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# WIGAN v. OLDHAM

(NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE)

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1956

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

## OFFICIAL NOTES...

We have again had a mixed fortnight, with a splendid victory over Hull at Central Park, and then a rather unfortunate defeat at Thrum Hall last Saturday.

At times during the Hull match we looked a good side, and particularly early in the second half were really dangerous in possession. At other times we did not look anything like so good, and some of our tackling was very weak. However, the general display gave us hope of two points at Halifax, but it was not to be. Halifax are notoriously a powerful side, especially in the forwards, but they had just suffered defeats at the hands of Whitehaven and Wakefield Trinity and we approached the match with some measure of confidence. It turned out that Halifax were somewhat weakened through injury, but, as often happens, the reserves played like men possessed and they suffered no handicap by these replacements.

It was a really dour match, with patches of good football, and the defence of both sides was superb. Our pack held their own in tight and loose, but we just had not the penetration to win the match. We did not have the best of luck, Bolton damaging his leg in the first two minutes (he carried on throughout the game) and Hill dislocating his thumb in the first half. Hill also continued, but had to play more or less one-handed for the rest of the game. He will probably be out of the game for three or four weeks. This defeat set us back a little in the Northern League, and we dropped to eighth place as a result of this match. We have already lost three League matches out of eight, and there is no doubt the next four or five weeks are vital to us.

## OUR VISITORS

For the second time this season we welcome the wonderful Oldham side, and our supporters will have a third opportunity of seeing them a fortnight to-day when they play St. Helens here in the Lancashire Cup Final.

Up to last Saturday Oldham were unbeaten this season, with victories at Halifax, St. Helens and Wigan, but last week they took part in one of the greatest

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shock matches of all time, losing 16—8 to the lowly Liverpool City. According to eye-witnesses, Liverpool thoroughly deserved their victory, and if that is so then Oldham must just have had one of those days. They only rested Pitchford and Little from their regular team, so the excuse cannot be offered that they were greatly below strength. However, no doubt they will be back to their brilliant best to-day, as Central Park is one of their favourite grounds, and one on which they invariably play football of the highest quality.

To-day's match is vital to us, as we have already lost one home match, so we must hope that our lads rise to the occasion and lay the Oldham bogey (they have now beaten us ten times running).

### TO-DAY'S CURTAIN RAISER

Our Directors have given permission to the Wigan and District Junior Rugby League to hold a collection and curtain-raiser before to-day's game. The match will be a trial game between the best of the 15 to 17 age group in the town, from which the Town team will be selected to meet Widnes in the First Round of the Inter-Town Competition. The kick-off will be at 1-45 p.m. We ask that the Wigan public give generously to this collection, which will help the Junior League to continue to function.

### THE "A" TEAM

Our "A" Team are still unbeaten in the Lancashire Rugby League Combination, having played five, won five. Last Saturday they gained a notable victory, winning at Warrington 17—13 despite a trialist centre being a passenger through an ankle injury for most of the game. Our scorers were Cheetham 4 goals and Gregory, Griffin and Hooper tries. To-day our youngsters face stiff opposition at Oldham, for their "A" team have also been doing well and we shall be fielding a very young side.

### AFTER THE MATCH—

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### "JOHNNY" THOMAS

We regret to record the passing of this former Wigan stalwart, who served the club so well both as player and director. Two of our present staff, Joe Egan and Jack Hilton, along with players Billy Boston and Ernie Ashcroft, acted as bearers at Johnny's funeral, and several Directors represented the club.

### MR. T. I. BENNETT

It is with regret that we record the death of Mr. Tom Bennett, Chairman of the Bramley Club, Chairman of the Cup and Rules Committee, and Past President of the Yorkshire County Rugby League, and we extend our sympathy to his wife and children in their bereavement.

### LANCASHIRE COUNTY CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

We have again been honoured by the Lancashire County Committee, and we are happy to stage the Lancashire Cup Final between Oldham and St. Helens on Saturday, 20th October, kick-off at 3-0 p.m. Details regarding the sale of our allocation of tickets are given elsewhere in this programme. We are expecting a large crowd on this day, and would respectfully suggest that people who can get to the ground early should do so, to avoid congestion nearer the time of kick-off. The turnstiles will be opened at 12-45 p.m., and the Wigan Boys' Club Band have been engaged to play suitable music from 1-30 p.m. to the time of kick-off.

### BRADFORD NORTHERN LEAGUE MATCH

On the date of the Cup Final we were due to play Bradford Northern here at Central Park in a Northern League match, but now a new date will have to be found. We have suggested to Bradford that we play it on Wednesday, 17th October, kick-off at 4-0 p.m., but at the time of writing we are awaiting their confirmation of this fixture. If this is received before this afternoon an announcement will be given over the loudspeaker at half-time.

