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No 3262

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CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Headquarters: CENTRAL PARK - Telephone 3079

5.5.62



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WIGAN v. HUDDERSFIELD

(Northern Rugby Football League Championship Semi-final)

SATURDAY, 5th MAY, 1962

Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

OFFICIAL NOTES...

Last week-end we duly finished our Northern League programme with two convincing wins over St. Helens and Salford, and so completed a record for any League programme by a Wigan side. In 1908-9 (during the great Leytham, Jenkins, Todd and Miller era) we lost four matches, but at that time the full league programme only consisted of 32 games. Then the wonderful post Second World War team put up two great performances in Seasons 1947-48 and 1949-50 when each time they lost only four and drew one out of 36 matches. With the fierce competition of present-day football it seemed that these records may stand for many years, but from the start this season our team has been most consistent, and contrary to our usual practice we had lost only one match by the turn of the year. The only three teams to beat us this term are Wakefield, Swinton and Widnes, and these were only by very narrow margins. We have completed the double over no fewer than fifteen teams, a really remarkable performance.

At this point we must pay tribute to our Coach, Mr. Griff Jenkins, who has done a magnificent job with the players and also to our masseur Jack Alstead who has done a great job. Needless to say we do appreciate to the full the terrific effort the players have made to maintain such consistency, and although it is not really fair

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to individualise we feel that our two great generals Eric Ashton and Brian McTigue must receive a special word. Every player on the books has done his bit, but in the majority of the vital matches Ashton and McTigue have impressed themselves on the play so much as to give us usually a definite advantage.

Last week-end the Saints match was by no means as good as the one at Knowsley Road on Good Friday, and in fact at times St. Helens looked a dispirited team, and their handling generally left much to be desired. We did not play our best by any means, but it seemed like a match when our best was not required, and we seemed happy to coast to victory after taking a 10 point lead in the first-half. At Weaste on Monday evening we faced a very poor Salford side indeed, which was also badly hit by injuries during the game. Our lads took the opportunity to run in some spectacular tries, and Billy Boston helped himself to seven (again equalling the Wigan try-scoring record), one of them a magnificent eighty yards effort, one of Bill's most spectacular for some time. This performance also made Billy leading Rugby League try-scorer for the season, an honour thoroughly deserved, particularly as he has played so many matches in the centre.

AFTER THE MATCH

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Although the last five matches have been most satisfactory and should help to give our team confidence for the Semi-final with Huddersfield to-day, and we hope for the Final against either Wakefield Trinity or Featherstone Rovers in a fortnight's time.

OUR VISITORS

In welcoming Huddersfield once again to Central Park we should like to offer them sincere congratulations on reaching Wembley this season and also on the wonderful season they have had generally, particularly in their first season in the Lancashire League. Many people felt it was suicide for them to come into the Lancashire League this time, but with a magnificent team spirit they have proved all the doubters wrong, and their record speaks for itself. To make sure of fourth place in the table is a great achievement against such strong opposition, and when one considers that they have won away from home at such places as Oldham, Leigh and Widnes it proves they are fully deserving of a place in the Championship Play-off. In addition they have reached Wembley without once being drawn at home, another fine achievement including a great win at St. Helens in the Second Round.

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Wigan Co-operative Society

A great deal of credit for the Fartowners good season must go to their Coach Dave Valentine, who is proving a determined off the field as he formerly was on it. 1954 he led a World Cup team of "no-hopers" to victory in France, and has always been a keen disciple of one hundred per cent physical fitness. Although we cannot wish Dave much luck to-day we do certainly wish him all the very best at Wembley next week.

We should also like to offer a very special welcome to our former stalwart Ted Slevin, now in his benefit season at Fartown and playing as well as ever, and also to the Huddersfield Chairman Mr. Bill Cunningham who so kindly came along last Saturday to present the Lancashire League Cup to our captain.

Four weeks ago we beat Huddersfield by 41 points to 3 at Central Park, but we know it won't be the same story to-day, and we can confidently expect a gruelling game.

