

RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW

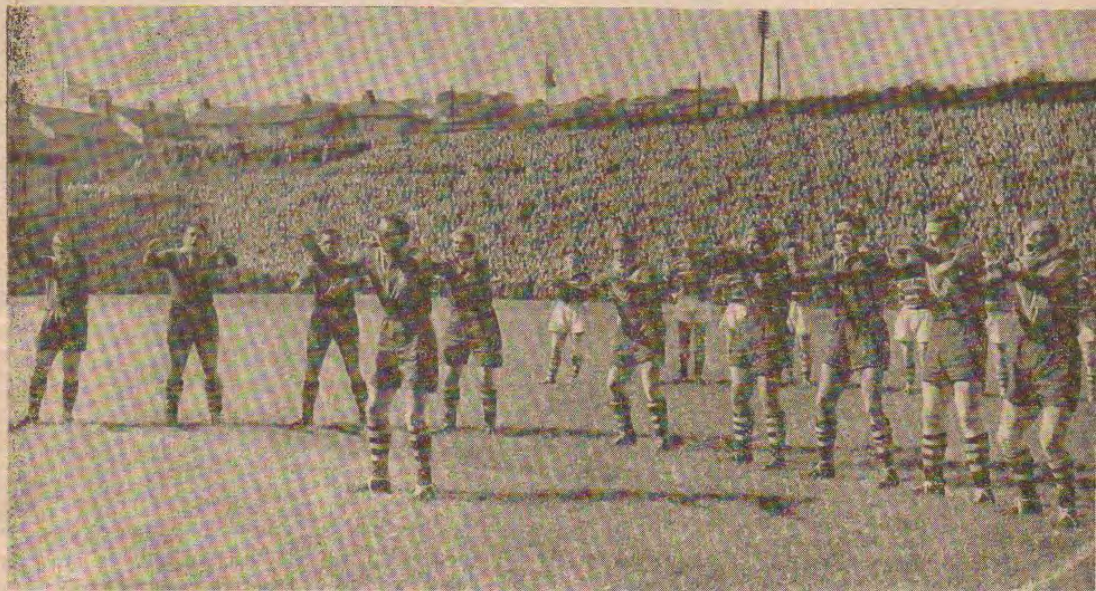
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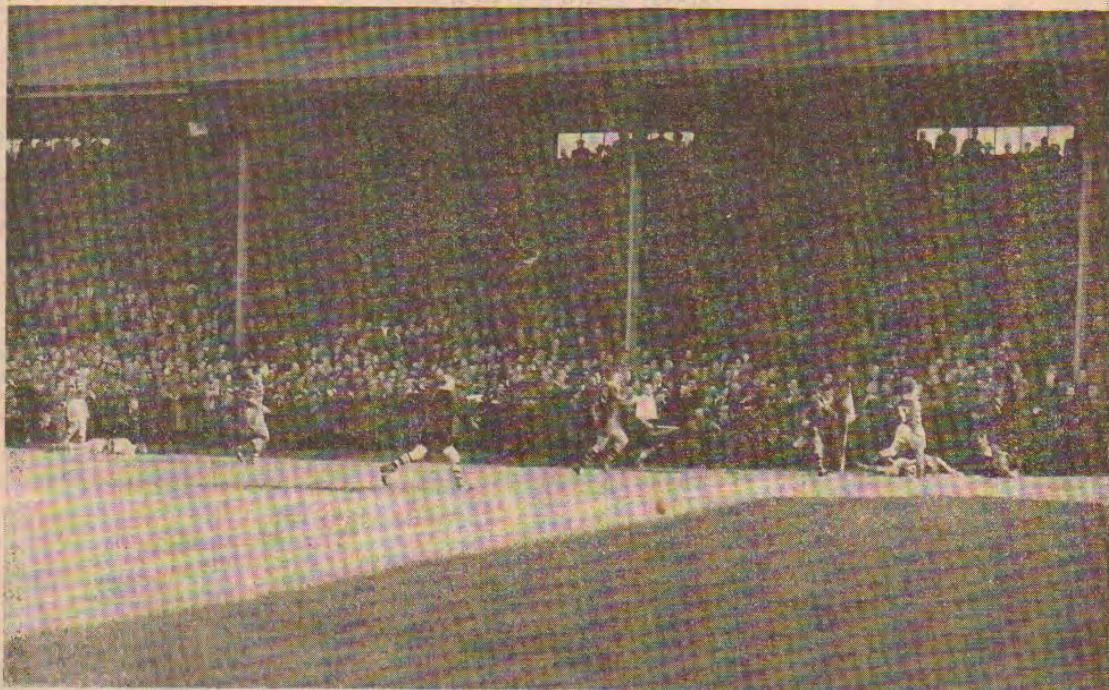
The Australians give their "War Cry" before the kick-off at Fartown.



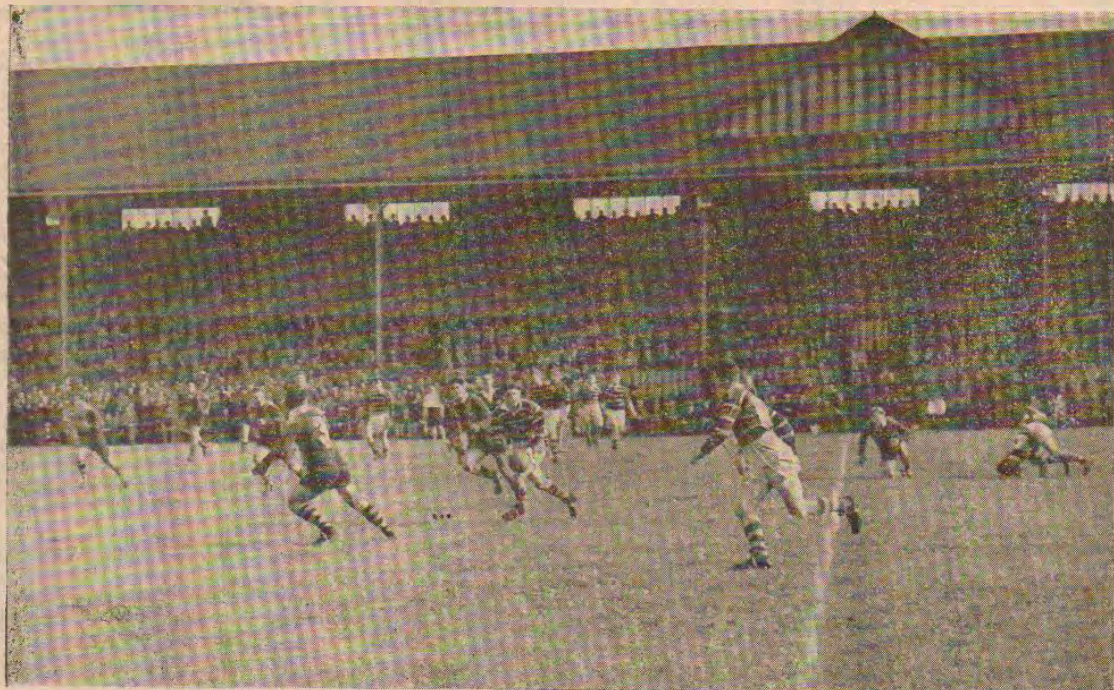
The Wearers of the Claret and Gold.

Left to Right.—J. C. H. Hunter, R. Nicholson, R. S. Robson, S. Walsh, J. C. Daly, A. M. Meek, P. Reid, M. J. Maiden, D. D. Valentine, J. Bawden, G. R. Pepperell, L. W. Cooper, and P. Devery (Captain).

Pictures by "Rugby League Review" cameraman R. A. Clayborn.



W. O'Connell (stand - off half) over near the flag. This was the first try of the tour and the only score by the Australians at Fartown.



Huddersfield on the attack, with Reid passing the ball to Cooper.

Pictures by "Rugby League Review" cameraman R. A. Clayborn.

THE MATCH OF THE MONTH

By "D'Artagnan."

The Wilderspool Way

A MEETING OF SPORTSMEN

HUDDERSFIELD went down at Warrington with all flags flying, in what had been looked forward to as "a clash of giants." The game could so easily have been spoiled by the lengthy Fartown injured list which necessitated the introduction of many reserves, but the deputies rose to the occasion and both sides gave a grand display. **The score of 25-2 registers a substantial win for the "Wires," but they were made to earn it all the way.**

Wilderspool Stadium has, during the past few months, been the scene of two Huddersfield defeats. Numerically this latest one was the heaviest, yet I doubt if the Warrington supporters could be as satisfied as they were after the League Semi-final last April. Then Huddersfield lost 17-5 and were a hopelessly beaten side. This time they gave the home men more of a run for their money without being able to upset their undoubted superiority.

Shorn of the power given to them by such men as Hunter, Devery, Bawden, Walsh, Daly and Maiden, the Fartowners struggled gamely. After the first five minutes they never looked likely to get on top, but neither did they ever appear in danger of a collapse. The reserves acquitted themselves manfully. Clark tackled tenaciously and made two good runs, while Cox, an eighteen-year-old stand-off half making his debut in senior football, can be satisfied with his display against the heavier and more experienced Fleming.

HELD IN CHECK

It is, perhaps, stretching the term somewhat to describe Stanley Pepperell as a "reserve," for the Cumbrian, though slower than of old, is still a sound footballer. Helme certainly got less rope than he was allowed in the previous meeting between the two teams. In the forwards Foley and Davies were no less industrious than the remainder of the Fartown pack against the lively Warrington forwards.

The "Wirepullers" were, let it be freely admitted, very generous to their opponents in the second half. With Lionel Cooper injured and scarcely able to hobble about, the Fartowners did their best to keep the run of play away from his wing. Amazingly enough, Warrington obliged them by doing the same and playing more to Knowelden and Francis, both of whom were also limping. Bevan, who had earlier scored a fine try with only inches to work in, was starved of the ball for long periods. He got only

three runs after the interval. The first two ended with Russell Pepperell manoeuvring him into touch. In the third, Bevan was tackled just short of the line and Bath scored from the play-the-ball.

Cotton beat Meek in the scrums by sixteen to eight in the first half and nineteen to eight in the second. With such ample possession, and with Les Jones always ready and willing to come up and make the extra man (as witness his opening try), Warrington should certainly have made more use of their Pimblett-Bevan wing. Had they done so the score might have been doubled.

BATH GOES TO IT

My "Man of the Match" is Harry Bath. A solid forward, in whom Huddersfield were interested at the time of his transfer from Barrow, he is a difficult man to stop when in full flight and is a glutton for work. He and Featherstone form a strong second row pair, although the latter is inclined to hold on to the ball too long. Huddersfield's second row men also had a good match but their inter-passing was not quite as successful as it has been on other occasions.

Ground arrangements were good and the Band of the South Lancashire Regiment, just home from Trieste, provided a stirring match preliminary which contrasted vividly with the "canned" music with which we were regaled later. The bandsmen were evidently enjoying themselves too, for they seemed reluctant to leave the field when the game was due to start!

Finally, I must add a word of praise for the sportsmanship of every player who took part in this match. Both

teams went all out for the whole eighty minutes and there was some hard tackling. Yet not one free kick had to be given for foul play and I did not see a single incident to which exception could be taken. Rarely do we see a player lose the ball to his opponent in a tackle and then have it handed back to him to play, as Palin did to a Huddersfield player. Such gestures are a credit to those concerned.

"D'ARTAGNAN'S" VERDICT

Standard of Play—

Very good, with Warrington on top but having to play hard to remain there.

Man of the Match—

Harry Bath (Warrington).

Goal-kicking—

Some excellent shots by Palin, with Cooper's effort also worthy of two points.

Refereeing—

Fair.

Behaviour of Spectators—

Good, but there was a regrettable lapse by a few main stand members when the League President was introduced to the crowd.

Ground Arrangements—

Excellent.

Programmes—

Unobtainable.

Opinion on the Match—

Very enjoyable and a credit to both teams.

WHAT "RUGBY LEAGUE REVIEW" SAYS TO-DAY . . .

"CENTRE SHINES.—Wilderspool enthusiasts told me after the match that Pimblett had not had one of his best days. If that is the case then all I can say is he should walk into the Third Test team."

"D'Artagnan," Dec., 1947.

A. J. Pimblett (Warrington) has now been selected to play in the First Test Match against Australia.

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

At Wilderspool Stadium, Warrington, on September 25th, 1948.

	G.	T.	Pts.		G.	T.	Pts.
WARRINGTON	5	5	25	HUDDERSFIELD	1	0	2
Attendance: 29,500.				Receipts: £2,300.			

Teams:

Warrington:—L. Jones; B. Bevan, A. J. Pimblett, B. Knowelden and L. R. Francis; J. Fleming and G. J. Helme; W. Derbyshire, D. Cotton, W. Ryan, H. Bath, J. Featherstone and H. Palin (Capt.).

