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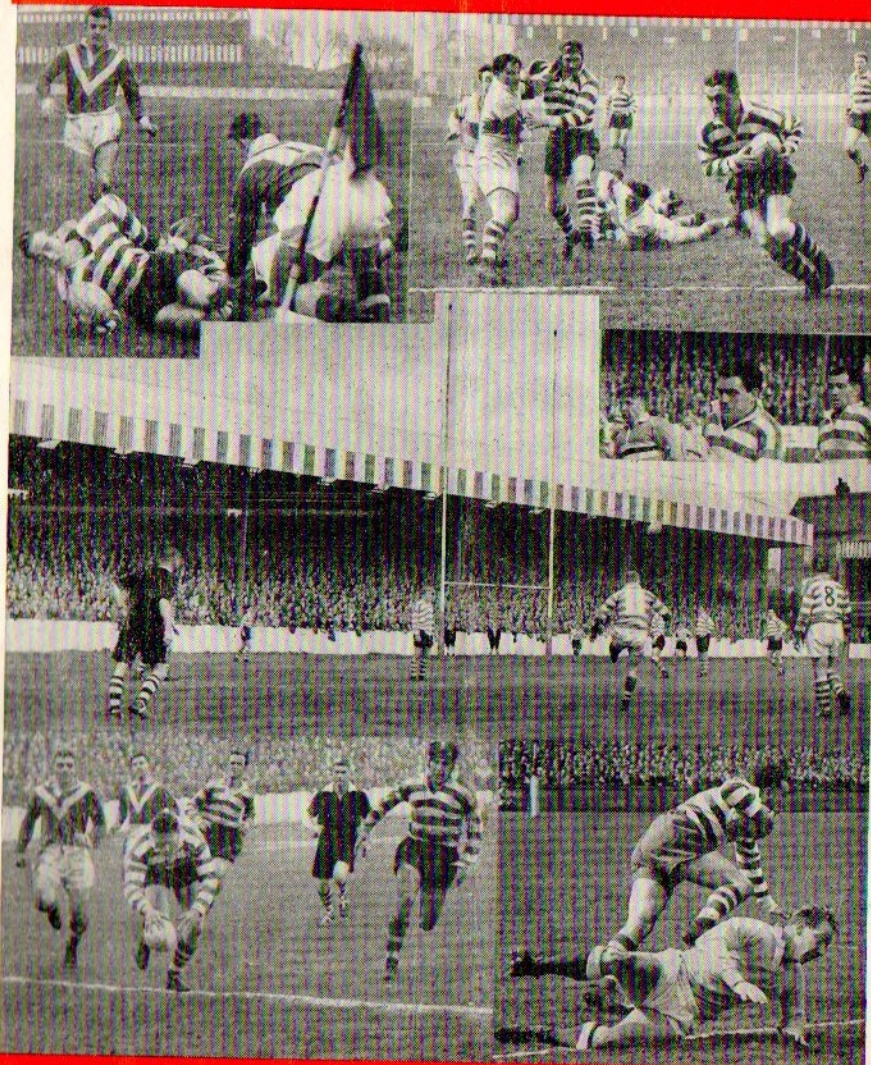
Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
1960			
Aug. 6	ROCHDALE (Charity)	away	
13	ST. HELENS	home	
17	WARRINGTON	away	
20	LEEDS	away	
27	WIGAN, Lancs. Cup 1st Rd.	away	
30	LEIGH	home	
Sept. 3	FEATHERSTONE R.	away	
10	HALIFAX	home	
17	ST. HELENS	away	
20	FEATHERSTONE R.	home	
24	WORLD CUP		
27	BLACKPOOL B.	away	
Oct. 1	WORLD CUP		
8	WORLD CUP		
15	HULL K. R.	away	
22	WIDNES	home	
29	ROCHDALE H.	away	
Nov. 5	LIVERPOOL C.	home	
12	KEIGHLEY	away	
19	SALFORD	home	
26	WHITEHAVEN	away	
Dec. 3	LEEDS	home	
10	WIGAN	away	

