

CLOSE, TACTICAL BATTLE WON BY THE INSTITUTE

BY BILL DRAPER

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE 6 pts., ROCK FERRY nil.

FOR the last two seasons I have been impressed by Birkenhead Institute's resourceful and industrious forward play. When I saw them for the first time this term against Rock Ferry High School at Ingleborough Road on Wednesday it was clear that the pack has lost none of its tireless energy which obviously disrupted the style of Rock Ferry, one of the most attractive school sides in the district.

Rarely have I seen a side dominate the forward play with such apparent ease. The Institute's tactics mesmerised Rock Ferry and despite their desire to get their backs running strongly, they never seemed likely to win this match.

It was a tactical battle from the first whistle. Rock Ferry were determined to throw the ball about and rely on swift breaks to demoralise their opponents, but they were never allowed to get into their stride.

The Institute, after learning early on that their backs had neither the speed or the craft to really trouble Rock Ferry, were content to keep the game tight and use their half backs to make ground with long kicks to touch.

Both the Institute's tries came from movements like this. Rock Ferry had no answer to these movements and even when the Institute appeared to have run out of steam in the closing stages, Rock Ferry could not click into their usual rhythm.

The Institute played this type of game to perfection. It was not always pleasant to watch, but in the circumstances they had no alternative. They knew that if they allowed the ball plenty of air, Rock Ferry would have coasted home to an easy success.

Skipper Arthur Howarth led the pack brilliantly and in Scarrisbrick, Westwater and Mealor he had three colleagues who were always in the thick of things and harrassing Rock Ferry.

8/12/65

B. I 6pts

Rock
Ferry 0pts

DEFENSIVE

Rock Ferry soon found themselves on the defensive, but the Institute backs could make little headway, mainly because they failed to run straight. Another contributory factor was that they had nobody capable of making a decisive break.

It became evident that the forwards would have to break down Rock Ferry's resistance. After ten minutes, a fine kick by Howarth put the Institute within five yards of the Rock Ferry line.

From the one-out, Edmonds gathered cleanly and hustled his way through for an excellent try. Parry's conversion attempt was only just off the mark.

Fisher and Lyons tried desperately to infuse some life into Rock Ferry's back division, but the cover tackling on the Institute was too brisk for them to exploit any gaps.

Boyle and Mahoney toiled hard up front, but there was little cohesion in the loose mauls. In the set pieces, Westwater hooked expertly and Trotter seemed to get little help from his colleagues.

In the second half, Rock Ferry tried all they knew to keep the game open. Taylor used the ball intelligently, but invariably he was caught before his passes could reach the menacing backs.

Mahoney was the Institute's only real threat. Twice the Rock Ferry skipper tried solo bursts and his speed and strength looked like carrying him through until a tight of numbers gradually forced him to halt.

ANOTHER TRY

When the Institute took up the attack, Milnes, who was kicking extremely well, failed with two drop goal attempts. Ten minutes from time however, the Institute went further ahead when Birss dived over after Rock Ferry had conceded a five yard scrum.

As the seconds ticked away, Rock Ferry began to show some of their power. Fisher

and Darlington made two promising beaks, but luck was not on their side.

A creditable win for the Institute who must now feel confident about their chances in next Wednesday's derby match against Park High School. It should be quite a meeting.

For Rock Ferry, defeat must have somewhat of a surprise. However, they can take some heart from the fact that they will rarely meet a side again this season with such strength up front.

Birkenhead Institute: Parry; Daniels, Whitehead, Beattie, Williams; Milnes, Jirss; Howarth, Westwater, Mealor, Cotgrave, Edmonds, Renshaw, Scarrisbrick, Watson.

Rock Ferry: Upham; Eames, Fisher, Harrison, Darlington; Lyons, Taylor; Wraige, Trotter, Emmas; Gallagher, Boyle, Cavanagh, Mahoney, Steele.

Annual game

Old Instonians play Birkenhead Institute in an annual rugby match at Ingleborough Road this afternoon (kick-off 2.45 p.m.) The outstanding player in the Institute team will receive a special award.

Instonians' latest victory was the expense of the School. This year's game featured the unusual spectacle of the school pack handing out a lot of trouble to the Old Boys and actually achieving a push-over try.

The winner of the annual trophy for the best school player however, went to your boy Milnes, who did well at fly half.

SHOCK START, BUT THE INSTITUTE FIGHT BACK

By **BILL DRAPER**

Wirral Grammar School 8 pts., Birkenhead Institute 3 pts

CONSIDERING that Wirral Grammar School and Birkenhead Institute were playing their first fixture for over a month following the Christmas break, they produced exciting rugby at Cross Lane on Wednesday. Wirral, by virtue of their early supremacy, deserved their win, but a spirited rally by the Institute almost gave them a surprise draw against a side which has been beaten only once this season

Credit must go to both teams for attempting to play enterprising, attractive rugby. Wirral looked much more dangerous in the open, but in the forward battle they were clearly bewildered by the Institute's pace and strength

There was a marked improvement in the Institute back play, particularly from the centres. Abbott, a second teamer for most of this season, showed up well, and Whitehead tackled effectively.

THRUSTFUL WINGER

However, it was the Wirral three-quarters who really caught the eye. Trowler, a speedy thrustful winger and Ollerhead, a jinking, elusive centre, posed many problems for the Institute with their swift breaks

Scrum-half Robinson showed himself to be a fast mover when he went over for a sensational try after only 30 seconds. The Institute had barely kicked off when he raced down the wing and after a neat bout of passing, Robinson was in for three points.

This could have been a signal for Wirral to pile up a massive early lead, but the Institute hung on bravely despite constant threats to their line.

Even when winger Julian Williams limped off after five minutes, Wirral found their opponents' defence difficult to penetrate. Trowler had a golden chance when he burst through, but he fumbled the ball as he reached the line.

SECOND TRY

He made amends two minutes later when he side-stepped his way past four men and dived over for a try near the posts. Bradshaw added the goal points.

The Institute's reply was a series of energetic forward rushes in which Howarth, Westwater and Scarrisbrick were prominent

With Trowler injured and off the field for attention, Wirral did not really start to impress

again until well after the interval, when he was able to resume.

By this time the Institute had reduced the arrears through Parry, who kicked a fine 35-yard penalty after two Wirral forwards had been caught off-side.

This score really put the Institute back in the game and they began to look dangerous, especially up front where they had gained a slight edge.

If Parry had scored from another penalty attempt, Wirral would have been severely pressed, but gradually the Institute ran out of steam and the result was never in doubt.

NEAR MISS

In the closing minutes Ollerhead nearly added a try and Bradshaw almost snatched a penalty.

The game was much more even than had been expected, for Wirral are a strong side with determined backs and useful forwards. They must have been surprised by the Institute's tough tackling and powerful forward rushes.

Wirral were well served by Bradshaw, Ingrey, Winthorp and White when the real pressure was on while Howarth, Daniels, Woods, Cotgrave and Watson were outstanding for the Institute.

Wirral G.S.—Bradshaw; Trowler, Ollerhead, Spencer, Williamson; Revell, Robinson, W. P. Williams, Nichol, Sharp, A. C. Williams, Ingrey, Winthorp, Gallagher, White.