Huddersfield:—G. R. Pepperell; J. Anderson, I. W. Clark, P. Reid and L. W. Cooper (Capt.); G. Cox and S. V. Pepperell; J. L. Davies, A. M. Meek, W. Foley, R. S. Robson, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Referee: L. Thorpe, of Wakefield.

Scorers:

Warrington.—Goals: Palin (5). Tries: Bath (2), Jones, Bevan and Fleming.
Huddersfield.—Goal: Cooper.

The teams were presented to Lord Derby, President of the Rugby Football League, before the game.

SPECIAL MATCH OF THE MONTH

THE STUFF TO GIVE 'EM!

Super Football at Fartown

By "D'Artagnan" and The Editor

IT was not out intention to "star" the Huddersfield v. Wigan clash at Fartown in "Rugby League Review," but the wonderful football which the game revealed made it impossible not to give it special mention. The two clubs are old rivals and whenever they meet the football is of a high order. On the afternoon of August 28th, 1948, it was in the super class, and it is a long time since such football has been seen on any R.L. ground.

The secret of Huddersfield's success was their wonderful team-work. Every man fitted perfectly into the side and was always at hand when required. The Central Parkers simply crumpled up before this magnificent piece of machinery, in which there were no weak links. For once even Joe Egan met his master. The rout of Wigan was complete, and in no department could they claim any superiority.

Mountford was their best man, but Devery kept a tight rein on him, and the New Zealander was allowed to make very few of those devastating runs of his. Ritchie was no match for Walsh, whose display will set the Fartown Committee a poser when Banks, their new scrum half from Wakefield, is fit again.

TOP OF THE BILL

In view of the Huddersfield team-work, to select a "man of the match" from a side in which all shone is no easy task, but we think the honour should go to Hunter, the Huddersfield full-back. **Hunter is more than a footballer—he is an entertainment!** His flying dives, his eye for the opening that turns defence into attack, and his capacity for bobbing up from nowhere, stamp him as one of the personalities of the game.

In the three-quarters, Wigan's speedier wingmen might as well have been off the field. Ratcliffe, like many another wing before him, found the burly Cooper more than a handful, while Hilton, try as he would, could never get round Pepperell. Ward and Ashcroft more than once chose to kick through when quick passes might have yielded a try, and on the defence they could not hold Bawden and Reid. The latter made the opening for Huddersfield's first try and later romped through the Wigan defence beautifully, only to be recalled for an alleged obstruction during the run.

This was not one of those matches that refereed itself and Mr. Railton

did not have an easy afternoon. There were scrummaging troubles. Some of them he saw, and some he didn't, but on the whole he came out of the game with credit. Why he should have been booed by a section of the youthful element present at the match is a mystery.

The Fartown pack did its work admirably. Daly, Meek and Maiden were a strong front row, while there was no holding the back three men either in the tight or loose. Nicholson and Robson gave an early taste of their metal with passing and re-passing up the centre which nearly brought a first minute score. Valentine was in the thick of everything and his try was a fitting reward for his display.

If Huddersfield can maintain this form more than one Cup will find its way to Fartown this season. This match was a fine treat for the large crowd which assembled, and they will long remember and talk about its thrills.

Comparison with the 1909-15 era of Huddersfield's greatness is perhaps not a fair test. Judged on present day R.L. standards it was outstanding. There is nothing wrong with the game while it can produce such matches, and more's the pity that those who want to "muck about" with the Laws were not present to witness the display. More games like this; and R.L. grounds will not be big enough to hold all the spectators who wish to be present.



J. C. H. HUNTER

OUR VERDICT

- Standard of Play—
Huddersfield superb. Wigan "also ran."
- Man of the Match—
J. C. H. Hunter (Huddersfield).
- Goal-kicking—
Very good.
- Refereeing—
No complaints.
- Behaviour of Spectators—
Quite good, with minor lapses mainly from the younger supporters.
- Ground Arrangements—
Excellent.
- Programmes—
Good, but it was necessary to take part in a Rugby scrum in order to obtain a copy.
- Opinion on the Match—
An occasion to be remembered.

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

At Fartown, Huddersfield, August 28th, 1948.

	G. T. Pts.	G. T. Pts.	
HUDDERSFIELD	6 4 24	WIGAN	1 1 5
Attendance: 24,589.		Receipts: £1,884 3s. 6d.	

Teams:

Huddersfield.—J. C. H. Hunter; G. R. Pepperell, J. Bawden, P. Reid and L. W. Cooper; P. Devery (Capt.) and S. Walsh; M. J. Maiden.
... A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, R. S. Robson, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Wigan.—M. Ryan; W. G. Ratcliffe, E. H. Ward, E. J. Ashcroft and J. Hilton; C. R. Mountford and Ritchie; K. Gee, J. Egan (Capt.), F. Barton, W. Hudson, L. White and W. Blan.

Referee.—N. T. Railton, of Liverpool.

Scorers:

Huddersfield.—Goals: Bawden (6). Tries: Hunter, Walsh, Valentine, Cooper.

Wigan.—Goal: Ward. Try: White.

thing what rule covered the play-the-ball and the scrummaging. It will not surprise me to find play-the-ball complaints and scrumage troubles before this tour is over.

The boys were settling down and training hard for the opening match with Huddersfield. Had they not completed their journey by air they would not have been able to play even at Belle Vue, for the ship arrived late and this match would also have had to be cancelled.

2—STORM OVER FARTOWN

NO first match of any touring team received the send-off, the publicity, or the reaction that this 1948 "Kangaroos" team had when they opened at Huddersfield on September 18th. The setting was perfect. A beautiful day, a perfect playing area and atmosphere which aligned itself with the important occasion.

A similar big day in Sydney would have had a half-dozen or more games played for the spectators entertainment. At Fartown a junior game was staged, followed by an impressive musical show by the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment band.

Although there was not a capacity crowd, over 26,000 spectators paid £3,543 19s. Od., which is easily a record for a first touring game in England. In fact, only in the Test games last season did the Kiwis pass this mark in any of their games.

So much publicity had been given to this match with the Australians flying from Marseilles, that it was obvious there would be supporters for and against the encounter. Those for, helped; those against "knocked"—and did they knock too!

What a reception the "Kangaroos" received. Instead of guests receiving hosts it was almost a case of fighters receiving vanquished enemies. Long will this match be discussed and long will I remain in the minority to take the side of the losers against the too severe, too unfair criticism that has been levelled at them.

BELOW THE BELT.

The Huddersfield supporters were not on their best behaviour. My admiration for the Huddersfield club, its traditions, its present officials, is not surpassed by anyone. I also think their present side is one of the best bunch of boys any club could wish to represent them. Further, I think their spectators are keen, knowledgeable followers. BUT against the Australians, a section were rude, unfair, and lacking in manners which had gained the Huddersfield club the name of being the outstanding club in the minds of

ILKLEY'S GREETING

On the evening of September 15th an official civic welcome was given to the tourists by the members of the Ilkley Council. Councillor W. Milnes welcomed the party to Ilkley and Councillor Schofield recalled the visit of "Dally" Messenger forty years ago. Eric Simmonds and Colin Maxwell replied and said it was the ambition of all Australian footballers to visit beautiful Ilkley. Colin Maxwell added that he had already fallen in

love with the town.

Stoney Lea Hotel is in Cowpasture Road and very pleasantly situated. The players are accommodated in both single and double rooms. In Sydney we had four in our room.

Manager "Bill" Buckley would not agree to an application being made for extra rations. His desire is for the players to live under the same conditions as their English colleagues. A very worthy idea.

all Australian supporters. Make no mistake. The hooting, jeering, throwing missiles on the field and general bad sportsmanship spoilt the good name of Huddersfield in the eyes of Australian people far more than they will realise.

I know the first reaction to this statement will be that it was all justified. It was not all justified. The match itself was tough, at times rough, and "incidents"—by both sides—could have well been cut out. Surely all the criticism levelled at the Australians was an indictment against Referee Stan Adams. Surely, if the Australians committed all the offences the critics say they did, he erred in his duty by not sending someone off. He is the man responsible for clean play and play being according to the laws, and he never sent anyone off.

I took the trouble after the game to check on the cautions given. The first, on the intervention of touch judge E. Thomas, was because an Australian "looked" as if he intended kicking a Huddersfield player while on the ground. Wisely Thomas jumped in and prevented any real action. The caution against Maxwell was because he tackled his opponent after he had passed the ball. The third caution on Johnny Graves was for an alleged stiff-arm when Hunter was injured. All "incidents" which demanded a caution—they got them—but why every time a Huddersfield player was injured the crowd should commence a hot booing effort I do not know.

Did the crowd boo when Fred de Belin fractured his leg? Did they boo when "Bill" Tyquin chipped his elbow in a tackle? Did they boo when Johnny Graves tore a ligament in his leg, or was any noise made when a stiff-arm laid out an Australian? No. These were accidents, they said! And so in the eyes of the Australian manager, "Bill" Buckley, who said the injuries were accidents.

I feel the Australians were given a raw deal at Huddersfield. They did petty things such as tackling a man

after he had parted with the ball—something which is done in every English League game you see—because they were not in condition. The Huddersfield players themselves knew that. If the Australians started it, then Huddersfield finished it. I have seen rougher play in "Derby" games than we saw at Fartown, yet none of these received half the publicity which was given to this particular game. I repeat, I may be in the minority in my views, but I feel the true spirit of sportsmanship was not extended to our visitors as it might have been by many people over this first game.

HUDDERSFIELD'S STRENGTH.

The match itself I really enjoyed. I never expected the Australians to win. Huddersfield are the best open football side in the country. Their play, modelled on true Huddersfield style, has all the hall-marks of Alec Fiddes in it. They attack all the time and it was obviously a matter of time before they wore down the Australians.

From Johnny Hunter, that ubiquitous full-back, whose appearance in the Huddersfield colours has set the female membership following soaring more than ever, to Valentine, the Fartown team is solid, brilliant, and a most effective combination. Any other member of the team receiving the injury which Hunter received probably would not have got the same reaction. Hunter is so popular—and deservedly so. He is not only a full-back with ability, but an afternoon's entertainment himself. Here, there and everywhere, Hunter enjoys his football and makes everyone enjoy it too. May he continue to delight the crowds. He and Graves were good friends after the match.

One of Huddersfield's main links in their exceptionally strong armour is the greatness of their last three down. No team has the mobile power of Robson, Nicholson and Valentine. It was these three who worried the Australians with their quick covering and their wonderful supporting work. All three can handle and move like backs. There are few

faster forwards than Bob Nicholson, while Scotsmen Robson and Valentine are tremendous workers.

In the first half Huddersfield managed to get a two points lead when Bawden—incidentally, the best uncapped centre in the game—kicked a goal. Had Graves been able to manoeuvre Hunter twice in the corner, or had Keith Froome kicked two penalty chances, Huddersfield would not have been in the lead. It was good football in the first half.

POINTS ABOUT THE AUSTRALIANS

I was able to assess the Australians in this forty minutes. Churchill is a brilliant defender; not a long kicker, but a safe felder, and his tackling is excellent. Graves, until his injury, looked fast and progressive, while McMahon glides easily on his run to mark him dangerous. In the centre, Maxwell, a strong tackling captain, never missed his man, while Len Pegg was equally good on attack and defence.

Froome and O'Connell were lively halves, and although handicapped by lack of possession moved together in a manner which suggested possibilities. Particularly when they scored their only try in the second half. They went on the blind side and cleared the defence for O'Connell to score. Both will be dangerous when in condition and trouble can be expected from this pair.

I liked the mobility and supporting play of the forwards. Although Kevin Schubert, beaten for possession, will learn greatly by his experience, he lacks nothing in the loose. With Alf Gibbs and Holland this trio will stand up to the best we have. Holland, a big, robust, cheerful player, moved forcibly. Fred de Belin—what a pity we shall see little of this blonde, good looking, quiet spoken forward. How he played without a complaint, without leaving the field, and yet having a fractured fibula, will always remain one of the mysteries of football. He

did, and until he was injured revealed how good he would have been. This injury may be the hardest blow the "Kangaroos" will sustain.

Hall roamed well but Tyquin's cover play was affected with the injury to his elbow. When I saw the X-ray plate it revealed a complete bit of bone knocked off. Again, only a courageous frame of mind kept him on the field to the end. When I looked in the Australian dressing-room after the match it was like a casualty clearing station, yet no one grumbled about the injuries and the knocks. Their one question to me was, "Will all the crowds treat us like this?" I answered "No." I hope I am right.

In the second half the best of Huddersfield was seen. With Reid—a certainty for a cap—running into support all the time, and Devery splitting up the defence, the home team ran riot in a fifteen minutes' period when they scored a point a minute. At one period I thought it was going to be a panic. Condition had sapped all the strength of the Australians, but they rallied and held out without further trouble.

I thought it was a good game. The football was fast and open, and although plenty of vigour was introduced, at least we saw some real tackling which thrilled. Far better shoulder stuff than knee in the back efforts which some of our players like to indulge in.

At the end the crowd had another good boo which was interrupted only by the playing of the National Anthem.

