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Fixtures for the Season

Date	Opponents	Venue	Date	Opponents	Venue
1959			19	Dewsbury	home 2-30
Aug. 8	Rochdale (Charity)	home 3-0	25	Swinton	home 2-30
15	Leeds	home 3-0	26	Workington	away 2-30
18	Dewsbury	away 7-0	1960		
22	Salford	away 3-0	Jan. 2	Liverpool	away 2-30
25	Warrington	home 6-30	9	Wakefield	home 2-30
29	Whitehaven	away 3-0	16	Leigh	home 2-30
Sept. 5	Halifax	away 3-0	23	St. Helens	away 3-0
8	Halifax	home 6-30	30	Widnes	away 3-0
12	Hunslet	home 3-0	Feb. 6	Salford	home 3-0
19	Widnes	home 3-0	13	R.L. Cup	
26	Blackpool	away 3-0	20	Wakefield	away 3-0
Oct. 3	AUSTRALIA	home 3-0	27	R.L. Cup	
10	Barrow	away 3-0	Mar. 5	Leeds	away 3-0
17	Workington	home 3-0	12	Wigan	home 3-0
24	Warrington	away 3-0	19	Leigh	away 3-0
31	Barrow	home 3-0	26	Hunslet	away 3-0
Nov. 7	Rochdale	away 3-0	Apr. 2	Liverpool	home 3-0
14	Blackpool	home 2-30	9	St. Helens	home 3-0
21	Whitehaven	away 2-30	15	Swinton G. F.	away 3-0
28	Rochdale	home 2-30	16	E. S.	
Dec. 5	Wigan	away 2-30	18	Whitehaven	home 3-0
12	Hull	home 2-30	23	Hull	away 3-0

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OLDHAM v. LEEDS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

In the Charity match against Rochdale Hornets on Saturday last, although we recorded victory by 28 points to 11 points, our display was not up to the usual standard of previous occasions.

The team showed glimpses of brilliance but the electrifying moves which we have been so used to seeing did not appear to come. The committee are well aware of the weaknesses in the team and which is the unanimous opinion of our members and spectators, and that is the forwards. The forwards that represented our team on Saturday last did well to a point and every man was a trier, but that touch of class was absent and it was obvious that a leader of the pack is essential. It is very easy to find faults but to remedy them is another thing, especially in these days when the absence of star forwards is so obvious. Teams do not like parting with good men even at record transfer fees. The demand is greater than the supply, hence the difficulty one comes up against in team building.

Star players are not made in one season it takes time for them to establish themselves and in the long run there are more what one may call the average forward than star men. Saturday last we were short of Alan Davies (unavoidably absent) Dick Cracknell, away on holiday, and of course Frank Pitchford, who from his own statement desires a rest from football. These three positions require some filling and we consider our team did very well to defeat a Rochdale team now in the hands of the well-known coach—Jim Sullivan.

The forward position as before mentioned is a problem and in twelve months time we have lost such grand forwards as Derek Turner, Don Vines, both transferred to Wakefield and the retirement of Sid Little. Three forwards of this calibre do require some replacing and time alone will tell of their replacement. We have some good promising material in the "A" team, but lacking experience, but we hope by the able coaching of our old player, Norman Pugh, some good will eventually come from our "A" team.

To buy the ready made star when available is easy, provided you have the money, but one must not lose sight of the fact that the stars of the future are juniors somewhere, and we must have sufficient judgement

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY FOR LANCASHIRE CLUBS

warns Cyril Briggs

Lancashire clubs cannot be complacent. This is a warning because the appearance of Hull in the challenge cup final at Wembley last May, and the stern fight by Hunslet in the Northern Championship against the St. Helens stars, was indicative of a rise in the standard of play and the tempo of interest over the border. Yes, Hull were well whipped by Wigan, but I doubt whether Hull could have played worse had they tried to do so! Their pre-match plans were left in the dressing room, and though Hunslet were beaten by sheer merit in the Odsal thriller for the very last match of the season, there were instances where the Parksider's form was highly promising.

