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Fixtures for the Season

1955-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.	1956-57	Opponents	Venue	K.O.
Aug. 11	*Rochdale	Home	3-0	22	Warrington	Away	2-30
18	Bramley	Home	3-0	25	Swinton	Home	2-30
20	Halifax	Away	7-0	26	Blackpool	Away	2-30
25	Rochdale	Away	3-0	29	Widnes	Away	2-30
28	Leigh	Home	7-0	Jan. 5	Hunslet	Home	2-30
Sept. 1	*Wigan (Lancs C.)	Away	3-0	12	Salford	Home	2-30
8	St. Helens	Away	3-0	19	Whitehaven	Away	2-30
15	Wakefield	Home	3-0	26	Warrington	Home	3-0
22	Barrow	Home	3-0	Feb. 2	Salford	Away	3-0
29	Liverpool	Away	3-0	9	R.L. Cup		
Oct. 6	Wigan	Away	3-0	16	Widnes	Home	3-0
13	Halifax	Home	3-0	23	R.L. Cup		
20	Barrow	Away	3-0	Mar. 2	Liverpool	Home	3-0
27	Keighley	Home	3-0	9	York	Away	3-0
Nov. 3	Workington	Away	3-0	16	Whitehaven	Home	3-0
7	*Australia	Home	3-0	23	Bramley	Away	3-0
10	Workington	Home	3-0	30	Wigan	Home	3-0
17	Keighley	Away	2-30	Apr. 6	Leigh	Away	3-0
24	Blackpool	Home	2-30	13			
Dec. 1	York	Home	2-30	19	Swinton	Away	3-0
8	St. Helens	Home	2-30	20	Hunslet	Away	3-0
15	Wakefield	Away	2-30	22	Rochdale	Home	3-0

*All Pay

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No. 20—Saturday, 30th March, 1957

Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

OLDHAM v. WIGAN

WATERSHEDDINGS NEWS AND VIEWS

The season is now drawing to a close and in three weeks we shall have the Easter holiday fixtures upon us and, for the great majority of clubs, the end of Season 1956-57.

We hope that we shall be carrying on up to the League Championship final which is to be played at Odsal Stadium on Saturday, 18th May, 1957, but who knows, much can happen between now and our last match on Easter Monday.

The players are confident that they can maintain their leadership of the League and if we finish in No. 2 position of the League we are sure of a semi-final on our ground, which will be played on Saturday, 4th May, 1957. It is anyone's guess who will finish in the first-four of the League.

Although we won with comparative ease at Bramley on Saturday last—by 31 points to six points—we had our anxious moments in the first-half, and we were actually behind at half-time by the odd point in seven. We had signs of considerable improvement in the second-half and our players came into their old form and we saw the game at its best with the thoughts that the longer the game lasted, the more points we would have scored. In the first-half, too many mistakes in handling were made, good openings being made and the final pass going astray. No doubt a good pep talk at half-time did the job, and every man played his part before a record crowd at Bramley this season. Something to talk about was the good, strong running of our centres, Nestor and Ayres. These two young centres are up and coming stars and the future should hold good for them.

OUR VISITORS

To-day is one of the special days we look forward to in our League programme. The visit of our old friends from Wigan.

What a name and what an attraction Wigan is. Without fear we may state that they have been the most consistent team in the Rugby League for a decade, a real credit to the game and an attraction wherever they go. Who in the Rugby League would not like to have the pleasure of having the Wigan Club as their guests. In the first place, they are sure of a good financial return and worthy exponents of the game and how it should be played. To-day is also of special interest in the appearance against us of one of our old players in Wigan colours—Terry O'Grady.

This should be the game of games, and win it we must. The match is of two-fold importance to us, that of the League Championship, also the Lanes. League position is very much affected by the outcome. In the Lancashire League we occupy the position of leaders—but only just—so it is of utmost importance to us that we win. We are confident that our team will put on the show of the season and we have no doubt that Wigan will be all out to show us that they are still a great combination. May the game prove a great thriller and at the finish let us hope that we have something to talk about and that we will be a step nearer our Championship hopes.

