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Vol. 17. No. 7

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1962.

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### NOTES

History is made today in this our first game in the First Division of the Northern Rugby League. Two divisions have been advocated by some of the most knowledgeable in the game for a long time, there have been arguments against it from some equally as knowledgeable. It is approximately sixty years since the league was split up for the first time, and, let us be quite frank, it was not a successful experiment. Several clubs fell by the wayside in the succeeding years, the County of Cheshire never having returned to the code. Bradford and district suffered too, but there can hardly be a sensible comparison made between the position today and the parallel of the beginning of the century. Then the game was in its infancy, then it was a domestic sport confined practically to the northern counties of this country, today it is big business in Australia, in New Zealand, in France, and if portents are any guide, could be in America and in Canada. It is not sufficient to keep carrying on, you must make progress, and it needed something more than the Rugby League seasonal programme, plus the County competitions, plus the filip of the Challenge Cup to wet the appetites of the ardent student of the game. The answer could be in the making today, for the advent of the two divisions will most certainly give an added stimulus to all who watch this, the best ball game of all. Workington, along with our visitors, proved last season that they were well fitted to take a place among the elite, and we look forward to this new phase of our game with interest stimulated, and hopes quite high.

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If you were at Swinton on Wednesday, you may not be as optimistic as the writer about the latter phrase, but never let it be said that our hearts are down at Workington because of one defeat. No one at Station Road was more disappointed than the writer, it was one of those occasions when most of our players seemed to be out of touch with the game, but it was far from a typical Town performance, and be sure that we will come again and give you as much cause to rejoice as you had cause to "mourn" on Wednesday. There is too much talent in the Town make-up for Wednesdays result to be taken as anything but the usual upset of form that crops up from time to time in every sport, and it can safely be put down as nothing more than that.

Injuries have beset us again. In a national paper there was featured one day this week an article suggesting that the game might be too tough and instancing the case of our visitors today, who were suffering from the effects of a very heavy casualty list. They are not alone. We in Workington have five of our recognised first teamers on the injured list, and we have no less than seven others who are hors de combat. They include stars in the making who were being blooded in the reserves, and the whole complement comprise no small headache to the club. On Wednesday of next week Ike Southward and Malcolm Moss travel to Edinburgh to see a specialist, and all the tales you hear about Ike will be rumour until his report.

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- 13 FOSTER

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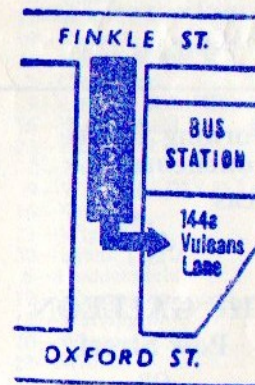
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NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

Aug. 18—Blackpool B. ....	A 24 10	22—Featherstone R. ....	A
20—Rochdale H. ....	H 40 8	26—Huddersfield ....	H
25—Liverpool C. ....	H 28 3	29—Castleford ....	A
27—Salford ....	A 23 5	1963.	
Sept. 1—Blackpool B. ....	H 35 4	Jan. 5—Leeds ....	A
8—Leigh (L.C.) ....	H 32 2	12—Hull K.R. ....	H
15—Rochdale ....	A 5 0	19—Swinton ....	A
17—Wigan (L.C.) ....	H 16 8	26—Featherstone R. ....	H
22—Salford ....	H 60 5	Feb. 2—Castleford ....	H
29—Liverpool C. ....	A 15 9	9—1st Rd. R.L. Cup	
Oct. 3—Swinton (L.C.) ...	A 5 24	16—Wakefield T. ....	H
6—Oldham ....	H	23—Hull K.R. ....	A
13—Hull ....	A	Mar. 2—2nd Rd. R.L. Cup	
20—Halifax ....	H	9—Wakefield T. ....	A
27—St. Helens ....	A	16—Swinton ....	H
Nov. 3—Bramley ....	H	23—Wigan ....	A
10—Oldham ....	A	30—Leeds ....	H
17—Hull ....	H	Apl. 6—Huddersfield ....	A
24—Halifax ....	A	12—Warrington ....	H
Dec. 1—St. Helens ....	H	13—Warrington ....	A
8—Bramley ....	A	20—Wigan ....	H
15—Widnes ....	H	27—Widnes ....	A

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