Hull, Hunslet, Wakefield Trinity and Halifax are going to be very hard to beat, especially at home. But before I go any further, let me point out that quite a number of men in the Hunslet side are definitely on the young side. Brian Gabbitas, Billy Langton and Geoff Gunney, are just three who should thrill the crowds for several seasons and in addition, let us not forget that they are in a line for honours when the Test selectors get together to choose the teams for the fixtures with the Australian Tourists.

Hunslet really shook the Saints in the championship play off before Van Vollenhoven changed the picture with one of the best tries of his short career. Yet the way B. H. Poole, A. Preece, J. Stockdill and K. Doyle played against the Saints shows that there will not be a lack of talent at Parkside for a few seasons.

POWERFUL FORWARDS

Hull were painful at Wembley. But what club would refuse the services of Mick Scott, Tommy Harris, Johnny Whiteley, Cyril Sykes, the Drake Brothers etc, if this lot were put on the transfer list at a reasonable figure? Hull directors and coach Roy Francis are bound to strengthen the back division soon. Then we might see Hull once again battling it out on equal terms at Odsal or at Wembley.

This brings me to Leeds. It has always been "Leeds the Unpredictables." Once I saw them run a Warrington team of slow coaches off their feet at Rochdale (the Athletic Grounds were at that time the automatic home for big games) only to fluff the winning chances which often presented themselves.

And when things were expected to go against them, Leeds have risen to the heights and played such attractive football that their trusted (and often tried) supporters have yelled in glee. A couple of seasons ago

Leeds whipped Warrington at Wilderspool to such an extent that thousands of disappointed Wire followers poured out of the ground at half-time and gave the impression to the townspeople that the game had not run its full course.

JOY AN SORROW

There are many other instances of Headingley joy and sorrow, but Leeds cannot be accused of ever playing unspectacular football. They have the men to do it. Lewis Jones, the "Golden Boy" of Rugby Union (and Rugby League) may not be able to play this afternoon because of his arm injury, but there's Pat Quinn, the former International R. U. player, Derek Hallas, Gary Hemingway, Wilf Rosenberg and Don Robinson to be remembered. Rosenberg the South African showed against Widnes at Headingley last season that he has the speed and skill necessary for a tip top centre threequarter. He is bound to have benefited by the experience gained last season.

Leeds are, of course, now coached by Joe Warham, who served Oldham well for a number of seasons before he went to Rochdale. Joe knows where the weaknesses lie in the Leeds 13 and because the Headingley directors are never slow to buy when the right type of player is placed on the transfer list, it would be extreme folly to rule out Leeds' chances of success this season by judging them on last term's performances.

FORCEFUL WINGERS

Delmos Hodgkinson and Gary Hemingway are forceful wingers and under no consideration should they be allowed much room, otherwise Oldham fans will be critical—and we know how critical they can get at Watersheddings! Having enjoyed the "curtain raiser" last week our supporters should be in for a treat today. Ike Southward has now settled in and he should be a firm favourite with the crowds. It looks as if that phrase "and Ganley kicked the goal" will be printed many times again this season. Bernard landed eight shots against the Hornets last week.

Now to Wakefield. There were groans out Belle Vue way when the team failed on the Wembley trail. Ex-Oldham stars Derek Turner, Don Vines and John Etty seem to have satisfied most people at Wakefield and South Africans Ivor Dorrington, Jan Lotriet and Alan Skene should have now become acclimatised. Neil Fox, Don Froggett, D. Metcalfe, Ken Rollin etc. are more Belle Vue stars and Trinity having spent so much cash, may be a pretty safe bet for at least one cup success.

