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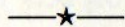


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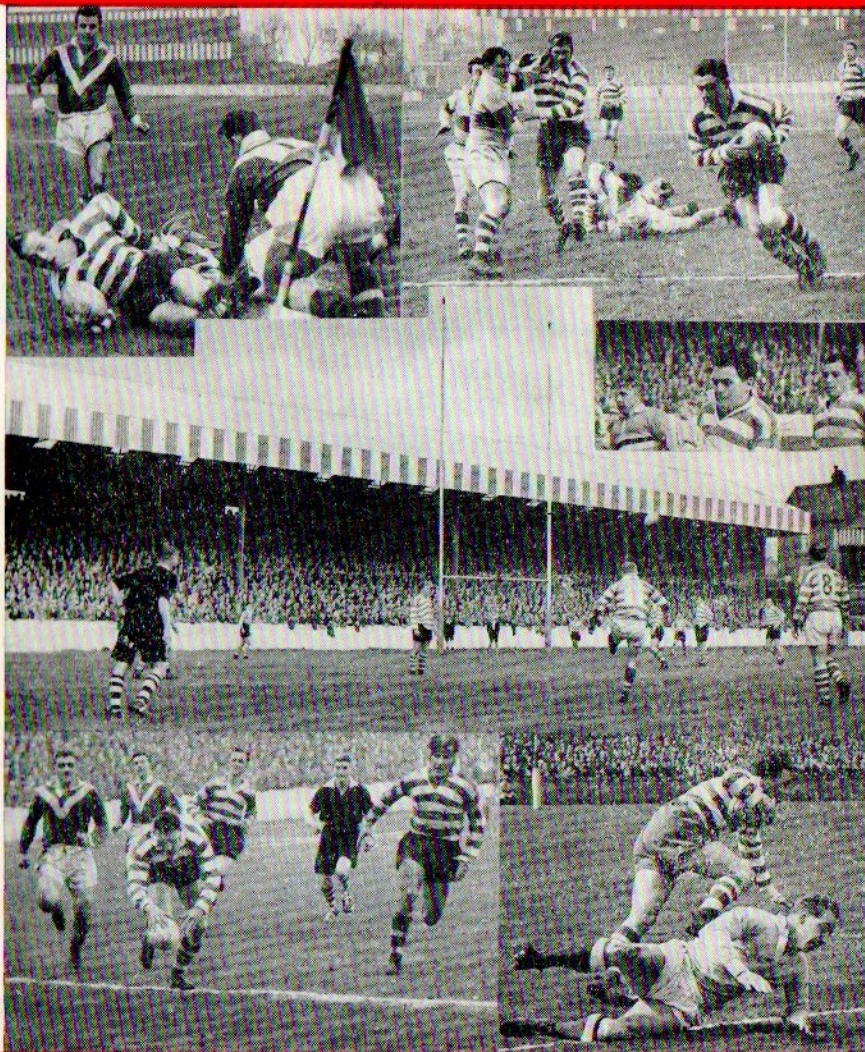
Fixtures for the Season

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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H. Goodwin, T. E. Rees, R. L. Thomas, E. Watkins

Club Doctors: Dr. A. CAMPBELL, Dr. A. R. NETTLETON

Manager-Coach: A. J. RISMAN

Secretary: H. SUMMERSCALES

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WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

Today we entertain old friends and foes from Rochdale and a special welcome to them. Many are the great struggles that have taken place between these contestants on this ground and before capacity crowds. In the dim distant past a full house used to be the order of the day. What a contrast today and what can we put this down to. Admittedly there are counter attractions and possibly the teams are not of the strength and more over the laws of the game have altered.

Taking all things into consideration we are not a dying game. One has only to look at the attendances of other sports, there are exceptions of course but only on rare occasions can these be pin pointed. It is obvious that a new generation is springing up and all sports must proceed with the times and offer something extra to the main event. Facilities of comfort must be offered to intending customers. Sheltered accommodation, more up-to-date toilets and refreshment canteens to cater for all classes. More seating accommodation at reasonable prices must be the order of the day.

There comes a time in the age of man and his co-sex that to stand for one and a half hours is something beyond them. Yes, the game itself must be improved, value for money given, and one must not forget that in our game you are watching professionals, men who are paid to entertain, if they do not entertain, or are playing the game for themselves, the whole outfit must take the consequences, and they would eventually become professionals no longer, because there would be no money to pay them.

It is up to the legislators of the game, the controlling authority, club directors and club committees to see that value for money is given in all aspects of the game, fair play to players and patrons alike, then we shall make progress. Enterprise must be met with enterprise. Something new must come into the whole atmosphere of sport. We are living much too often in the past and relying on our reputations to carry us through.

OFFSIDE TACTICS

Much annoyance is caused to spectators by the continual offside practices which are made by certain players and which are in the majority. The abolition of the 'tap penalty' has increased the amount of deliberate

offside play particularly at the 'play the ball'. The operation of the tap penalty itself resulted in a lot of negative play and did not give satisfaction so there is no advantage to be gained by reverting to it if a satisfactory alternative can be found.