Boos, partisanship and regrets were forgotten after the match when the two teams were royally entertained by the president of the Huddersfield club. He spoke well, but whether his remarks about the style of play which the Australians had indulged in were wise, is open to question. Personally, I was sorry he mentioned it, but at least it gave Mr. "Bill" Buckley, the team manager, chance in his reply to say that the present Australian team was

"the finest bunch of sportsmen who had ever left Australia."

"Auld Lang Syne," autographs, etc., completed a good evening. One regrettable incident was when some of the Australian players wanted to look in at a dance but were told that they would have to pay "as we had to pay to see you this afternoon!" Not the hospitable attitude one expects in Yorkshire.

HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the things which appear to have been overlooked in preference to the "bad side" of the match. A tackle by Maxwell, Churchill and Pegg on Lionel Cooper in full flight at the corner, was something worth seeing. Devery's touch line penalty goal. The Australians' quickness in the playing of the ball. A Churchill tackle, again on Cooper. Bob Nicholson chasing an Australian with a glint in his eye and Mel Meek remonstrating quietly on the floor with an "Aussie" forward.

Many of the game's highlights, however, were missed by the monopoly of the booing part.

TEAMS AND SCORERS

Huddersfield won, 5—4—22 pts.

to Australia, 0—1—3 pts.

Huddersfield.—J. C. H. Hunter; G. R. Pepperell, J. Bawden, P. Reid and L. W. Cooper; P. Devery (Captain) and S. Walsh; M. J. Maiden, A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, R. S. Robson, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Scorers.—Goals: Bawden (2), Devery (3). Tries: Reid (2), Robson (2).

Australia.—C. Churchill; P. McMahon, C. Maxwell (Captain), L. Pegg and J. Graves; W. O'Connell and K. Froome; J. Holland, K. Schubert, A. Gibbs, D. Hall, F. de Belin and W. Tyquin.

Scorer.—Try: O'Connell.

Referee: S. Adams, of Hull.

Attendance: 26,053.

Receipts: £3,543 19s. 0d.

(All-Ticket Match).

3—BELLE VUE "FIREWORKS"

WITH much wonderment the second match at Belle Vue, Manchester, was faced on September 20th, and wisely, the tourists did not make a complete change, but kept five players—Churchill, Maxwell, Gibbs, Schubert and Holland—in the team. This was a clever move by the team selectors, Messrs. Buckley, Simmonds and Maxwell, for it gave some experience to the side of English conditions while materially assisting in fitness.

The tourists arrived early at Belle Vue and had a good look round the famous Zoological Gardens before being received for tea. It was the first game in Lancashire and while the

crowd was not so large as anticipated—7,000 paid £800—which, of course, only looked small in the big stands.

Prior to the match I talked to many Lancashire friends and it was obvious that the impression of roughness without football skill had become attached to the tourists. **These same friends had a different view after the game. RANGERS CONGRATULATED**

The Belle Vue supporters amazed me by the sporting manner in which they received the visitors' efforts. The skill of the Australians was received with enthusiasm, and throughout the game a pleasant and enthusiastic atmosphere prevailed. So much so that

after the match Colin Maxwell, the "Kangaroos" captain, went into the Belle Vue dressing-room and congratulated Stan. McCormick and his team for the sporting way in which the game had been played.

Belle Vue went into an early lead when a very good passing movement sent McCormick over for Gregory, the young full-back on trial from Warrington, to convert, his kick first hitting the upright before going over. This was after ten minutes play, but seven minutes later the tourists equalised from a splendid conceived try by Cowie under the posts, for Churchill to convert.

THE MATCH OF THE MONTH

By VINCENT FIRTH

This was Rugby League!

Titanic Struggle Between Old Rivals

THE 25,000 spectators at Fartown on December 11th, 1948, were privileged to witness a game which can only be described as a classic example of Rugby League football at its best. Elsewhere, Huddersfield's fixture with Warrington has been described as "Cup-tie football," but this is about as ill-fitting a description as could be imagined.

It is true the atmosphere was electric, for the occasion was a big one and the Fartown Club's flair for showmanship was strained to the utmost in an effort to make it a red-letter day.

Before the kick-off both teams were presented to Lord Derby, President of the Rugby Football League.

A MISNOMER

In the main the spectators hoped to see the home side end Warrington's unbroken record of successes and there the similarity with a Cup-tie ended.

In all codes there is a species of football known as "Cup-tie." In a Cup-tie the opposing teams, knowing that there can be no second chance, stake everything on winning at all legitimate costs. The result is often erratic, scrappy, nervous football, frequently producing shock results.

From the kick-off until the final whistle, both Warrington and Huddersfield played football that was thrilling to behold and fascinating in its scientific brilliance.

The game began with an opening gambit from Warrington, but a fine clearance by Hunter put the ball in the Warrington half, where it stayed for the greater part of the first half.

HUDDERSFIELD SET THE PACE
The Fartown side attacked with the

MY VERDICT

- Standard of Play—
The cream of Rugby League football in action.
- Man of the Match—
L. R. Francis (Warrington).
- Goal-kicking—
Good with lapses.
- Refereeing—
Few complaints.
- Behaviour of Spectators—
Good.
- Ground Arrangements—
Good. Some trouble with members over stand seats. (Subsequently announced that whole of stand will in future be reserved for members).
- Programmes—
A standard for other clubs.
- Opinion of the Match—
A big "Thank you!" to players, spectators and management.

fury of men inspired. The Warrington defence had the greatest difficulty in coping with the Huddersfield onslaught. The speed of the game was almost incredible in the first



ROY FRANCIS

twenty minutes and a succession of infringements by Warrington gave Devery a beautiful hat trick of goals. Cooper scored a magnificent try and to all this the League leaders only reply was a try by Johnson.

There was a lull for about five minutes in the middle of the first half and then the tempo increased to a point which would have made an ice hockey game seem slow.

Valentine and Robson were doing a splendid job while Devery and Pepperell engineered many excellent moves. Banks played well, although I have seen him play better.

Balance was the key-note of the Warrington side and among such a galaxy of talent it is difficult to single out anyone for special mention. To say that Francis, Helme, Pimblett and Bevan did magnificent work is true, but somehow also unfair to the other Warrington men, as it was certainly a case of every man being a hero in his own right.

Light rain had made a greasy playing surface and occasionally there was some bad handling on both sides. The pace never slackened and half-time came with a Huddersfield lead of six points and the more youthful of the home side's supporters, of course, had the game in the bag.

THE WARRINGTON ORGANISATION

With the resumption of play we had our first glimpse of the real Warrington — this "superb football machine" whose weekly performances are thrilling thousands of Rugby League enthusiasts.

Continued on Page 15

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

At Fartown, Huddersfield, on December 4th, 1948.

	G.	T.	Pts.		G.	T.	Pts.
HUDDERSFIELD	3	1	9	WARRINGTON	1	3	11
Attendance: 25,232.							

Teams:

Huddersfield:—J. C. H. Hunter; G. Wilson, I. W. Clark, P. Devery (Captain) and L. W. Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and W. M. Banks; J. L. Davies, A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, R. S. Robson, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Warrington:—L. Jones; B. Bevan, A. J. Pimblett, L. R. Francis and A. E. Johnson; G. J. Helme and W. J. Jackson; W. Derbyshire, H. H. Fishwick, J. Featherstone, A. H. Btah, J. Atherton and H. Palin (Captain).

Referee: G. S. Phillips, of Widnes.

Scorers:

Huddersfield.—Goals: Devery (3). Try: Cooper.
Warrington.—Goal: Palin. Tries: Johnson, Bevan, Francis.

Previous to this match Huddersfield had not met Warrington at Fartown since September 4th, 1935, when the Fartowners won 6—4.

TOUR PARADE No. 27 *Continued from Page 13*

Australia.—V. Bulgin; P. McMahon, L. Pegg, C. Maxwell (Captain) and J. Graves; J. Hawke, and W. Thompson; E. Brosnan, H.

Benton, D. Hall, N. Mulligan, F. De Belin and W. Tyquin.

Scorers.—Goals: Graves (3). **Tries:** Pegg, Maxwell, Hawke, Graves.

Referee: A. S. Dobson, of Pontefract.

Attendance: 10,760.
Receipts: £1,225.

28—CLEARING THE AIR

FOR the first time in the history of Rugby League Test Match football a game was cancelled on account of fog. This took place at Odsal Stadium, Bradford, on December 18th, 1948, when the third game of the present series was called off half an hour before it was due to start. Ironically the fog lifted a quarter of an hour later and at the advertised time of kick-off the Odsal bowl was clear of fog and the four corner flags could be seen.

A decision, of course, had to be made with many spectators waiting outside, and postponement appeared the obvious one. After discussion with the Australian managers the match was rearranged for January 29th, 1949, at Odsal Stadium. Tickets already purchased will be available for the new date.

On the Monday following the postponement contact was made with

Sir Arthur Elvin, chairman and managing director of Wembley Stadium, Limited, to see if the Stadium were available should the Tour Sub-Committee decide to stage the match in London. Inquiries were also made of the White City authorities. After a ninety minutes' discussion on December 23rd, the members of the Committee confirmed the arrangements made the previous Saturday, and decided to keep the match in the North.

"FAREWELL" DINNER

Although the third Test Match was "off" on December 18th, the postponement made no difference to the Farewell Dinner given to the Australians by the Rugby Football League, and held in the Griffin Hotel, Leeds. During the evening the tourists received the "Daily Mail" Rose Bowl Trophy for their victory over Wales, and Ernest Ward, captain of

the England team, was handed the "Ashes" Cup. The guests included Mr. J. M. Tully, the Agent-General for New South Wales in London, who proposed the toast of "The Rugby Football League." Mr. John Wilson, former secretary of the R.F.L., toasted "The Players," and both captains responded.

On December 20th the Australians left Leeds for London on the "Yorkshire Pullman," and after two days sight-seeing in London crossed to France to commence their tour, opening at Toulouse on Christmas Day.

Immediately after the second French Test Match the party will return to London, and present arrangements are for the whole of the players to travel to Bradford on Friday, January 28th, returning to London on Sunday, January 30th.

The "Kangaroos" will leave for Australia on the Stratheden on February 3rd, 1949.

MATCH OF THE MONTH

Continued from Page 5

The Warrington organisation—that the attack and from then onwards best describes the team—moved into dominated the game. Now, make no mistake, Huddersfield did not crack up. On the contrary they played sound, clever football right up to the end. Yet in certain respects they were inferior to the Lancashire team. In the scrums, for example, Warrington got possession about 3—1. More-over Warrington's tackling is deadly—so much so, in fact, that it seems a miracle a try is ever scored against them! Almost all the Fartown "stars" made heroic attempts to go over but time and again were frustrated.

THE WONDER TRY

A good move begun by Johnson enabled Bevan to go over and reduce the Fartowners' lead. On the Huddersfield boulevards that night it was more than whispered that Bevan scored from a forward pass.

Two minutes later came the supreme thrill of the match. Francis, who had been a little uneasy in the first half but who had atoned wonderfully by his brilliance in the second, scored a try that will never be forgotten by those who saw it. From a point near the half-way line he made a dash up to the centre of the field, fanned out to the wing, passed the "dummy" in a manner which deceived players and spectators alike, and ran over to touch down near the posts.

A spontaneous burst of cheering arose from the crowd naturally consisting mostly of Huddersfield supporters. The further round of applause which accompanied Francis back to his own half demonstrated how much his prodigious effort was appreciated by true followers of the code. Palin, who previously had been kicking indifferently, made certain of converting, and gave Warrington the lead.

To the disappointment of all the

Fartown supporters, Devery, who had previously kicked like a hero, failed with an easy shot at goal from a penalty.

Francis, despite a tendency to stretch the off-side rule to the limit, played a wonderful game to the end.

Referee George Phillips thoroughly deserved his two ovations—one at half-time and the other at the end of the game. If he erred at all it was in regard to both hookers, whom he cautioned but afterwards allowed to continue with their old tricks.

To sum up, Huddersfield lost because they were not quite good enough. They played good football but were out-played; they played clever football but were out-classed. Warrington are in no false position. They are at the top of the League because they deserve to be there. They play a good, open, scientific and robust game and they play it clean. It will be a good side indeed which deprives Warrington of the highest honours this season.

3. Names listed in Class C to act as reserves to Class B referees and to be eligible to replace any Class B referee showing a loss of form. When not called upon for Senior Competition games, these members to be given every opportunity to act as referees in Junior League games each week, thereby giving them continuous experience as referees.

4. Linesmen for first team games to be selected from older referees who will in all probability not be called

upon to act as referees on account of age, but whose experience would be invaluable as touch judges. Other referees whose progress as referees appear to have ceased on account of inability to put their knowledge of the game to full account with the whistle, but whose knowledge would be quite sufficient to act as linesmen, also to be included.

5. Linesmen for Senior Competition matches to be selected from younger referees entering the game.

These members also to be given every encouragement to officiate in Junior Rugby League games in their local leagues.

