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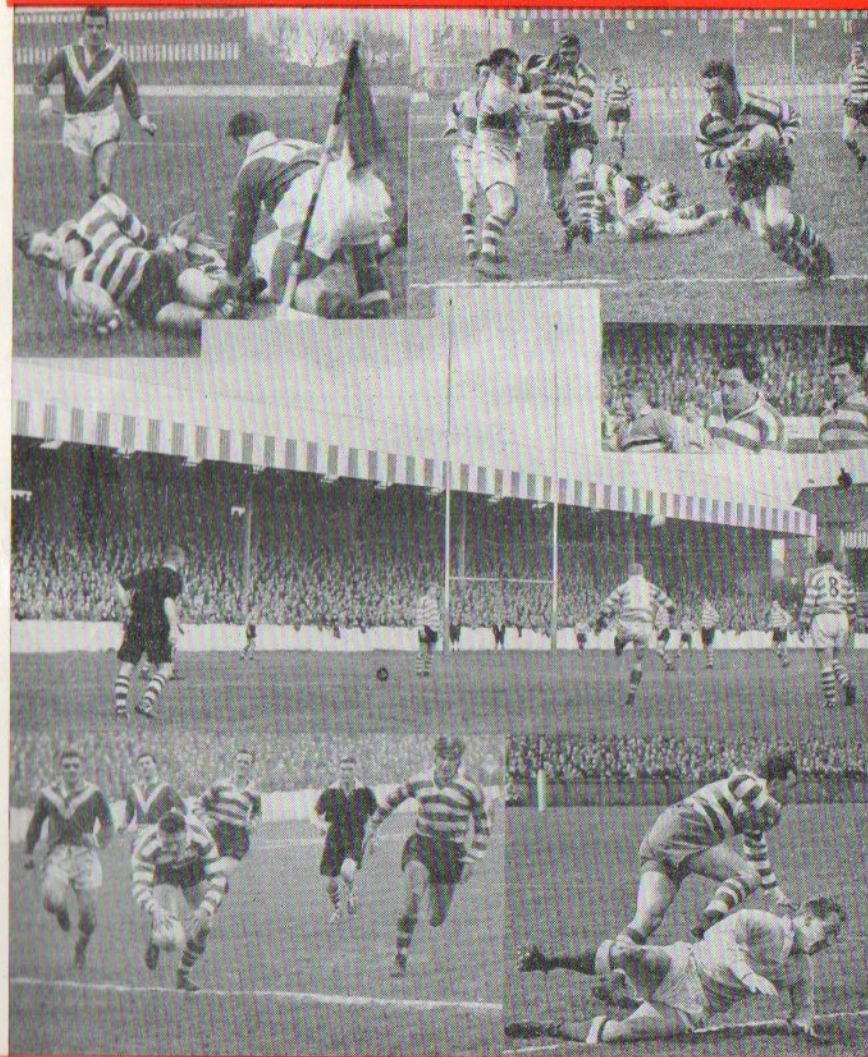
Fixtures for the Season

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
Aug. 19	HALIFAX	Home	
21	BARROW	Away	
26	BLACKPOOL B.	Away	
28	YORK	Home	
Sept. 2	BARROW (Lancs. Cup)	Away	
4	OLDHAM/ROCHDALE 13		
	v. NEW ZEALAND	Home	
9	HALIFAX	Away	
16	ROCHDALE H.	Home	
23	HUNSLET	Away	
30	BARROW	Home	
Oct. 7	WORKINGTON T.	Home	
14	YORK	Away	
21	WARRINGTON	Home	
Nov 4	WHITEHAVEN	Away	
11	HUDDERSFIELD	Away	
18	HULL	Home	
25	SALFORD	Away	
Dec. 2	WHITEHAVEN	Home	
9	WORKINGTON T.	Away	
16	ST. HELENS	Away	
23	SALFORD	Home	

Date	CLUB	Grd.	F. A.
25			
26	SWINTON	Home	
30	WIDNES	Home	
Jan. 1			
6	WARRINGTON	Away	
13	WIGAN	Away	
20	WIGAN	Home	
27	ROCHDALE H.	Away	
Feb. 3	LIVERPOOL CITY	Away	
10			
17	LEIGH	Home	
24	WIDNES	Away	
Mar. 3			
10	LEIGH	Away	
17	ST. HELENS	Home	
24	HULL	Away	
31	LIVERPOOL CITY	Home	
Apr. 7	HUNSLET	Home	
14			
21	SWINTON	Away	
28	BLACKPOOL B.	Home	
23	HUDDERSFIELD	Home	

OLDHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

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No. 8—Saturday, 18th November, 1961

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

OLDHAM v. HULL

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

At long last we are having a first team match at Watersheddings, our last home match being, on Saturday, 21st October, and in the interim we have visited Huddersfield when we lost a very good game by 16 points to 7 points. In our opinion we did not warrant to lose by such a margin, as our team were the equal, if not better than their opponents. The sting in defeat is tempered somewhat by the good show our team put up, it is more understandable when a team loses by bad play, but in this match our approach was good by the open play as designed by the game, but we failed at the vital moment when a score seemed eminent.

