THE MATCH OF THE MONTH

By "THOR"

WHAT A SCORCHER!

HUDDERSFIELD and Leeds met to open the Fartown programme. and set a tremendously hot standard for the season.

A game packed with thrills, ending all square, had a big crowd on their toes with excitement and hoarse with vocal encouragement in appreciation.

The run of the game was end to end all the time, with the Fartowners on top in the tight but not so well together in the loose.

The home centres disappointed, and the wingers were too well wrapped up to do any damage. Leeds centres seemed to have more penetration but over elaborated, with the result that chances were lost. Batten never seemed to be included in the attack. while Best was the most effective winger on view.

Tynan worked hard, but it was hard work. "Dicky" Williams flashed and promised and then died away, but he always required watching.

Howard had a similar game to "Dicky," both being slightly out of luck. The best half-back was Morgan who was inclined, however, to use the blind side. Givvons hampered Morgan a little in the second half by picking the ball out of the scrum too often, thus slowing down the at-

The forwards were well matched, with Robson and Prosser the best.

A IOY TO WATCH.

I have left to the last the two fullbacks. Cook was good, hardly putting a foot wrong, but Hunter outshone him at all points. Our crowds are going to enjoy the play of this young man who brings dash and adventure into all he does.

Hunter was undoubtedly the man of the match, his running and kicking being particularly good, but most outstanding was his catching.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. Dobson has the reputation of being our best Yorkshire referee, but if the best referee cannot get the ball played properly, how can the less efficient control this aspect of the game? No player should be allowed to lean, push or charge, yet these were the usual methods adopted. The method of dealing with the scrum trouble could be effective, but must be applied all the game and not allowed to deteriorate into the old "feet up and prance."

The spectators were good and in holiday mood, but once or twice the referee came in for vociferous con-demnation. We shall see far worse games by both teams when they will be winners. The tackling of the Fartowners was good, but the Leeds "spotting" was terrific.

The game gave us all the best in Rugby League, except the goal-kicking which, surprisingly, nobody seemed to worry about, the other thrills compensating for some poorish efforts.

THOR'S VERDICT

Standard of Play:— Huddersfield: Good. Leeds: Equally good.

Man of the Match:-J. C. H. Hunter (Hudd.).

Goal-Kicking :-Did not appear to matter.

Refereeing: Competent but too leniest at Play the ball."

Behaviour of Spectators :-Very vocal.

Ground Arrangements:-Adequate.

Programme :-Usual moderate effort.

Opinion on the Match:-Excellent fare.

"THOR" HAD TO PAY

THE Huddersfield Club declined to supply "Thor" with a Press Ticket, presumably because of his criticism of Fartown matches made last season.

THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

(From Page 8)

to screw the pack and take the ball with them.

The final point for discussion is that a player may be penalised if he wilfully puts the ball unfairly into the scrum. The half-back is enjoined to "put the ball into the centre of the scrum by a downward movement. As this movement really initiates the scrum, it is fairly easy to pick out if not done correctly, although it must be born in mind that the referee has also to keep his eyes open for the sundry other faults which may appear. You may hear various stories of half-backs being able to spin a ball, or by throwing it in crookedly, obtain some advantage for their side. These tricks of the trade will always be spoken of. but as a general rule referees keep a check on this form of delinquency.

THE NORTHERN RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

At Fartown, Huddersfield, August 23rd, 1947.

G. T. Pts. HUDDERSFIELD ... 0 2 6

G. T. Pts. LEEDS ... 0 2 6

Attendance: 16,825. Receipts: £1,289.

Teams:

Huddersfield:—J. C. H. Hunter! J. Anderson, G. R. Pepperell. J. Bawden and L. W. Cooper: L. Howard and W. G. Morgan (Capt.): H. Wood, H. Whitehead, R. Nicholson, R. S. Robson, P. D. Thomas and A. Givvons.

Leeds:—H. E. Cook; Batten, G. Price, A. T. Cornelius and Best; R. Williams and Tynan; D. R. Prosser, Horsfall, Wheatley, A. Clues (Capt.). Foreman and I. A. Owens.

Referee :- A. S. Dobson, of Featherstone.

Scorers:

Huddersfield :- Tries : Bawdon, Pepperell. Leeds :- Tries : Williams, Best.

RECORD OF THE MONTH.

By A. N. GAULTON.