6. All referees at present listed but considered too old or who have not attained the standard required as referees, to be notified and informed that their future requirements would be as touch judges only. They would have ample opportunity to resign and make way for younger members should they wish to do so.

Matches of the Month

Continued from Page 5
went over and Ward made no mistake in converting. Warrington were now definitely on top but their luck was dead out. When a try seemed hundred per cent. certain, Featherstone went down a mere inch or so from the line.

Despite the fact that I had to sit on the floor of the Press box, apparently to make room for spectators who prefer the vantage point of Press seats, I thoroughly enjoyed a good, clean game worthy of the League leaders and their immediate challengers

VETERAN WRITER'S TRIBUTE

A FOOTNOTE BY
G. A. BROOKING

Our Liverpool Representative.

I HAVE watched all codes of Rugby for over sixty years—and names like Jim and Bob Valentine, Billy Batten, the brothers James, Jack

Fish, Harold Wagstaff, Alf Ellaby, Jim Sullivan among others come to memory—yet I cannot recall any game with more thrills and excitement than the recent one at Wilderspool, when Wigan mastered Warrington.

Candidly, I thought Warrington were a trifle unlucky to lose in a match the result of which was definitely doubtful until Referee Phillips piped no-side. It was hard lines that they should lose the services of Derbyshire with a fractured collar-bone midway through the second half. Recollect that the "Wire" were leading by 4-3 before then, and the result was anybody's game.

Wigan won because they took their chances—one must accept these in the game of life and on the field. That is a maxim which cannot be ignored. The forwards on both sides were simply magnificent, working at super-top-pressure during the whole eighty minutes, and all the players doubtless realised afterwards what a strenuous match they had taken part in.

THE TEST OF GREATNESS

There was nothing more spectacular than the well-judged dropped goal by Jones ten minutes after the interval; a capital effort which gave Warrington the lead for the first time. Try as Wigan would, they could not penetrate the Warrington defence, and they were working at full speed, with their great skill and guile, all strained to the uttermost, but to no avail, for the homesters were a consolidated, cohesive, Rock of Gibraltar.

Yet, fifteen minutes before the end, Wigan showed what a wonder team they are. Ratcliffe's guileful run, ere he handed on to Barton, the last named transferring to Ashcroft, who romped by the posts for a try, which Ward converted. The Wigan centres, Ted Ward and Ashcroft, were superior to Pimblett and Francis, but I admired the tackling of the latter, who invariably downs his man. The elusive Brian Bevan had no real chance all through the game, being completely hemmed in when the ball came his way.

MATCHES OF THE MONTH—2

By VINCENT FIRTH

The Epic of Jim Stott

Huddersfield Routed in Thrilling Game

IF St. Helens consider McCormick to be worth £4,000 to them, what value, I wonder, do they place on their captain, Jim Stott, who not only showed us all the ways there are of getting points but also gave an object lesson in sound generalship? For one player to score seventeen points is no mean feat at any time, but to do this against a team like Huddersfield is a mighty achievement indeed.

There was bright sunshine for this game at Knowsley Road, but the playing area, suggested recent battles in

mud as there was little grass to be seen except at the two extremities. In view of its importance to both clubs, I expected a far bigger crowd than the 23,000 present.

The game opened in exhibition fashion, with some nice passing movements on both sides and almost "polite" pressure by the Saints but not of a very dangerous variety. It was obvious the teams were merely getting each other's measure and soon the Saints were warming-up to the attack. For about fifteen minutes

Huddersfield were kept busy repelling a quick succession of fierce raids by St. Helens and then, taking advantage of a short "breather," the Fartowners did a spot of attacking on their own account.

FIRST BLOOD TO FARTOWN

Less than a minute after Devery had missed with a penalty, Reid opened the scoring with a really grand drop-kick at goal. The Huddersfield lead was short-lived, however, as J. Stott equalised from a penalty two minutes later.

There were thrills in plenty after the first half-hour, with play being concentrated almost on the Fartown line for nearly five minutes. J. Stott missed a penalty from a rather easy angle but was successful a few minutes later with a more difficult shot.

Despite one or two mistakes, Hunter worked very hard and several brilliant moves earned him the plaudits of the crowd. Kenny put in some valuable work for the Saints. The general run of play in the first half definitely favoured St. Helens and half-time saw them still pressing grimly.

"SAINTS" IN ACTION

The resumption of play brought renewed attacks by St. Helens and their overall superiority was soon apparent. J. Stott dropped a delightful goal and followed it up by a penalty goal shortly afterwards.

Perhaps Huddersfield's best effort was when Cooper accepted a pass from Daly and made a fine dash for the St. Helens line only to be well

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE
At Knowsley Road, St. Helens, on January 29th, 1949.

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.
ST. HELENS ...	7 2 20	HUDDERSFIELD ...	1 0 2
Attendance: 23,000.			

Teams:

St. Helens.—J. Lowe; L. Kenny, T. Stott, J. Stott (Captain) and D. Greenall; J. Honey and J. Ball; W. Norris, R. Blakemore, Jones, G. Parsons; J. Dixon and A. Prescott.

Huddersfield.—J. C. H. Hunter; G. Wilson, J. Bawden, P. Reid and L. W. Cooper; P. Devery (Captain) and W. M. Banks; J. L. Davies, S. Lightfoot, J. C. Daly, G. Hughes, A. M. Meek and I. A. Owens.

Referee: S. Adams, of Hull.

Scorers:

St. Helens.—Goals: J. Stott (7). Tries: J. Stott, Greenall.
Huddersfield.—Goal: Reid.

tackled by Lowe when almost over. The Fartowners were never again really dangerous. Their game certainly deteriorated from this point and although it cannot be said that Huddersfield cracked up, the fact remains that Jim Stott could not be prevented from doing exactly as he pleased, piling up points with easy nonchalance. Another dropped goal, another penalty goal, a try from a beautifully intercepted pass and two "conversions"—all this while Huddersfield, players and spectators alike, looked on in bewilderment.

The only St. Helens scorer, besides J. Stott was Greenall who, deputising for McCormick, scored a brilliant try in quite the best solo effort of the afternoon. Greenall played a sound game throughout and proved himself a most able deputy for the St. Helens "star" winger.

With the game all over bar the shouting—and shouting there was in large measure—Huddersfield made a belated rally through the agency of Wilson who, though limping badly, made a spirited dash until successfully halted by Kenny.

I was particularly impressed with the sound refereeing of Mr. S. Adams.

who kept the game on the move and insisted on "good behaviour in the scrums."

The Saints were particularly well served by Kenny, J. Stott, Greenall, Honey, Jones and Prescott. The best of the Fartown side were Hunter, Cooper, Reid and Owens.

FARTOWN'S WEAKNESS

Huddersfield lost because they lacked penetrative ability. Their mid-field work was superb—perhaps even better than that of the Saints—but all their movements lacked finish. Fartown have a reputation for open-style play but there is no point in making a fetish of it. Other teams are getting wise to these methods and are finding ways of countering. Pretty to watch from the grand stand, Fartown, but only points will get you into the "top four."

Sheer merit alone gave St. Helens the victory. There was not the smallest element of luck, either good for St. Helens or bad for Huddersfield.

Although the score seems to indicate the contrary, the teams were not unevenly balanced. St. Helens seized every opportunity while Huddersfield had no "line tactics" worthy of the name and all their brilliant

manoeuvring went for nothing. **Three words sum up the match: it was good, clean and clever.**

MY VERDICT

Standard of Play—
St. Helens: Excellent.
Huddersfield: Good, but lacking in penetration.
Man of the Match—
J. Stott (St. Helens).
Goal-kicking—
Superb.
Refereeing—
Very good and without ostentation.
Behaviour of Spectators—
Good humoured (look at the score!).
Ground Arrangements—
All was well.
Programmes—
Good and plentiful.
Opinion of Match—
Better finishing by Huddersfield would have made the game a classic.



HUDDERSFIELD RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAM, SEASON 1948-49.

Left to Right.

Back Row.—J. L. Davies, R. Nicholson, J. C. Daly, G. V. Hughes, S. Lightfoot, A. M. Meek, D. D. Valentine, A. Ferguson.

Front Row.—L. W. Cooper, P. Reid (transferred to Halifax), J. Bawden (Acting Captain), G. R. Pepperell, G. Wilson.

In Front.—W. M. Banks, J. C. H. Hunter.

P. Devery (Captain) absent. I. A. Owens signed January 18th, 1949.

Picture by "Rugby League Review" cameraman R. A. Clayborn.

R.L. CUP SEMI-FINAL ROUND-UP

BARROW ARE CONFIDENT

By TOM CLARK ("North-Western Evening Mail")

WHEN the result of the draw for the semi-finals of the Cup Competition became known at Barrow on the afternoon of Monday, March 21st, it could not be claimed there was no jubilation. The general opinion is the club could have hoped for no better pairing than that with Bradford Northern at Station Road, Swinton.

The popular fancy is Barrow v. Huddersfield for the Cup Final, and seeing that luck has run with the Lancashire side this year such a final is not too much for which to hope.

Mr. John Atkinson, chairman of the Barrow club, told me on hearing

the draw: "It is a reasonable draw. We have not met Bradford this season but we know very well that when we have met them we have always given them a good game, just as they have given us a good one."

"I think we are on the road to Wembley. If we play anything like the football we played on Saturday I don't think there is much doubt about that. We have team spirit and I think we have a team fit to play any of them."

So do I. The performance against Wigan stamped Barrow as a remarkable side, for where is the team that can give such redoubtable opponents

a seven points lead and then turn round and beat them?

Never was there a time when confidence was so high at Barrow. I spoke to a supporter of forty years' standing about the draw. "It couldn't be better", he commented.

Fred Wildman, former Barrow and Lancashire County full-back of years ago and now living in retirement at Kendal, is another whose belief in his old club is unshakable. He is confident that it is Wembley this year, and Fred, at seventy-five, journeys regularly from Kendal to watch his favourites.

Whatever the result at Swinton I think I can promise this. It will be a keenly contested issue with plenty of good football. Barrow have reached the stage where every ounce will count. I think they will give just that—every ounce and every bit of their gallant spirit that has meant so much.

THE CUP SEMI-FINALS—APRIL 2nd, 1949

Barrow v. Bradford Northern, at Station Road, Swinton.

Referee: A. S. Dobson, of Pontefract

Halifax v. Huddersfield, at Odsal Stadium, Bradford.

Referee: G. S. Phillips, of Widnes.

SO ARE HUDDERSFIELD!

By THE EDITOR (Stanley Chadwick)

FARTOWNERS returned home from Headingley after the third round with visions of the Cup already occupying a place of honour in their pavilion. Even the prospect of engaging Bradford Northern in the semi-final did not damp their enthusiasm for was not this bogey laid at Odsal last November? Now that the team has to meet Halifax there is more confidence among members than there has been at any time during the three succeeding rounds.

In a way this has been a strange season for the Claret and Gold. Their first home match against Wigan was undoubtedly the finest game of Rugby League football ever seen at Fartown. On this day's form there was no team in the world to beat them. The clouds gathered after the clash with the Australian tourists and the second round Yorkshire Challenge Cup game against Bradford Northern with only a Sunday intervening.

First team men had spells off duty and the balance of the side was upset. Not that the reserves played badly, but as yet several are not fully matur-

ed. Slowly the team got back its old look and although playing good football the other side got the points. Against Warrington (home) and Wigan (away) the lead was taken in the first half and then lost, although against Wigan on New Year's Day Robson's injury made all the difference.

Came the Cup and a home defeat by Rochdale Hornets, although the team did make amends the following week. Against Workington Town Risman's failure to kick goals proved a blessing. But at Headingley the players displayed a very different spirit, and if not quite up to their early season form they are rapidly approaching it.

Halifax are now a much improved team to the one so decisively beaten at Fartown on Christmas Day, but all who watched them at Watersheddings in the third round will agree they have not the Wembley look. Take it from me, however, Huddersfield will not make the mistake of underrating the quality of their opponents in this semi-final.

The Huddersfield "stars" will

four cups in one season will be prized in many a home. Originally it had been intended to link Swinton's feat with the Wigan team's chance of the same honour during the present season. Alas for our paragraph and Wigan's hopes. The last time the four cups were won by a team in one season was in 1927-28, but with

certainly scintillate at Odsal. First, the three Australians—popular Johnny Hunter, grand and oft-times spectacular full-back; Lionel Cooper, the fastest winger in the game to-day; and Pat Devery, captain and strategist with few equals. Then there is Jeff Bawden, happily back to form with his goal-kicking, and Jock Anderson, "The Flying Scot," whose spell in the second team has worked wonders.

Little Billy Banks and versatile Russell Pepperell are a formidable pair at half-back. The forwards can all be depended upon to do their job. What team has the equal of Davies (seven times Glamorgan R.U.), Meek (long service Halifax player), Daly (Irish international), I. A. Owens (Leeds, Castleford and 1946 Australasian tourist, Nicholson and Valentine (both Test Match players). The whole trained by Alec Fiddes, former Huddersfield Cup captain.