However, the week after, our team visited Whitehaven and we continued the good work by running up our biggest victory at Whitehaven by 25 points to 7 points, a very good victory indeed. Some people appeared to discount this victory owing to the composition of the Whitehaven team, in having one or two of their best players absent through injury. One must realise that our opponents had thirteen players on the field and to play in Cumberland, one must also realise that it is a hard task because of the enthusiastic spirit shown by Cumberland players when on their own ground. One must give appreciation to the Whitehaven spectators for the way they applauded our good play.

OUR VISITORS

Today we welcome visitors from Hull, and as in the past, in matches against them at Watersheddings, we can expect a good game.

They are capably coached by Roy Francis who will be remembered as a player with Wigan, Warrington and Hull. Our visitors have not this season struck the form of the past four or five seasons and occupy a position in the League, not in keeping with the Hull make up. At present they occupy the 24th position, having played 12 matches, won 4 and lost 8, scoring 218 points against 181.

We sincerely hope that today's game will prove as entertaining as the games in the past with the Hull team, and both sides show what they are capable of, and give the spectators value for their money.

AUSTRALIAN TOUR?

It is a sad piece of news that has been put over to the Rugby League this week, that the proposed Rugby League Tour of Australia next summer is off.

When the family fall out, the Greeks have a word for it. This blow to our League in sport is equal to Australia leaving the Commonwealth, all for the sake of a mere 5% difference of opinion, but there must be more involved in this 5% difference.

One must realize that there is a valuation difference between the English pound and the Australian pound, i.e., that for every English pound that goes to Australia, it is worth 25/-, and every Australian pound that comes to England is worth only 15/-. Therefore if the British Tour of Australia makes a profit of £25,000 it becomes £20,000 in England, and vice versa to Australia, the more money they take from Tours here, the more is its value on its arrival in Australia.

The cost of a British Touring team in Australia by travelling expenses must be considerably greater than that of the Australians in England, in comparison with the distances covered. One must realise that the Rugby League game is booming in Australia in comparison with the game at home. The visit of the British Touring team is the greatest of all attraction to the Australians, hence the large amount of money taken at all major matches.

Britain's proposal of 55-45% for the three Tests was acceptable, but Australia want 60-40% for the rest of the Tour games as against our offer of 65-35%.

It is hoped that this rift does not become a major one, neither side can afford the parting of the ways, the game is the thing that matters and we believe it is not too late for all parties to have a meeting, say half way between England and Australia, to settle matters amicably. In these days of advanced travel the matter of four or five days, could settle all, and then everybody would be happy.

Personal contact is a wonderful thing and a talk round a table would finalise and do more good than all the letters and cablegrams. United we stand, divided we fall, and one may say fail.

Next Match at Watersheddings — Saturday, 25th November, 1961

OLDHAM "A" v. SALFORD "A"

Kick-off 2-30 p.m.

CAN R.L. TAKE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY?

While "gates are far from satisfactory, Rugby League losses are not any means as steep as Soccer. At Manchester City's last home game there were just over 18,000 people in attendance, whereas a few miles away R.L. drew 22,000. — (writes CYRIL BRIGGS)

It may be argued that the rugby match was an international and that that a great deal depended on the outcome because each side had previously won one game and this was "The Rubber". But for a ground which has held 81,000 even in pre-war days the Maine Road crowd was a typical example of the drop in interest in Manchester and elsewhere.

There was some improvement on Wednesday evening of last week, when 31,000 people attended the Old Trafford inter-league match between the best in this country and the stars of the Italian clubs. One may argue that the TV presentation kept many at their fire-sides, but don't let this fact blind us, because the final R.L. Test match was also screened.

Then again, we have a manager of a First Division club stating over "the air" that big Rugby games at Wigan often hit the "gates" at Bolton Wanderers' home matches. Well, well, it makes one think. Personally, I think that R.L. will not seriously challenge Soccer for quite some time. It could do by a short term policy, but I don't think that this would prove popular.

Why not? Simply because R.L. has a reputation for slow thinking and often slower action. The professional handling game will have to be more spectacular if it is going to convert many soccer followers in anything like reasonable numbers.

If R.L. means to attract bigger crowds—and in some areas the attendances are down to rock bottom—there will have to be a streamlining of rules of play. For one thing, I believe there are far too many players on the field. Twenty-six is quite a number and the referee cannot keep his eye on all of them—all the time.

MORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Unlike Soccer, we find that R.L. touch judges (not linesmen) are limited in their responsibilities, and they have not the same "say" in the game as their Soccer counter-parts. Change this old rule and R.L. could go places.

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- 3—HOLDEN, K.
- 4—NOON, J.
- 5—BIRD, M.
- 6—KELLETT, A.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—MUMBERSON, A.
- 9—McINTYRE, L.
- 10—GODDARD, P.
- 11—ROBINSON, G.
- 12—SMETHURST, P.
- 13—PARKER, D.

