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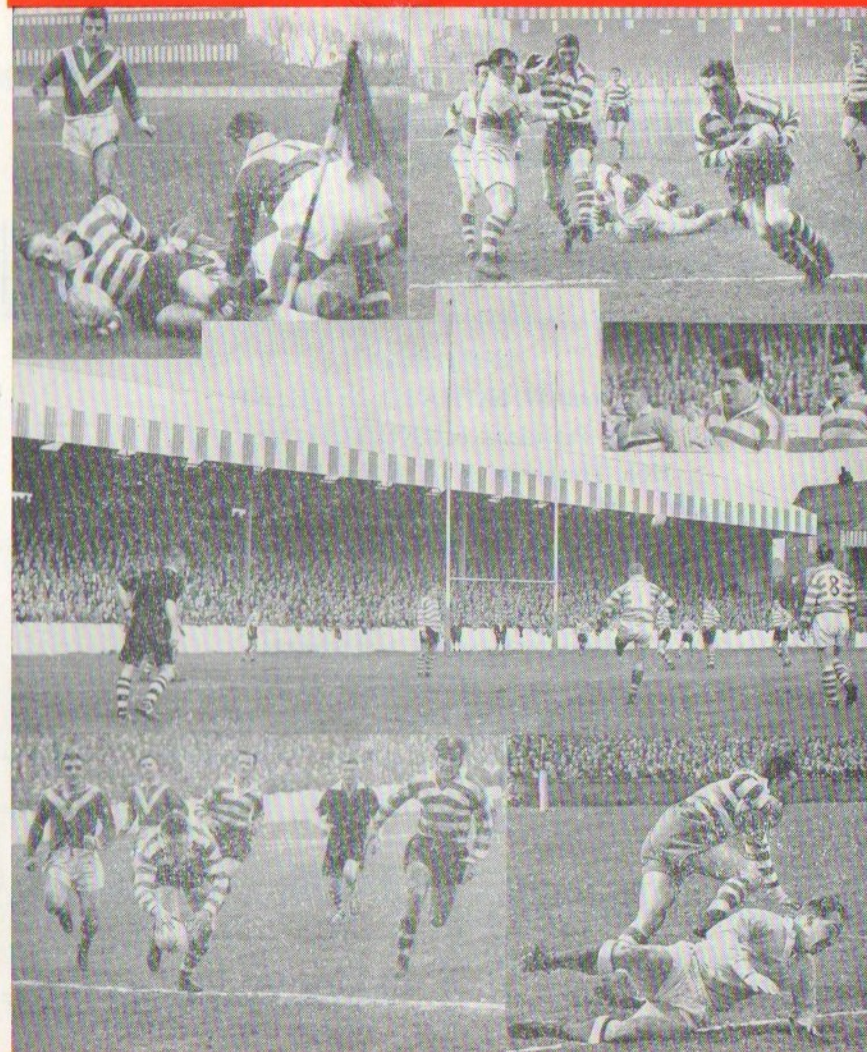
Fixtures for the Season

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	

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

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60 MANLEY ROAD, COPPICE

No. 10, Monday, December 26th, 1960

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. SWINTON

The Officials and Players of the
Oldham Football Club
wish all Members and Patrons
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS and VIEWS

It had to happen at one of our home matches that Saturday last was a blackout through fog, but we cannot control the weather, neither can we control as to whether the game should have commenced under such conditions that existed at the time of kick-off. May we explain the ruling of the N.R.F.L. Management Committee on the point of fog. This states and issued in the Manuel of Rugby League Football as follows:

As it is impossible to predict when a fog will clear it is therefore advisable not to make any decision until just before the time of kick-off—say one hour. Whenever possible this decision must be made by the referee but because of fog he may not arrive, in which case a neutral Council member should be invited to decide failing which the game can be cancelled by mutual agreement between the Clubs. If such mutual agreement cannot be reached between the clubs it must be assumed that the match is on until the referee arrives and makes his decision.

In decisions of this nature the over-riding principle is whether the game can possibly be played and not whether the public can see from end to end of the pitch. If a person standing at the corner flag can be seen by a person standing at the centre of the "25" yard line it can be reasonably presumed that play is possible.

So it appears that the referee is the sole judge as to whether play should commence or not. We might add that the referee on Saturday last made the decision according to instruction. We regret that the match was only played up to half time and even when the match was in progress little could be seen of the players.

This match will now rank as a friendly match and will possibly be now played as a league match after summer-time commences, i.e. after March 26th, 1961. The gate receipts amounted to £323 and the Blackpool club are entitled to half share of the gate after expenses and our share of the gate being £124.

From a financial point of view we lost money as we paid our players winning money amounting to £150 so we are well down financially on the day.

We hope this explanation will satisfy our members and patrons although no fault of the club we are taking the matter up with appropriate committee of the N.R.F.L., with a view to relieving the referee of the great responsibility of deciding whether a match should be commenced when fog is around and unable to see from a spectators point of view.

OUR VISITORS

Today we give a special welcome to our visitors from Swinton, there is an old saying that Christmas comes once per year and so do Swinton to Watersheddings.

It is also a pleasure to note that they are playing vintage football and football that should once more attract the crowds at their spacious ground at Swinton.

Up to date they have played 17 matches, won 12 and lost 5, scoring 308 points against 173 points. Their team consists of some very good young players allied with players of experience and which is developing into a combination that has beaten several of the leading teams this season. They achieved a very fine victory at Wigan on Saturday, 17th December, winning by 16 points to 4 points.

