5-13

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

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- 3—NESTOR, V.
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—SIMS, G.
- 6—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—McKEOWN, D.
- 11—LITTLE, S. D.
- 12—LOMAS, H.
- 13—PUGSLEY, R.

Referee:

Mr. T. W. WATKINSON
Pendlebury

LIVERPOOL CITY

Green and White

- 1—BRIERS
- 2—BARTON
- 3—SPEAKMAN
- 4—TEGGIN
- 5—DONALDSON
- 6—BLYTHEN
- 7—WOODROW
- 8—SIMPSON
- 9—FISHWICK
- 10—CARTLEDGE
- 11—HOCKENALL
- 12—WINSTANLEY
- 13—KARALIUS

Touch Judges:

Mr. V. Waddilove, Leigh (Crimson)
Mr. F. Whiteley, War'ton (Yellow)

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SHOULD SUBSTITUTION BE ALLOWED?

YES! . . . says Cyril Briggs

The Rugby League game has often been threatened with strangulation by the ball of red tape which seems to pop up here, there, and everywhere. Now don't class me as a "knocker" for I believe in the very future of the game and will do everything possible to further its cause.

But are we being fair to ourselves and our neighbours? I don't think so. Last week I saw a match which promised to be a keen, if not thrilling affair, totally ruined after half-an-hour when one side lost a player in a key position. From then on—it was a draw at the time of the injured player's departure—the encounter became one-sided.

NO SPECTACLE

Of course, the home spectators while not unsympathetic with the visiting team's plight, were constantly cheering their own players to greater deeds. But as a spectacle the game was as good as over at half-time. Yet, the onlookers might have changed their tune had one of their own players taken to hospital.

Now, is the Rugby League always going to turn a deaf ear to the matter of substitution? It would seem like it,

We have heard many versions of the sharp practices which **may** be adopted by some unsporting officials if substitution were allowed. But if the rule was strict and a doctor was called upon to give his verdict on whether a player was or was not fit to continue, then I don't think there could be any grumble from anyone, especially the opposition who had a full compliment of players.

CHANGING CONDITIONS

I may have changed **my** tune, but surely anyone is entitled to a different outlook in the face of changing conditions. It is surely one of the Rugby League's mistakes not to live with the times. I am not making a sweeping claim for substitution without thought. I know what goes on in America with their Football game, which is fundamentally based on our code.

It is possible in American Football to bring on an offensive personnel when the occasion arises or to substitute three or four players when a side is in a tough defensive spot.

That, of course, is taking the thing too far. During the war I remember seeing several "grid-iron" games in progress when the Yanks used up thousands of gallons of petrol taking troops to see certain sections in action. As a motorist the petrol position intrigued me just as much as the chap who was called upon to take the goal-kicks and then sent to the bench after he had taken them!

MANY LAUGHS

That position would be ludicrous if attempted in Rugby League. We would have fantastic results and the laughs then would be against the code. Continuing the theme against substitution, I have an amusing tale of my days amongst the junior movement.

A young half-back who was noted for his clever play and fiery hair, did not show up well in an important match. The followers of the team were very surprised at the young star's loss of form. But in the second half there was a transformation and the half-back really ran the opposition into the ground.

The player's name was on everyone's lips for weeks afterwards, until someone began "to tell tales out of school." It would appear that there had been **two** players for one position, and the man who played so badly in the first stage had actually swapped his gear with his twin brother and stayed in the dressing room in the second 40 min. Of course, it was a tall story, but it turned out to be true after a protest (too late, I fear) had been made.

STRINGENT RULES

There could be some clever moves in an effort to beat the substitution law, but stringent rules could make it work. Remember, you opponents of the idea, that a R.L. player is more likely to be injured than at most sports. So why not let the public see real matches all the time and not occasional shambles.

NEXT MATCH AT WATERSHEDDINGS

OLDHAM v. SALFORD

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

OUR VISITORS

Today, we entertain one of our Cinderella Clubs in the game, but our welcome to them is just as sincere as the welcoming offered to the alleged giants of the league. So welcome to Liverpool City. Many's the time you have made us admit defeat at your pleasant little ground at Knotty Ash. Defeat when victory was assured by all except players and directors.

Our visitors have had a chequered career there is no doubt, but the flag has been kept flying through difficult years. Originally, started as Wigan Highfield, then migrated to London and became London Highfield, back to Liverpool as Liverpool Stanley and later Liverpool City.

Some great players of our game were turned out when the club played at Tunstall Lane, Pemberton. Did not we receive on transfer that great out-half, Johnny Oster? Other names that have graced our game as internationals are Belshaw, Scott, Wood and Malony.

Although our game is weakened today by the absence of Southward, Davies and Winslade, we have every confidence in the reserves that take their places. We cannot afford any slip-up at this stage if we are to make sure of our place in the top four and thus ensure our chances of playing in the concluding stages of the League Championship.

BRIEFS

Please Note. We play Salford at Watersheddings on Tuesday evening next, kick-off 5-45 p.m. This match is a re-arranged fixture for the one which was postponed on January 24th of this year.

On Tuesday, 14th April, we have Hunslet as visitors and the kick-off on this occasion is 6-0 p.m. This is a match which has been carried forward from October 25th of last year when Hunslet could not play owing to domestic trouble.

Both these games are of vital interest to us and in the case of Hunslet, to them also, as you will see from the table elsewhere in this programme, they too are very interested in the top-four placings.

Other re-arranged matches are as follows :

Monday, 20th April, Barrow at Barrow — Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

Monday, 27th April, St. Helens at Oldham — Kick-off 6-30 p.m.

For your information, Summertime comes into operation on Sunday, April 19th.

Len McIntyre has had the plaster removed from his broken fibula and great improvement has been made with the injury. Although we are very doubtful of having his services again this season, we have the fullest confidence that no ill effects will occur.

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