Birkenhead Institute.—Parry; Williams (J.) Whitehead, Abbott, Daniels; Milnes, Woods; Meador, Westwater, Howarth, Cotgrave, Edmunds, Renshaw, Watson, Scarrisbrick.

26/1/66

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE v. OLDERSHAW G.S.

At Ingleborough Road. Institute won
by 47 runs.

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

C Westwater, run out	0
A Howarth, b Haynes	2
A Woods, c & b Haynes	1
T Ashworth, c Dodd b Haynes	40
A Murphy, st Suthren b Keat- ing	11
P Parry, c Dodd b Watson	9
P Milnes, c Watson b Keating	1
T Titchmarsh, not out	32
M Williams, lbw Haynes	7
E James, not out	11
Extras	9

Total (8 wkts dec) ...123

E McDonald did not bat.

Bowling: Haynes 4-32, Watson 1-34,
Keating 2-15.

OLDERSHAW

Watson, c Woods b Titchmarsh	45
Stevenson, c Woods b Parry ...	8
Jones, b Parry	0
Crofts, b Parry	2
Thomas, b Parry	7
Keating, c Woods b Titchmarsh	9
Fearon, c Milnes b Titchmarsh	0
Dodd, lbw McDonald	0
Haynes, c Ashworth b Parry	0
Southern, not out	2
Fisher, b McDonald	1
Extras	2

Total

76

Bowling: Parry 5-27, Titchmarsh 3-10,
McDonald 2-22.

PARK HIGH SCHOOL v. BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

At Noctorum. Birkenhead Institute
won by 6 wickets.

PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Payne, c Westwater b Parry	8
Carpenter, b McDonald	10
Mathews b Parry	24
Ward, c Ashworth b Parry	0
Jackson, b Parry	0
Rice, c Milnes b Parry	20
Kay, lbw Titchmarsh	4
Lowry, b Parry	0
Clark, not out	11
Wills, b Titchmarsh	27
Boys, c Westwater b Howarth	1
Extras	4
Total	109

Bowling: Parry 6-24, Titchmarsh
2-20, Howarth 1-11.

BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE

Westwater, Ward b Wills	50
Howarth, c Kay b Carpenter	0
Woods, not out	31
Ashworth, c Payne b Wills	8
Murphy, b Wills	0
Titchmarsh not out	14
Extras	8
Total (4 wkts)	111

Parry, Milnes, Williams, James and
McDonald did not bat.

PARK HIGH FAILED TO LEARN FROM MISTAKE

BY JOHN TAIT

PARK HIGH SCHOOL 6 pts. BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE 16 pts.

AFTER twice falling behind and twice drawing level, Birkenhead Institute went on to score a well-earned win over Park High School at Noctorum on Wednesday afternoon. In ideal conditions, the Institute pack, led by their hard-working captain Howarth, engineered a revival to completely subdue Park High's forwards who were the more promising in the opening stages.

Park High with skipper Lyn Williams back in the side after several months out of the game due to a knee injury, initially had the marked advantage of the wind and sun at their backs.

The home forwards were soon on the attack and possession came quickly from the loose and the lines-out.

Payne, the Park High stand-off, looked much more at home there than at scrum-half where he has been deputising for Green.

He quickly put to use the advantages of possession and the Park High backs looked very dangerous. A try straight from the text book put Park High ahead.

SOLO RUN

From a line-out the ball shot back and Matthews found the gap every centre dreams of. With a brilliant solo run he managed to go over in the corner despite the attentions of Birkenhead Institute centres Beattie and Whitehead.

In the blustery wind Williams failed to convert.

Put off guard by their lead, Park High allowed the Institute to go storming to the attack and in no time their forwards were threatening the home line.

Park High hooker Parry's first heel against the head was in vain as Birkenhead Institute regained the ball and pushed the home pack back five yards for a pushover try.

VITAL FACTOR

Scrum half for Park High, Green, proved a vital factor in off-setting the effectiveness of the opposition's pack, his long raking kicks often robbing them of the ground they had worked hard to gain.

Park High's second try was almost a copy of the first. Again from a line-out the home backs moved off well. Williams gave Matthews the break and it was he again who won the points alone.

After a short run he grub kicked the ball on and struggling off the challenges of four defenders dived full-length for the best try of the game.

Unhappily, Park High did not learn from their earlier mistake and yet again Birkenhead Institute were soon on their line. And once more it was the forwards who were solely responsible for reducing the arrears. Bustling and forging their way upfield, shrugging the home pack aside, they forced a line-out near the Park High line.

WASTED ADVANTAGE

Things looked grim for Park High. They had failed to press home their advantages.

Minutes after the re-start, scrum half Woods put the Institute ahead for the first time.

The visitors pressed hard and from a melee of players on the line Woods succeeded in getting a hand to the ball for a try which his full back converted, much to everyone's surprise.

Though Park High showed spirit and refused to admit defeat they could not overcome the visitors' superior play. Though they had the edge in the backs they were not getting the possession they needed.

When Birkenhead Institute's fly half Milnes was stopped short of the line, his centre Daniels followed up well to grab the loose ball and go in under the posts, making it a simple matter for Parry to take the full five points.

EASED OFF

Though this concluded their scoring the Institute never looked like losing their lead. Even though they eased off, they had knocked the fight out of Park High.

Outstanding for the winners were, in the forwards, Cotgrave who put in some useful line-out work, hooker Westwater, and Harper at lock. The backs all played well behind an impressive pack.

For Park High, winger Cook played hard and Payne and Green linked stylishly at half back. Though Simans, Wills, Winrow and Marchant worked hard in the pack they were not good enough in loose play.

Park High: Bastow; Jones, Williams, Matthews, Cook; Payne, Green, Icton, Parry, Winrow, Wills, Simans, Clark, Marchant, Parker.

Birkenhead Institute: Parry; Elliott, Beattie, Whitehead, Mealor, Cotgrave, Renshaw, Daniels; Milnes, Woods; Watson, Westwater, Howarth, Harper, Scarisbrick.

Referee: Mr I. Griffiths (Liverpool Society).

2/2/66

TOUR TEAM SURPRISED THEMSELVES

OLD Instonians' Rugby Club enjoyed unexpected success on their Easter tour of the Isle of Man. With only a makeshift side they managed to win both their games. On Good Friday they beat Sheffield College of Education by eight points to five and on Monday beat Lymm by nine points to nil.

The team that took the field on Friday was an odd one even by tour standards, and before the game the players entertained little hope of success. The Sheffield team played 12 of its first team and looked fit and strong.

By comparison, Instonians had players from all four teams and included Pollard (second team fly half) at wing forward, Hodgson (third team lock) at wing threequarter and the veteran Norman Little at prop.

DEMORALISED

Instonians started off well and Westwater took advantage of a Sheffield mistake and scored in the corner from a line-out. Steedman converted. Sheffield scored a try just after half time and the conversion kick equalled the scores.

It was now that the 15 men in yellow and black pulled out all the stops and suddenly out of the blue Mc-Intosh dropped a good goal. This seemed to demoralise Sheffield and Instonians held on for a good win.