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- 8—SCOTT
- 9—HARRIS
- 10—DRAKE, W.
- 11—SYKES
- 12—BOOTH
- 13—WHITELEY

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Mr. C. A. Moseley, Stretford (Crimson)

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WILSON'S FAMOUS ALES

But the biggest change for the better could be the dropping of a forward from each team which would bring the sides down to 12. The loose forward has been the stopper in more ways than one. He is often told to smash attacks at all costs and nowadays we don't see constructive play as we used to get from players like Billy Ivison of Workington, Bryn Goldswain of Oldham, Harry Street of Wigan and Dave Valentine of Huddersfield.

There are some exceptions, but only a very few realise the art of attacking moves. The Number 13—he is more than an unlucky omen to R.L.—is a destroyer who should be finally destroyed by eliminating him altogether from the code.

WHY 14?

To most Lancashire and Cumberland Clubs the loose forward is numbered as 13, but Yorkshire sides are evidently a little superstitious for they label their last man down in the scrum, No. 14. All kinds of rule changes have been tried in the last few seasons to speed up R.L. and to cut down scrummages and other annoying tangles.

The play-the-ball regulation has been altered time and again, even in mid-season, but still there is a lot of disagreement. There is even a change of ideas among French and Australians. They play differently to the methods in this land, although they are members of the World Federation.

Over the years there has been an accent on speed and it is to the credit of the 30 clubs in the Northern League that there are now faster forwards than ever. In the old days the big plodding forwards were in fashion. The bigger and heavier the player, the better officials liked it. The big chaps could scrummage hard, and push an shove to their hearts content. It meant possession in many cases from the tight scrummages, but when the dry grounds came the bulky men were at a disadvantage. They were literally run off their feet.

With faster forwards we see threequarters and half backs caught by the men in the pack, or at least when they are out of it. The end result is that movements are brought to a stand still. Making a break at R.L. especially from set play, is very difficult. Most scoring movements now come from loose play or by some unorthodox tactic.

Give the players more room in which to work, and then we will see far more open play. It is open play which the crowds enjoy. The ball passing from hand to hand in slick style produces the deafening cheers. I believe R.L. can capture more support if it experiments, but it must do so quickly or the opportunity will have been lost.

In the days when the old Northern Union broke away from the Rugby Union (it is still known as the 'split') the inventors of the new code who were in favour of players receiving payments for 'broken time' from work, the number of players was 15. Then came the lopping off. process. Two men were taken from the pack. It was two before, why not one now?

It could mean the greatest boom the professional handling code has ever had. Well, the suggestion is there—free for the taking.

OUR GAME

It is not often that the Press are complimented upon their service to the game of Rugby League, but we should like to compliment Jack Bentley of the Daily Express, upon his "face to face" talk with the counterpart of the Soccer writer of the same paper. Mr. Bentley put up a very good case on behalf of Rugby League against Soccer and without being biased we consider he won the day. Good show Mr. Bentley, and thanks.

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Before the end of the year, we hope to open the new bar on the popular side of the ground, adjacent to the end of the new stand. This will be for sale of intoxicants, within permitted hours.

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FIRST TEAM APPEARANCES AND SCORERS—1961-62

(Up to and including Saturday last)

Palyer	App.	T.	G.	Palyer	App.	T.	G.
Noon	14	15	10	Morgan	1		
Sims	14	2	54	Parker T	1		
Patterson	10	2		Robinson	11	4	
Holden	12	6		Nestor	7	2	
Davies	3			Bird	12	10	
Kenny	4	2	3	Smethurst	5	1	
Kellett	16	8		Pycroft	2		
Pitchford	16	7		Goddard, P.	4	1	
Payne	13			Mumberson	3		
McIntyre	13	2					
Winslade	11						
Dufty	11	3					
Rae	10	3					
Parker, D.	14	1					

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

(Up to and including Saturday last)

	Barrow	Blackpool	Huddersfield	Leigh	Liverpool	OLDHAM	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	.....	20-10				11-5			2-34				5-10		8-12
Blackpool	18-10	.....	2-23			5-20					6-18		8-33		5-22
Huddersfield			.....			16-7						34-10			
Leigh				.....			4-7	33-10							
Liverpool				5-9	.....			11-22		4-34					
OLDHAM	40-0					.....	53-9				35-5				14-12
Rochdale		15-15	0-10				.....		2-14			6-6		8-28	4-14
Salford			8-26		8-5			.....	7-24						
St. Helens									.....			44-0			
Swinton									15-6	.....			16-2	4-7	
Warrington					27-2			32-11			.....	25-4	15-10		
Whitehaven			5-5	5-15		7-25			3-10	0-24		.....			
Widnes				8-18									.....		8-16
Wigan		31-5			25-6	45-0				6-13				.....	
Workington	24-10	25-5						52-0			11-2			10-16	

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

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