When Hull won the Cup in 1914 they were captained by an Australian in H. Gilbert. The war-time finals of 1941 and 1942 had Vic Hey as captain of the successful Leeds sides. Now Huddersfield believes Pat Devery will be the third Australian to receive the Cup on May 7th, when the Claret and Gold hope to equal Leeds record of winning the Cup for the sixth time.

play becoming more intense every season, it may never be accomplished again. However, at the time of writing Bradford Northern may emulate another Swinton record of playing in three consecutive R.L. Challenge Cup Finals, and also have the same good fortune to be winners twice.

Continued from page 4

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH

THE "Spotlight" series of articles on the clubs forming the Northern Rugby Football League are popular with most readers, and the interesting photograph on our front cover of the men who helped Swinton to win all

Matches of the Month

Continued from previous page
ley brought off a particularly good tackle at the expense of Mountford.

WILLIE'S WINNING KICK

Now Hudson came charging through but the home pack stuck to their guns grimly and held their ground. In fact they had the time of their lives and Oxley, a comparatively recent introduction to the first team, gave one of his best displays. Barrow swept back and Wigan were penalised. Could Horne, who had missed with five goal kicks, land the winning goal? You could sense the Barrow excitement, but Willie made no mistake and his side were through.

After that there was no doubt about the issue. Wigan had been worn down and completely outplayed. Sportingly their directors admitted afterwards that they had gone down to a better team—and so they had.

Cunliffe is a good reserve to Ryan, but I was not impressed by any of the visiting three-quarters except Nordgren. Mountford, of course, is a good 'un, but Horne was better. Of the forwards, Hudson was about the best.

We saw little of Slevin, but then, it was not their day.

Barrow's men were Horne, Lewthwaite and Grainger, with Toohey,

Longley and Longman deserving credit. It was a game that will live long in Rugby League minds, cleanly fought and a real thriller.

THE RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION THIRD ROUND

At Craven Park, Barrow, on March 19th, 1949

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.
BARROW ...	1 2 8	WIGAN ...	2 1 7

Attendance : 21,382.

Receipts : £1,694 2s. 6d.

Receipts a record for the Barrow ground.

Teams :

BARROW.—Spooner ; J. Lewthwaite, J. Parker, A. Longley and Trelore ; W. Horne (Captain) and A. E. Toohey ; Longman, Woods, J. Grainger, R. Ayres, Oxley and Atkinson.

WIGAN.—J. Cunliffe ; B. C. Nordgren, E. H. Ward, G. W. Ratcliffe and J. H. Lawrenson ; C. R. Mountford and J. J. Alty ; K. Gee, J. Egan (Captain), Slevin, F. Barton, L. White and W. Hudson.

Referee : M. Coates, of Pudsey.

Scorers :

Barrow.—Goal : Horne. Tries : Lewthwaite (2).

Wigan.—Goals : Ward (2). Try : Mountford.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE FINAL

Huddersfield in Grand Form

By "D'ARTAGNAN"

THE battle for "honours" in this Headingley Cup-tie started three-quarters of an hour before the scheduled time of kick-off! It began at 2-15 p.m. in the South Stand schoolboys' "pen" where a claret and gold bedecked band of Huddersfield youngsters with banners and rattles were making their presence known to all and sundry. Their Leeds rivals in the schoolboy section opened up a fusillade with orange peel (which was returned with interest) and this miniature warfare went on throughout the curtain raiser match and only ceased when the combatants turned to cheer their respective teams on to the field.

As to who came out on top among the schoolboys I would not like to say, but there was no doubt long before the final whistle that Huddersfield were going forward into the Semi-Final. Leeds can claim they were a man short for most of the game and that T. L. Williams and Jenkins were limping in the second half, but the fact remains Huddersfield had established their superiority before these happenings.

The Fartown back play in the first quarter had a zest that boded ill for the opposition, and it was fortunate for Leeds their defence, with Cook and Bartlett outstanding, was on a

higher level than their attack. Typical of the Huddersfield spirit were the resultant moves from two penalty attempts by Cook. On each occasion the Leeds full-back was wide with his attempt, and on each occasion Huddersfield ran the ball out and took it the length of the field to the Leeds line by quick passing and speedy running. Great football, and proof positive that the best defence is attack.

Let it not be thought that Leeds submitted tamely. Far from it. The first half was a ding-dong affair and although Leeds seemed to realise the hopelessness of their position when Huddersfield crossed twice in the first fifteen minutes after the interval, they never gave up trying! In one rally T. L. Williams crossed after the whistle had gone, Kearney was pulled down almost under the posts, and Verrenkamp was hurled into touch

Continued on page 2

THE RUGBY LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP COMPETITION THIRD ROUND

At Headingley, Leeds, on March 19th, 1949

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.
LEEDS ...	3 1 9	HUDDERSFIELD ...	4 4 20

Attendance : 37,000.

Receipts : £4,838 5s. 0d.

Teams :

LEEDS.—H. E. Cook ; A. Turnbull, R. Bartlett, T. L. Williams and E. Verrenkamp ; R. Williams and D. Jenkins (Captain) ; R. McMaster, K. Kearney, G. Gronow, A. Clues, D. Murphy and D. Clarkson.

HUDDERSFIELD.—J. C. H. Hunter ; J. Anderson, J. Bawden, P. C. Devery (Captain) and L. W. Cooper ; G. R. Pepperell and W. M. Banks ; J. L. Davies, A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, I. A. Owens, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Referee : C. F. Appleton, of Warrington.

Scorers :

Leeds.—Goals : Cook (3). Try : Jenkins.

Huddersfield.—Goals : Bawden (4). Tries : Cooper, Valentine, Devery, Anderson.

RUGBY LEAGUE CUP FINAL

WEMBLEY STADIUM

SATURDAY, MAY 7th

Organisers of Parties are requested to apply to the following for particulars of the Rail Travel arrangements to LONDON in connection with this event.

District Commercial Superintendent, Central Station, BARROW. Tele. 1445.

District Passenger Manager, City Station, LEEDS. Tele. 31711 Ext. 265.

" " " 64, Wellington Street, LEEDS. Tele. 31711 Ext. 395.

" " " Lime Street Station, LIVERPOOL. Tele. Royal 8292 Ext. 29.

" " " Hunts Bank, MANCHESTER. Tele. Blackfriars 3456 Ext. 242.

" " " London Road Station, MANCHESTER. Tele. Central 0941 Ext. 4.

" " " York Station, YORK. Tele. 2001 Ext. 396.

BRITISH RAILWAYS

SPOTLIGHT ON SWINTON

Continued from page 12
FACING THE FUTURE.

The Chorley Road ground (since 1887 the venue of the club's home engagements) was vacated when the present spacious enclosure was opened at Station Road on March 2nd, 1929, and on January 4th, 1930, a record attendance for a Test Match in England was established.

An intelligent and devoted management has conducted the Swinton club since its inception, and before and after the turn of the century there have been able successors to those who were in office up to the time of Joe Mills's presidency. In their respective years there was much to be credited to such men as A. Woodhead, T. Worthington, A. Stringfellow, J. Tonge, G. Peel and others, and notably to J. W. Scholes, C. Platt and E. W. Worsley, with a special recognition of the long secretaryship of Sam Jones.

The present officials have entered upon the task of rebuilding the team after the war-time interruption. With near-by resources encouraged, and outside material found and still to be sought, there are sound hopes of another full resuscitation of the "Lions" strength. Assuredly, those concerned can find all the required inspiration in the achievements of the past wearers of the dark blue jerseys.

MATCHES OF THE MONTH

Continued from page 10

at the corner by Hunter just as he was reaching out to ground the ball for a try.

Finally, a minute from time, Jenkins got a consolation try which Cook goaled to make the score look more presentable from the Leeds point of view. "Incidents" were few and Gronow, the Leeds forward, received immediate marching orders for the most glaring one—an attempted trip on Cooper.

HE'S EARNED HIS PLACE

The "Man of the Match" was Russell Pepperell, Huddersfield's Cumbrian utility player who is now occupying the stand-off half position. It has been Pepperell's onerous duty to be in attendance at this season's Tests and Internationals as "reserve to travel." On his showing in this match the selectors might have employed him to better advantage on the field of play. Leeds could do little with these up-the-middle runs of his, and altogether he gave Dicky Williams an unhappy afternoon whether on the defence or attack.

Among the forwards Owens stood out. Leeds people have seen "Ike" play some great games at Headingley and he added another one to the list.

Fortune may be said to have favoured Huddersfield in their survival of the first two Cup rounds but they owed nothing to Dame Fortune for their victory at Leeds. They were the faster and cleverer side and won by the open passing game which has been the tradition at Fartown since Wagstaff's day and which will always bring the crowds flocking through the turnstiles.

As a game this was good enough for Wembley. We shall, indeed, count ourselves fortunate if we see as much skill displayed on Cup Final Day.

APRIL

'Rugby League Review'

on Sale

APRIL 11th

Full Cup Semi-Final Reports,
Contributions by A. J. Risman, Tom
Reynolds, Eddie Waring, and others.

THE SEASON'S GRAND FINALE

HUDDERSFIELD AND WARRINGTON IN RUGBY LEAGUE CLASSIC

By VINCENT FIRTH.

"If this match could only have been played at Wembley!" This cry was echoed by everyone who had been present at the Challenge Cup Final and who were also at Maine Road to see the greatest game of the present season—and possibly a good number of past seasons into the bargain. It was indeed a tragedy, because a game like this played in London would silence Rugby League's Southern critics for all time.

For fast open play, brilliant passing movements, resolute and skilful defensive play, dazzling opportunism and—above all—grand sportsmanship by both teams, this game was far more than a great football match—it was an experience calculated to make anyone, however humbly connected with Rugby League, intensely proud of his or her association with the finest sport of our day.

Who won or lost doesn't really matter. It is true that Huddersfield took the Cup back with them to Yorkshire but Warrington covered themselves with glory and demonstrated a never-say-die spirit which in itself was an inspiration.

EARLY HITCHES

But everything did not go quite as well as we might have wished. In the first place far too many spectators were allowed to enter the ground with the result that large numbers of them saw little or nothing of the game. We must not let our natural eagerness to break long established records blind us to what is right and proper.

The second hitch was perhaps even more serious. Due to some misunderstanding of which we hope to hear more later, Mr. F. Smith, of Barrow, who was to referee the game, failed to turn up and his place was taken by Mr. M. Coates, of Pudsey, who had been chosen as a touch judge. While one must, in fairness, make due allowance for anyone being called upon at the last moment, I do not think Mr. Coates has had the necessary experience to referee a match of the magnitude of the League Championship Final. Some of his decisions—especially the one touching Warrington's first try—were very debatable, while the closing stages of the game clearly showed the need of a firmer hand.

The game opened with strong pressure from the Fartowners. Owens and Hunter were soon prom-

inent. Cooper picked up a loose ball and to Huddersfield supporters' cries of "Cooper's away!", ran swiftly, kicked through and caught the ball on the bounce but was well tackled by Jones a yard or so from the line. There was grand work by Ferguson, Valentine and Anderson, and it seemed likely that the "Wire's" defence would be penetrated any moment.

The game was nearly ten minutes old before the combined efforts of Bath, Featherstone and Helme enabled Warrington to pay a very brief visit into the Fartown territory. Play quickly returned to the Warrington half, however, and a Francis blunder paved the way for Valentine to get the ball and send Daly over between the posts. Devery converted.

WARRINGTON'S STOUT DEFENCE

If Warrington were out-played in the first half—and they were out-played—let it be said that so fierce and skilful was the Fartowners' attack that almost any other team in the League would have been an astronomical number of points in arrears before half-time. Huddersfield were kept at bay by the "Wire's" superb defence. Jones, Fleming and Helme put in some lovely work.

Warrington made several determined raids on the Fartown line but Huddersfield's defence was as good as their attack, the versatile Hunter lending a hand in both departments as the occasion demanded.

Then came one of those splendid Cooper tries which cannot be seen too often. Banks got the ball to begin a fine passing movement with Devery. The Huddersfield captain, who always seems to know by instinct where Cooper is, gave him the ball at the right moment and the great winger ended his season's record with a grand flourish.

As the teams left the field at half-time I could not help recalling that when Warrington met Huddersfield at Fartown last December they were, as now, badly in arrears at the interval and then went on to win. Would history repeat itself? It very nearly did!

WARRINGTON'S FINE RALLY

It was an obviously much improved Warrington team that we saw on the resumption. Great work came from Jackson and Pimblett and then there was a glorious length-of-the-field dash by Bevan which had the misfortune to end in a dropped pass by Francis.

Then came Devery's try from a kick by Anderson. The Huddersfield captain gathered the ball and with no Warrington player near him ran forty yards to touch down. He also added the extra points.