In the sevens tournament on the Saturday neither team passed the second round but as the day was cold and very damp there was little disappointment.

The game on Monday was rather scrappy. Instonians never looked in any danger and at half time led three points to nil. thanks to a try by Hogan who fell over the line with the ball in the corner.

IMPROVEMENT

In the second half the standard improved and Steedman kicked a penalty (having missed five before), and dropped a goal (having missed four before).

Everyone enjoyed the tour immensely and I would like to make a final plea to any other team that was there. If anyone found a pair of shoes near the Douglas Head Hotel on Saturday evening could they please return them to Mr. J. Bell, c/o Old Instonians' R.U.F.C.

—A.P.S.

Easter
Tour 1966
- Isle of Man

8/4/66

Old Instonians

8p

Sheffield College

SCHOOL'S BRAVE FIGHT AGAINST OLD BOYS

BY PHIL RAVITZ

BIRK'HEAD INSTITUTE 0 pts., OLD INSTONIANS 9 pts.

TRADITIONALLY, the annual fixture between the Birkenhead Institute and their old boys' fifteen is a keen tussle played with spirit and endeavour rarely found in some of the school's other fixtures.

The Institute set several posers for a near full-strength old boys' team. Although the stronger and more experienced Old Instonians forced the pressure, the school side defended well and Birss and James distinguished themselves with some fine tackles.

Finally the school cover was split and Steedman, who had played an intelligent game at scrum-half, fed his fly-half who in turn sent his centres through the cover. The move ended with Ratcliffe touching down for a fine try; Steedman pulled his conversion wide.

Ashworth and Milnes were pinning back the old boys as they attempted to increase their score.

The school's best chance came when McIntosh was well-collared by Mealor, after a fine run and kick-ahead by James. Whitehead snapped up the loose ball and was only stopped short by desperate tackling.

ELEMENT OF LUCK

The Instonians increased their score in the second half, and although the try was well taken there was an element of luck to it. Winning the heel, the school scrum-half Birss delayed his pass to his backs. Lindop intercepted and carried play to the Institute line, before handing inside to Clays, who outpaced James for a touch-down. Steedman failed to add the goal points.

This score seemed to take some of the punch from the school's attack and as the Old Instonians forced home their advantage, they scored a further try when, following a good kick-ahead by Brown there was a good push by the old boys' pack.

Byrne picked up and his overhead pass was caught by Lindop who backed his way over the line. Steedman's conversion was blown away from the posts by the strong wind.

ACCOMPLISHED BACK

Outstanding for Old Instonians were the accomplished Pollard at full back, McIntosh was the main threat in the backs, and Brown and Steedman formed a competent half-back pairing. Howarth was the pick of the old boys' forwards.

For the school, the outstanding forward was again Mealor, who

was ably supported by his front row colleagues Abbott and Hall, and Lloyd at the back. Ashworth and Milnes were impressive in the school's backs, particularly with their intelligent kicking.

Birkenhead Institute: Ashworth; Colgan, Wilson, James, Harper; Milnes, Birss; Mealor, Abbott, Hall, Titchmarsh, Watson, Whitehead, Macklin, Lloyd.

Old Instonians: Pollard; Ratcliffe, Matthews, McIntosh, Daniels; Brown, Steedman; Billings, Westwater, Howarth, Byrne, Morris, Clays, Lindop, Williams.

FLYING START PUT INSTONIANS ON WINNING PATH

OLD INSTONIANS 16 pts., VULCAN 6 pts.

INSTONIANS continued their successful run with another convincing victory at the expense of another Lancashire club. Vulcan were unable to recover from the opening ten minutes when Instonians played outstanding open rugby.

Naturally the pace slackened when Vulcan settled down, although they never looked capable of crossing the Old Boys' line, their only scores being two penalties.

The Old Boys started off in a sensational way with two goals in the first few minutes. The first was the result of a quick heel by the Old Boys' pack.

Lowry made the break before passing to fellow centre McIntosh who scored a good try. Mathieson kicked a superb goal in the strong wind. Before the visitors had time to recover, the Old Boys scored again.

COMMANDING LEAD

Cotgrave, the Old Boys' scrum-half, broke from a line-out and although he was tackled managed to get his pass out to fellow half-back Brown, who took the ball brilliantly at full stretch before accelerating over the line.

Mathieson kicked a relatively easy goal to put the Old Boys into a commanding ten point lead.

Although this ended the first half scoring, Instonians continued to dominate most aspects of the game. Westwater gained nearly all the ball from the 'sets' early on and, even though possession evened out somewhat, the Old Boys still gained more than their share.

NOT CONSISTENT

With the Old Boys halves alternating between using the wind to kick to great advantage and opening out play, Vulcan were always hard put to keep the Old Boys at bay.

The Old Boys' backs were playing

well, especially Daniels on the left wing, both in his strong running and sound defensive work.

Although the second half was much more even than the first, there was a lack of consistent open play. This was due to the strong wind and the increase in kicking.

RASH OFFENCES

Mathieson kicked two good penalties which had been rashly conceded by Instonians.

Another good win for the Old Boys against a strong Lancashire side who were unable to recover from the blistering start that the Woodchurch side made.

A good team victory with Howarth again leading the pack well, but the backs caught the eye with some slick handling, especially Lowry and Daniels.

C.J.W.

INSTONIANS MISSED McINTOSH

OLD ANSELMIANS 11 pts., OLD INSTONIANS 3 pts.

OLD Instonians came to Malone Field at Eastham without Andy McIntosh, the strong runner of the threequarters. This fact was a contributory element in their defeat by a penalty, a goal, and a try to a try.

Whenever the ball got among the visitors' three-quarters there was a lack of decision and thrust and mainly the kick was used and to very little effect.

In the forwards, on the other hand, Old Instonians' pack gave the home pack a lesson in loose scrummaging and heeling the ball.

Anselmians' pack took this to heart and in the second half put into application what they had learnt and began to out-play their teachers in these same departments.

BACKS IN FORM

One advantage lay with Old Anselmians from the start. Their three-quarters had an on day. In spite of the wet, heavy, greasy ball the passing and catching of the home backs was impeccable.

In the first quarter the three-quarters handled the ball so well, that several breaks resulted that were unlucky not to mean a score.

However pressure could not be kept up without the ball and this was denied the home side through some fine work by the Instonians' pack.

WORKED TOGETHER

In the line-outs F. Clarke tapped back beautifully on several occasions before the home side confined his activities. In the loose the visitors worked as eight, finding and pushing over, then coolly heeling back while Anselmians stood around and admired.

The home side took the lead when from a penalty T. Byrne dropped a fine goal.

For the rest of the first half

play was rather indecisive first one taking the initiative then the other.

After half-time things improved for Old Anselmians. The pack began to work together and M. Campbell and Green saw more of the ball in the line-outs while the loose brought T. Moscrop and P. Worthington into prominence against Instonians' power men, A. Morris and R. Byrne.

Now the home side gave their backs plenty of the ball and the backs justified their promise of the first half.

The Instonian defence was hard-pressed for most of this half and the back row of J. Williams, O. Clay and A. Howarth did sterling work in keeping their line intact.

