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Vol. 11 No. 16

SATURDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1957



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WORKINGTON TOWN FIXTURES

(NORTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE)

		POINTS				POINTS	
		F.	A.			F.	A.
Aug.	22—Whitehaven	A	8 15	Dec.	22—Blackpool	H	19 3
"	25—Widnes	A	13 6	"	25—Barrow	A	8 13
"	27—Wigan	H	0 24	"	26—Barrow	H	3 14
Sept.	1—Salford	A	9 14	"	29—Wigan	A	5 52
"	3—Halifax	H	2 11	Jan.	1—Hunslet	H	10 23
"	8—Wakefield	A	15 9	"	5—Blackpool	A	24 10
"	15—York	H	5 19	"	12—Wakefield	H	16 28
"	22—Hunslet	A	11 29	"	19—Salford	A	5 13
"	29—Keighley	H	28 4	"	26—Rochdale	H	17 0
Oct.	6—Salford	H	7 4	Feb.	2—Warrington	H	11 7
"	13—York	A	19 15	"	9—R.L. Cup, 1st Rd.		
"	20—Swinton	A	24 16	"	16—Bramley	A	
"	27—St. Helens	A	11 9	"	23—R.L. Cup, 2nd Rd.		
"	3—Oldham	H	7 5	Mar.	9—Whitehaven	H	
"	10—Oldham	A	2 7	"	16—Leigh	A	
"	17—Leigh	H	15 10	"	23—Widnes	H	
"	24—Warrington	A	5 28	"	30—Liverpool	A	
Dec.	1—Bramley	H	29 9	Apr.	6—Halifax	A	
"	8—Liverpool	H	42 0	"	19—Rochdale	A	
"	15—Keighley	A	13 7	"	20—St. Helens	H	
				"	22—Swinton	H	

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NOTES

Well, here we are again lining up for another crack at a third visit to Wembley Stadium. Our opponents, Oldham, who are league leaders and Lancashire Cup holders, have won the trophy several times but have never appeared at Wembley, and if determination counts for anything Town boys intend to see that their journey is delayed for at least one season.

Unlike Oldham who carry the odds-on favourites tag—a terrible handicap to begin with—we have no league championship worries, nor have the players been upset by any difference of opinion between them and the Directors regarding the size of bonus for this game. They have but one thing on their minds at the moment, the only thing, to put Workington Town a step nearer Wembley. Thus they will take the field this afternoon full of confidence in their own ability to give an excellent account of themselves come what may.

In November we scored a narrow victory over Oldham shortly after they had been humbled by lowly Liverpool, and with a much weaker side than we have out to-day.

The following week we just failed to repeat the dose at Watersheddings in a game which began very badly but eventually turned out to be a thriller after our opponents had tried roughing it in the hope that they would throw Town forwards out of their stride with their robust tactics, tactics which failed miserably to achieve their aim. We do not underestimate the strength of our opponents. Ganley, a good goal-kicker, is a useful full-back always looking for an opportunity to link up in attack and I have no doubt that but for weaknesses in his defence he might have been at England cap.

Etty and Cracknell are strong in attack, and have good inside men in Davies, who recently lost his place to Jones in England's team, and Ayres.

They are also strong at half-back. Skipper Stirrup though not as lively as he was three years ago and Pitchford are looked upon as one of the best combinations in the game. It will be interesting to see how Stirrup stands up to the crash tackling of much improved Harry Archer.

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F. Ray

Too bad the ground is not as dry as it was in November, but if the weather is kind to us there is no reason whatever why this game should not be every bit as entertaining and exciting as the last.

The signing of Dennis McDowell just before the R.L. Cup register closed ended a two-year's chase for a player who should turn out to be one of the club's best captures. Dennis, 5ft. 8 in., 12 st. 7 lbs., comes off a famous local footballing family. He has played for Cumberland at scrum half and centre, but it was at out-half where he made his debut in Town's "A" team at Warrington last Saturday and came through a gruelling test with flying colours. General opinion amongst the Warrington fans afterwards was: "You've got a good 'un," and you know they know a good 'un when they see one over at Wilderspool. Perhaps that will make you wonder what might have happened if Dennis had stayed in the amateur game especially when one remembers that Warrington's Rugby Union capture, Martin Regan, cannot find a place in the first team.

However, with Mike Jackson reporting for National Service on the 23rd of this month and Wookey a probable starter for next season, Dennis could not have arrived at a more opportune time.

The death has occurred this week of the Rev. Frank Chambers, one of Rugby League's best and most respected referees. Mr. Chambers, who was 80 played Rugby Union for Yorkshire before throwing in his lot with the Fartowners.

Rugby League football and Bradford Northern in particular has suffered a severe loss by the resignation of Mr. Harry Hornby because of ill-health. Mr. Hornby believed that nothing but the best was good enough at Odsal. It was during a holiday in New Zealand that he signed up Joe Phillips, Bill Dixon, Bob Hawes, Norman Hastings and famous All Black Jack McLean. Dixon was very unfortunate. He received a knee injury in his first season which put an end to a most promising career. He looked well set to fill with almost equal distinction the vacancy caused by the retirement of an out-half, Billy Davies. All the others especially McLean and Phillips were winners. We wish Mr. Hornby a speedy recovery to normal health.

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