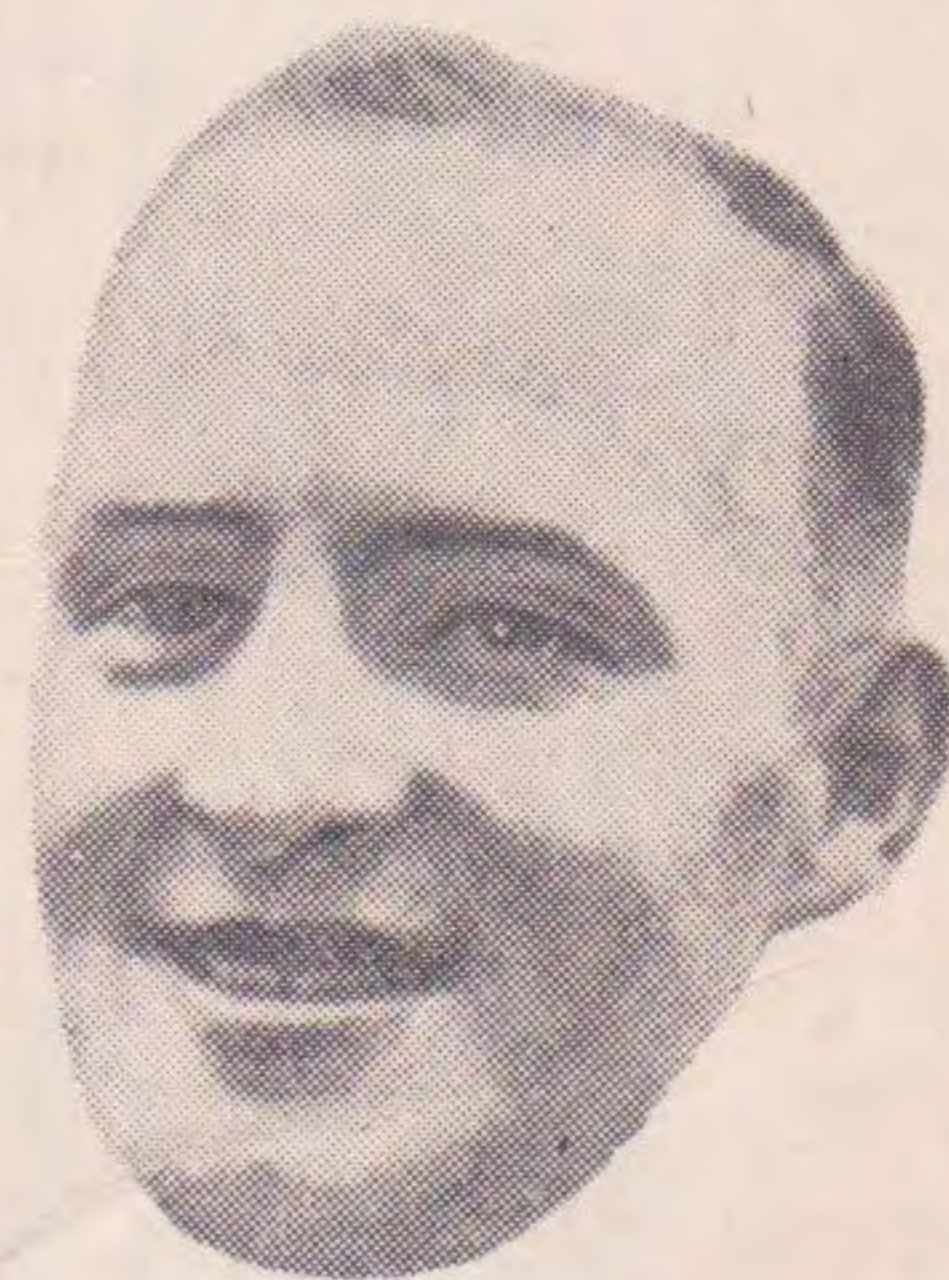


Official Souvenir Programme 6d.

Northern Rugby

Football League



CHAMPIONSHIP
FINAL

HUDDERSFIELD v. **WIGAN**

Maine Road, Manchester,
Saturday, 13th May, 1950
3 p.m.