DEFENDERS' ERROR

Something had to go and finally from a loose maul A. Byrne found a gap and scored an unconverted try.

A few minutes later, after the backs had taken the ball to the visitors' line a short kick over the line found centre, T. Byrne, there to touch down after a defender's mistake. C. Humphreys converted.

To their credit Old Instonians never looked like giving up and came back on the attack in the last quarter of the game.

From a loose maul scrum-half A. Cotgrave, who had a fine game, made a good break through a spreadeagled home defence, drew his man and gave D. Ratcliffe the chance to run in an unconverted try.

C.A.H.

1966/7.

HARDLY THE DAY FOR FAST OPEN RUGBY

OLD ANSELMIANS 6 pts., OLD INSTONIANS 0 pts.

OLD ANSELMIANS defeated Old Instonians by two tries to nil in a game more notable for forward foot-rushes and mishandled passes than fast, open rugby. This was understandable in very heavy conditions.

The first half started with both teams trying to open out and handle the ball, but they soon realised the futility of this and the backs used their boots more often, but not always to the best advantage.

In the many lines-out and set scrums that resulted, honours were almost equally divided, with Instonians gaining one or two balls against the head.

Nothing very decisive seemed to happen in the first half, apart from a near miss from a penalty by A. Steedman and occasional glimpses of speed from Anselmian winger D. Kavanagh.

Had the ball reached this wing more quickly, one had a distinct feeling that a try was more than possible, but the greasy ball made this difficult to achieve.

COURAGEOUS STOPS

In the second half Anselmians' pack gained slight advantage from line-out work by J. Green, but Instonians occasionally used the front of the line where C. Westwater found some room to work.

A try did not seem very likely in these conditions, but it took two courageous drops on the ball by P. Harman and M. Hughes to deny Instonian foot-rushes. Full back Harmon's all-round work throughout was faultless, a priceless asset in such conditions.

When a try did eventually come, 15 minutes from no-side, it was the result of a slow clearance from a kick by T. Byrne and

C. Humphreys was able to cross in the corner. J. Green's kick hit the crossbar.

Anselmians should have scored again shortly afterwards when J. Overend sent C. Humphreys away, but the crucial pass to D. Kavanagh was given too early and the winger was caught by the cover defence.

ANOTHER TRY

In the final moments, J. Green scored the final try, again in the corner. His own conversion attempt failed.

In the pack Anselmians again had to thank the teak-like qualities of M. Campbell and the fierce tackling of K. Toomy.

It wasn't an ideal day for half backs, but, nevertheless, J. Overend, Old Anselmians' young stand-off, showed some clever touches after taking a few minutes to settle down in his first game for the first fifteen.

—I.D.K.

INSTONIAN PACK IS DOMINANT

Old Instonians 15 pts.
Bowden 0 pts.

OLD Instonians returned to winning ways on Saturday, when they defeated Bowden by four tries and a drop-goal to nil. The outstanding feature of the game was the performance of the Instonian pack, which was superior to Bowden in all aspects of their play, and had the backs shown more penetration and thrust, the score could have been trebled.

Due to a number of cry-offs, the Instonian back line had to be reshuffled, and McIntosh took up the position of fly-half, with Matheison and Ratcliffe occupying the centre berths.

The opening score came very early in the first half, when from a quick ball from a set scrum in the Bowden '25' the ball was whipped out to Ratcliffe, who with perfect timing, dropped an excellent goal, and it was this same player who increased the score, when from a loose maul in the centre of the field, fly half McIntosh broke clear, drew the Bowden right wing, and passed on to him, to touch down in the corner.

At half time the score was still six points to nil.

On resumption of play, Bowden made a number of spoiled thrusts, via their stand off Davies, but the ball the Bowden pack was obtaining was vitally negligible so this threat was quickly eliminated.

INEVITABLE TRY

The score progressed, when Lindop, after charging down the Bowden full back's kick, careered over the line for a good try. Instonians were now fully resident in the Bowden '25, and the next inevitable try came when Clays plucked the ball from the air, from a line out, and stamped over.

The final try came in the last minute, when McIntosh collected a good pass from scrum half Cotgrave, and broke clear to touch down in the left hand corner.

This was a game in which the Instonian pack, with Doveston, Clays, Williams and Byrne prominent, was dominant.

LACKLUSTRE DISPLAY BY ROCKFERRIANS

OLD INSTONIANS 29 pts., ROCKFERRIANS 6 pts.

INSTONIANS gained ample and convincing revenge for their early season defeat at the hands of Rockferrians. The visitors' inability to command Instonians in any aspect of the play meant that the usual tense derby match atmosphere was absent. Instonians appeared to be relaxing their grip in the second half when Rockferrians pulled back six points but they romped away in a storming finish to pile on the agony.

Rash passing on the goal line and inexcusable tardiness in clearing to touch led to the early penetration of Rockferrians' defence. Instonians forced a five yard scrum from which they moved the ball with alacrity to winger H. Daniels for a touch-down in the corner.

A lapse in concentration in midfield passing almost let Rockferrian centre J. Burton through, but the home cover showed its paces to snuff out the move and Instonians' returned to the attack. Fly-half Steadman was unsuccessful with a drop at goal, but converted a penalty awarded in front of the posts.

Instonians secured most of the ball from the set scrums and lines-out and scrum-half A. Cotgrave used this to prompt his backs with an excellent service.

PENALTY MISS

The Prenton Dell side missed a chance to reduce the arrears with a penalty kick before Lindop set the Old Boys in motion once more with a fine break down the touch line. Steadman was on the mark with his second drop at goal and the same player forced Rockferrians to fight a rearguard action through long punts to touch.

The half ended as Rockferrians defence parted incredibly to facilitate Cotgrave's run over for a try from a line-out. Steadman made no mistake with the kick.

Rockferrians had the slope advantage and the pale, filtered sun behind them in the second half. Nevertheless, opportunities to attack were sparse and two penalty goals in quick succession by J. Burton were the only

scores that Rockferrians could muster.

Instonian victory was not assured at this stage, but a try by R. Byrne, converted by Steadman, changed the complexion of the game. The score originated in a crossfield run by Daniels carrying the ball to right wing Ratcliffe who kicked high into the centre.

Rockferrians gathered the kick, but a wild pass let Byrne in to score. Further errors in handling and dropping on the ball were seized on by the zestful Instonian side to give Rockferrians a tortured finale.

DEMORALISED

Daniels dive passed to get the ball away from a ruck of players, thus teeing up an opening for McIntosh to go over with a sinuous burst. Even full-back Mathieson was able to break 30 yards through a demoralised defence. Finally Steadman scored by following up his own short, high kick and taking advantage of Rockferrians' hesitancy.

Rockferrians' hitherto sound defensive record was shattered by a very competent Instonian performance superimposed on a lacklustre display by the Prenton side.

The Instonian eight, eager for possession and shown the way by pack-leader Howarth, used their height in the lines and benefitted from Westwater's skill at hooker.

Above all, they were in support to keep the ball moving and to stifle Rockferrians abortive efforts at their instigation. Cotgrave's service gave Steadman time to think while the back division demonstrated both individual dash and preparedness to use their wingers.

W.T.

