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WIGAN v. OLDHAM

(LANCASHIRE R.L. CHALLENGE CUP — FIRST ROUND)

SATURDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1956

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL NOTES...

After our defeat at Hull we came into our own last week-end and gained two good wins, particularly the one at Workington in which we gave one of our best performances for some time. Although the Town are by no means what they were, it is still a performance to win on their ground, and to win by 24 clear points (playing throughout the second half with only twelve men) is really excellent. In this match our forwards gave a great display, and there is no doubt that if they can keep up this form we shall win some matches. It was most unfortunate that Bill Bretherton was sent off just before the interval, as the pack was showing grand cohesion during the first half. In the second half it was a backs-to-the-wall fight for several minutes, but it was good to see our gallant twelve come back to the attack and score three fine tries in the closing stages. As one notable member of the Central Park staff remarked, "That's a good one out of the way."

OUR VISITORS

It is impossible to imagine a more attractive draw than the one we were lucky enough to get for this First Round tie. For the past year or two Oldham have played a grand type of fast, open football, and none who were present will ever forget their great display here in the League match last season, when a total of 71 points were scored (no less than 48 by Oldham).

They have started the season in sparkling form with four brilliant League wins, including a most notable one at Halifax. This was the first time Halifax have been beaten at home since January, 1955, and is a performance for Oldham to be proud of.

The team is a good all-round one with plenty of speed and guile in the backs and a good strong pack capable of getting the ball. Most of the play springs from two tricky half-backs in Pitchford and Stirrup, and in Davies, Cracknell and Etty they have threequarters speedy and direct enough to carry on the play. In the forwards Keith is one of the best hookers in the game, and he is well supported by such strong, mobile men as Winslade, Vines, Little and Turner. Altogether a

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most attractive and capable side, and one which will give us stern opposition to-day. However, whatever the result may be, we think that a large crowd will see all that is best in Rugby League football.

FUTURE MATCHES

Within the next ten days there are three first-class matches at Central Park—quite a feast of football.

On Thursday next, 6th September, we shall be staging the first County Championship game of the season, when Lancashire play Cumberland. The kick-off time is 6-30 p.m. and all prices are the same as for League matches. Stand tickets for this match will be on sale before and after to-day's game. Detailed prices are as follows:—

Stands B1 and B2	6/6
Stand C	5/-
Stand A	4/6
Stand D	4/-
Ringside Seats	3/6
New Stand	4/-

The Lancashire team was selected earlier this week, and we offer congratulations to our players David Bolton and Norman Cherrington, who have been honoured. The full team is as follows:—

Fraser (Warrington); O'Grady (Oldham), Davies (Oldham), Naughton (Warrington), Carlton (St. Helens); Bolton (Wigan), Pitchford (Oldham); Prescott (St. Helens), Hayes (Widnes), Silcock (St. Helens), Cherrington (Wigan), Grundy (Barrow), Karalius (St. Helens).

AFTER THE MATCH—

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WALLGATE - WIGAN

To follow up this County attraction we have two home League games next week-end. On Saturday, 8th September, we entertain Widnes (kick-off at 3-0 p.m.) and on Monday, 10th September, we welcome Barrow (kick-off at 6-15 p.m.).

FIRST TEST MATCH

On Saturday, 17th November next, we shall be staging the First Test between Great Britain and Australia here at Central Park, and tickets for this match are now on sale. Applications are coming in from many parts of the country and our supporters who want to be sure of Stand seats are advised to make early application. The prices are as follows:—

Stand B	15/-
Stand C	12/6
Stands A and D	10/6
New Stand	12/6
Ringside Seats	6/-

All seats will be reserved and numbered for this match.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY SHIELD

In the First Round of the Lancashire Shield last Tuesday our "A" team won more than handsomely at Blackpool, the final margin being 56—10. They now qualify to play the winners of the Whitehaven v. Workington tie here at Central Park in the near future.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

On a later page will be found a new feature in our programme—a table showing the results of matches between any two Lancashire clubs with the addition of Halifax, who this season play in the Lancashire League. To ascertain an individual result,

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work from the home team in the first column to its meeting with the away team printed at the top of the table. At intervals during the season we shall publish also the Lancashire County Rugby League table.

CUP FINAL TICKETS

The last three times the Rugby League Cup Final was played in the month of May all the 95,000 printed tickets were sold.

Next year the Cup Final will again be played in May—on 11th May, 1957. Since 1952 the Final has been played on the last Saturday in April, a date which many supporters find to be inconvenient. The change in date for next year's Final may mean that once again a capacity crowd will attend the game.