The referee is placed in a very difficult position these days in dealing with offside. If he penalises a player it is often to the disadvantage of the non-offending side. If he does not penalise the player the side in possession are hampered in their movements by the offside players. The best solution in the eyes of the N.R.F.L. Management Committee would be to increase the value of the penalty kick as a deterrent.

If for example, instead of having a kick from the mark or from any point behind the mark, the taker of the penalty were to be allowed to kick from any point behind the line drawn through the mark at right angles to the touch line, then the value of the penalty kick would be very much increased. From a defensive position the kicker could make a suitable angle for a kick to touch by moving away from the touch line if the offence occurred near touch. If the non-offending side are in an attacking position the kicker could move towards the centre of the field for an easier kick at goal. Furthermore in mid-field as the opposition would not know from which point the ball was to be kicked in the case of a punt, it would be possible for the kicker to vary his tactics by kicking into parts of the field where there are no opponents.

There is no doubt that serious consideration must be given to this offside problem and it will not be solved by simply blaming the referee, the fault lies in the laws of the game, and behoves clubs to consider very seriously the suggestions of the Management Committee regarding the value of the penalty kick.

OLDHAM SCHOOLBOYS

The boys team was invited to play a friendly match curtain-raiser against Cumberland boys at Workington last Saturday. Enthusiasm was so great that this offer was accepted, masters and boys paying their own expenses.

The Oldham team gave a worthy performance winning 16-5. Aided by a strong wind in the 1st half, but short of possession, two smart pick-ups by loose forward Williamson earned tries for himself and stand-off Sutherland, Taylor converting one. Half time 8-0.

The team excelled in the 2nd half by some great passing movements and some solid forward work. Sutherland was outstanding with some great breaks. Scrum half Kitson scored 2 identical tries, nipping over from 5 yard scrummages. Taylor converted one. Workington were using the strong wind with well judged kicks but the defence held out except for one breakaway which was converted. W. Hargreaves, Press Secretary

R.L. CHALLENGE CUP FINAL AT WEMBLEY

Information received from Rugby League Headquarters in Leeds, states that all seating for the Final have been sold, and there is a steady demand for Ground Tickets at 3/- each These can be obtained by writing to the following address, enclosing remittance and a **Stamped Addressed Envelope** to

The Secretary,
Rugby Football League,
180 Chapeltown Road,
Leeds, 7

Orders can now be received for the Wembley Final of May, 1962 by applying to the Secretary's office in the Pavilion. We have booked several already. Prices are as follows:- 25/-; 15/-; 12/6; 7/6 and 3/-.

If ordered now these tickets must be paid for on or before 31st December, 1961.

REFEREE APPOINTMENTS

Saturday, 1st Apr., v. Whitehaven at home

Mr. E. CLAY, Rothwell

Monday, 3rd Apr., v. Rochdale Hornets at home

Mr. R. GELDER, Wilmslow

Tuesday, 11th April, v. Blackpool at home

Mr. E. CLAY, Rothwell

Tuesday, 18th April, v. Warrington at home

Mr. T. W. WATKINSON, Pendlebury

Saturday, 29th April, v. Keigaley, at home

Mr. G. SCOTT, Wakefield

RE-ARRANGED MATCHES

1st TEAM

Tuesday, 11th April, **Oldham v. Blackpool** at Watersheddings, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

Tuesday, 18th April, **Oldham v. Warrington**, at Watersheddings, kick-off 6-45 p.m.

Wednesday, 26th April, **Halifax v. Oldham**, at Halifax, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

'A' TEAM

Monday, 10th April, **Swinton 'A' v. Oldham 'A'** at Swinton, kick-off 6-30 p.m.

Wednesday, 26th April, **Warrington 'A' v. Oldham 'A'**, at Warrington, kick-off 7-0 p.m.

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Referee:
Mr. R. GELDER
Wilmslow

Touch Judges:
Mr. R. Welsby, Warrington (Crim.)
Mr. T. A. Rynn, Wigan (Yellow)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THE POOLS?

writes Cyril Briggs

The announcement this week that a well-known club had switched from the ordinary football pool to a £42 a day prize makes one think what would happen to some R.L. clubs if the pools were banned.

If some of the clubs who have gone under had been able to hang on to the days of the pools, then we may have had a stronger league today. Take Belle Vue Rangers for instance . . .

When the Rangers went out of existence in the 1954-5 season, R.L. in Manchester, Lancashire and the North was much poorer, and if only a caretaker board had been in existence and the R.L. authorities had doled out more cash in the way of loans then Rangers may have been solvent today.

Rangers had a great band of supporters. They were behind Mr. Spedding to the last. They were always trying to raise cash by one way or another and if the Small Lotteries Act had been in vogue four or five years ago, I'm certain then Rangers would have still been with us.

A HOODOO?

When I saw the rugby goalposts being erected at Belle Vue, Manchester, I could not help wondering whether there was a hoodoo on sport at this famous speedway track. At one time the ill-fated Manchester Central Club played on this well-drained ground which was the envy of many clubs. Then after three seasons in the Cheshire County League, the soccer club gave up and R.L. became the attraction in 1933.