Outstanding effort by forwards

OLD INSTONIANS 3 pts.
WALLASEY 3 pts.

FOLLOWING their two previous convincing victories, Instonians were a little disappointing in their return with the Wallasey side.

Even so, Instonians can count themselves very unlucky not to win, as apart from dominating the match they crossed the Wallasey line on a number of occasions, only to be recalled for some minor infringement. For this game, Instonians had Brown playing his first match since he was injured on the opening day of the season. Although not back to his top form, he showed he has not lost his skill, which should aid the 'Old Boys' attempt to play attacking rugby.

Instonians were also without number one line-out man, Byrne, although his replacement, the experienced Tony Doveston, performed very well.

DULL HALF

The first half was a very dull affair, with neither side being able to dominate until the last ten minutes, when Instonians were fighting for an equalising score.

The first half also brought the Wallasey try, which was a result of some slack defensive work by Instonians. Astles, the Wallasey winger, was quickly up to score a simple try, which remained unconverted.

Instonians had two opportunities to equalise, but both penalty attempts were missed. Although playing up the slope and against the wind, Instonians continued to attack and appeared to have scored, but the referee brought play back. So the Old Boys turned round with an undeserved three point deficit.

IN COMMAND

Instonians completely commanded the second half, due mainly to the outstanding effort of their forwards. With Westwater again dominating the set-scrums and Howarth leading the way well in the loose, Instonians should have scored more than the one try that they did.

This was a copy-book try, when Daniels entered the back line to create an overlap to put Ratcliffe in to score.

For the last quarter of the match, Instonians hardly left the Wallasey 25, although they were unable to penetrate the visitors defence.

Cotgrave, for Instonians, had one of his best games for the club, either giving his back line a good service or making a dangerous break.

Best for Instonians were Cotgrave, Westwater, Howarth and Daniels, whose play on the wing is improving in every game that he takes part.

Substitutes performed with distinction

OLD INSTONIANS 6 pts.,
PRESCOTT 3 pts.

AFTER a torrential downpour just before the kick-off, the pitch was turned into a morass and, with a strong wind blowing down the pitch, conditions were not very pleasant.

Each side dominated the game, territorially, for one half and if only for their defensive work Instonians deserved their victory, by a try and a penalty to a try.

The youthfulness and vigour of the Instonian side was a strong force. They were without three regular players, captain McIntosh, Clays and Cotgrave, but, their replacements, all members of this year's School XV, performed with distinction, especially Mealor, who gave a first-class display in line-out technique.

FLYING START

Instonians started in fine style with a try after only a few minutes play, when the Old Boys were put into an attacking position by Brown who found touch deep into the Lancashire side's '25'.

The Old Boys moved the ball from the line-out quickly. A grubber kick from Lowry was followed up smartly by Ratcliffe who touched down in the corner.

Instonians continued to dominate the game, but received a shock when the visitors gained an unexpected try, the result of a series of defensive errors.

This fused Instonians into attack and they were rewarded with a penalty kick just outside the visitors' '25'. Mathieson, captain for the day, kicked a good goal.

DENIED POSSESSION

The question was now whether the Old Boys could retain their meagre three point lead, playing up the hill and against an increasingly strong wind.

Although the Lancashire side had a territorial advantage they rarely looked like scoring, due to the fact that Instonians denied their visitors possession.

In the loose Howarth led the forwards well aided strongly by Smith, and with Byrne and Morris forming a powerful line-out trio Prescott were unable to reply.

Outstanding for the home side were Mealor, Howarth and Smith.

C.J.W.

VALUABLE WORK BY STEADMAN

NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS - 6 pts.,
OLD INSTONIANS 6 pts.

IN an exciting game at Newton-le-Willows on Saturday both teams put on an extremely good performance in adverse conditions.

Although the Newton backs looked the more dangerous, they were denied possession by the Instonian pack which produced its best performance of the season. They dominated the set scrums and line-outs and were quick on to the loose ball, using their opponents' mistakes to full advantage.

It was only a number of last-minute interventions by the home side that stopped the Old Boys from crossing their line.

INDECISIVE PLAY

After the first quarter had passed with some indecisive mid-field play, Newton took the lead with a penalty from 25 yards out. Instonians won the set scrum, but were penalised for offside.

Instonians came back on to the attack and Steadman was only just off the mark with two drop-goal attempts.

Five minutes before half-time Steadman equalised for Instonians when the Newton stand-off was caught offside from a line-out. The kick from 35 yards sailed between the posts.

The second half nearly started with a sensation. Steadman kicked off for Instonians, the ball went to a Newton centre who moved down the right of the field, but a dangerous move was repelled by the Instonian cover.

REGAINED LEAD

Newton regained the lead after ten minutes of the second half with the only try of the game. From inside his own half, the Newton right-wing dummied past the Instonian defence before passing to his centre to score. The goal attempt hit the post.

This fused the Instonian pack into playing harder and with renewed enthusiasm. The Instonian back row of Clays, Williams and Londop prevented the Newton backs from running.

With Westwater dominating the set scrums and Mealor, Smith and Byrne dominating the line-outs, Instonians were permanently resident in the Newton '25'.

The equalising score came midway through this half when Steadman kicked an identical penalty to the one he scored in the first half, this time the Newton back row being caught offside.

DEFENCE HELD

Although Instonians tried desperately hard to obtain the winning score it was not forthcoming due to some hectic defensive work by the Newton forwards.

Outstanding for Instonians were Steadman, whose kicking for touch was a revelation, and all eight forwards, especially Mealor, Byrne, Clays and Lindop, who played with great determination.

Unsworth, playing behind a beaten home pack, was always trying to get his backs moving.

C.J.W.

Instonians were well below form

Old Instonians 3 pts.

Bangor University 6 pts.

FOLLOWING Instonians' successes in their two previous games, this result was something of a surprise, although Bangor worked hard and gained a well-earned victory by two penalties to one.

One of the major factors of the game was the speed of the students' pack, which dominated the loose play, either winning the ball or at least denying Instonians possession by smothering the ball.

For the first half-hour Bangor were virtually resident around the Instonian '25'. After ten minutes Bangor took the lead with the first of their penalties when Instonians were caught offside.

Morgan, the Bangor scrum half, kicked an easy goal. Bangor now had the chance to increase their lead when Morgan missed two kickable penalties and hit the post with another.

Towards the end of the half Instonians came back into the game more, and when the Bangor back row was penalised for offside, Speedman kicked the goal to leave the score at three points all at half-time.

The second half started as had the first with Bangor on the attack. After five minutes play Bangor regained the lead, when Instonians were again penalised for offside.

Morgan, again, was the kicker and made no mistake from the inside of the Old Boy's '25'.

TRY DISALLOWED

There now followed a period of Instonian pressure although Bangor managed to avert any equalising score. Clays, the Instonian open side, appeared to have scored a legitimate try, but the referee awarded a five yard scrum. From this, Steedman's attempted field-goal attempt was narrowly wide.

For the last quarter of an hour the students closed the game up and never looked in danger of losing their lead.

Best of an Instonian side which was well below form were McIntosh, whose tackling was Trojan-like, Williams and * Westwater, whilst the performance of both scrum halves Cotgrave for Instonians and Morgan for Bangor performed commendably in very bad conditions.