This will mean that even tickets for the standing enclosures will be all sold in advance. If you wish to avoid being disappointed, **apply now for your tickets.**

Applications for tickets, accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope, should be sent to the Rugby League Offices, 180 Chapeltown Road, Leeds 7.

A limited number of seating tickets at 25/-, 15/-, 12/6 and 7/6 are still available, and standing enclosure tickets at 3/- can also be obtained.

LANCASHIRE R.L. CHALLENGE CUP

The draw for the Second Round of this competition was made earlier this week, and if we are successful to-day we must visit either Salford or Workington (matches to be played on or before 13th September).

The full draw is as follows:—

Salford or Workington Town v. Wigan or Oldham.

Leigh v. Blackpool Borough or Whitehaven.

Warrington or Rochdale v. Widnes or Barrow.

Liverpool or Lancs. County Amateurs v. St. Helens or Swinton.

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A MESSAGE TO RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS

The Rugby Football League has recently circularised its clubs asking that the attention of players should be drawn to the following:—

Season 1957-57 promises to be one of the most important in the history of Rugby League Football.

Many clubs must achieve a higher standard of play to win back the support which has been lost in recent years—a decline which has not been caused by a reduced public interest in the game but by a change in social conditions and national habits.

Players can play their part in helping their clubs to recover the financial stability which is essential for the future progress and prosperity of the game.

In achieving a high standard of physical fitness and in playing the game in the right spirit players will not only help their clubs. They will improve their own chances of achieving individual distinction.

The ensuing twelve months offers unique opportunities in this respect. During the season Test matches will be played against Australia and France, and in June, 1957, the second World Cup Competition will be staged in Australia.

The selectors of International teams will therefore be active throughout the season. All players will have their chance, but it can safely be assumed that those who eventually win the highest honours in the game will be those who display sportsmanship as well as ability.

PROGRAMME PRIZE

A prize of 10/- is given each week for the winning programme number. This will be announced at half-time and the prize may be collected at the Pavilion after the match by the holder of the programme with that number printed on the front cover.

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9—MATHER
10—McTIGUE
11—CHERRINGTON
12—GRIFFIN
13—McGURRIN

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(Red and White)

Full Back:

1—GANLEY

Threequarters:

2—CRACKNELL
3—AYRES
4—DAVIES
5—ETTY

Half Backs:

6—STIRRUP
7—PITCHFORD

Forwards:

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NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FINAL TABLE — SEASON 1955-56

					— For —		— Against —		Pts.	P.c.
	P.	W.	L.	D.	G.	T. Pts.	G.	T. Pts.		
Warrington	34	27	6	1	134	148 712	80	63 349	55	80.88
Halifax	36	28	6	2	142	159 761	81	48 306	58	80.55
St. Helens	34	27	7	0	140	162 776	96	53 351	54	79.41
Hull	36	25	10	1	126	156 720	109	80 458	51	70.83
Wigan	34	22	10	2	103	130 596	93	72 402	46	67.64
Featherstone R. ...	36	23	11	2	126	109 579	91	94 464	48	66.66
Barrow	34	21	11	2	116	148 676	100	102 506	44	64.70
Bradford N.	36	22	12	2	113	132 622	100	85 455	46	63.88
Oldham	34	20	14	0	122	138 658	100	85 455	40	58.82
Swinton	34	19	13	2	102	79 441	77	73 373	40	58.82
Leigh	34	19	13	2	126	112 588	113	113 565	40	58.82
Leeds	36	21	15	0	133	144 698	114	112 564	42	58.33
York	36	20	16	0	121	87 503	104	88 472	40	55.55
Huddersfield	36	18	17	1	114	126 606	101	114 544	37	51.37
Workington T.	34	17	17	0	92	116 532	101	106 520	34	50.00
Keighley	36	18	18	0	96	101 495	105	105 525	36	50.00
Wakefield T.	36	17	19	0	112	119 581	109	107 539	34	47.22
Hunslet	36	17	19	0	104	101 511	111	122 588	34	47.22
Bramley	34	16	18	0	137	87 535	118	123 605	32	47.05
Rochdale H.	34	15	19	0	95	95 475	107	100 514	30	44.11
Whitehaven	34	14	19	1	118	82 482	104	97 499	29	42.64
Salford	34	13	20	1	74	81 391	115	115 575	27	39.70
Hull K.R.	36	11	24	1	79	69 365	138	157 747	23	33.82
Widnes	34	11	23	0	74	85 403	99	107 519	22	32.35
Doncaster	34	7	22	5	80	63 349	110	124 592	19	27.94
Blackpool B.	34	9	25	0	106	79 449	128	163 745	18	26.47
Castleford	36	9	27	0	96	90 452	146	153 751	18	25.00
Liverpool C.	34	8	26	0	87	67 375	128	143 685	16	23.52
Dewsbury	34	8	26	0	63	63 315	128	148 700	16	23.52
Batley	34	7	26	1	95	59 367	120	135 645	15	22.05