There seems to be some slight trouble out Thrum Hall way, but what club starts off with a perfectly happy band of pilgrims at the commencement of a hard league and cup journey? There have been a number

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- 8—JACKSON K.
- 9—McINTYRE L.
- 10—GODDARD P.
- 11—WINSLADE C.
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- 8—SKELTON
- 9—PRIOR
- 10—ROBINSON
- 11—WARD
- 12—SEWELL
- 13—LAST

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of changes in the playing personnel at Thrum Hall in the past two or three seasons, but one must not rule out Halifax at any time. Griff Jenkins wants Halifax near the top.

YORK ON UP GRADE

Improvements at York where they have such clever chaps as Jeff. Stevenson, Denzil Webster, John Henderson, Johnny Robinson and Vic Yorke on their books, are confidently expected. One of the best stand-off half backs I have seen for a long time is John Flannery. He is fast, keen and clever. The thing that amazes me is that he seldom gets the limelight in the sporting reports.

They are still hoping for much better things at Keighley. Here there is a workmanlike side, but injuries have hit a number of their players. I have just been writing about stand-off halves. Another to watch and note is R. Sabine of Keighley. This boy can really play. Hull Rovers surprised a few clubs in 1958-9 and Colin Hutton expects a longer winning sequence this time. One player who should get honours this season is John Taylor the second row player. We will be able to gauge Rovers' possibilities after this afternoon's clash with Warrington.

I have not forgotten Featherstone Rovers. St. Helens are not likely to forget the lacing they received in the cup-tie at Post Office Road, in round three. This was indeed one of the greatest victories ever chalked up by the Rovers. And if Bradford Northern maintain last season's promise, then look out. Yorkshire clubs are no push overs. Mark my words at the end of the season.

PLAYING STAFF

Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.	Name	Birthplace	ft.	in.	st.	lbs.
D. M. Ayres, Oldham		5	8	12	2	D. McKeown, Oldham		5	10	13	6
J. Buckley, Oldham		5	10	12	10	L. McIntyre, Wigan		5	11	13	6
B. Byrne, Astley		5	9	11	10	A. Mumberson, As'tria		6	0	15	6
R. Cracknell, H'field		6	0	13	0	V. Nestor, Leigh		5	8	12	2
D. Chatterton, Widnes		6	1	15	6	R. Needham, Oldham		5	10	12	9
A. Davies, Leigh		5	11	13	1	J. Noon, Oldham		5	9	12	4
R. Dufty, Middlesex		6	1	14	7	J. O'Brien, Oldham		5	8	11	2
F. Daley, Wigan		5	9	12	7	T. Ogden, Oldham		6	0	12	9
J. Edward, St. Helens		5	11	13	1	R. Pugsley, Bridgend		5	11	13	10
J. Govan, Golborne		5	10	13	8	J. Petley, Warr'ton		5	9	11	10
P. Goddard, Sheffield		5	11	14	3	F. Pitchford, Leigh		5	7	12	0
W. B. Ganley, Leigh		5	9	12	8	B. Pendlebury, Leigh		5	9	13	1
B. Hatherall, Leigh		5	6	10	12	S. Quinlan, Cork		5	10	12	10
A. Jones, Oldham		5	6	10	12	R. Rowbottom, Widnes		6	0	15	0
K. Jackson, Oldham		6	1	15	4	G. Sims, Leigh		5	9	11	0
G. Kelly, Rochdale		5	11	13	3	R. Smith, Oldham		5	11	15	4
A. Kellett, Halifax		5	10	12	0	I. Southward, Work'ton		5	11	12	8
J. Keith, Leeds		5	11	12	8	C. Winslade, Maesteg		6	0	14	12
K. Lloyd, Tyldesley		5	11	13	13	G. Warburton, War'ton		5	10	12	6
H. Lomas, Oldham		5	11	14	4						

AUSTRALIA TO PLAY 24 MATCHES

The Australians are here again. There 24 match tour starts at Leeds on September 12th, Swinton, Leeds, and Wigan will be the venues for the three tests against Britain to decide the "ashes". Australia also play France at Paris on October 31st. The full programme for the tour is below.