C.J.W.

Workmanlike

display by

Instonians

OLD INSTONIANS 14 pts.,

OLDERSHAW O.B. 0 pts.

INSTONIANS gained a welcome revenge over the Wallasey side at Woodchurch on Saturday by a goal, two tries and a penalty to nil.

Although the condition of the ground was heavy, the brilliant sun gave the game a summer-like atmosphere. Instonians responded with a sound, workmanlike display which Oldershaw could never match.

The success of the Instonian side was undoubtedly their teamwork. With the forwards giving the backs a fair share of the ball they managed to set up a number of promising attacks.

Instonians won a good ball from the line-out just outside the Oldershaw 25. It was moved to captain and centre McIntosh, who made an outside break, before passing to Daniels who crashed over in the corner for a first-class try. Steedman's long-range goal effort was narrowly wide.

DEADLOCK

There now followed a period of midfield play and neither side seemed capable of breaking the deadlock until Instonians scored twice in as many minutes just before half-time.

The first followed an attack which was halted only yards from their opponents' posts, a loose ruck formed and Oldershaw were penalised for handling in the loose. Steedman made no mistake with the kick.

The second followed a mix-up between the Oldershaw full-back and wing. Ratcliffe nipped in smartly to score a good opportunist try. Steedman kicked the goal to give Instonians an 11 points lead at half-time.

SOUND COVERING

The second half started with neither side gaining territorial advantage. Oldershaw tried to get their backs moving, but no score seemed likely, mainly due to some fine defensive work by the Instonian backs and covering of the back-row of Clays, Lindop and Williams.

The only score of the second half came with 15 minutes left. Oldershaw opened the game out just outside their 25. The ball was dropped and McIntosh was quickly up to dribble on before scoring.

Instonians were best served by Mathieson, Cotgrave and Clays, whilst the Oldershaw half-back pair looked dangerous.

Oldershaw still out of form

OLDERSHAW O.B. Nil, OLD INSTONIANS 14 pts.

FIELDING a side showing three late changes, Oldershaw Old Boys crashed to their fourth defeat of the season in losing at Birkenhead to Old Instonians by one goal, one penalty goal and two tries (14 pts.) to nil, and on the day they had only themselves to blame for the defeat.

After 12 minutes Instonians went ahead when two poor attempts at tackling by Oldershaw let in H. Daniels for an unconverted try in the left hand corner.

For the next 20 minutes Oldershaw more than held their own and one long run carried out by G. C. Jordan and R. Adams took play close to the Instonians' line and should have brought a try, but the final pass went astray.

When it looked as if there would be no further score before half-time Oldershaw conceded eight points in four minutes, through elementary errors. First, a penalty was given away under the posts, for A. Steedman to kick the goal. Then a slipshod defence presented D. Radcliffe with a simple try from which A. Steedman was able to kick his second goal.

The Old Boys had plenty of the ball and frequently moved to the attack, but their handling touched the nadir and Instonians were quick to seize on dropped passes and A. Steedman in particular drove Oldershaw back with long kicks. One such effort carried play to the Old Boys' line and the cover failed again, A. McIntosh diving on the ball for a final score, despite a valiant effort by B. Clowes to prevent this.

Instonians have new captain

Old Instonians begin their season with the usual "derby" game against local neighbours, Old Parkonians.

Instonians have a new skipper in Alan Steedman, the ex-Cheshire schoolboy and ex-Birkenhead Park player. Allen has led a number of well attended training sessions and the club is looking forward to a successful season.

One of the main reasons for the hopeful outlook is the youthfulness of the 1st XV. The team for today's game is similar to that which finished last season with one or two exceptions.

Peter Milnes plays at stand-off with Geoff Brown moving out to the wing. Milnes, along with Whitehead and Mealor, make up a trio who were all members of last year's school 1st XV.

One notable absentee is Andy McIntosh, last year's captain, who is on holiday.

MORE MATURE

The Old Boys' 2nd XV is a more mature side led by Howard Jones, although youth also plays its part with Cotgrove, Cairns, Birss and Shaw.

The 3rd XV looks more than a competent side under the auspices of John Fisher, ably backed by the mature Dave Jones and "Lefty" Clarke.

Steve Blaylock leads the 4th XV, which is outstandingly young, although the older elements are a dominant feature.

Pre-season competition in the trial games for team places has been extremely hard and it is this determination that Instonians hope will bring them more success in the new season.

C.J.W.

More intent on avoiding defeat

Old Instonians 9 pts.

Old Parkonians 9 pts.

THIS opening match of the season was a rather uninteresting duel with both sides showing that the summer recess had left them rather out of touch.

Another reason was that both sides were more intent on not losing rather than winning. It was a warm, dry day but blustery conditions made handling and passing rather difficult.

Instonians kicked off and soon held the initiative. A drop-goal attempt by Westwater was only just off the mark early on. Instonians continued with the pressure and were rewarded when Brown picked up a loose ball to go over for a try which Steedman was unable to improve.

SHOCK TRIES

Parkonians got back into the game and were starting to test the home defence. Even so, the two tries that they scored in five minutes came somewhat as a shock.

The first followed a cross-field movement with Welton racing in for a try. Minutes later Canning gave the visitors the lead when, following a loose scrum near Instonians' posts, the cover defence was found lacking.

The score remained at 6-3 to the visitors till half-time. Players were finding the wind difficult to manage with and this was a major factor for the lack of open play.

When play was resumed, Parkonians were on the offensive again and gained a lucky try to increase their lead to six points. Armour, the visitors' full-back, failed to find touch with his kick, a rather fortuitous bounce left the ball in Bell's track, who made no mistake.

FUSED INTO LIFE

Up to now the much heavier Parkonian pack had held slight superiority, but with 20 minutes left they started to run out of steam rapidly, whilst the Instonian pack were fused into life again and were harassing their opponents into mistakes.

With 15 minutes left Instonians got back into the game with a penalty which Steedman converted. Then with five minutes left Lindop, who had been injured and was hobbling on the wing, gallantly crossed the line for the equalising try.

RELIEF

The whistle came as a relief to the players although Instonians were bearing down on the visitors' line with the victory scent in their nostrils.

A typical first match of the season with players obviously a bit rusty and not yet properly match fit. Neither side were able to gain ascendancy and therefore the draw was a fair result.

Daniels tackled well for Instonians, whilst Cusick was the pick of a big Parkonian pack.

C.J.W.

Inspiring win for Old Instonians

Widnes I.C.I. 0 pts.,
Old Instonians 15 pts.

Instonians went to Widnes expecting a very hard and closely fought game, but came away with a confidence inspiring victory.

The Old Boys held the upper hand from the first whistle to the final one with a superb display by their pack which handed out a thrashing to the opposition.

Even though their scores came from four penalties and one drop goal, the Old Boys were unlucky not to cross the Widnes line on more than one occasion.

In fact, the score could have been doubled except for the fact that Steedman did not find his kicking touch until the second half.

TOOK LEAD

Instonians were soon attacking and never let up, so much so that Widnes were hardly ever seen as an attacking force. Clays put the visitors in the lead with a very well taken drop goal and this was soon augmented with a penalty by Steedman.

