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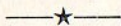
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## Fixtures for the Season

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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7-4-59 S.I.F.

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No. 21—Tuesday, April 7th, 1959

Kick-off 5-45 p.m.

**OLDHAM v. SALFORD**

**WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS & VIEWS**

Saturday last saw a record scoring game at the expense of Liverpool City and it was a game that our players appeared to revel in. To be without three internationals is a serious situation for any team, but the replacements showed the stuff they were made of and on the whole we were highly delighted.

To say that Liverpool were over-run in all phases of the game with the exception of hooking the ball back from the set scrums—in this department we appeared to have the worst of the encounter—is no under statement of fact. What the score would have been with a majority of possessions from the scrum is anyones guess. No doubt it would have created a record for the ground. Nevertheless, this type of a record is not particularly important and we must compliment the boys from Knotty Ash for keeping the game open despite the full knowledge that they were the people who would suffer the most by doing so.

Some spectacular tries were scored, one or two from the mistakes made by Liverpool players, which goes to show that our lads were on the alert for anything that was going. It is indeed pleasing to note the good running of Alan Kellett—half the length of the field is no mean feat, also Dick Cracknell proved that he is still a dangerous man to be let loose with the ball and that he knows quite well what to do with it when it comes his way.

In fact, we must congratulate the whole team on their exhibition and yet at the same time spare a little thought for the Liverpool boys in having such a large score put up against them. They tried very hard but their efforts were unavailing. At least, we hope that the Liverpool team will use last Saturday as a demonstration and lesson in the game and have learnt something from it and not lose heart by this large score.

Next Saturday, April 11th, we visit Widnes and here we always expect a hard match. The Chemics are a considerably improved team and are much to be feared on their own ground.

From our point of view this match must be considered vitally important and it is absolutely necessary that we pull all out for victory. Our only other away match this season is at Barrow on Monday evening, 20th April when we hope that all our efforts will have assured us of a place in the top-four of the league.

## BIGGER "GATES" WITH TWO DIVISIONS

by Cyril Briggs

Have you ever witnessed the exciting picture of a Rugby League ground bursting at the seams with spectators? Yes, even in these days when some people are expecting the shutters to be put up at one or two venues, "gate" capacities are being recorded.

I have seen 103,000 at Odsal—and the few thousand who gained free admission without the slightest difficulty—bulging grounds at Watersheddings, Fartown, and Craven Park, with "no more room" notices at Salford, St. Helens, and Widnes. The golden years may have been placed in the history books for some clubs, but these happy scenes could come again to many if the R.L. made the only possible change in the Northern League set-up — two divisions.

It sounds easy, but it could be quite a simple change and the clubs who might be destined to stay in the second division for a large number of years, would not suffer. Take the Wigan—St. Helens game for instance. Here on Good Friday was all the promise of a big "first division thriller. The two clubs were, and are, desperate for points for that "first four" placing. Everywhere there was an atmosphere of expectancy and no wonder 47,747 souls paid some of the holiday money to get into Central Park.

### MORE THAN "UNITED"

Adding to that amazing total which is an all-time record for Wigan's spacious headquarters, were many stewards, gatemen, police, pressmen, ambulance men, officials and V.I.P.s. So well over the 48,000 mark was chalked up. The "gate" was even bigger than the Burnley—Manchester United game during the holidays... and some people claim that the game of Rugby League football "is dying."

Sporting people will pay heavily to see something out of the ordinary. They don't want to witness one-sided games with "cricket scores" and the winning team playing in low gear. The Rugby League game has got to be good, and surely the Wigan record crowd on Good Friday was ample evidence of what is really required—two well matched teams with something at stake.

But the amazing thing is that the opponents of an even split in the Northern League would have us forget the silly position of one club actually getting to the "top four" without having met some of its nearest

rivals. It could happen that a team well down the league the previous year, but having a wonderful run the following season, could only meet its championship rival in the final!

Warrington, for instance, who once looked like making a real bid to restore former glories of Wilderspool, miss Wakefield Trinity who have still a slight chance of getting a place in the play-off. With a bit of luck the teams could have made the top grade. But they don't meet this season in this antiquated league system of ours.

### GRIN AND BEAR IT

The smaller clubs in the league get a cut out of that huge "gate" at Central Park and also these other big cash returns from Oldham and Wigan. These clubs have to grin and bear it.

Year after year, they pay much more into the league pool and also the cup pool than they receive. Oldham and Wigan public say they will pay big money every fortnight if they can be assured of a good return for their cash. They, the supporters, want to see a rattling good game at Watersheddings and Central Park on alternate weeks. They don't want to see chopping blocks in action.

### FOREGONE CONCLUSION

It is the same at St. Helens, but while the Saints fans recently went to Knotty Ash, Liverpool, to test the capacity of the stands and terraces, I'm afraid that Wiganers thinking that the game was a foregone conclusion did not patronise the away game with Liverpool as they might have done.

Say what you will about the Rugby Union code. Laugh about some of their laws and antics, but they know how to arrange their fixtures. They know the strong and the weak clubs and therefore arrange their fixtures accordingly. It is not snobbery—it's just plain good business, even though some of the bigger R.U. clubs don't care a hoot about the money taken at the turnstiles.