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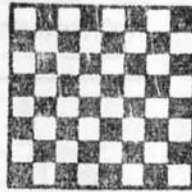
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OLDHAM

Blue and White

- 1—GANLEY, W. B.
- 2—CRACKNELL, R.
- 3—AYRES, D./NESTOR, V.
- 4—DAVIES, A.
- 5—ETTY, J.
- 6—STIRRUP, F./DALEY, F.
- 7—PITCHFORD, F.
- 8—JACKSON, K.
- 9—KEITH, J.
- 10—VINES, D./TOMLINSON A.
- 11—LITTLE, S. D.
- 12—WINSLADE, C.
- 13—TURNER, D.

WIGAN

Red and White

- 1—PLATT, D.
- 2—BOSTON, W.
- 3—ASHTON, E.
- 4—ASHCROFT, E. J.
- 5—O'GRADY, T.
- 6—McGURRIN, B.
- 7—THOMAS, R.
- 8—ARMSTRONG, A.
- 9—SAYER, W.
- 10—McTIGUE, B.
- 11—CHERRINGTON, N.
- 12—COLLIER, F.
- 13—GRIFFIN, F.

★
Referee: Mr. A. E. DURKIN of Dewsbury

Touch Judges:

Mr. F. S. Rowley, Barrow (Red)

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

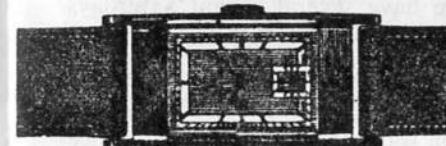
OLDHAM'S OWN SPORTS PAPER

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THE WORLD CUP

On Monday, next, 1st April, the players to take part in the World Cup Competition in Australia will be chosen. We hope we shall have a few of our players selected to make this wonderful trip. The party will leave Manchester Airport on Friday, 31st May, 1957, and the return date—at Manchester—is scheduled for July 19th.

There will be a party of eighteen players and it is hoped to play exhibition matches in South Africa, but this is very much against the wishes of the South African Rugby Union Authorities—a statement by their (R.U.) president, who was recently in England was to the effect that Rugby League was on the wane. This is after an existence of sixty-two years. We have even been called reptiles. What an utterance from a responsible official of a supposed sporting organization. If anything, the Union game is on the wane in South Africa, and it is most evident by the efforts being made to oppose the playing of an exhibition game between Gt. Britain and France that they are afraid to let the public see the great possibilities of our game and its attractiveness.

Soccer is making great headway out there and it is obvious that the Union people are afraid of this opposition and are opposed to any further infiltration against their caste game. For the information of South Africa, our game of Rugby League is not a caste game, it is open to all to partake, be it players or legislators. Although we are what they call a North of England game we are proud of the LOYAL subjects who watch it, from the highest in the land to the ordinary working men and women who enjoy it either amateur or professional. We Rugby Leaguers have a game that we are proud of and we fear no opposition, be it friend or foe. In professionalism, every man is worthy of his hire. If a man desires to remain an amateur in any sport, if he can afford it, by all means let him do so, but if he wants to commercialize his talents as a subsidiary to his civil occupation, let him do so, and do not make him an out-cast to the so called society.

RUGBY LEAGUE COMBINATION

Whilst we have always been expounding the glories of our game, and will always do so, there is one great blot on it—not the game itself, but the manner in which it is controlled regarding "A" teams.

"A" teams in Lancashire and Yorkshire have several vacant Saturdays during the season. This is a most retrograde position and offers little encouragement to "A" team players to keep reporting for training, especially if they have an inactive period of from one to three weeks.

It is time the Rugby League Combination was brought into active service again. Too little interest is taken in "A" team football by legislators. "A" teams are the life and blood of our game and every encouragement should be given to these young players. By all means, let us keep them occupied each Saturday, all the training in the world will not make a player. It is the actual match that gains for one the experience so essential in our game—actions that one is made to do by an opponent which never occurs during training.

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