Palin registered Warrington's first points with a good penalty goal, but was subsequently carried off the field injured. The "Wire's" cause indeed seemed lost but seven minutes from the end came as dramatic a

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THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

At Maine Road, Manchester, on Saturday, May 14th, 1949

	G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.
HUDDERSFIELD ...	2 3 13	WARRINGTON ...	3 2 12
Attendance: 75,194.		Receipts: £11,073.	

(Attendance and Receipts a record for the Northern Rugby League Championship Final.)

Teams:

HUDDERSFIELD.—J. C. H. Hunter; J. Anderson, A. Ferguson, P. C. Devery (Captain) and L. W. Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and W. M. Banks; M. J. Maiden, A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, I. A. Owens, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

WARRINGTON.—L. Jones; B. Bevan, A. J. Pimblett, W. Jackson and R. L. Francis; J. Fleming and G. J. Helme; W. Derbyshire, H. H. Fishwick, W. Riley, H. Bath, J. J. Featherstone and H. Palin (Captain).

Referee: M. Coates, of Pudsey (deputising for F. Smith, of Barrow-in-Furness).

Scorers:

Huddersfield.—Goals: Devery (2). Tries: Daly, Cooper, Devery.
Warrington.—Goals: Palin, Bath (2). Tries: Francis, Jackson.

IT HAPPENED AT MAINE ROAD

Unusual Goal at League Final

BUT THE REF. WAS ON THE SPOT

By TOM REYNOLDS, of the "Daily Herald"

THE second of Mr. Reynolds's new series on actual match incidents which have set posers for both referee and spectators.

ON Page 197 of the Rugby Football League Official Guide the final result of the Northern Rugby Football League Championship for season 1947-48 gives Warrington as the winners (for the first time), with Bradford Northern runners-up. Score: Warrington 15 points, Bradford Northern 5 points. Of the 69,143 people who watched that match at least one-third still contend that the score was 15 points to 3 points, not 15-5. Few Warringtonians will admit now that a goal kicked by Ernest Ward, which "didn't go through" as far as they were concerned, was a goal.

If you were not there, what is your ruling on the facts, as they occurred? When the ball left Ward's foot, as he endeavoured to convert a try, it took a high and curving trajectory, seem-

ingly across the front of the posts. While it was still up aloft Mr. Dobson signalled a goal. His hand was still raised when the ball hit the upright, then dropped back into play almost at his feet, and Yorkshire's ace referee was left to face the inquest.

IN RIGHT POSITION TO JUDGE

Warrington players caught Mr. Dobson's arm, and pointed to the ball, lying in the field of play. "It couldn't be a goal." Bradford supporters laughed, and quoted: "The referee can't change his decision." Neutrals were unanimous, that the referee had blundered; except, of course, the few who knew their rules.

Because Mr. Dobson was practically under the bar when the ball came sailing across he was able to say that

it came into goal, passing through the posts, before it was blown back again into play by a veering wind. A ball that comes through, above the bar, and is blown out again by the wind, registers a goal, provided it has been properly kicked from the open side.

Warrington followers had some excuse for their doubts. At Wilderspool some years ago, in a very wild and gusty Easter tide, one of their players dropped a goal, at the scoreboard end. Ball went straight in, then straight up in the gale, looped the loop and came back to the pitch between the "25" line and half-way. "Play on," signalled the referee. Which was, of course, very naughty of him! It should have been a goal.

THIS IS THE LAW

34. A Goal is obtained by kicking the ball from the field of play over the opponents' cross-bar, whether it touches the cross-bar or the goal-posts or not, except from a punt, a kick-off, a drop-out, or a free-kick.

Note to Law 34.—If the ball has gone over the cross-bar, and is then blown back, it is a goal.

League Championship Final Report

Continued from page 10

finish as could be imagined.

There was a scramble at the corner in which many players were involved and finally Francis was awarded a try that was hotly disputed. However, it gave Bath an opportunity to kick a beautiful goal from near the touch line.

Two minutes later Fleming and Francis engineered a stylish movement and Jackson was able to go over for Bath to convert again. The "Wire" were now only one point behind but time was against them. Huddersfield were obviously anxious and played a close defensive game in the last two minutes. The final blast of the whistle brought relief to Huddersfield, players and spectators alike.

Warrington lost because they were too late in finding their true form. Their handling mistakes in the first half presented opportunities which Huddersfield were quick to seize and profit by. While there can be no doubt that the best team won, Warrington were better stayers and after the game seemed to be in better shape than the tired Fartowners.

But it was a wonderful game, a classic in the highest sense and reflecting great credit on victors and vanquished alike. Roll on season 1949-50!

MY VERDICT

Standard of Play—
Of the very highest.

Man of the Match—
P. C. Devery (Huddersfield).

Goal-kicking—
Excellent.

Refereeing—
Not very convincing but circumstances extraordinary.

Behaviour of Spectators—
Could not have been better.

Ground arrangements—
Shocking. Hundreds left at the interval not having been able to see anything of the game.

Programmes—
Good, but inaccurate with records.

Opinion of the Match—
A grand event to crown an eventful season.

HUDDERSFIELD'S RECORD

In the Play-off for the Championship of the Northern Rugby Football League

	Winners		Pts.	Venue
	Hudd.	Opp.		
1912 Semi-F.	Hudd. 27	Huns't 3	Hudd.	
Final	Hudd. 13	Wigan 5	Halifax	
(Hudd. finished first in League table ; Wigan second).				
1913 Semi-F.	Hudd. 30	D'bury 3	Hudd.	
Final	Hudd. 29	Wigan 2	W'field.	
(Hudd. finished first in League table ; Wigan second).				
1915 Semi-F.	Hudd. 33	R'dle H. 2	Hudd.	
Final	Hudd. 35	Leeds 2	W'field.	
(Hudd. finished first in League table ; Leeds third).				
1929 Semi-F.	Hudd. 13	Salf'd 5	Hudd.	
Final	Hudd. 2	Leeds 0	Halifax.	
(Hudd. finished first in League table ; Leeds third).				
1930 Semi-F.	Hudd. 15	Salf'd 10	Hudd.	
Final	Hudd. 2	Leeds 2	W'field.	
(Repl'y)	Hudd. 10	Leeds 0	Halifax.	
(Hudd. finished second in League table ; Leeds fourth).				
1949 Semi-F.	Hudd. 14	Wigan 5	Wigan.	
Final	Hudd. 13	Warr'n 12	Maine Rd. M/c.	
(Hudd. finished third in League table ; Warrington first).				

Huddersfield and Wigan have both won the Championship six times and been runners-up five times.

The present method of deciding the Championship was instituted in season 1906-07.

MATCH OF THE MONTH

The Greatness of Devery

WIGAN OUTCLASSED IN LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL

By VINCENT FIRTH

WINNING the toss was almost the only advantage Wigan had over Huddersfield in the League Semi-Final at Central Park. Meek out-hooked Egan; the mighty thrusts of the Wigan forwards were ably resisted; the great Cecil Mountford was effectively kept in check by Russell Pepperell; the Fartown three-quarters were immeasurably superior to their opposite numbers; and Cunliffe's effort was not to be compared with the scintillating display of Hunter.

DULL FIRST HALF

To say that the first half was disappointing is to be guilty of an under-statement. It was the most uninspiring and humdrum forty minutes of football I have seen for quite a time. There were, of course, moments when it seemed likely that something might develop, but these brief interludes only served to emphasise the general bankruptcy of ideas in both teams.

Hunter gained possession from Banks and provided a thrill when he almost sent Cooper over. Bawden opened the scoring with a penalty goal after ten minutes. Hudson and Alty made individual assaults on the Huddersfield line but on both occasions the situation was saved by Devery.

After seventeen minutes Ward astonished everybody by missing a penalty almost opposite the posts but was successful a minute later. Bawden failed to gather a bad pass and Ward cut in to score Wigan's only try which he was unable to prove.

From a penalty for off-side Devery very narrowly missed from near the half-way line. Nicholson broke through but was brought down within two yards of the line. When the teams left the field at the interval the huge crowd was comparatively silent which alone demonstrated the quality of football served up to them.

RENAISSANCE!

It seems almost unbelievable that after so desultory an opening, the two teams could proceed to give one of the most exciting, thrilling and brilliantly skilful displays of the season.

The Fartown line was soon in danger when there was a concerted attack by the Wigan forwards. The Huddersfield defence proved impreg-

nable, however, and Cooper made a characteristic fifty-yard dash, neatly side-stepping three opponents until he was successfully tackled by Nordgren.

A minute later, from a kick by Meek which bounced awkwardly. Devery got the ball and with perfect understanding Cooper moved in-field to be there at the vital moment to receive Devery's pass and cross the line. Bawden failed to convert and the scores were even. There was some speculation around me as to what was to happen in the event of a draw but Huddersfield's superiority was by now so apparent that they would have been very unlucky to do anything but win.

Bawden put Huddersfield ahead when he kicked a good penalty goal after Ward had failed badly himself with a penalty kick. A minute later Ward failed to equalise when he was given another opportunity at a penalty.

A CAPTAIN'S ROLE

The Fartowners owed most of their success to the matchless generalship of their captain, Pat Devery. His was the guiding hand that piloted his side to victory. Even in the first half his patience and skill in getting the team under weigh was very obvious, while the second half showed Devery for what he is, one of the finest—aye, the finest centre three-quarter in Rugby League football to-day.



PAT DEVERY

When it became evident that Wigan's forward line tactics were not paying very good dividends, Mountford tried all he knew (and that is a considerable amount) to force an opening. Eventually he did manage to elude his shadow, Pepperell, and made an almost successful attempt at the line. This was Wigan's last effort to gain the mastery.

High drama came nearly at the end when Mountford dropped a pass. Pepperell was in like a flash of light and with no Wigan player to oppose him sped on for a touch down between the posts which enabled Devery easily to convert. There was an in-

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THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP Semi-Final

At Central Park, Wigan, on April 30th, 1949

G. T. Pts.		G. T. Pts.	
WIGAN ...	1 1 5	HUDDERSFIELD ...	4 2 14

Attendance: 43,700. Receipts: £4,961 15s. 6d.
Attendance and Receipts a record for the ground

Teams:

WIGAN.—J. Cunliffe; B. C. Nordgren, E. H. Ward, J. H. Lawrenson and J. Hilton; C. R. Mountford and J. J. Alty; K. Gee, J. Egan, (Captain), F. Barton, Large, E. Slevin and W. Hudson.

HUDDERSFIELD.—J. C. H. Hunter; J. Anderson, J. Bawden, P. C. Devery (Captain), and L. W. Cooper; G. R. Pepperell and W. M. Banks; M. J. Maiden, A. M. Meek, J. C. Daly, I. A. Owens, R. Nicholson and D. D. Valentine.

Referee: L. Thorpe, of Wakefield.

Scorers:

Wigan.—Goal: Ward. Try: Ward.

Huddersfield.—Goals: Bawden (2), Devery (2). Tries: Cooper, G. R. Pepperell.

RESULTS OF MATCHES

WE hope to conclude this record of results next month. In addition Mr. A. N. Gaulton will contribute his usual comprehensive review of the season and our panel of experts will announce their Awards for season 1948-49.

Wednesday, December 8th.

Australian Tour—
 Lancashire G. T. Pts. 2 3 13 Australia G. T. Pts. Att. 1 2 8 12,000
 (Played at Wigan).

Saturday, December 11th.

Australian Tour—
 Widnes 1 2 8 Australia 3 4 18 10,700
League—
 Belle Vue R. 1 1 5 Salford 4 3 17 6,000
 Bradford N. 1 2 5 Batley 1 0 2 10,000
 Castleford 4 4 20 Bramley 1 1 5 3,700
 Dewsbury 1 5 17 Keighley 0 0 0 3,000
 Huddersfield 3 1 9 Warrington 1 3 11 25,232
 Hull K. R. 0 1 3 Hunslet 0 0 0 5,000
 Leeds 1 1 5 Leigh 3 1 9 11,500
 Liverpool S. 1 0 2 Halifax 2 3 13 800
 Oldham 2 2 10 Wigan 3 3 15 13,000
 Rochdale H. 2 0 4 Barrow 1 0 2 4,000
 Swinton 1 4 14 W'k't'n T. 1 1 5 6,000
 Wakefield T. 2 6 22 F'th's'tone R. 1 0 2 3,600
 Whitehaven 0 0 0 St. Helens 2 3 13 3,000
 York 1 1 5 Hull 2 2 10 3,700

Saturday, December 18th.

Third Test Match at Odsal Stadium postponed owing to fog.
League—
 Barrow 5 2 16 Widnes 1 1 5 8,228
 Batley 1 5 17 Castleford 0 1 3 4,000
 Belle Vue R. 2 1 7 Wakefield T. 2 2 10 4,000
 F'th's'tone R. 1 0 2 Hull 2 1 7 2,200
 Huddersfield 4 4 20 Hull K. R. 2 0 4 9,786
 Hunslet 0 2 6 Dewsbury 0 0 0 6,000
 Liverpool S. 0 0 0 Oldham 0 0 0 8,000
 Leeds 1 5 16 Swinton 5 5 25 509
 Salford 0 2 6 Halifax 1 1 5 5,000
 St. Helens 2 6 15 Whitehaven 0 0 0 8,000
 W'k't'n T. 2 2 10 Wigan 4 7 29 15,000
 York 0 2 6 Keighley 1 0 2 2,900

Saturday, December 25th.