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
17	BLACKPOOL B.	home	
24	LEIGH	away	
26	SWINTON	home	
31	BARROW	away	
1961			
Jan. 2	WORKINGTON	away	
7	HALIFAX	away	
14	WARRINGTON	home	
21	LIVERPOOL CITY	away	
28	WIGAN	home	
Feb. 4	BARROW	home	
11	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP 1st RD.		
18	HULL K. R.	home	
25	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP 2nd RD.		
Mar. 4	SALFORD	away	
11	WIDNES	away	
18	WORKINGTON TOWN	home	
25			
31	SWINTON	away	
Apr. 1	WHITEHAVEN	home	
3	ROCHDALE H.	home	
8			
15	R. L. CHALLENGE CUP SEMI-FINAL		
22			
29	KEIGHLEY	home	

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OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - - 3d.

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OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Today sees the official opening of the Rugby League season for 1960-61 and all clubs commence with an optimistic note creating an impression during the campaign. There must be one club at the top and one at the bottom and that is where competition comes in. There is bound to be success and failure, joyous supporters and disappointed supporters.

The close season appears to have been one of the quietest on record, very few signings have been recorded either by transfers or migration from Rugby Union. Very few clubs have players for transfer and what are for transfer are at fees which are reaching sky high proportions. The major number of clubs appear to be on a long term policy of creating their own stars, but this takes time.

Our club is always in the market for the ready made player and as in the past are willing to pay for such stars, but clubs are very reluctant to part with their best players. Who can blame them? They are sometimes disappearing from clubs owing to the running of Pools. We are sorry to say that football from a financial point of view has become of secondary importance, but then again it is a blessing that the Pools Organisations connected with Clubs have come into being as there are a large majority of R.L. Clubs who would have now been bankrupt without them.

The financial pace of running a football club has been stepped up and the number of clubs can be counted on one hand who pay their way from a purely football income.

Take the position of our club, we could not have improved the accommodation by way of the covered stand at the Watersheddings Street end of our ground if we had not had a Pools Organisation to pay £12,000 for such improvement. Payments from our Pools as far as we are concerned are to improve the accommodation and amenities for the spectators. We consider it is only right and proper that spectators must have the best of accommodation, they must be attracted to our matches not only by way of a worthy game to watch, but the game must be watched in comfort.

One improvement that has taken place at Watersheddings is the appointment of a full time Manager-Coach and a wise appointment has been made in the appointment of Mr. A. J. Risman who was with the Salford Club last season and previously with Workington. Mr. Risman has commenced his duties and all players respect his commands.

Another improvement which is taking place is the running of a "B" team which will be in the sub-charge of Alex Givvons under the control of our Manager. Any likely youth between the age of 16 and 19 years who fancies his chance of taking up R.L. should report to the Manager who will be pleased to interview him with a view to coaching. Arrangement will be made for the "B" team to play other R.L. "B" teams both home and away. All our members and supporters will wish Mr. Risman the best of luck as our Manager.

OUR VISITORS

What better opponents and an attraction could we have for the opening of the season than visitors from St. Helens. Always an attraction to watch, we give a special welcome to our visitors. We are sure of a game worthy of the R.L. and we fully expect to record our opening league victory.

Although both teams will be short of a star player, Davies from our team and Murphy from St. Helens, who are both under suspension from last season, their deputies are very capable players.

BRIEFS

Our utility player, Vin Nestor, completes his Army Service on Tuesday next, when he will commence full training with his colleagues. Although a good player now we hope to see some more good football from this up and coming young player.

Roger Dufty having secured employment in Blackpool is now resident in Bispham, he trains at Blackpool each Tuesday and attends Watersheddings on Thursday evenings.