Widnes were giving away many more penalties than is usual, but this was due to the frustration that their forwards were feeling due to the lack of ball that they were getting.

Smith, Byrne and Morris had the line-outs sewn up, Westwater won most of the tight scrums and in the loose the back row of Lindop, Dutton, Howarth and Jones completely devastated the opposition.

The second half continued along the lines of the first half with the Old Boys content in not making mistakes and so throw the game away.

MORE PENALTIES

The home side's frustration continued and more penalties ensued. Steedman kicked a further three penalties, one a huge effort from just inside the Widnes half. Daniels was brought down just short of the home side's line, as was Lindop shortly afterwards.

The Old Boys' backs completed their task with professional ease, but it was up front that the game was won, with all the forwards playing their part.

A morale-boosting victory for the Woodchurch side, who showed great fire and determination. Outstanding in a very confident side were Alan Smith, Bob Byrne and Len Lindop.—C.J.W.

Defence

not at its best

VULCAN 24 pts.,

OLD INSTONIANS 3 pts.

INSTONIANS went to Vulcan on Saturday with confidence and returned on the wrong end of a beating on a day when everything that they attempted rebounded, and they fell apart for a quarter of an hour mid-way through the second half.

The robust Vulcan pack held an advantage over the visiting pack, but the Instonian backs could have used the ball better than they did.

Conditions were quite pleasant although Vulcan had the advantage of a slight wind in the first half, but only obtained a three-point advantage, this a good penalty for a technical offence in a line-out.

Although not playing very well Instonians turned round with a very good chance of victory, but this was not to be.

AVALANCHE

Early in the second half Vulcan increased their lead with another penalty before the avalanche when the Lancashire side with three quick goals completely demoralised the old boys.

All were engineered by the Vulcan half back pair, but were due to the lack of covering and tackling in a period of inexplicable laxity.

Vulcan scored again later with another try, but the old boys rallied towards the end and Steedman scored a brilliant consillatory dropped goal penalty.

An awkward game to assess with a number of the old boys' players sustaining injuries which enforced a number of positional changes, but even so there was no excuse for the lack of covering and tackling.

Only Milnes was exempt from this criticism. His positioning, handling and kicking were first class at full back. C.J.W.

Instonians' first home defeat

Old Instonians 3 pts,
Wrexham 5 pts.

OLD INSTONIANS lost their first home game of the season when they went down by a goal to a penalty against a very strong Welsh side at Woodchurch on Saturday.

Whilst the huge Welsh pack, led by the former Lancashire forward Goddard, held the initiative, their backs were unable to make much headway against a strong Instonian defence.

McIntosh and Lindop created gaps in the visitors' defence, and Daniels had two or three powerful runs on the left wing.

Wrexham started off in great form and during the first quarter-of-an-hour looked as though they were going to gain an easy victory, but after this opening period the Old Boys started to push the visitors back to their own line and looked like scoring when Lindop made a break, but was halted near the line.

The visitors took the lead after 25 minutes following an innocuous looking loose scrum near touch on the half-way line, a foot rush ensued and the visitors touched down under the posts, the conversion going over for a half-time lead of five points.

STRONG PACK

Instonians started the second half harassing the opposition and gaining ground with a series of foot rushes led by Clays and Byrne.

It came as no surprise when McIntosh kicked a penalty for the home side after 15 minutes.

The Welsh side controlled the game for the next 10 minutes before the Old Boys made their desperate attempts to gain victory, McIntosh and Lindop going close, but to no avail. C.J.W.

Instonians were not extended

Old Instonians ... 21 pts.
Vauxhalls 0 pts.

IN a game completely dominated by the Old Boys on Saturday, Vauxhalls were lucky to escape an even heavier defeat.

This was probably due to two factors, the frequent dropping of the ball by Instonians and the determination of a well beaten Vauxhall pack, which never gave up trying.

Instonians may have scored more if they had used the wind to advantage but instead they threw the ball about with the confidence that has been growing since the beginning of the New Year.

During this period the Old Boys have lost only one out of 11 games accumulating 131 points for whilst only forfeiting 36 points.

CONTINUAL ATTACKING

After an opening period of continual attacking, Brown opened the Old Boys' account with a try following a handling movement. Mathieson's long-range goal attempt in a swirling wind was only narrowly off target.

Many handling movements were employed by Instonians by both forwards and backs, although not to full advantage. The Woodchurch side went further ahead when McIntosh with a devastating burst scored a spectacular try.

Mathieson made amends for another missed goal when he added to the Old Boys' points tally with a penalty.

Then, just before half time, Daniels dived over for another Old Boys' try to leave them in a comfortable 12 points lead.

SAME PATTERN

The second half followed the pattern of the first and it was surprising that there were only three resulting scores. Daniels notched his second try; Mathieson kicked a penalty and the same player scored a try after a 'quick' penalty.

With none of the tries being converted the Old Boys won by five tries and two penalties to nil.

An easy victory for the Old Boys who were never extended although everyone contributed with a pleasant although not forceful display of attacking rugby.

C.J.W.

INSTONIANS MADE LIGHT OF INJURY HANDICAPS

HIGHTOWN 6 pts. OLD INSTONIANS 9 pts.

ALTHOUGH it may sound paradoxical, Instonians, on a number of occasions, have produced much better performances than this and been on the losing side. The Old Boys' pack seemed to be suffering adversely from having played a mid-week game against the School, whilst the backs seemed unable to adapt themselves to the short and narrow pitch at Hightown.

Instonians kicked off with the advantage of the slope, wind and the sun in their backs, and were very quickly rewarded with a penalty after a scrum-mage offence. Mathieson kicked a simple goal.

The Old Boys' backs were not receiving "good" ball, and what ball they received was used to little advantage.

The visitors nearly increased their lead when a touch-line penalty attempt by Mathieson hit the post. The same player showed his defensive qualities when he chased the Hightown winger for forty yards before bringing him down only yards from the Old Boys' line.

Instonians did increase their lead, when Clays dribbled on after the Hightown scrum-half

fumbled, gaining a touch down.

Another long-range goal effort by Mathieson was only just off the mark, before he put the Old Boys nine point up with another easy penalty after Clays had been obstructed chasing the ball over the try line.

Hightown came back into the game towards the half-time stage and were rewarded with a fine penalty kick by Thompson following a line-out infringement by an Instonian forward.

So the Old Boys turned round with a six point advantage, although they could not feel confident after their first half display.

CONTINUAL SIEGE

The fact that the home side did not win was as much due to their own inadequacies as to the Old Boys' display, especially in the final quarter, when the Instonian line was under continual siege.

Even so, the Old Boys defended well, especially considering that Instonians had two injured players in the second half. Howarth received an arm injury and captain McIntosh had a cut over his eye.

The only score of the half came after twenty minutes when Baker dropped a goal for the Lancashire side after a number of similar efforts had been unsuccessful.

Not an outstanding game, with only Clays, Cotgrave and Mathieson playing anywhere near their usual standard.

Although not an exciting victory, this now raises the Instonian record to one defeat in nine games since New Year.

C.J.W.