EEIGH'S RECORDMANY CUP-TIE MOVES

THE end of January brings thoughts of the Rugby League Challenge up Competition, with interest quickened by the "dead-line" for the signing of players eligible for the Cupames being fixed for February 1st. Big news among the many transfers as been the signing of Jim Ledgard v Leigh, who baid the record fee £2.650 for the former Dewsbury full-back. The suspension imposed and Ledgard by the Dewsbury clubultomatically expires on his transfer.

Provided the weather is favourable there should be big money for the dubs as a result of the first round ames. Such ties as Huddersfield v. Bradford N., Warrington v. Workington, Hunslet v. Widnes, and Wigan Castleford, will draw big crowds and help to swell the "pool" which shared out among the competing lubs at the end of the season.

THE KIWIS DEPART.

Amid all the excitement of Cupreparations in the Rugby League, the twis have returned to England, uncited and without any fuss, and eight slipped away on their long curney home. Their record in france has not been as good as aght have been expected judging by heir football over here. They were eisively beaten by France in the lal International of the tour at ordeaux, the score being 25—7.

BIG PLANS.

Several Rugby League officials not over to Bordeaux and together the French and New Zealand research training and International Board. Among items under consideration were a orld Cup Competition in 1951, an ibition game in Italy, and separate ements between the different artries on the transfer of players. Sere is also a hope that Italy and ada will join the new Board.

ALL CHANGE!

addition to Ledgard, many well an names will be seen in new surdings as a result of January
es. They include Kelly (Leeds to
shury), Hagan Evans (Bradford
Hull), Madden (Huddersfield to
Taylor (Huddersfield to BatGriffiths (Oldham to Rochdale
Givvons (Huddersfield to OldLarge (Oldham to WorkingBest (Leeds to Featherstone R.),
(Oldham to Barrow) and
toon (Dewsbury to FeatherR.), Jim Brough, the former

Leeds international, is coaching Batley (in succession to Mick Exley) who up to the present have had a disappointing season.

More Colonials have been persuaded to come to England. Halifax have brought two New Zealanders, Enoka MacDonald and Mugwi John MacDonald (uncle and nephew), to join Rika and Charlie Smith at Thrum Hall. Leeds have signed a 15 stone forward, J. S. Pansegrauw, from South Africa, and Huddersfield also turned to the same country for the signing of I. W. Clark (centre), and K. Morrison, (forward),

Among the R.U. "converts" have been H. Lewis (Morley) to Dewsbury, Welshmen G. Parsons and S. Llewellyn to St. Helens, and J. M. Russell to Hunslet.

The soaring prices of transfers has prompted the Hunslet club to suggest that an independent body should be set up to fix reasonable fees and conduct the transfer of players. There would be other matters to consider, such as the terms clubs would be allowed to offer men open for transfer, but at least Hunslet have provided a starting point if an attempt is to be made to keep transfer fees down.

THE SCORERS.

Ted Ward, the first player to reach the double century of points, is now well set for his hundred goals. He keeps his lead in both points and goals, but Bawden has reduced the margin considerably during January and is making a bold bid for the posi-



PAT DEVERY

Huddersfield's Brilliant Stand-off Half and Captain.

tion he has held at the close of each of the two post-war seasons. Ratcliffe and Bevan are well ahead in tries and may exceed the total of 48 with which Bevan led the field at the end of last season.

Continued Overleaf

THE	KIWIS	IN	FRANCE.
-----	-------	----	---------

The state of the s	194 Dec. 194	17. 28 8.	France, at Paris	N.Z.	Opp.	Att. 15,000	Francs. 1,500,000
-	Tan.	1	Catalans, at Perpignan			15,000	2,050,000
16		4	Pyrenees Languedoc, at Toulouse	0	15	17,300	1,230,000
		11	Lyons Centre, at Lyon	10	20	15.000	2,200,000
			Provence, at Cavaillon		7	10,000	
	1		Cote d'Azur, at Antibes		15	10,000	
	"	18	France "B," at Marseilles	41	20	12,000	1,480,000
			Basques, at Bayonne		3		
1	19	25	France, at Bordeaux	. 7	25	22,000	
1				172	109		

Played 9, Won 5, Lost 3, Drawn 1.



PAT DEVERY

Huddersfield's Brilliant Stand-off Half and Captain.