Sept. 12—LEEDS	Oct. 24—BARROW
16—ROCHDALE H.	26—HULL/HULL K. R.
19—WARRINGTON	31—TEST v. FRANCE (Paris)
23—LANCASHIRE	Nov. 4—BRADFORD N.
26—SALFORD	7—HALIFAX
28—YORKSHIRE	11—FEATHERSTONE R.
Oct. 1—WIDNES	14—WIGAN
3—OLDHAM	21—SECOND TEST (Leeds)
7—LEIGH	25—SWINTON
10—St. HELENS	28—WAKEFIELD
17—FIRST TEST (Swinton)	Dec. 2—HUDDERSFIELD
22—WORKINGTON/ WHITEHAVEN	5—HUNSLET
	12—THIRD TEST (Wigan)

ONLY FIVE TEST DRAWS

Five of the 61 Tests between Britain and Australia have been drawn. Britain have won 36 and scored 778 points. Australia have won 20 scoring 742 points.

Jim Sullivan, by kicking 31 Test Goals holds the goal-kicking record. Lewis Jones holds the match record kicking 10 goals for Britain in the second Test in Brisbane on the 1954 Tour.

Billy Boston's all-time try scoring record of 1954, was beaten on the 1958 Tour by Mike Sullivan who scored 38 tries.

The 16 Tests between Australia and France have resulted in 11 wins for Australia to 5 for France. Australia have scored 269 points to France's 206.

POINTERS FROM LEEDS

Leeds reached the 1947 Wembley Cup Final without conceding a point in the previous rounds. They were then beaten 8-4 by Bradford in the Final.

Two Leeds players have led Great Britain in Australia. The first Jim Brough in 1936, and more recent, Dick Williams in 1954.

Since 1897, Leeds have won the R. L. Challenge Cup 7 times and have been beaten finalists on 3 occasions.

In the 1957 Wembley Final, the Leeds scrum-half Jeff Stevenson, was awarded the coveted Lance Todd Trophy.

to breed our own, but this takes time, and time is a factor, if we secure one star player from our "A" team in a season we shall be amply repaid. Ready made players are of a necessity to keep your standard of play and attract the crowds, it always has been so and always will be.

ON THE SPOT

We consider that we have made a strong addition to our playing strength in the signing of Geoffrey Robinson, loose forward of Whitehaven in view of fierce competition from other top clubs. Monday evening press reports told us that Robinson would be applying for his transfer from Whitehaven at the usual committee meeting of the Whitehaven Club on the Tuesday evening. This proved eventually correct and we lost no time in appointing a deputation to proceed to Whitehaven and to be on the spot if there was a possible transfer of Robinson. Our two committee-men accomplished a very good deed in landing their man and many hours were spent in the transaction which went into the small hours of the morning. It is not all honey going on a deputation such as this when one can state that our representatives left Whitehaven at 2-0 a.m., and arrived home somewhere around 6-0 a.m., with the signature of the costliest forward in the Rugby League. We can now boast of the two costliest players in the game.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

There is no doubt that we do create sensations in our game and one wonders what the next move will be. Anything good that we require and which is to the betterment of our team, we shall be in at, and only the best will do. We have got to satisfy our members and supporters with the goods that will entertain and we have no doubt that we shall be repaid in the long run.

All clubs commence the season with an optimistic frame of mind, but some fall by the wayside, but who knows what is in store for the Clubs, a good start is very essential, and one can visualise at least eight clubs who will be in the running for honours, but sometimes one droops from the clouds, which is for the good of the game.

However we hope to provide the usual fare at Watersheddings and our away matches and if so we shall be up amongst the top clubs when the season comes to a close.

OUR VISITORS

What better attraction for the opening of the season could we have than a visit from the Leeds Club. They are an attraction wherever they go and are noted for their open style of play. So we say welcome to Leeds and the opening of season 1959-60.

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