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Vol. 15. No. 11

MONDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 1961

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NOTES

The Rugby League season has always been looked upon as a two-part programme, the first half being played in the old year, and the second half in the new. Today with the visit of Oldham we welcome both the New Year and the visitors, with an especial welcome to the ground to the maestro himself, who now manages the play-side of affairs at Watersheddings, Gus Risman. It will be remembered by most if not by all, that Gus ended his playing days with Workington, he was the club's first choice for the fullback position until his retirement, and sad to relate, we have had nothing even approaching his class in the position since the day that he hung up his boots.

The club he now coaches were on the top of the league table just before the holidays, now they are the eighth from the top, three points behind the leaders, all due to a bad session during this holiday time. Four points lost in games to Leigh and Swinton the latter at home, will have a terrific effect on their position at the end of the season.

The Town suffered a similar fate, losing both their games, one of them at home to Wigan. The players had themselves to blame for that defeat, for at a time in the game when they were on top, having the opposition running after them, they altered the whole pattern of their game, and played right into the hands of their opponents. The change disappointed many supporters who were present, as all could see what was happening, and in the end we were beaten by a single point.

At Whitehaven injury was the most prominent factor of the several that

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contributed to the defeat. Edgar received an eye injury that is likely to keep him out of the team for several weeks, while Faulder has an injured back that is not responding to treatment as fast as one would like. Bert Eden had a lacerated hand, and Bill McCall had a finger put out of joint, though both of these players finished the game in spite of their discomfort. Gibson, back in the Whitehaven team after a preliminary canter on Saturday, was inspired against his old love, and his part in the proceedings was the other major factor in the defeat of the Town team. The position at the time of going to press is that the club are eleventh from the top of the table, only six points behind the league leaders, making one sigh for the points that we should have had. The league championship has never looked as open for years as it does at the moment. Any of a dozen clubs can fill the top four positions, but bearing in mind the fixtures played, and the programme ahead, the Town Club must pull out the stops from now on to have any chance at all of being concerned with the fight for honours when April comes along. A changed side will have to be played today, and it will give you some idea of the reserve strength of the club when you have seen today's match. The playing record of the two sides to date this season is:-

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1960. F.	Α. ,,	10—Blackpool	A 2	
Aug. 13—Leeds H 3 " 15—Barrow A 26 " 20—Halifax A 12 " 22—Rochdale H 18 " 27—Leigh A 15 (1st Rd. L.C.)	5 " 22 " 3 2 1961 5 37 Jan	17—Barrow 24—Wigan 26 Whitehaven 2—Oldham 7—Leigh	H	
Sept. 3—Warrington A 10—Blackpool H 17—York A 19—Bradford H	3 17 3 10 3 2 Feb.	14—Castleford 21—Swinton 28—Halifax 4—Widnes	A	
,, 27—Rochdale A 17 Oct. 1—World Cup Date. ,, 15—Castleford A 15	6	11—1st Rd. Cup. 18—Salford	Н	
, 22—Liverpool H 36 29—Wigan A p'p Nov. 5—Widnes H 11	oned	4—Bradford	A	
, 12—Salford A 8 , 19—Leigh H 11 , 26—St. Helens A 2	47	1—St. Helens 3—Whitehaven 8—Liverpool	H	
,, 26—St. Helens A 2 Dec. 3—Swinton H 18	47			A

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