The point may be argued that I have chosen the very hot-bed of R.L. in South-west Lancashire to base my comments on. My opponents to two divisions may say, "What about places like Castleford, Huddersfield, or Barrow?" Let me take your minds back, you anti two-divisioners to the time when 25,000 "gates" were not uncommon at Fartown; when Craven Park was packed to the doors, when Castleford could take on any club in the league with an even chance of beating them.



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### OLDHAM

Blue and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—SOUTHWARD, I.
- 3—DAVIES, A.
- 4—NESTOR, V.
- 5—CRACKNELL, R.
- 6—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—LOMAS, H.
- 11—WINSLADE, C.
- 12—DUFTY, R.
- 13—PUGSLEY, R.

Referee:

Mr. G. WILSON  
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### SALFORD

Red

- 1—GREGORY
- 2—BETTISON
- 3—CHESHIRE
- 4—PREECE
- 5—JONES
- 6—LOWDEN
- 7—BANKS
- 8—SMITH
- 9—McGUINNESS
- 10—COUNCIL
- 11—PARSONS
- 12—STOTT
- 13—DUFFY

Touch Judges:

Mr. N. Winstanley, Wigan (Yellow)  
Mr. E. Lawrenson, W'ton (Crimson)

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## THE GOLDEN EGGS

Whilst the present system exists, the weaker clubs in the league cannot hope to build up sound teams without making terrific purchases. The money is not always forthcoming and young players who are struggling to make the grade have their stuffing knocked out of them by the stronger clubs. They would be better off in their own class.

The social system in the Rugby League is all wrong. There will be money, more money for the game and the weaker clubs will get their due share. But for goodness sake let the clubs with the goose laying the golden eggs, feed the flock with the right type of sporting men.

## FORWARD STRENGTH

Much comment is being made of the strength of our forwards and the acquisition of new talent in this department. One can be assured that no stone has been left unturned in the committee's effort to find the material required.

Much time and effort has been made with clubs in our game for the acquisition of star men, but then again clubs do not like parting with their good players, money today is of little importance when it is a case of necessity.

Although gate receipts may be down, clubs are relying upon the Pools Organisations for a steady weekly income, and this is one of the main items whereby clubs can refuse to part with players of repute. The transfer market is suffering from inflation, the demand is greater than the supply, hence the offering of thousands of pounds for players which in an ordinary sense of value, are worth only half the prices which are offered, and in rare cases offered at.

Playing terms of certain clubs have gone to a limit unheard of and there are possibly only three clubs who can afford to pay such exorbitant playing terms from legitimate income, by way of gate receipts. Such is the pace that is operating at the present time.

As to whether the income from the Pools Organisations is kept up at its present level remains to be seen, but it is obvious that from gate receipts alone, expenditure exceeds income by a large amount. Our club has never drawn from the Pools Organisation for its expenditure to run the club. What has been spent, has been on ground improvements, as witnessed by the fine new covered stand at the Watersheddings Street end of the ground, and long may this wise expenditure continue.

Our Pools Fund is to provide comfort for people who watch the game at Watersheddings, which we consider to be right and proper. We have several major schemes and also some minor ones, which will come out of a rather healthy fund, which stands to the credit of our Pools Organisation.

## 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



### OUR VISITORS

To-night we entertain our near neighbours from Salford, the toriginal fixture having been postponed from 17th January owing to the frozen state of the ground.

We always expect, and get, a hard game from the Salford team and our players will have to be in top gear if we are to expect victory. On Saturday last they ran Warrington, at the home of the Wires, to a close finish, Warrington winning by 27 points to 21 points after they (Salford) had been 22-3 down at half-time.

Salford's star man is undoubtedly Lowden who was signed from Whitehaven at a fee in the region of £5,000.

### RECORD CREATED

A ground scoring record was created on Saturday last when we scored 67 points against Liverpool City. The record has stood since 1899 when, in the first round of the Challenge Cup playing against Goole, the score was 63 points to nil. This score consisted of 6 goals and 17 tries.

For the reference of old-timers the try scorers were: Williams, 5; Fletcher, 4; Davies, T., 2; Lees, A., 1; Lees, S., 1; Lawton, 1; Telfer 1; Barnes, 1 and Moffatt, 1. the six goals were kicked by Thomas. There have been scores approaching 63 points in the dim and distant past, but 67 points for us is a ground record.

### ANOTHER RECORD

It would be remiss of us to pass without notice the feat of our full-back captain, Bernard Ganley, in his personal and club record of kicking fourteen goals in one match. This was done last Saturday at the expense of Liverpool City. Bernard's tally for the season is now 156 goals. Thank you, Bernard.

### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION!

Another great attraction on our ground will be on Tuesday evening next, 14th April, 1959, when the Hunslet club will be our visitors. Please note: The kick-off time for this match is 6-0 p.m.

Hunslet, at present, lie second in the league table with 51 points from 34 matches. Our tally, prior to to-night's encounter, is 47 points from 32 matches.

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