League—
 Barrow 2 3 13 W'k't'n T. 0 1 3 11,655
 Bradford N. 3 2 12 Bramley 3 1 9 13,500
 Castleford 2 3 13 Wakefield T. 2 1 7 12,000
 Dewsbury 2 2 10 F'th's'tone R. 2 3 13 5,000
 Huddersfield 4 8 32 Halifax 0 1 3 18,270
 Hull 3 3 15 Hull K. R. 0 0 0 15,000
 Keighley 5 2 16 Hunslet 0 3 9 5,500
 Leeds 4 6 26 Batley 1 3 11 19,000
 Leigh 1 1 5 St. Helens 1 1 3 16,500
 Oldham 0 0 2 Swinton 1 2 8 10,679
 Rochdale H. 2 2 10 Belle Vue R. 2 0 4 8,000
 Widnes 1 0 2 Warrington 1 4 14 15,000
 Wigan 3 6 24 Salford 1 1 5 23,000

Monday, December 27th.

League—
 Batley 2 2 10 Dewsbury 3 1 9 10,000
 Bramley 3 0 6 Bradford N. 1 3 11 10,000
 F'th's'tone R. 2 2 10 Castleford 3 8 15 5,200
 Hull K. R. 3 3 15 York 0 0 0 5,000
 Keighley 3 3 15 Hull 0 0 0 5,000
 Wakefield T. 2 1 7 Leeds 0 0 0 11,822
 Warrington 2 3 13 Leigh 0 0 0 24,734

Matches Postponed—

Belle Vue Rangers v. Rochdale H.
 Halifax v. Huddersfield
 Oldham v. Salford
 St. Helens v. Wigan
 Swinton v. Widnes
 Workington Town v. Barrow

Tuesday, December 28th.

League—
 Leeds 0 0 0 Warrington 4 2 14 32,500
 Castleford 3 1 9 Oldham 2 1 7 6,000

Saturday, January 1st, 1949

League—
 Bramley 1 1 5 Batley 4 4 20 7,000
 Castleford 1 1 5 Keighley 2 1 7 6,000
 Dewsbury 2 0 4 Bradford N. 2 1 7 7,000
 F'th's'tone R. 3 1 9 Wakefield T. 11 39 4,000
 Halifax 3 0 6 Leeds 0 0 0 10,000
 Hull 5 9 37 York 0 0 0 6,000
 Hunslet 2 1 7 W'k't'n T. 1 1 5 5,000
 Liverpool S. 1 0 2 Barrow 7 10 44 1,000
 Rochdale H. 1 1 5 Oldham 2 1 7 7,000

G. T. Pts. G. T. Pts. Att.
 Salford 0 0 0 Swinton 0 0 0 12,000
 St. Helens 3 2 12 Leigh 0 0 0 12,000
 Whitehaven 1 0 2 Warrington 0 1 3 15,000
 Widnes 0 1 3 B. V. R. 0 0 0 3,000
 Wigan 2 4 16 Huddersfield 3 1 9 32,000

Saturday, January 8th.

League—
 Barrow 5 6 28 Bramley 1 0 2 8,592
 Batley 5 3 15 Liverpool S. 2 0 4 4,000
 Belle Vue R. 1 5 Halifax 0 0 0 3,000
 Bradford N. 1 3 11 Widnes 2 0 2 415,500
 Castleford 4 2 14 P'stone R. 3 15 5,000
 Huddersfield 2 4 16 Keighley 2 0 4 12,481
 Hull K. R. 0 2 6 Wakefield T. 1 3 11 6,000
 Leeds 5 2 12 Wigan 0 1 4 24,600
 Leigh 0 2 5 Hunslet 0 2 5 8,500
 Salford 2 2 10 Rochdale H. 1 0 2 7,000
 St. Helens 0 1 3 B'dale H. 0 0 0 15,000
 Warrington 4 7 29 W'k't'n T. 2 1 7 15,000
 Whitehaven 0 1 3 Swinton 0 2 6 8,000

Match postponed—

York v. Dewsbury.

Saturday, January 15th.

League—
 Barrow 4 7 29 Hull K.R. 1 1 5 7,351
 Belle Vue R. 1 1 5 St. Helens 1 5 17 3,500
 Bradford N. 1 0 2 Salford 2 1 7 8,500
 Bramley 1 0 2 York 0 0 0 3,000
 Dewsbury 1 0 4 Huddersfield 1 2 8 8,000
 Halifax 1 0 4 Leigh 0 0 0 3,000
 Hunslet 2 1 7 Hull 1 2 8 5,000
 Keighley 1 1 5 Batley 2 0 7 4,500
 Leeds 1 1 5 Whitehaven 0 1 3 11,000
 Swinton 1 1 5 B'dale H. 0 0 0 6,000
 Wakefield T. 3 3 15 C'leford 3 1 9 8,500
 Widnes 3 0 6 Oldham 0 0 0 3,000
 Wigan 8 9 43 L'pool S. 0 1 3 5,000
 W'k't'n T. 4 1 11 Warrington 2 6 12 777

Saturday, January 22nd.

League—
 Batley 3 3 15 Wakefield T. 3 2 12 10,000
 F'th's'tone R. 2 3 Leeds 3 1 9 6,100
 Huddersfield 2 3 28 Bramley 1 1 3 13,300
 Hull 3 2 12 Castleford 2 1 7 8,000
 Hunslet 1 1 5 St. Helens 1 3 11 13,800
 Keighley 0 1 3 Dewsbury 0 1 3 5,000
 Leigh 1 1 5 B. V. R. 1 1 5 8,000
 Liverpool S. 1 1 5 Hull K.R. 5 4 22 1,000
 Oldham 1 1 5 Barrow 1 2 8 11,000
 Rochdale H. 1 1 5 Halifax 0 0 0 5,000
 Salford 1 1 5 Widnes 1 1 5 10,000
 Warrington 2 0 4 Wigan 1 2 8 34,304

(Attendance a ground record)

W'k't'n T. 5 0 4 41,650
 York 4 3 17 Bradford N. 0 1 3 5,847

Saturday, January 29th.

Third Test—
 England 4 5 23 Australia 0 3 9 43,500
 (Played at Odsal Stadium, Bradford,
 Receipts—£6,877)

League—
 Belle Vue R. 1 3 11 Warrington 3 0 6 7,000
 Bramley 5 3 19 Keighley 2 0 4 4,350
 Castleford 2 0 4 Hunslet 0 1 3 9,571
 Dewsbury 4 3 17 Hull 2 2 10 6,000
 Hull K. R. 2 4 16 Halifax 1 2 8 8,000
 Liverpool S. 1 1 5 Oldham 5 4 22 1,000
 Rochdale H. 1 0 2 Swinton 0 2 8 8,000
 Salford 3 1 2 W'k't'n T. 1 1 5 11,000
 St. Helens 7 2 20 Huddersfield 1 0 2 25,000
 Wakefield T. 5 3 19 Batley 2 1 7 15,000
 Whitehaven 1 2 8 Leigh 0 1 3 7,000
 Widnes 0 2 6 Barrow 2 2 10 9,000
 York 2 1 7 Leeds 3 1 9 8,372

Saturday, February 5th.

International—
 Wales 4 2 14 England 2 2 10 10,000
 (Played at St. Helen's Field, Swansea)

League—
 Barrow 2 3 13 York 1 0 2 9,235
 Dewsbury 1 5 17 Hunslet 2 4 16 8,000
 Halifax 5 1 13 Salford 2 0 4 11,000
 Hull 5 4 22 Bramley 3 1 9 7,000
 Rochdale H. 2 1 7 Leigh 0 1 3 7,000
 Warrington 4 7 29 Liverpool S. 0 1 3 16,000
 Widnes 0 2 6 St. Helens 1 2 8 17,000
 Wigan 5 1 17 Oldham 2 0 4 32,000
 W'k't'n T. 4 2 14 Huddersfield 0 2 6 16,000

Matches postponed—

Bradford N. v. Whitehaven.
 Featherstone R. v. Batley.
 Keighley v. Castleford.
 Leeds v. Wakefield T.
 Swinton v. Belle Vue R.

Saturday, February 12th.

R.L. Challenge Cup
1st round, 1st games
 G. T. Pts. G. T. Pts. Att.
 Bradford N. 0 1 3 St. Helens 2 0 4 30,000
 Castleford 2 2 10 Bramley 1 0 2 7,900
 Dewsbury 3 1 9 Barrow 3 0 6 9,000
 Huddersfield 2 0 4 B'dale H. 1 1 0 517,552
 Hull 2 0 4 Halifax 0 0 0 12,000
 Hunslet 2 6 22 Salford 0 0 0 9,000
 Leeds 2 4 16 Batley 1 0 2 21,000
 Liverpool S. 0 1 3 Wakefield T. 4 8 32 3,000
 Normanton 2 0 4 B. V. R. 5 1 9 6,500
 (Played at Belle Vue, Wakefield).
 Oldham 3 3 15 P'stone R. 0 0 0 7,500
 Swinton 3 3 15 P'stone R. 1 0 2 7,749
 Vine Tavern 2 0 4 York 1 0 1 3 11 3,000
 (Played at Knowsley Road, St. Helens).
 Warrington 4 3 17 Hull K.R. 2 1 7 17,000
 Whitehaven 0 0 0 Keighley 0 0 0 10,000
 Wigan 1 3 11 Leigh 3 2 12 30,000
 W'k't'n T. 0 2 6 Widnes 2 1 7 10,000
 Continued overleaf

The Greatness of Devery

Continued from page 14

cident when Anderson was obstructed which the game could have done well without. The referee awarded a penalty and Devery made sure of the points.

Wigan lost because they failed to make the most of their many opportunities—Ted Ward was unsuccessful with six kicks at goal—and secondly, they relied far too much on their forwards to pull the game out of the fire. All the Wigan forwards played well especially Barton, Slevin and Hudson. Mountford and Nordgren battled gamely but their opportunities were few indeed.

This game provided Huddersfield with another opportunity of extending still further their recent run of brilliant victories. Every player was able to make a contribution to his team's success with Hunter, Devery, Cooper, Pepperell, Nicholson and Owens being the most outstanding. Owens must surely now be engaging the attention of the Selectors; ever since he joined the Fartown club his form has been consistently top class.

Before the game commenced the Yorkshire League Championship Cup was presented to the Huddersfield captain.

MY VERDICT

Standard of Play—
 Excellent after a poor beginning.
 Man of the Match—
 P. C. Devery (Huddersfield).
 Goal-kicking—
 Wigan: Very poor.
 Huddersfield: Good.
 Refereeing—
 Moderate.

Behaviour of Spectators—
 Good.
 Ground arrangements—
 Record crowd ably handled.
 Programmes—
 Surely Wigan can do better!
 Opinion of the Match—
 Certainly one of the great games of the season.

"CLARET AND GOLD" CHAMPIONS

SEASON 1948 - 49



J. C. H. HUNTER



L. W. COOPER



P. C. DEVERY



G. R. PEPPERELL



W. M. BANKS



J. ANDERSON



I. A. OWENS



R. NICHOLSON



Devery leads Huddersfield into battle



Bevan (Warrington) bars Nicholson's path



A front row encounter (Left—Riley ; Right—Meek)

CHALLENGERS AND CONQUESTS

Pictures of the Northern Rugby Football League Championship!
Final by "Rugby League Review" Cameraman Vincent Reynolds

1948		G. T. Pts.	Opponents	G. T. Pts.	Gr'd.	Att.
Aug.	21	Hudd.	4 5 23	Featherstone R.	1 1 5	A. 4,000
"	28	"	6 4 24	Wigan	1 1 5	H. 24,589
Sept.	4	"	7 3 23	Castleford	6 1 15	H. 15,875
"	8	"	5 6 28	York	2 1 7	A. 3,500
"	22	"	0 0 0	Batley	1 2 8	A. 4,000
"	25	"	1 0 2	Warrington	5 5 25	A. 29,500
"	27	"	1 0 2	Bradford N.	0 2 6	H. 12,700
Oct.	2	"	2 4 16	Dewsbury	1 2 8	H. 14,700
"	9	"	2 2 10	Hull	4 3 17	A. 15,000
"	16	"	7 7 35	Workington T.	1 2 8	H. 15,500
"	23	"	2 2 10	Leeds	4 3 17	A. 29,500
"	30	"	3 5 21	Hunslet	3 1 9	H. 17,748
Nov.	6	"	2 4 16	Hull K. R.	2 0 4	A. 8,000
"	13	"	1 5 17	Hull	0 1 3	H. 12,140
"	20	"	2 1 7	Bradford N.	1 1 5	A. 20,000
Dec.	4	"	3 5 21	Bramley	3 3 15	A. 9,600
"	11	"	3 1 9	Warrington	1 3 11	H. 25,232
"	18	"	4 4 20	Hull K. R.	2 0 4	H. 9,785
"	25	"	4 8 32	Halifax	0 1 3	H. 18,270
1949						
Jan.	1	"	3 1 9	Wigan	2 4 16	A. 32,000
"	8	"	2 4 16	Keighley	2 0 4	H. 12,481
"	15	"	1 2 8	Dewsbury	2 0 4	A. 8,000
"	22	"	2 8 28	Bramley	1 1 5	H. 13,300
"	29	"	1 0 2	St. Helens	7 2 20	A. 23,000
Feb.	5	"	0 2 6	Workington T.	4 2 14	A. 16,000
March	12	"	4 2 14	Castleford	5 1 13	A. 11,789
"	26	"	3 3 15	Hunslet	3 1 9	A. 15,000
April	4	"	3 2 12	Wakefield T.	1 1 5	H. 10,224
"	7	"	2 2 10	Batley	0 1 3	H. 10,940
"	9	"	4 7 29	York	1 0 2	H. 9,048
"	13	"	2 5 19	Halifax	0 0 0	A. 15,000
"	16	"	5 8 34	St. Helens	0 0 0	H. 22,886
"	18	"	2 2 10	Wakefield T.	1 1 5	A. 18,000
"	19	"	8 11 49	Featherstone R.	2 1 7	H. 14,510
"	23	"	2 3 13	Keighley	4 0 8	A. 10,500
"	25	"	3 10 36	Leeds	0 0 0	H. 20,077
"	30	"	4 2 14	Wigan	1 1 5	A. 42,700
(League Championship Semi-Final)						
May	14	"	2 3 13	Warrington	3 2 12	A. 75,194

(League Championship Final—Played at Maine Road, Manchester.)