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LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Barrow	Blackpool	Halifax	Leigh	Liverpool	Oldham	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	H														
Blackpool	H														
Halifax	H	16-12				9-13									
Leigh	H									7-10					
Liverpool	H								5-56		13-34				
Oldham	H			20-0											
Rochdale	H	9-29				0-43									
Salford	H		9-12								11-12				
St. Helens	H							40-0					29-0		
Swinton	H				17-4										
Warrington	H			14-17								16-8			
Whitehaven	H														15-8
Widnes	H														6-13
Wigan	H														
Workington	H														0-24

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

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WIGAN PLAYERS' RECORDS ————— Season 1956-57

FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including 27th August, 1956)

Appearances	Tries	Appearances	Tries
Armstrong, A.	1 —	Cunliffe, J.	4 —
Ashcroft, E. J.	3 2	Griffin, F.	3 2
Ashton, E.	4 3	McGillicuddy, M.	1 1
Bolton, D. R.	4 6	McGurrin, B.	4 —
Boston, W. J.	4 2	McTigue, B.	4 —
Bretherton, W.	4 —	Mather, R.	2 —
Broome, J.	4 —	Parr, T.	4 —
Cherrington, N.	4 —	Platt, F.	2 —

Total number of Tries: 16

GOALS SCORED

Ashton, E.	6
Cunliffe, J.	5

Total number of Goals: 11

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FIXTURES AND RESULTS, 1956-57

FIRST TEAM

"A" TEAM

		F. A.		F. A.
Aug. 11 ...	Warrington A	16-15	Warrington (Friendly) H	33- 2
	(Ward Cup)			
18 ...	Hull A	8-16	Barrow H	17- 6
25 ...	Leeds H	22- 8		
27 ...	Workington Town A	24- 0	Blackpool Borough A	56-10
28 ...			(Lancs. Shield)	
Sept. 1 ...	Oldham (Lancs. Cup) H		Barrow A	
5 ...			St. Helens (Friendly) A	
6 ...	Lancashire v. Cumberland		Widnes A	
8 ...	Widnes H			
10 ...	Barrow (6-15) H		Liverpool City H	
15 ...	Liverpool City A		Leigh (Friendly) A	
22 ...	Hull H		Warrington A	
29 ...	Halifax A		Oldham A	
Oct. 6 ...	Oldham H		Leigh H	
13 ...	Leigh A		St. Helens A	
20 ...	Bradford Northern H		Warrington (Friendly) H	
27 ...	Leeds A		Widnes H	
Nov. 3 ...	Barrow A		Blackpool Borough A	
10 ...	Blackpool Borough H			
17 ...	First Test Match H		Swinton A	
24 ...	Swinton H			
Dec. 1 ...	Featherstone Rovers ... H		Rochdale Hornets A	
8 ...	Australia H		Blackpool Borough H	
15 ...	Blackpool Borough A		Swinton H	
22 ...	Swinton A		Salford (10-45) A	
25 ...	Salford H			
26 ...	St. Helens A		Workington Town A	
29 ...	Workington Town H			
Jan. 1 ...	Warrington H		Whitehaven H	
5 ...	Whitehaven A			
12 ...	Rochdale Hornets H		Rochdale Hornets H	
19 ...	Rochdale Hornets A		Liverpool City A	
26 ...	Liverpool City H		Whitehaven A	
Feb. 2 ...	Whitehaven H			
9 ...	R.L. Cup (1st Round)		St. Helens H	
16 ...	Bradford Northern A		Leigh (Friendly) H	
23 ...	R.L. Cup (2nd Round)		Workington Town H	
Mar. 2 ...	Featherstone Rovers ... A		Leigh A	
9 ...	Leigh H		St. Helens (Friendly) H	
16 ...	Huddersfield A		Warrington (Friendly) A	
23 ...	Halifax H		Oldham H	
30 ...	Oldham A			
April 6 ...	Huddersfield H			
13 ...	Widnes A		Warrington H	
19 ...	St. Helens H		Salford H	
20 ...	Warrington A			
22 ...	Salford A			