THE "A" TEAM

We could not complete these notes without congratulating our "A" Team and the Coach John Lawrenson for their great effort in winning the Lancashire Combination Championship. The destination

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of the Championship depended on the last game of the season, played at St. Helens last Tuesday, and our youngsters rose to the occasion magnificently, winning a rousing match 9 point to 8.

It is a fitting end to a fine season by the "A" Team, and must augur well for the future at Central Park when we have such fine young players coming along as Jeff Bootle, Jim Fairclough, Johnny Phillips, Bramwell Booth, Jimmy Boylan, Tommy Woosey, Brian Larkin, Tony Stephens and Walt Shaw. With seven tourists leaving shortly first team chances should be coming for these lads in the very near future.

THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Wigan Division, I would esteem it a great favour if you would kindly thank all your supporters who attended last Saturdays match at Central Park, and contributed towards our collection which realised £117 (only £7 short of last years record).

J. LOWTON, Divisional Secretary.

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Threequarters:
2—BOSTON
3—ASHTON
4—DAVIES
5—CARLTON

Half-backs:
6—BOLTON
or McLEOD
7—PARR *1/2*

Forwards:
8—BARTON or COLLIER
9—SAYER
10—McTIGUE
11—CHERRINGTON
12—LYON
13—EVANS

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Full-back: 1—DYSON *2 Goals*

Threequarters:
2—BREEN
3—BOOTH
4—HEYWOOD *1/2*
5—STOCKS

Half-backs:
6—DEIGHTON
7—SMALES (Capt.) *1/2*

Forwards:
8—SLEVIN
9—CLOSE *1/2*
10—NOBLE
11—CLARK
12—BOWMAN *Kilroy*
13—RAMSDEN

Touch-Judges:
Mr. J. TYRER (Leigh) Tangerine Flag.
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- 1909—May 1st: Wigan 7, Oldham 3 (at Salford), Att 12,000.
- 1910—April 23rd: Wigan 7, Oldham 13 (at Broughton). Att. 12,000.
- 1911—May 6th: Wigan 7, Oldham 20 (at Broughton). Att. 20,000.
- 1912—May 4th: Wigan 5, Huddersfield 13 (at Halifax). Att. 12,000.
- 1913—May 3rd: Wigan 2, Huddersfield 29 (at Wakefield). Att. 16,000.
- 1922—May 6th: Wigan 13, Oldham 2 (at Broughton). Att. 26,000.
- 1924—May 3rd: Wigan 7, Batley 13 (at Broughton). Att. 15,000.
- 1926—May 8th: Wigan 22, Warrington 10 (at St. Helens). Att. 20,000.
- 1934—April 28th: Wigan 14, Salford 3 (at Warrington). Att. 31,565.
- 1944—May 13th & 20th: 1st leg (at Wigan) Wigan 13, Dewsbury 9. 2nd leg (at Dewsbury) Wigan 12, Dewsbury 5.
- 1946—May 18th: Wigan 13, Huddersfield 4 (at Maine Road) 67,000.
- 1947—June 21st: Wigan 13, Dewsbury 4 (at Maine Road). 41,000.
- 1950—May 13th: Wigan 20, Huddersfield 2 (at Maine Road).
- 1952—May 10th: Wigan 13, Bradford Northern 6 (at Huddersfield).
- 1960—May 21st: Wigan 27, Wakefield Trinity 3 (at Odsal). 80,000.