THE MATCH OF THE MONTH. By "D'Artagnan."

A Scramble at Wheldon Road Castleford Deservedly Beaten

ASTLEFORD and Huddersfield CASTLEPORD and Huddenshibition of Rugby League football at Wheldon Road. Both sides seemed to be feeling the effects of their games on the previous day (Good Friday), and also mindful of the fact that their Easter programme was by no means completed. In extenuation of the players, however, it should be pointed out that the strong sun and a very tricky cross-wind proved a great handicap. The wind also blew the dust about, to the considerable discomfort of spectators.

It was a fairly hard match, scrappy at times, with one or two "incidents of the sort that do occur in this type of a game. Yet the proceedings never degenerated into a rough-andtumble and, in fact, the best football came in the closing stages when a judicious kick for the corner by Guest Gooper and Devery put in some good runs for Huddersfield. Guest was the pick of the home men, of whom I was most disappointed in Langfield, who seems to have lost that form of twelve months ago which marked him out as a coming international. Of Reid, Huddersfield's Irish capture, I gained the impression that he has not yet "fitted in" to the Rugby League game, but may be a considerable asset when he does.

I do not propose to dwell on the play for there was not a great deal to merit comment. The tit-bit of the afternoon was the try scored by the Huddersfield front row forward. Thomas, who romped over from halfway at a speed that surprised Castleford people. I doubt if there is a faster front row man playing than Thomas, who is, I understand, a brother of the Oldham and Welsh International forward. Cooper also provided a thrill when he used his powerful hand-off to score at the corner, leaving three would-be tacklers sprawled out behind him.

ALERT SCOT.

The man of the match was David Valentine, Huddersfield's looseforward. I do not select him for
brilliance—there was little of that
from anyone—but for sheer hard
work throughout. He was here,
there and everywhere. I lost count

"D'ARTAGNAN'S" VERDICT

Standard of Play:-Castleford-Few ideas. Huddersfield-Not at their

Man of the Match:— D. D. Valentine (Huddersfield).

Goal-Kicking:-Two brilliant goals Devery; the rest moderate.

Refereeing:-Fair, after a bad start.

Behaviour of Spectators:-Very good.

Ground Arrangements:-Good, but playing area should be kept clear.

Programmes:-Unobtainable at the ground.

Opinion of the Match:-Too scrappy, with few sustained moves.

of how many telling tackles this Scot made, but I should think they equalled those of any other two players on the

I am afraid I cannot congratulate Castleford on their display. I do not refer alone to their lack of tactics and

over-frequent kicking. They plant Bawden or Devery were taking alty kicks at goal, indulged in trick of the men on the mark movements. back a pace or two towards kicker. A minor point perhaps, irritating to the lover of fair plant

After a quarter of an hour or was afraid Referee Kendal was in a bad afternoon. A lot of infringe ments went unnoticed, especially some of the "play the balls," was Castleford men stood well off-side were allowed to get away with After this early period Mr. Kendal control tightened and became mo efficient.

PLAYING PITCH NOT A PLAYGROUND.

Ground arrangements were good but I do seriously criticise the Cast ford officials for allowing when seemed to be the entire youth population lation of the surrounding district turn the playing area into a play ground immediately after the curtaraiser match had ended. Encourage youth by all means, but don't them run loose all over the pitch is before a big match.

I can make no comment on the Castleford official programme, as found it impossible to buy one at the ground. On making inquiries I was told that they were only on sale the town. Since buses containing visiting supporters generally trav-straight through the town to Wheldon Road, this seems a rather unfa-arrangement. But perhaps the Castiford programmes are for home spectators only?

The Northern Rugby Football League

At Wheldon Road, Castleford, on March 27th, 1948.

T. Pts. G. T. Pts. 1 7 HUDDERSFIELD ... 4 4 20 CASTLEFORD ... 2

Attendance: 10,000.

Teams: Castleford—Lewis; Ward, Guest, Skidmore and Lloyd; Fisher and Lang-field; Harris, Jones, Nicholls, Foreman (Capt.), Staines and Mugglestone.

Huddersfield—G. R. Pepperell; Anderson, Bawden, Devery (Capt), and Cooper; Reid and Walsh; Thomas, Whitehead, Meek, Robson, Baxter and Valentine,

Referee-Mr. R. Kendal, of Keighley.