Today's game promises to be one of our best at Watersheddings this season and our players will have to give of their best to record a win. We hope that today's game will prove worthy of Rugby League and at the finish of the game all can say we have had our monies worth.

MEMBERS' CHRISTMAS DRAW

Our annual Christmas Draw for members was once again a big success and a gross sum of £703 was taken (not over £800 as stated by the press). It is a great compliment to our members to find how much they rally round for anything we put forward. Many thanks are due to all who made this annual affair such a success. Final figures of the net profit will be published later.

Much controversy has taken place regarding the weight of Dave Parker, our loose forward and to settle all arguments, he weighs exactly 14st. in jersey, pants, stocking and plimsols, 6ft. 1in. in height.

The lightest member of our first team who shall be nameless, but is called Bill, when chastised about his weight by his team mates about wanting jockeys at Castle Irwell had a quick reply with "if there good enough there big enough". Silence now remains.

After today's match our first team will not be seen at Watersheddings until January 14th when we play Warrington. In the interim we have away matches at Barrow, Workington and Halifax and upon the result of these matches we shall have more definite ideas of our final placing in the League table.

Next Saturday we journey to Barrow and after the match the team proceed to Workington to stay until the match on the Monday, returning to Oldham after the match.

Up to the present time Bernard Ganley in his ten seasons with the Club has kicked 1406 goals, surely a record for the club. He has also scored in that period 16 tries. These figures include all matches, league, friendly, cup and representative.

Saturday next at Watersheddings:

OLDHAM "A" v. BARROW "A"

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

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OLDHAM Red and White

- 1—GANLEY W.B.
- 2—SOUTHWARD Patterson
- 3—DAVIES, A.
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—HOLDEN/PATTERSON
- 6—KELLETT A. B.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F. Hatherall
- 8—PAYNE W.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—DUFTY R.
- 11—WINSLADE
- 12—ROBINSON G. Gray
- 13—PARKER, G. D.

Referee:

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Castleford

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SWINTON White, Blue V

- 1—O'BOYLE H.
- 2—SPEED J.
- 3—SMETHURST P./AYRES D.
- 4—BUCKLEY A.
- 5—STOPFORD J.
- 6—PARKINSON G.
- 7—GOWERS K.
- 8—BRETHERTON W.
- 9—ROBERTS T.
- 10—MOSES D.
- 11—ROBERTS K.
- 12—NORBURN P.
- 13—BLAN A.

Touch Judges:

Mr. J. Tyrer, Leigh, (Yellow Flag)
Mr. W. Fitzhenry, Wigan (Crimson)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

WHAT ABOUT SUBSTITUTES FOR R.L.?

writes Cyril Briggs

The Rugby League game has often been threatened with strangulation by the balls or red tape which seem 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.

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 been taken to hospital.

A DEAF EAR

Now is the R.L. 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 substitutes were allowed. But if the rule was strict and a doctor was called upon to give his verdict on whether a player was fit or not to continue, then I don't think there could be any grumble from anyone, especially the opposition who had a full complement of players.

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 R.L.'s mistakes not to live with the times. I'm 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 the States 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.

TAKING IT TOO FAR

That, of course, is taking the thing too far. During the war I remember seeing several "gridiron" games in progress when the Americans 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 goalkicks and then sent to the bench after he had taken them!

That position would be ludicrous if attempted in R.L. 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 among 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 stage there was a transformation and the half back really ran the opposition into the ground.

IT WAS HIS BROTHER

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 had 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. Of course, it was a tall story, but turned out to be true after a protest (too late I fear) had been made.

There COULD be some clever moves in an effort to beat the substitution law, but stringent rules could make it work. Remember your 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.

LIST OF FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS

(League and Cup Matches only—including Law Cup)

Player	A.	T.	G.	Player	A.	T.	G.
Southward	18	14		Kellett	17	10	1
Noon	17	6	4	Mumberson	5	1	
Davies	15	2		Winslade	16		
Quinlan	6	3		Goddard D.	4		
Nestor	8	1		Parker T.	3		
Pitchford	17	5		Sims	2		1
Payne	19	1		Goddard P.	4		
McIntyre	16	5		Patterson	9	8	
Duffy	19	4		Hatherall	2		
Warburton	5	1		Lord	2		
Robinson	17	6		Parker D.	7	3	
Ganley	17		63	Holden K.	2	1	

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Halifax	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	...						15-3		15-29			2-13	17-9		5-26
Blackpool		...	8-8	10-7		10-11			13-24		8-20			12-24	
Halifax			...		18-0		15-5				8-4	17-7	15-5		22-12
Leigh		16-5	15-9	...					13-28					7-25	
Liverpool	9-14		9-31	2-10	...			22-26			3-30				
OLDHAM			17-15	9-12	49-12	...		37-0	16-4				25-5		
Rochdale			13-20			14-29	...		5-38	4-45			9-2		4-17
Salford	9-0		11-17	4-17			20-9	...					18-9		20-8
St. Helens					17-9	26-12			...					11-6	47 2
Swinton	33-9		15-5									36-13	21-5		42-9
Warrington		28-2			38-5	25-9	25-0	48-4				45-7			
Whitehaven	20-5	12-13				2-16		13-0			2-31			14-2	
Widnes	26-13		10-5				28-14			7-12	10-14			5-3	
Wigan	44-0	16-11		15-17			14-5			4-16					
Workington	11-8	8-17		11-2	36-5					18-3			11-8		

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

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