W. PAYNE

Much controversy has been caused amongst clubs and the northern press by a local scribe who has stated and printed that Bill Payne was tired of travelling from Liverpool for training and he does not appear to fit in with the scheme of things at Oldham.

This information is pure imagination and is apt to create sensationalism, there is no truth whatsoever in the statement. Bill Payne is happy to be with the Club and has never made any statement to any press man, and is very much annoyed that this should have appeared in the local press, which is just imagination and we ask the public to take no notice of such information. Bill is a good club man and is out to make his mark in the game.

THE NEW MANAGER ARRIVES

writes Cyril Briggs

What kind of a man is A. J. "Gus" Risman, self-confessed "Rugby Renegade"? Well, the new manager of the Oldham Football Club is a man who has endured many disappointments in our game and at other times held the limelight for long spells.

It is very many years since I first saw "Young" Risman playing for Salford, in fact he was the Reds full-back on a day when the Salford team was on its way up and were facing Warrington in a Lancashire Challenge Cup final at Central Park, Wigan.

I don't suppose Gus remembers a lot about that final because his team was on the losing end, and even though they lost 15-2 Gus didn't even kick the goal. The scorer was Dobing, now a Crewe licensee whose son has made a name for himself in soccer football with Blackburn R.

Disappointed that day, I don't suppose for one moment, that the Welsh boy who could have made a name for himself like young Dobing has done in Soccer, thought that he would ever reach the heights he has achieved in the professional rugby game.

IN TODDY'S FOOTSTEPS

Neither do I suppose that Gus ever thought that he would follow in the footsteps of the man who induced him to "come North"—the late Lance B. Todd. Lance's guiding hand took Salford to the heights. "Toddy" was popular with many people, but somehow unpopular with a small minority.

But managers cannot please everyone and happily for R.L. we are not so changeable as the soccer folk who ring the changes in managerial circles almost every week.

Gus may have been criticised for not having taken Salford on the hard way to complete recovery. But look what he did to Workington Town! When he came back from an Australasian tour soon after the war, I saw him making copious notes on the Town players who were then only in their second season in the league. When I put the question to him about how much he had learned from those early games, he merely commented that there was much to do.

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- 6—KELLETT A. B.
- 7—PITCHFORD F.
- 8—PAYNE W.
- 9—McINTYRE L.
- 10—MUMBERSON A.
- 11—DUFTY R.
- 12—WARBURTON G.
- 13—ROBINSON G.

Referee:

Mr. H. PICKERSGILL,
Castleford

ST. HELENS

Red and White

- 1—RHODES
- 2—VAN VOLLNHOVEN
- 3—LARGE
- 4—McGINN
- 5—PRINSLOO
- 6—SMITH
- 7—BRIERS
- 8—TERRY A.
- 9—DAGNALL
- 10—BROWN
- 11—HAMMILL
- 12—DONEGAN
- 13—HUDDART

Touch Judges:

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Mr. F. Whiteley, War'ton, Yellow

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

But Risman did just that. Of course, he was able to direct operations on the field of play. But the Town won the R.L. cup at Wembley and also became league champions. What an achievement for the Town and heaps of credit to the ex Great Britain leader. Yet having done so much for the new Cumberland set up he was expected to keep it up season after season.

CUMBERLAND MEMORIES

What he did do was to help place the professional game on a sound basis in Cumberland which hitherto had only seen village teams in operation with occasional county games and visits from overseas teams. Risman himself must have been very disappointed at times that things did not go quite so smoothly at Salford. There were many times when a big revival seemed on the way, but it just did not happen.

One would have thought that with having held two managerships and figured for many years on the playing field that Gus would have now retired and taken on a less exacting business.

But no, he comes to Oldham where there seems to be a nip of criticism in the air whether it is week-day or on Sundays.

Gus is a stickler for many things, and I for one think that he will succeed. He has shown that at stand off, centre or full back he had few if any superiors, and his success in Cumberland will never be forgotten.