Castleford-Goals: Guest (2). Try: Skidmore.

Huddersfield—Goals: Devery (2), Bawden (2), Tries: Devery, Thomas, Cooper, Meek.

Exclusive "Rugby League Review"

TWELVE Finals for the Rugby League Challenge Cup have been played at the Empire Stadium, Wembley In 1932 the Final was played at Wigan; the Competition was suspended during 1940; 1941 and 1942 play. The highest victory at Wembley was by Halifax in 1931 (22—8); the 1933 Final produced the most Final Rugby Final Final Produced the most Final Rugby Final Rugby Final Final Final Rugby Final

1929	O.T.D.
GTPts GTPts GTPts St Rd. Wigan 5 5 25 Batley 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Dewsbury
Replay Wigan 2 7 25 St. Helens 1 1 5	Castleford 0 1 3 Dewsbury 3 1 9
Replay Wigan	(At Huddersfield)
FINAL WIGAN 2 313	3 Dewsbury 1 0 2
1st Rd. Widnes 1 6 20 Bradford N. 0 0 0 2nd Rd. Swinton 2 1 7 Widnes 2 1 7 Replay Widnes 0 2 6 Swinton 1 1 5	0 St. Helens 3 1 9 St. Helens Rec 2 1 7 Leeds 1 1 5 St. Helens 3 418
Semi-finals Widnes 2 2 10 Barrow 0 1	3 St. Helens 1 1 5 Wigan 1 1 5
Replay (At Warrington)	(At Swinton) St. Helens
FINAL WIDNES 2 2 10	St. Helens 0 1 3
15t Rd. Dewsbury 1 0 2 Halifax 0 1	2 York
Semi-finals St. Helens	1 York
1st Rd. Huddersfield 2 5 19 Dewsbury 2 1 2nd Rd. Barrow 0 0 0 Huddersfield 0 0 0 Replay Huddersfield 1 0 2 Barrow 0 0 0	
3rd Rd. Swinton 1 1 5 Huddersfield 3 2 1 Semi-finals Leeds 1 2 8 Huddersfield 6 6 3 (At Wakefield) 4 Wakefield 6 6 3	2 Wigan 2 1 7 Warrington 3 1 9 0 St. Helens 1 1 5 Warrington 4 1 11 (At Swinton)
FINAL HUDDERSF'LD 6 32	
1st Rd. Leigh 0 2 6 Hunslet 1 2 2 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	8 Widnes 3 2 12 Leeds 0 1 3 4 Hull K.R. 0 0 0 Widnes 2 2 10
3rd Rd. Hunslet 1 0 2 York 0 0 1 Semi-finals Huddersfield 2 1 7 Hunslet 3 2 1	0 Halifax 0 1 3 Widnes 1 1 5 2 Widnes 2 1 7 Oldham 2 0 4
FINAL (At Wakefield) HUNSLET 1 31	1 Widnes
1st Rd. Castleford 3 8 833 Astley & Tyld. Cl. 2 0 2nd Rd. Liverpool Stan. 1 0 2 Castleford 1 2 3rd Rd. Castleford 2 2 10 Hunslet 0 1 Semi-finals Barrow 1 1 5 Castleford 1 3 1 FINAL CASTLEFORD 1 3 1	1 Huddersfield 3 521 Hull
193	6
1st Rd. Leeds 4 318 Dewsbury 2 1 2nd Rd. Str'th'm & Mitch, 0 1 3 Leeds 2 31 Replay	7 Barrow 1 2 8 Warrington 4 3 17 3 Halifax 1 0 2 Warrington 1 0 2 Warrington 6 2 18 Halifax 3 3 15
3rd Rd. Hull 2 0 4 Leeds 1 1 Semi-finals Leeds 2 2 10 Huddersfield 1 1 (At Wakefield) (At Wakefield) 1 1	5 Warrington 1 1 5 Wigan 1 0 2
	8 Warrington 1 0 2

How The Finalist Reached Wembley

alled by the Editor (Stanley Chadwick).

ame will be the forty-seventh Final and the thirteenth of the series at Wembley.

1943, 1944 and 1945, decided on the home and away principle on the grounds of the respective finalists. Huddersfield (1933) kicked the most goals (6), een 7 "Battle of the Roses" and 3 all-Yorkshire duels. Yorkshire clubs have been successful on 8 occasions.