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WIGAN PLAYERS RECORDS ————— Season 1961-62

FIRST TEAM

APPEARANCES AND TRIES SCORED

(up to and including Monday, 30th April, 1962)

	Appear- ances	Tries		Appear- ances	Tries
Ashton, E.	40	24	Evans, R.	36	7
Barton, J. T.	33	3	Gregory, J.	2	—
Belshaw, J.	3	1	Griffiths, W. F.	40	9
Bolton, D. R.	33	10	Jones, A.	2	2
Booth, B.	1	—	Lyon, G.	29	9
Bootle, J.	17	8	McCormack, J. J. ...	1	1
Boston, W. J.	40	49	McLeod, S.	15	11
Carlton, F.	42	38	McTigue, B.	39	2
Cherrington, N.	33	7	Parr, F.	27	8
Collier, F.	38	4	Sayer, W.	41	2
Davies, A.	29	21	Stephens, A.	1	—
Entwistle, T.	12	4	Woosey, T.	5	1

Total number of Tries 221

GOALS SCORED

Ashton, E.	3
Bootle, J.	18
Griffiths, W. F.	174

Total number of Goals 195

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FIXTURES AND RESULTS — 1961-62

1961	FIRST TEAM	F. A.	"A" TEAM	F. A.
Aug. 12	Warrington (W.Cup)	H 26-10	Warrington (Friendly)	A 18-12
19	Huddersfield	A 19-9	St. Helens	H 11-23
23	Blackpool	H 31-5		
26	Hunslet	H 44-11	Leigh	A 18-8
Sept. 2	Workington (L.Cup)	A 30-18	Workington (L.Shield)	H 36-5
4			Leigh (6-30)	H 32-22
6	Leigh	A 20-0	Swinton	A 8-46
9	Swinton	H 6-13		
12	Blackpool B.	A 33-8	Leigh (Friendly)	A 5-21
16	Leigh	H 25-6		
21	Widnes (L.Cup 2 Rd.)	A 5-9	Liverpool City	A 32-7
23	Liverpool City	H 45-0	Widnes	H 18-5
30				
Oct. 7	New Zealand	H 28-6	Rochdale Hornets	H 18-5
14	Rochdale Hornets	A 28-8		
21				
28	Swinton	A 7-4	Swinton	H 16-5
Nov. 4			Blackpool B.	H 15-12
11	Workington Town	A 16-10	Warrington	A 29-10
18	Barrow	H 39-3	Barrow	A 19-10
25	Whitehaven	A 26-6	Whitehaven	H 26-11
Dec. 2	Rochdale Hornets	H 22-5	Rochdale Hornets	A 5-11
9	Whitehaven	H 31-11	Whitehaven	A 5-7
16	Halifax	A 7-4	Salford	H 24-5
23	Widnes	H Post.	Widnes	A 22-10
30			St. Helens	A Post.
Jan. 1	Warrington	H Post.		
6	Liverpool City	A 39-0	Oldham	A 43-3
13	Oldham	H 16-13	Oldham	H 36-18
20	Oldham	A 7-2	Salford	A 22-7
27	Halifax	H Post.	Salford	A 22-7
Feb. 3	Workington T.	H 25-8	Workington T.	A 18-2
10	Keighley (R.L. Cup)	A 25-3	Widnes (Friendly)	H 27-10
17	Hunslet	A 34-12		
19	Halifax	H 27-6	Rochdale H.	H 4-13
24	Wakefield T.	A 11-14	Widnes (Friendly)	A 16-16
Mar. 3	Dewsbury (R.L. Cup)	H 50-2	Liverpool City	H 15-4
10	Wakefield T.	H Post.	Barrow	H 8-4
14	Widnes	H 21-5		
17				
19	Wakefield T.	H 28-9	St. Helens (friendly)	H 3-13
24	Wakefield (R.L. Cup)	A 4-5	Blackpool	A 6-16
26	Hull K. R.	H 40-16		
29	Barrow	A 5-5		
31	Hull K. R.	A 18-11		
April 4	Widnes	A 10-12	Workington Town	H 27-14
7	Huddersfield	H 41-3	Warrington	H 11-10
11	Warrington	H 23-15		
14	R.L. Cup Semi-final			
20	St. Helens	A 18-16		
21	Warrington	A 16-10		
23	Salford	H 46-12		
28	St. Helens	H 12-3		
30	Salford	A 49-8		
May 1			St. Helens	A 9-8