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### NEWS ABOUT PLAYERS

Two of our most prominent players who have missed most of the season, Jack Cunliffe and Don Platt, our two recognised full-backs, have both started training and at the time of going to print it was hoped they would be available to play on the "A" team to-day.

A player who will be welcomed back into the game next week is Bill Bretherton, who has been suspended for six matches and, similarly to Jack Cunliffe, has not been available since the cup-tie with Oldham.

Ken Hill became our latest casualty when he was injured in the first few minutes of the game at Halifax. Although his thumb was dislocated so early in the game, he played on with it strapped. It is now learned that the injury is a dislocation fracture and his hand will be in plaster for three or four weeks.

Ken Bird has been put out of the game with an unusual injury. A knock on the eye has had serious repercussions and it will now need an operation to put right. He was injured in the Barrow game and at present is in the Eye Hospital at Manchester under observation before he has the operation.

Another player missing his football for another reason is Roy Abram, who was sent off the field at Leigh two weeks ago; he has since been suspended for four matches.

Frank Platt, our reserve hooker, may be out of the game for some considerable time. An injury that started in his Army playing days and has since been aggravated has been diagnosed as disc trouble.

A visitor to our last home game against Hull was Roy Williams, our second-row forward, who was on leave from the Army.

Bert Ralph has gone on loan to Rochdale, where he is appearing in their first team.

Supporters will join with us in wishing Frank Griffin much happiness following his marriage since our last programme two weeks ago.

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### LANCASHIRE R.L. CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

OLDHAM v. ST. HELENS

at Central Park, Wigan, on Saturday, 20th October, 1956.

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

Prices of Stand and Ringside Tickets for this match are:—

Stand B .....	12/6
Stands A, C and D .....	7/6
New Stand .....	10/6
Ringside Seats .....	5/-

The Wigan Club's allocation of tickets will be on sale as follows:—

To Season Ticket Holders on Tuesday, 9th October, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.

Any remaining tickets to the general public at the same times on Wednesday, 10th October.

On the Tuesday two match tickets only will be allowed for each Season Ticket.

### LEAGUE XIII v. AUSTRALIA

at Kirkhall Lane, Leigh, Monday, 29th October, 1956.

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

Main Stand (numbered and reserved) ...	12/6	and	7/6
Ringside Seats .....	5/-		
Paddock .....	3/6		
Admission on day of match .....	Ground 3/-	and	2/6
Schoolboys .....	6d.		

Apply to the Secretary, Leigh R.L.F.C., Kirkhall Lane, Leigh.

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# NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE TABLE

(up to and including 29th September, 1956)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	— Pts. —			Pts.	
					F.	A.			
Barrow .....	10	8	2	0	...	260	149	...	16
Oldham .....	8	7	1	0	...	200	80	...	14
York .....	8	7	1	0	...	132	69	...	14
St. Helens .....	8	6	2	0	...	288	70	...	12
Huddersfield .....	8	6	2	0	...	188	205	...	12
Rochdale Hornets .....	9	6	3	0	...	145	179	...	12
Halifax .....	9	6	3	0	...	133	109	...	12
Hull .....	7	5	2	0	...	146	101	...	10
Wigan .....	8	5	3	0	...	176	95	...	10
Leeds .....	8	5	3	0	...	151	105	...	10
Hull Kingston Rovers .....	8	5	3	0	...	125	93	...	10
Whitehaven .....	8	5	3	0	...	128	109	...	10
Swinton .....	8	5	3	0	...	140	114	...	10
Warrington .....	9	5	4	0	...	152	172	...	10
Hunslet .....	7	4	3	0	...	151	105	...	8
Featherstone Rovers .....	8	4	4	0	...	144	113	...	8
Wakefield Trinity .....	8	4	4	0	...	133	108	...	8
Leigh .....	8	4	4	0	...	137	118	...	8
Salford .....	8	4	4	0	...	108	138	...	8
Keighley .....	9	4	5	0	...	104	122	...	8
Bramley .....	9	4	5	0	...	122	158	...	8
Workington Town .....	8	3	5	0	...	82	117	...	6
Widnes .....	8	3	5	0	...	99	142	...	6
Blackpool Borough .....	9	3	6	0	...	123	248	...	6
Liverpool City .....	7	2	5	0	...	76	196	...	4
Dewsbury .....	10	2	8	0	...	85	178	...	4
Doncaster .....	8	1	7	0	...	79	144	...	2
Bradford Northern .....	8	1	7	0	...	96	215	...	2
Batley .....	8	0	8	0	...	90	190	...	0
Castleford .....	9	0	9	0	...	99	254	...	0