Warrington have been runners-up twice.

(1939) were drawn at home in each of the three rounds of the Competition. w scored the most points in reaching the Final in 1938—120 points. Halifax (1931) registered the least—25 points.					
1st Rd. 2nd Rd.	## G T Pts Widnes	1 9 3 7 G T Pts Higginshaw 1 0 2 Dewsbury 0 0 0 0	G T Pts G T Pts Hunslet 1 0 2 Keighley 1 1 5 Keighley 1 3 11 Broughton Rang. 1 1 5		
Replay 3rd Rd. Semi-finals	Widnes 3 2 12 Widnes 2 1 7 Widnes 5 1 13 (At War	Dewsbury 2 1 7 Swinton 1 0 2 Wigan 3 1 9	Liverpool Stan 1 0 2 Keighley		
Replay		WIDNES 3 418	Keighley		
THVAL		1078			
1st Rd. 2nd Rd. 3rd Rd. Semi-finals	Salford 4 10 28 Liverpool Stan 0 1 3 Salford 5 3 19 Salford 0 2 6 (At Belle Vue	Hull 1 0 2 Salford 1 3 11 St. Helens Rec. 0 0 0 Swinton 0 0 Manchester)	Barrow .13 19 83 Maryport .0 1 3 Barrow .7 4 26 Bramley .2 0 4 Barrow .2 1 7 Leeds .1 1 5 Barrow .2 0 4 Halifax .1 0 2 (At Huddersfield) Barrow .2 0 4		
FINAL		SALFORD 2 1 7	Barrow 2 0 4		
1st Rd. 2nd Rd. 3rd Rd.	Halifax 0 2 6 Wakefield T 1 1 5	Barrow 0 1 3 Hull K.R. 1 0 2 Halifax 1 5	Salford 1 311 St. Helens 0 0 0 Salford 3 418 Hunslet 1 0 2 Salford 4 420 Bramley 0 0 0		
Replay Semi-finals FINAL	Halifax 3 3 15 Halifax 2 2 10 (At Odsal,		Salford		
1st Rd. 1st game 2nd game 2nd Rd. 3rd Rd. Semi-finals	Wakefield T 1 1 5	Wakefield T 1 4 14 Huddersfield 1 0 2 on aggregate, 19—5! Halifax 0 0 0 Workington T 2 0 4 Wakefield T 2 1 7	Swinton 1 1 5 Wigan 2 0 4 Wigan 1 4 14 Swinton 1 0 2 Wigan 1 4 14 Swinton 18-71 1 0 2 Wigan 5 93 7 Keighley 0 0 0 0 Barrow 0 1 3 12 Wigan 2 3 13 Wigan 3 2 12 Widnes 1 1 5		
FINAL	(At I	eeds)	(At Swinton) Wigan 0 4 12		
1st Rd. 1st game 2nd game 2nd Rd. 3rd Rd.	Salford 1 1 5 Bradford N 2 210 (Bradford N. won c Huddersfield 0 0 0 Bradford N 2 210	Bradford N 1 0 2 Salford 0 0 0	Leeds 3 2 12 Barrow 0 0 0 Leeds 0 2 6 Barrow 0 0 0 0 (At Leeds) (Leeds won on aggregate. 18—0 0 0 Leeds 1 1 5 Hunsler 0 0 0 Wigan 0 0 0 Leeds 1 5 Vakefield T. 0 0 0 Leeds 3 5 21 (At Hunsler 0 0 0 Leeds 3 5 21 0 0 0 0 Leeds 3 5 21 0 0 0 0 0 Leeds 3 5 21 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0		
Semi-finals FINAL	Warrington 2 1 7 (At Sv	VIII(OII)	(At Huddersfield) Leeds		
lst Rd. 1st game 2nd game	Bradford N 3 3 15 (Bradford N. won	Bradford N 1 0 2 Huddersfield 1 0 2 on aggregate, 17—8) Bradford N 0 1 3	Wigan won on aggregate, 46—7) Wigan 4 3 17 Leeds		
Peplay The Rd.	Bradford N 0 3 9	Wakefield 1. 1 0 2 Oldham 0 0 0 Bradford N. 4 2 14	Warrington 2 2 10 Wigan 2 3 13 Wigan 1 3 11 Rochdale H 0 0 0 (At Swinton)		
FINAL		Bradford N	Wigan		