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Daily Dispatch

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Championship Final 1950

By TOM LONGWORTH

FOR the Rugby League Championship final to be played on Manchester City's ground is becoming an annual event. To-day's contest between Huddersfield, the holders of the title, and Wigan, is the sixth in succession at Maine Road.

The choice of venue is governed by rule which stipulates that it must be played in the county of the club in the final with the higher number of points, which in this instance is Wigan, who have aggregated 63 to Huddersfield's 57.

The last occasion the match was played in Yorkshire was in 1937-38 when Hunslet conquered Leeds on the ground of the Leeds United Football League club at Elland Road.

Since then the superiority of Lancashire clubs on the season's performances has given the Manchester City ground a remarkable monopoly with unprecedented success. While the record holding capacity of the ground of 84,569 has not yet been reached, Maine Road twelve months ago accommodated the biggest Rugby League crowd other than a Wembley Cup final.

It is the third occasion Huddersfield have been finalists at this accommodative venue. In 1945-46 they were runners-up to Wigan, who won 13-4 and they were acclaimed champions twelve months ago in consequence of their victory over Warrington in a thrilling engagement, 13-12.

It is the twelfth appearance of both clubs in the Championship final. Each have won six and lost five. It is the 39th Championship final match. Lancashire clubs have won 21 to Yorkshire's 17. All the finals at Maine Road have interested both Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Should Huddersfield again be returned the victors it will be the 15th occasion the leading team has failed to secure the honours. The system is that the top four should play off. Wigan (No. 1) with 63 points have met and defeated Halifax (No. 4) 50 pts. by 18 pts. to 2 after a draw 5-5; Huddersfield (No. 2) 57 pts., beat Swinton (No. 3) 54 pts. by 9-0.

Outstandingly the team of the year, Wigan face their challengers without eight of their leading players. Ryan, Gee, Egan, Cunliffe, Hilton, Bradshaw, Ratcliffe and Ashcroft are to-day aboard the liner *Himalaya* on their way to Australia. Huddersfield, much to their dismay, had no calls made upon their resources for the tour.

Pen Pictures of the Players

WIGAN

***WARD, EDWARD.**—One of the eight so-called "reserves" in to-day's side. Welsh international. Toured Australia in 1946 and played for Great Britain in two Tests.

SILCOCK, NAT.—Son of the former Widnes international forward. Shows promise of becoming just as good a forward as his father.

BROOME, JACK.—A player Widnes permitted to slip through their net. Nineteen years of age he is regarded as a coming star. Junior international.

ROUGHLEY, GEORGE.—Former Warrington Secondary schoolboy. Gained Rugby League international honours as an amateur.

***NORDGREN, BRIAN.**—This speedy New Zealander is the League's leading try scorer with 56. Runs with grace and power and possesses a brilliant side-step.

***MOUNTFORD, CECIL.**—Another New Zealander with a great reputation in this country. A brilliant stand-off half-back, he is the "brains" behind most of Wigan's attacks. Captain of the side.

ALTY, JOHN.—"Stand-in" for that clever half-back Tommy Bradshaw, but has many of his "tricks". Native of Leigh.

SLEVIN, TED.—Less than two seasons ago, this 22-year-old forward, who weighs almost 15 stones, was unknown. Consistent and forceful player.

McINTYRE, HAROLD.—Twenty-six year old colliery worker, who lives on Wigan's door-step. Signed in 1946 after serving with the Eighth Army.

***BARTON, FRED.**—Tireless forward and a great worker in the loose. Played with a Wigan junior club prior to 1941. Along with Ted Ward, Mountford, Blan (W.) and Hudson of to-day's team he won a Challenge Cup winner's medal at Wembley 1941.

***HUDSON, WILLIAM.**—Fast and powerful. Test Match (1949). England international and Yorkshire county player.

LARGE, JACK.—Speedy and resourceful in the loose. A fine second row forward. Signed after playing as Warrington junior in the 1947 amateur international between England and France

***BLAN, WILLIAM.**—Well known for his displays in the loose. Brother of Albert Blan, the young Swinton full-back. Product of Wigan junior football. Scored more tries this season (33) than any other forward.