Welshmen with rugby football coursing through their veins, are sometimes difficult men to understand, but we know that they are sincere in their aims. I have yet to meet a man from the Principality who is not ambitious.

Let us hope that Gus has already set his sights on Wembley. Oldham club has come on a hard and difficult road since the war, but it's a road that has been strewn with some flowers of success.

CUPS HAVE BEEN WON

The Northern championship and the county cups have landed up at Watersheddings, not by luck but by sweat and tears as well as a pint or two of rich red blood.

The only way to beat teams like Wigan, Wakefield, Hull and St. Helens is to make even greater endeavours.

I realise that every supporter who looks at the red and white jersey with critical eyes has his own opinion on the line up and the method of play. Not all those ideas can be incorporated into the plan of campaign. I agree that the more tactics employed can bring about the designed results, but there is a limit to everything.

Managers are never universally recognised as popular figures, but I think that with people helping no matter how little it may seem, the manager's job can be made a happy one.

I don't say that Gus will set the beacons on fire around hilly Oldham, but I do claim that you have a man who has proved himself to be a great player, a fine leader of men and a successful coach.

There are many ex-army types who still think that R.L. is a hybrid game, but having met and played alongside A. J. Risman they always speak with the highest respect of the man who left the Welsh people and was not afraid to be called a "Rugby Renegade".

"Rugby Renegade" is the title of Gus Risman's 138 page book published by Stanley Paul.

WORLD CUP TOPICS

France must be considered to be strong contenders for the 1960 World Cup Competition. After beating Great Britain at Toulouse last March and drawing in the return game at St. Helens, they have recently drawn a rubber of Tests with Australia. Results, with France' score first, 8-8, 6-56 and 7-5. Incidentally, the Australians score of 56 in the second Test at Brisbane was the highest Test score ever. The French team were severely handicapped by injuries.

For the World Cup Australia and New Zealand will be accommodated in Bradford and France will stay at an hotel in Wigan.

Remember that the Great Britain v. Australia game at Odsal Stadium on the 8th October is all ticket. Ground admission tickets at 4/- must be obtained in advance from Bradford Northern or the Rugby League Offices, Leeds.

Will members and supporters please note that to conform with the Catering Act the Pavilion will be closed each Wednesday.

QUESTIONS ON OUR GAME

How much do you know about this game of R.L. From time to time during the season we will print a number of questions about noteworthy teams, events and players. Have a try at the questions below; the answers will be printed in the programme for the Leigh match on August 30th.

- 1—Which player has scored most points in one season?
- 2—Has there ever been a first and second division of the Northern Rugby Football League?
- 3—In which season was Rugby League Football first played by teams of thirteen players?
- 4—What is the maximum number of players allowed to be retained by a Northern Rugby League club?
- 5—The first player transferred for a fee of £1,000 was ————?
- 6—On which ground was the first match played between a team from overseas and an English club?
- 7—Who was called the “Toowoomba Ghost”?
- 8—How many English R.L. teams have visited Australia?
- 9—What was the “Odsal Battle”?
- 10—Who holds the record for the quickest century of goals?

The Lancashire League Table and list of team appearances will be included in the programme when some results come to hand. Until then, we will continue to pose questions about Rugby League.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS FOR OLDHAM F.C.

- Wednesday, August 17th—Warrington, away, Mr. G. Wilson
 Sat. Aug. 20th—Leeds, away, Mr. D. T. H. Davies
 Tuesday, 30th Aug.—Leigh, home, Mr. R. Gelder
 Saturday, 10th Sept.—Halifax, home, Mr. D. S. Brown
 Saturday, 17th Sept.—St. Helens, away, Mr. J. Manley
 Tuesday, 20th Sept.—Featherstone, home, Mr. H. Pickersgill
 Tuesday, 27th Sept.—Blackpool, away Mr. E. Clay

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