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## LANCASHIRE COUNTY RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

	Barrow	Blackpool	Halifax	Leigh	Liverpool	Gidham	Rochdale	Salford	St. Helens	Swinton	Warrington	Whitehaven	Widnes	Wigan	Workington
Barrow	H	36-5								26-6					
Blackpool	H	8-30					16-27		5-58						
Halifax	H	16-12				9-13		41-13						9-3	
Leigh	H									7-10					
Liverpool	H					16-8			5-56		13-34			14-44	
Gidham	H	45-13		20-0											
Rochdale	H	9-29				0-43					15-5				
Salford	H	9-12								11-12					
St. Helens	H					16-25	49-11	40-0				29-0			
Swinton	H				17-4							32-8			
Warrington	H	25-21	14-17				11-15				16-8				
Whitehaven	H		24-13							27-17					15-8
Widnes	H										12-17				6-13
Wigan	H	15-26										30-5			
Workington	H				2-11										0-24

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

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NEXT MATCH AT CENTRAL PARK

**Wigan "A" v. Leigh "A"**

(Lancashire Rugby League Combination)

**Saturday, 13th October, 1956**

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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## FIRST TEAM

## APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including 29th September, 1956)

	Appear- ances	TRIES		Appear- ances	TRIES
Armstrong, A. ....	3	—	Collier, F. ....	4	1
Ashcroft, E. J. ....	9	3	Cunliffe, J. ....	5	—
Ashton, E. ....	10	5	Griffin, F. ....	6	2
Barton, J. T. ....	1	—	Hill, K. ....	4	1
Bird, K. ....	1	1	McGillicuddy, M. ....	5	2
Bolton, D. R. ....	10	13	McGurrian, B. ....	10	1
Boston, W. J. ....	10	11	McTigue, B. ....	10	1
Bretherton, W. ....	5	—	Mather, R. ....	8	—
Broome, J. ....	10	—	Parr, T. ....	10	2
Cherrington, N. ....	7	1	Platt, F. ....	2	—

Total number of Tries: 44.

## GOALS SCORED

Ashton, E. ....	28
Cunliffe, J. ....	10

Total number of Goals: 38.

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LEIGH v. WIGAN

SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER

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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
18 ...	Hull ..... A	8-16	Barrow ..... H	17- 6
25 ...	Leeds ..... H	22- 8		
27 ...	Workington Town ..... A	24- 0		
28 ...			Blackpool Lanes. Sh. A	56-10
Sept. 1 ...	Oldham (Lancs. Cup) H	16-18	Barrow ..... A	33-11
5 ...			St. Helens (Friendly) A	10-35
6 ...	Lancashire v. Cumberland	42-21	Widnes ..... A	23-19
8 ...	Widnes ..... H	30- 5		
10 ...	Barrow ..... H	15-26	Workington L.S. 2nd H	14-15
12 ...			Liverpool City ..... H	19-10
15 ...	Liverpool City ..... A	44-14	Leigh (Friendly) ..... A	18-16
22 ...	Hull ..... H	30-17	Warrington ..... A	17-13
29 ...	Halifax ..... A	3- 9	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		Whitehaven ..... H	
Jan. 1 ...	Warrington ..... H			
5 ...	Whitehaven ..... A		Rochdale Hornets ..... H	
12 ...	Rochdale Hornets ..... H		Liverpool City ..... A	
19 ...	Rochdale Hornets ..... A		Whitehaven ..... A	
26 ...	Liverpool City ..... H			
Feb. 2 ...	Whitehaven ..... H		St. Helens ..... H	
9 ...	R.L. Cup (1st Round)		Leigh (Friendly) ..... H	
16 ...	Bradford Northern ..... A		Workington Town ..... H	
23 ...	R.L. Cup (2nd Round)		Leigh ..... A	
Mar. 2 ...	Featherstone Rovers ..... A		St. Helens (Friendly) H	
9 ...	Leigh ..... H		Warrington (Friendly) A	
16 ...	Huddersfield ..... A		Oldham ..... H	
23 ...	Halifax ..... H			
30 ...	Oldham ..... A			
April 6 ...	Huddersfield ..... H			
13 ...	Widnes ..... A			
19 ...	St. Helens ..... H			
20 ...	Warrington ..... A		Warrington ..... H	
22 ...	Salford ..... A		Salford ..... H	