112 143 653

77 51 307

397,899

Played 38, Won 29, Lost 9.

Huddersfield finished third in the League table with 54 points.



Leading try scorers meet (Cooper and Ryan)



Will Ferguson (Huddersfield) pass, or "dummy"?



Cooper held. Bath (left) at the ready



"The Flying Scotsman" (Anderson)



HUDDERSFIELD

Left to Right.

Back Row.—A. Ferguson, M. J. Maiden, A. M. Meek, I. A. Owens, J. C. Daly, L. W. Cooper, D. D. Valentine.

Front Row.—J. Anderson, J. C. H. Hunter, R. Nicholson, P. C. Devery (Captain), G. R. Pepperell, W. M. Banks.



WARRINGTON

Left to Right.

Back Row.—A. J. Pimblett, W. Derbyshire, B. Bevan, J. J. Featherstone, L. R. Francis, H. H. Fishwick, W. Riley.

Front Row.—J. Fleming, W. J. Jackson, H. Palin (Captain), A. H. Bath, L. Jones, G. J. Helme.

HUDDERSFIELD

By A. N. GAULTON

"THE TEAM OF ALL THE TALENTS"

THE breathing space afforded by the close season is giving Huddersfield supporters the chance to ponder on the ups and downs of this grand game of ours. For in the space of a few months the Fartown players, and their followers plumbed the depths and scaled the heights.

April 2nd, 1949, was a black day for everyone with an interest in the Huddersfield Club. On that fatal afternoon Halifax upset all preconceived notions and made a hash of Wembley plans in many a Huddersfield home. If ever there was a testing time for loyalty this was it. What sort of a crowd and a reception would the Fartowners get for their rearranged Home League game with Wakefield Trinity two days later?

The question was answered in no uncertain manner. On a miserable, wet evening, a crowd of over 10,000 turned out and gave a warm demonstration of faith in their team.

Such loyalty deserved reward, and rich reward it received. From then until the end of the season the Fartowners literally "turned on the tap" and the very best brand of R.L. football was forthcoming.

THEY OUGHT TO KNOW!

There can be no adequate measuring stick between teams of different generations. Yet who are better qualified to make comparisons with the greatest team of all time than those Fartowners who remember the palmy years of Harold Wagstaff and Company? In classing Devery's team with that led by the immortal "Waggy," the Fartown old-timers have paid their present side the highest possible compliment.

There will be many who will sympathise with Warrington in losing the League Championship Cup after having headed the season's League table. Fartowners, to whom it has happened in the past, will be numbered among them. Few who

saw those closing games, however, will deny the claret and gold boys their right to the title of Rugby League Champions.

What has been the greatest factor in this title bid? The introduction of Billy Banks at scrum half? The undoubted advance made by both Cooper and Devery? The signing of Owens? These and many others could be put forward, but who can say? Probably team-work—that essential for any successful side in any sport—must rank high in the list.

ALL IN THE GAME

Certainly a good start was made to the season, and the Wigan game at Fartown in particular will be talked about for many years to come. Banks was signed from Wakefield Trinity but an injured ankle in his first game kept him out for several weeks. Then came the Australian game with its trail of sensation and injuries, which subsequently cost the side valuable League points and which can be laid at the door of the Yorkshire Challenge Cup defeat.

Two more Scots, Wilson and Ferguson, joined Fartown's Scottish colony, and Banks took his place in the side again. Winning ways were eventually resumed and the team entered 1949 in high hopes. A heavy blow was in store at Wigan on New Year's Day, however, for Bob Robson sustained an ankle injury that finished his football for the season.

Obviously something had to be done, and before long the Football Committee announced the signing of "Ike" Owens. The largest fee ever paid by the club was handed over, but this proved to be a judicious "buy" indeed. The Welsh "star" was soon at home in the Fartown pack and played a worthy part in the bid for honours.

Meanwhile, Paddy Reid, had been transferred to Thrum Hall. The Irish centre later had the honour of a Wembley appearance with his new

club, after helping to hold up his old one in the Odsal semi-final.

The first game of the Cup series, against Rochdale Hornets at Fartown, provided a shock, but the Fartowners were able to redeem themselves under the two games system. Workington Town were narrowly beaten in the next round and Leeds were overwhelmed in round three at Headingley.

A FINE FINISH

Subsequent events have already been discussed in this article, so it merely remains to say that following Maine Road the season was rounded off with a Welsh Tour, when St. Helens were met in three exhibition games. Another seven points in Wales would have given the Fartowners an all-matches total of 1,000 points. As it was they finished with 993 points for and 431 against.

A side which includes an individual capable of scoring 63 tries may perhaps be looked upon as a one-man team. True enough, Cooper was looked upon as the danger point by opponents, but Lionel himself is the first to express his acknowledgments to his colleagues who paved the way for so many of his tries. And tries were liable to come from anyone. Even Hunter ran in sixteen from full-back, which must surely be a League record.

Jeff Bawden, despite an off-form spell early on, reached his century of goals for the season and was again well up among the leading League point scorers. Devery, too, was frequently among the scorers, with both tries and goals.

SCORERS

The scoring list for all matches is—Goals: Bawden 102, Devery 41, S. V. Pepperell 8, Cooper 4, Ferguson 4, Reid 4, Nicholson 3, Banks 1, Hunter 1. Tries: Cooper 63, Devery 20, Anderson 19, Hunter 16, G. R. Pepperell 14, Valentine 13, Wilson 11, Nicholson 10, Reid 9, Bawden 6, Banks 5, Daly 5, Ferguson 5, Owens 5, Clark 3, Meek 3, S. V. Pepperell 3, Robson 3, Walsh 2, Foley 1, Hughes 1, Maiden 1, T. Taylor 1.

HULL

By R. W. HARPER

SUN DID NOT SHINE

HULL have been described as Yorkshire's most disappointing team in season 1948-49. Hopes that they would attain a position among the leading clubs became suspect very early when defeats were suffered in the opening games against Whitehaven (away) and Batley at the Boulevard. Except in isolated instances, many of their

subsequent displays were anything but impressive, and supporters reached the depths of despair when Halifax dismissed the "Airlie Birds" in the first round of the R.L. Challenge Cup.

What has been the reason for this lack of success? On paper the potential playing strength appeared to be above average. On the field, how-

ever, the displays of the team often lacked that snap and precision necessary to win matches, and their constructive efforts left much to be desired. There was also a feeling that team-work and backing-up could have been improved.

A comparison of Hull's playing record with season 1947-48 shows that although they have finished only one place lower in the League table, their scoring record is much inferior. "Points for" total 375 against 454 in

Continued on page 14

HE'S NEWS THIS WEEK

JAMES BOWDEN

(HUDDERSFIELD)

I AM wrong in selecting this chap, because my first "man who makes news" is not even a man! At least not so far as years go, for James Bowden at eighteen years of age—born February 5th, 1931—is still a minor. However, in everything else "Young Bowden" is a man, as he proved to the Huddersfield fans in his R.L. debut against Halifax in the friendly match played on August 13th, at Fartown.

Jim just had to be a footballer for his father, Bert Bowden, played many years as a hooker for Bramley, while his uncle Jim played for Dewsbury and Featherstone Rovers.

But no "strong in t' heead an' weak in t' back" business for young Jim. He is a centre and a good one too.

Any man makes news who comes into Rugby League from Rugby Union, but this is even more unusual for Bowden junior came from Yorkshire Schoolboys R.U. to R.L.

Here is his record: Entered Giggleswick School, 1944. Played in the Colts XV., also for first XV while still a colt. Captained first team for two seasons, in the first season as stand-off and then drafted to centre. In twenty games scored four tries and kicked forty goals, and what is as important, his wing man scored twenty tries.

In season 1948-49 Bowden captained Yorkshire Schoolboys. Against



Durham he was responsible for a try and four goals in a 27-3 win. Against Wales he kicked a goal in a 5-16 defeat. Last season played for Bradford R.U. and for the West Riding against East Riding at Hull.

Standing six feet and weighing thirteen stone, Bowden is ideally

fitted for the centre position.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

Any weaknesses? Of course, everyone has them! Tommy Matthewman will pay particular attention to any speed deficiency at Fartown and with this taken care of Young Jim is away to a flying start in his new career.

Did he do right in joining Huddersfield? Will he be overshadowed by the big names? Only time will tell, but I am sure he will get a fair crack at Fartown—Alec Fiddes will see to that.

What is his first real R.L. memory? I'll tell you. A flying tackle by Bob Nicholson in the practice game. He knew Bob could run but not so fast, and the first real full-blooded knock was pretty grim. Young Jim had no complaints but philosophically said "I'll get plenty more before I've finished."

Bowden is a Dewsbury lad. Why didn't he go to Crown Flatt? They didn't ask him! He got a lump sum down from Huddersfield and a promise to pay for his training course at the University where he will soon become a dental student.

His father played R.L. a long time with not a lot to show for it. Young Jim might play a long time with something to show for it.

Good luck, Young Bowden!

WHITEHAVEN WIRE

WORKINGTON TOWN seem destined to go a long way towards the top of the honours list this season, but even so they will not completely eclipse Whitehaven's efforts. Wembley and the League Final are still a long way ahead of the new club, yet West Cumberland is looking forward to Whitehaven making much progress. With Ned Hodgson at the helm, the club's problem of Manager-Coach appears settled. The ex-Cumberland forward, who has switched his care and attention from Workington Town, has set about his new task in business-like fashion and he has managed to get the players keyed up for progress.

Ned has some very good ideas and, incidentally, a fine set of forwards. Weakness of the team is in the three-quarter line, but there are sufficient youngsters coming up in the "A" team to ensure a stronger combination another season.

The "A" team makes its debut in the Lancashire Combination and on trial performances it seems evident that they will finish the season in a better position in the League table than the seniors will in their particular sphere. All, of course, pointing to the fact that any good local talent will be in that team.

Already three newcomers are on the books: Lavery (aged 22, 5 ft. 9 in., 12 st.); Harrison (aged 20, 5 ft. 7 in., 10 st., 7 lb.); and Casson (aged 25, 5 ft. 10 in., 12 st. 10 lb.). Lavery was very nearly in the Cumberland amateur team last season and has been one of the best centres turned out lately by Kells (remember the club that held Warrington to a lone try in 1945?). Harrison is a product of the neighbouring club, Egremont, while Casson, son of a local ex-police sergeant, has been in Rugby Union with Whitehaven and, last season, Preston Grasshoppers.

EYES ON THE DIZZY HEIGHTS

The first team will, for the present, be moulded on last season's experienced players, although a notable absentee in the early games will be Whitwell, hailed last season as a brilliant stand-off half of the future. Whitwell, a junior from Barrow, has had an arm in plaster throughout the close season.

The field at the Recreation Ground is in finer condition than ever before following the draining operations of the past few months, and the directors have been taking advice from Greenkeepers' Research Association experts.

Prospective candidates for the honours list are Lewis, second row forward who has already attracted the eyes of the Welsh selectors; Dover, prop forward heading for inclusion in the Cumberland side; Joe Fearon, likely centre for the County; while there is also Wise, speedy winger needing only experience before recognition.

By STANLEY J. HORNSBY