



HAROLD WAGSTAFF

*"THE PRINCE
OF CENTRES"*



In modern terminology Harold Wagstaff was a 'Super Star'. He was certainly Huddersfield's first, with his professional career starting in 1906.

Wagstaff was born at Underbank, situated on the outskirts of Holmfirth, on May 19th, 1891. The area was steeped in Northern Union Football and Harold's first club was the delightfully named Pump Hole Rangers. They took their name from the area around the Holmfirth Village Pump where they held their committee meetings and their games were all friendly affairs against teams of lads from around the Holme Valley Districts.

When he graduated into the Underbank team he was still only fourteen years old and although he was playing alongside men much older than himself, he

matched most of them for size.

The early part of the 1906/7 season saw Underbank reach the semi-final of the Halifax Charity Cup and after the game the referee, who was an ex-Halifax and Yorkshire player, invited Harold to Thrum Hall. Luckily for Huddersfield the Halifax committee decided at a meeting the next day that at 15 years old he was too young to become a professional player.

Harold's thoughts of possibly joining Halifax vanished within a week as on the Monday Joe Clifford arrived at the Wagstaff home with an offer to join Fartown. He visited the Wagstaffs both at home and at work until, on the Friday evening, in Harold's uncle's public house, The Druids Arms, the future legend signed for Five Gold Sovereigns.

He played his first game for Fartown against Bramley on November 10th 1906, scoring one try in a 28-11 victory. His last game came on 23rd March 1925 against Oldham when Fartown lost 16-0. In between those years Wagstaff gained many honours with Huddersfield and Great Britain. He was tour captain in 1914 and 1920 and was an inspirational leader of "The Team of All Talents".

Apart from an odd game at full-back Harold played all his career at three-quarter, and was known as the "Prince of Centres".