***Played in the championship final of 1948**

HUDDERSFIELD

***HUNTER, JOHN.**—A spectacular attacking full-back. Native of Australia. Joined Huddersfield in 1947.

CRACKNELL, DICK.—Son of a famous father, who played for Swinton. One of the most promising of the younger generation of English wing three-quarters. Has scored 32 tries this season—four in one match.

BAWDEN, GEOFFREY.—A Cumbrian and most accurate goal-kicker. Played in the 1946 final. Sound and versatile. Has kicked 85 goals this season.

***DEVERY, PAT.**—Captain and one of three Australians in the side. Joined Huddersfield in 1947. Played in Tests against British touring team captained by Risman in 1946. Has made 27 successful goal shots and scored 24 tries this season.

***COOPER, LIONEL.**—Another Australian star. The most forceful winger in England. Strong, determined and most difficult to tackle. Like Devery and Hunter he has renewed his contract. His total of tries this season stands at 48.

***PEPPERELL, RUSSELL.**—One of three famous Cumberland brothers. Awarded a testimonial recently. Can play efficiently in any position. English international.

***BANKS, WILLIAM.**—A Welshman from Maesteg. Outstanding success for Wales against England this season. Formerly played for Leeds and Wakefield Trinity.

***DALY, JOHN.**—One of the few Irishmen in the game. Native of Cork. Powerful prop forward and effective in the loose.

MUNDY, JAMES.—Transferred from Oldham last December and has solved Huddersfield's hooker problem.

WILMOT, ARTHUR.—Obtained from Hull Kingston Rovers in November in exchange for Arthur Ferguson. Powerful 15 stone Yorkshire County scrummager.

MORRISON, KENNETH.—A South African. Joined Huddersfield in July 1947. Only recently established in the League team. Aged 22. Brilliant tackler.

***NICHOLSON, ROBERT.**—Cumberland County, England, Test Match and Australian tour (1946) honours. Solid scrummager and brilliant in the loose. Joined Huddersfield from Hensingham in 1939.

***OWENS, IKE.**—One of the greatest of all Welsh forwards; of outstanding ability in the loose. Formerly of Leeds and Castleford. Great success in Australia, 1946. Declined further representative honours. Parachute jumping instructor during the war.

***Played in last year's championship final at Maine Road**

Wigan Team—1950



Photo by permission of "Halifax Courier"

Huddersfield Team—1950



Photo by permission of "Huddersfield Examiner"

Northern Rugby League



Championship Final, 1950

HUDDERSFIELD

White Jerseys, Claret and Gold Hoop

- 1.—HUNTER, J. Full-back
- 2.—CRACKNELL, R. Right Wing Threequarter
- 3.—BAWDEN, G.... ... Right Centre Threequarter
- 4.—DEVERY, P. C. (Capt.)... .. Left Centre Threequarter
- 5.—COOPER, L. W. Left Wing Threequarter
- 6.—PEPPERELL, G. R.... ... Out-half
- 7.—BANKS, W. M. Scrum-half
- 8.—DALY, J. Open Side Prop
- 9.—MUNDY, J. Hooker
- 10.—WILMOT, A. Blind Side Prop
- 11.—MORRISON, K. Second Row Forward
- 12.—NICHOLSON, R.... ... Second Row Forward
- 13.—OWENS, I. A. Loose Forward

Reserves : Anderson, J., Clark, I. W., Wagstaffe, J., Bairstow, R.

Referee : Mr. MATT. COATES (Leeds)

SCORE SHEET • HUDDERSFIELD	
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Play : 40 MINUTES EACH HALF.

WIGAN

Cherry and White

- 1.—WARD, E.... ... Full-back
- 2.—SILCOCK, N.... ... Right Wing Threequarter
- 3.—BROOME, J. Right Centre Threequarter
- 4.—ROUGHLEY, G. Left Centre Threequarter
- 5.—NORDGREN, B. Left Wing Threequarter
- 6.—MOUNTFORD, C. (Capt.)... .. Out-half
- 7.—ALTY, J. Scrum-half
- 8.—SLEVIN, E. Open Side Prop
- 9.—McINTYRE, H. Hooker
- 10.—BARTON, F. Blind Side Prop
- 11.—HUDSON, W. Second Row Forward
- 12.—LARGE, J.... ... Second Row Forward
- 13.—BLAN, W. Loose Forward

Reserves : Woosey, Heaton.

