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SATURDAY, APRIL 16th, 1960.

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NOTES

We had hoped to include in our welcome to Oldham today our heartiest congratulations on reaching a Wembley Cup final for the first time in the club's history. Not since 1927 when they made their third successive appearance, have they reached the final, nor have they had so much as a look at it until this season when old lady luck provided the easiest of passenger by way of Huddersfield, Walney Central, and Bramley at home, and the easiest semi-final opposition in Hull, not so far away from Watersheddings. We know Ike was looking forward to making his third appearance at Wembley and hoping to collect a winner's medal for a change. But no one wanted an Oldham victory more than veteran Bernard Ganley. He could, you know, join the long list of the great players who have never appeared in a Cup final at Wembley before such a chance presents itself again, and ironically enough three former Oldham players, Turner, Vines and Etty, given away, get their big thrill in Wakefield's colours.

Oldham have held all the other titles since the war and for more reasons than one should have beaten Hull. One above all others is that of all four semi-finalists only they could have provided fare fit for a Queen.

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The attendance for the Hull-Oldham game at Swinton, 27,500—15,000 below capacity and little more than half the number at Odsal for the Featherstone-Wakefield match, was terribly disappointing. One cannot help wondering if the position would have been reversed had the television cameras been at Odsal instead of Swinton, or if there would have been any noticeable difference in attendances had league games been cancelled. The total attendance for the latter was only 24,000 no less than it would have been any evening the following week.

It never rains but it pours. Bert Eden joined the casualty list last week following an ankle injury sustained in the "A" team game at Blackpool. But Ian Tuke and Bobby Ryan came through all right and both report fit for anything for the first time since mid-December when both were injured in the match against Wigan at Derwent Park.

Tom Bethwaite may be out for the remainder of the season. The ankle injury received in the match against Blackpool "A" is more serious than we expected. And Jackie Armstrong took a kick on the knee which may also put an end to his activities for this term.

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(NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

August			
15—Bradford	(a) 15 20	12—Wigan	(h) 0 6
17—Leigh	(h) 5 12	19—Swinton	(a) 32 3
22—Hull K.R.	(h) 19 7	25—Barrow	(a) 5 2
26—Whitehaven	(a) 4 20	January	
29—Warrington	(h) 12 33	1—Whitehaven	(h) 0 24
1st Round Lancashire Cup			
September			
12—York	(a) 24 31	2—St. Helens	(h) 6 21
19—Rochdale	(a) 12 10	9—Wigan	(a) 11 7
26—Swinton	(h) 10 18	16—Huddersfield	(a) 4 9
October			
3—Dewsbury	(a) 30 9	February	
10—Liverpool City	(h) 26 11	6—Warrington	(a)
17—Oldham	(a) 2 28	13—Featherstone (R.L. Cup)	(h) 0 15
24—Bradford	(h) 19 14	20—Rochdale	(h) 12 7
30—Widnes	(a) 8 7	27—Salford	(h) 15 8
November			
7—Dewsbury	(h) 28 13	March	
14—Liverpool City	(a) 5 14	5—Widnes	(h) 19 2
21—Blackpool	(a) 5 15	19—Salford	(a) 5 31
28—York	(h) 2 7	26—Hull K.R.	(a) 7 11
5—St. Helens	(a) 12 11	April	
		2—Featherstone R.	(a) 7 26
		9—Blackpool	(h) 17 8
		16—Oldham	(h)
		18—Barrow	(h)
		23—Warrington	(h)

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