The first match against Warrington attracted 12,000 spectators and there were a number of representative games at this magnificent stadium, which could seat 20,000 people under cover. Unfortunately, the public did not play the game. When there was a big match and the stadium was filled almost to capacity, thousands pushed their way in front of people who had seats inside the rails and stood on the speedway track.

Rangers got few representative games after that and gradually support diminished. The war, too, made holes in the organisation, as it did with many sports bodies. But at the time, the Belle Vue directorate possessed two or three men who had set out to put Rugby on the map in Manchester. They spent considerable sums of money on star players and even engaged the world famous Harold Wagstaff as coach.

Even then, Belle Vue Rangers were not able to hold the limelight against Salford, who were then in their real palmy days attracting larger gates than Manchester United, who despite their First Division status were really in the doldrums.

Should Rangers have left The Cliff? Many people said 'yes' at the time of the removal. But now the majority vote is 'no'. The Cliff, which overlooks the Manchester Racecourse at Castle Irwell, staged many cup finals, and was indeed quite a big ground. Now it is the property of Manchester United and used by them for the encouragement of their up and coming stars.

MANY STARS

Up and coming stars . . . Rangers throughout their career produced many. Wigan were delighted when they signed that pocket 'he-man' Billy Howarth, who was later to help with the rise of the Liverpool Stanley club—in pre-war years. Billy Dingsdale was one of the cleverest centre three-quarters ever, was brought to the fore at The Cliff.

Then there was Dai Davies, who played some sparkling football from the base of the Warrington, Huddersfield and Keighley packs. Dai, brilliant half back though he was, finished up on the losing side of four Challenge Cup finals—three at Wembley and one at Wigan! That's an unenviable record.

Men who have followed the R.L. game longer than myself can cast their minds back to the time when Rangers played at Wheater's Field. They can also talk of the exploits of Andy Hogg, the James Brothers and also Arthur Widdeson, who later did so much good work for the amateur movement before becoming the Chairman of the R.L. Council.

WILL REMEMBER

Rangers' name can never be eliminated from the mind so long as the game is played. They won the R.L. Challenge Cup in 1902 and 1911 and the Cup in 1902 and 1911 and the Northern League title in the first year of its introduction. And the County Challenge trophy came to them on a couple of occasions.

Rangers, however, were one of those clubs who could not reclaim the glory of their former days although they did try desperately hard.

It is a sad, sad, story but even from the ashes of the once famous club is the challenge to all R.L. officials and supporters—never allow this to happen to your club. Once history has been made plan for the future. R.L. has lost far too many clubs in the past when a special effort could have saved them.

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	29	15	1
Noon	30	18	14	Mumberson	5	1	
Davies	27	4		Winslade	29	1	
Quinlan	6	3		Goddard D.	4		
Nestor	10	1		Parker T.	6	1	
Pitchford	20	5		Sims	3		2
Payne	31	2		Goddard P.	14	3	
McIntyre	20	5		Patterson	21	14	
Dufty	30	5		Hatherall	3		
Warburton	5	1		Lord	9	6	
Robinson	27	6		Parker D.	16	4	
Ganley	24		89	Holden K.	12	5	
Gray	2			Jones	1		
Pycroft	8	1		Rae	3		
Parker P.	1			Jackson	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	...	3-3	14-12		13-13	11-2	15-3	15-0	15-29		2-5	2-13	17-9		5-26
Blackpool	11-2	...	8-8	10-7	14-5	10-11	17-5		13-24	4-8	2-8		10-13	12-24	5-20
Halifax			...		18-0		15-5		12-10	4-9	8-4	17-7	15-5	17-10	22-12
Leigh		16-5	15-9	...	28-5	13-4			13-28			6-4		7-25	18-3
Liverpool	9-14	12-19	9-31	2-10	...	10-28	4-11	22-26	2-52	5-44	3-30		7-16		
OLDHAM	10-3		17-15	9-12	49-12	...		37-0	16-4	4-6			25-5	5-15	23-13
Rochdale			13-20			14-29	...		5-38	4-45	0-27	15-0	9-2		4-17
Salford	9-0	5-12	11-17	4-17		7-26	20-9	...	5-17	5-24	13-13		18-9		20-8
St. Helens				10-4	17-9	26-12	51-4	45-2	...		7-8	18-8	44-7	11-6	47-2
Swinton	33-9		15-5	6-10	47-3		43-0					36-13	21-5	10-12	30-0
Warrington	33-3	28-2		3-4	38-5	25-9	25-0	48-4	5-8	9-25	...	45-7	22-9		42-9
Whitehaven	20-5	12-13			15-0	2-16	19-4	13-0	11-15	8-8	2-31	...		14-2	16-3
Widnes	26-13		10-5	4-19		6-38	28-14			7-12	10-14	17-6	...	5-3	2-5
Wigan	44-0	16-11		15-17	20-7	15-8	14-5	47-6		4-16	5-10		24-5	...	
Workington	11-8	8-17	22-7	11-2	36-5	2-17	21-0		18-3				11-8	10-11	...

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

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