Touch Judges : Mr. T. W. WATKINSON, Manchester (Blue Flag)
Mr. E. R. JONES, Leeds (White Flag)

SCORE SHEET • WIGAN	
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Scoring Values : Try—3 Points. Any Goal—2 Points

It Happened in 1946

By **BOB PEMBERTON**

(*Sporting Chronicle*)

LAST time Wigan and Huddersfield met in the Championship Final at Maine Road, Manchester, four years ago, Wigan were faced with a similar problem. The Australian tourists had left, and they had to find deputies for Martin Ryan, full-back, Ted Ward, centre, Ken Gee and Joe Egan, forwards.

To-day Wigan will be without Martin Ryan, Gordon Ratcliffe, Jack Hilton, Jack Cunliffe, Ernest Ashcroft, Tommy Bradshaw, Ken Gee and Joe Egan, who are on their way to Australia. Bob Nicholson, second row forward, was Huddersfield's only tourist in 1946

Wigan's handicap on May 18, 1946, did not prevent their winning by 13 points to four.

That final was memorable for the part which Jack Cunliffe played in turning the game in Wigan's favour. With Wigan leading 5—4 and facing the wind just after half-time Cunliffe received concussion. He roamed about the field dazed, while Billy Blan acted as full-back. Then a scrum was formed five yards from the Huddersfield line. No one took much notice of Cunliffe, but the ball was whipped out to him and he side-stepped three opponents and scored with two others tackling him. That try finished Huddersfield, and seven minutes later Ashcroft scored between the posts, Nordgren kicking the goal. Yes, Nordgren was a goal-kicker in those days. He had previously kicked a penalty goal and Ashcroft had scored a first half try. Jeff Bawden kicked two penalty goals for Huddersfield.

Three Wigan players who took part in that triumph will be playing to-day—Brian Nordgren, New Zealand winger, Frank Barton, prop forward, and Billy Blan, loose forward. Jeff Bawden is the only Huddersfield man playing to-day.

The teams in the 1946 final were:

WIGAN.—Cunliffe; Nordgren, Ratcliffe, Ashcroft, Jolley; Lowery, Bradshaw; Banks, Blan (J.), Barton, Atkinson, Watkins, Blan (W.).

HUDDERSFIELD.—Leake; Anderson, Fiddes, Davies (W. T.), Bawden; Graham, Morgan (W. E.); Bradbury, Whitehead, Mallinson, Aspinall, Baxter, Robson.

Referee: A. S. Dobson, Pontefract.

The HALL MARK of the SEASON'S PLAY

By **B. M.**

TO speak admiringly of "every stick and stone and blade of grass of the football field" is hardly an apt description of the location of a Championship Final. Owing to the fact it is the last match of a long football season—there are few blades of grass left to admire. Nevertheless, as the years pass and the seasons chase each other, the super attraction of Rugby League Football is still this encounter—the Championship Final, the implacable cut and thrust game of a Season's programme. Whilst the glamour of a Cup Final seems to retain its firm hold, the League Final must be stamped as the hall mark of the season's activities.

Whilst this year three of the Clubs finishing in that coveted circle, "the top four" were shorn of "Star" players, our sympathies must go to Wigan—by far away ahead in the table—for they are minus seven or eight players who would no doubt have played in these deciding games.

Here is the final table of the League for the Season 1949-1950:—

RUGBY LEAGUE

	HOME				AWAY				Points	
	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A. Pts.
WIGAN	36	18	0	0	13	1	4	853	320	63
HUDDERSFIELD	36	16	1	1	12	0	6	694	362	57
SWINTON	36	16	0	2	9	4	5	516	261	54
HALIFAX	36	16	0	2	9	0	9	496	251	50
Salford	36	15	1	2	9	1	8	427	306	50
Leigh	36	15	1	2	9	0	9	459	269	49
St. Helens	36	16	0	2	7	2	9	540	260	48
Leeds	36	16	0	2	8	0	10	602	365	48
Dewsbury	36	17	0	1	6	0	12	468	266	46
Workington Town	36	15	1	2	7	0	11	514	319	45
Warrington	36	16	0	2	6	0	12	579	367	44
Castleford	36	13	0	5	7	0	11	429	386	40
Keighley	36	12	0	6	8	0	10	375	390	40
Wakefield Trinity	36	14	0	4	5	0	13	523	447	38
Hunslet	36	11	1	6	7	0	11	405	315	37
Widnes	36	11	1	6	5	3	10	373	316	36
Belle Vue Rangers	36	11	2	5	5	0	13	388	393	34
Oldham	36	11	3	4	4	1	13	395	410	34
Hull	36	11	2	5	4	1	13	364	527	33
Barrow	36	11	1	6	3	0	15	393	464	29
Bradford Northern	36	9	0	9	5	1	12	335	413	29
Hull Kingston Rovers	36	13	1	4	1	0	17	305	474	29
Whitehaven	36	10	2	6	1	2	15	262	432	26
Batley	36	8	0	10	2	0	16	346	555	20
Featherstone Rovers	36	8	0	10	1	2	15	297	550	20
Bramley	36	4	1	13	2	0	16	258	676	13
Rochdale Hornets	36	4	1	13	1	1	16	200	547	12
York	36	4	0	14	2	0	16	274	807	12
Liverpool Stanley	36	3	0	15	1	0	17	198	820	8

It has often been puzzling to many why there should be a "play-off," the team finishing first versus the fourth and the second versus the third. (Perhaps a better pairing would have been to put all four "into the hat" and, like the Cup competition, drawn for the pairs and venues).

The reason for the semi-finals and final is that whilst a club plays every other club in its own County, it only meets, generally, five from the other County, and thus an attempt at a true trial of strength can only be made by means of the "play-off" system. The fact that these games are well patronised merely shows

the continued interest taken in the code. Which clubs "in the other County" are met is governed by a formula agreed to by all clubs in the Northern League. Another query is why a Management Committee when there is a Council? The reason is there are 29 professional clubs, and they are controlled by a Management Committee elected by these clubs, solely on behalf of these 29. The Rugby League Council legislates for Rugby League Football generally.

The results of previous Championship Finals are as follows:—

Wigan	6 times	Champions
Huddersfield ..	6	" "
Swinton	4	" "
Salford	4	" "
Oldham	3	" "
Hull	3	" "
Halifax, Hunslet, Hull K.R.—	twice each	
Broughton R., Bradford N., Leigh,		
Batley, St. Helens and Warrington—	once each.	

Which 6 will to-day become 7?

NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
1901-02	Broughton Rangers	Salford
1902-03	Halifax	Salford
1903-04	Bradford	Salford
1904-05	Oldham	Bradford
1905-06	Leigh	Hunslet
1906-07	Halifax	Oldham
1907-08	Hunslet	Oldham
1908-09	Wigan	Oldham
1909-10	Oldham	Wigan
1910-11	Oldham	Wigan
1911-12	Huddersfield	Wigan
1912-13	Huddersfield	Wigan
1913-14	Salford	Huddersfield
1914-15	Huddersfield	Leeds
1919-20	Hull	Huddersfield
1920-21	Hull	Hull Kingston R.
1921-22	Wigan	Oldham
1922-23	Hull Kingston Rovers	Huddersfield
1923-24	Batley	Wigan
1924-25	Hull Kingston Rovers	Swinton
1925-26	Wigan	Warrington
1926-27	Swinton	St. Helens Recs.
1927-28	Swinton	Featherstone Rovers
1928-29	Huddersfield	Leeds
1929-30	Huddersfield	Leeds
1930-31	Swinton	Leeds
1931-32	St. Helens	Huddersfield
1932-33	Salford	Swinton
1933-34	Wigan	Salford
1934-35	Swinton	Warrington
1935-36	Hull	Widnes
1936-37	Salford	Warrington
1937-38	Hunslet	Leeds
1938-39	Salford	Castleford
1945-46	Wigan	Huddersfield
1946-47	Wigan	Dewsbury
1947-48	Warrington	Bradford Northern
1948-49	Huddersfield	Warrington

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Widnes, etc.



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