Clays was star for Instonians

WALLASEY ... 0 pts.
OLD INSTONIANS ... 9 pts.

INSTONIANS returned to the victory path with a comfortable win at the expense of Wallasey at Cross Lane on Saturday.

Surprisingly the Old Boys' pack was beaten in the set-scrums and line-outs, but the Wallasey backs were always contained by the visitors' defence. The new rule about kicking in opponents' half had a negligible effect on the game and was only necessary on two or three occasions.

A wet ball and a strong cross-wind made open rugby difficult although both sides tried to play an open game.

Instonians nearly took an early lead but Brown put a foot in touch attempting to go round the full back. The Old Boys were obviously missing the prompting of scrum-half Cotgrave, who was not available through injury.

STAR MAN

Lindop was playing well in the centre and Clays, who returned to wing forward after having played in the centre for a few games, was the star of the match with his covering and tackling.

The Old Boys took the lead midway through the first half with a penalty that went over via a post by Steedman. This was followed ten minutes later by Shaw scoring the only try of the game, after the Instonian pack had driven down to the Wallasey line, touching down in the corner.

Steedman missed the kick and was only inches off a penalty conversion soon afterwards.

NOT EXTENDED

The visitors had hardly been extended by the home side and this was to be the case in the second half, but the only resulting score was a penalty kick which Steedman converted with ease.

Instonians were content to sit on this lead and Wallasey were unable to streak out of the grip which the Old Boys had established.

A major factor was the kicking of Steedman and the handling of Milnes, a young player with a great deal of talent.

C.J.W.

Old Instonians II 3, Wallasey II 0; Wallasey III 3, Old Instonians III 11; Old Instonians IV 41, Wallasey 0.

Instonians' teamwork paid

OLD INSTONIANS ... 13 pts.,
ST. MARY'S O.B. 0 pts.

INSTONIANS gained a comfortable victory against St. Mary's on Saturday by two goals and a try to nil. The Woodchurch side can feel even more pleased as they achieved this victory without captain Alan Steadman and last year's captain, Andy McIntosh.

The Instonin pack applied the pressure from the first whistle and backed up by some snappy handling movements by the threequarters the result was never in doubt.

The spark for many of these attacking forays was scrum-half Cotgrave, whose darting runs gave the visitors' defence much to think about.

INTERCEPTED

The home side took the lead early on when Brown intercepted inside the visitors' '25' to score under the posts, Clays adding the goal points.

The first half belonged to Instonians and although they did not score again this was due to last-minute tackles by the defence and misdirected passes by Instonians with the line at their mercy.

Only once did St. Mary's make a threat on Instonians' line, when they broke from inside their own half, but this was easily repulsed.

STRONG DEFENCE

The second half followed the same lines as the first, although St. Mary's came more into the game, but were always contained by the home side's defence.

Instonians seemed to be content with the margin of five points, but in the last quarter of an hour they scored twice to give another well earned victory.

The first score came when Cotgrave made a break from a line-out and captain-for-the-day Lindop was well up in support to score under the posts, Clays again adding the points.

The final score came a few minutes from the end when Clays brought his personal tally for the game to seven points when he picked up the ball to accelerate over the line for a try in the corner.

Another good team victory with the old boys' back row of Howarth, Dutton and Lindop keeping a tight control on the visitors' half-backs and thus smothering any attempts to break through. C.J.W.

St. Mary's O.B. II 3 pts., Old Instonians II 6 pts.

Boost for Instonian morale

Old Instonians 8 pts., Port
Sunlight 0 pts.

AFTER three defeats and one game cancelled in the last four weeks, this hard-earned victory against Port Sunlight at Woodchurch on Saturday was warmly welcomed by Instonians.

The margin was a first-half penalty and a last minute goal which made the score look more respectable as the Old Boys held most of the territorial advantage.

Instonians started off in great fashion with continual pressure for the first quarter, but their only "rewards" were a McIntosh penalty which hit the post and a drop goal by the same player, which also met the same fate.

Soon afterwards, however, the Old Boys took the lead with a penalty by McIntosh. Port Sunlight then came back into the game, but their only threat came when a penalty by Lewis also hit the post.

The first half ended with the home side still retaining their three point lead, and this should have been augmented by a try by Daniels, but the final pass to him went astray. The same player had been causing trouble to the visitors with his strong running.

INSTONIANS' GRIP

The second half followed similar lines as the first half, with Instonians controlling the game, due to some fine work by Byrne, Meador, Alan Smith and Morris, with Port Sunlight only able to break the grip occasionally.

Even when Port Sunlight tested the Instonian back division their lack of ingenuity made the job easy, although the Old Boys' full-back, Ken Smith, had a faultless game with his positioning, handling and kicking.

Up front in the forwards, play was fairly equal except in the loose, where the home side were rampant, especially Williams, whose power in the loose was unequalled.

The only other score of the match came in the final seconds of the game when Clays broke through the loose and the effervescent Williams was up in support to finish off the move, McIntosh kicked the goal, which was followed immediately by the final whistle.

BEST SERVED

This was a morale-boosting victory for the Old Boys who were best served by Ken Smith, Byrne and Williams, whilst Lewis was always trying to infuse the deadened back division of Port Sunlight.

C.J.W.

Brown finds answer for Instonians

WREXHAM 3 pts.,
OLD INSTONIANS .. 6 pts.

RETURNING from their successful holiday tour in the Isle of Man, the old boys had to travel again to recommence a fixture which they hope to make annual.

As expected, this turned out to be a very hard tussle especially among the forwards where Wrexham were bigger and heavier, although the lighter Instonian pack, early on, pushed their opposition very easily.

The forward play evened out later and the packs were well matched.

SCHOOLBOY'S PROMISE

Instonians made two late changes. Dutton was brought in on the wing and gave a good account of himself. The second was the introduction of schoolboy Milnes in the centre and on this display he will be a valuable asset in years to come.

In the first half the old boys played up a slight incline, against a strong wind and facing a heavy down-pour. Even so, the Welsh side were unable to gain the dominance that they should have had with these aids and were somewhat lucky to turn round with a three point lead.

This was due to two main reasons, the strong tackling in the backs and the covering of the old boys' back row. Hooking and line-out honours were even, although the 'ball' that Instonians got was not as clean as that gained by Wrexham.

The only score of the half came after quarter of an hour's play when Instonians' defence was caught napping. An astute kick by the Wrexham stand-off preceded a chase to near the corner flag which was won by the Welsh side's winger.

The old boys rallied and went close on one or two occasions before play evened out for the rest of the half.

USED ELEMENTS

The second half started with the old boys using the elements to better advantage and it was not long before they got the equalising score. Byrne was instrumental in dribbling a loose ball to the Wrexham line before being stopped.

Lindop, pounding up in support, picked up the ball to go over. Mathieson's goal attempt scraped the outside of the post. The same player was only just off the mark with a penalty.

Instonians were now in complete control and the only problem was how to break the strong Welsh defence. The solution came with just ten minutes left. Brown, following a quick heel from a set scrum, coolly dropped a goal.

A pity that the conditions were so bad, but with both sides trying to play good rugby, the game proved exciting and close. Best for Instonians were Byrne, Smith, Milnes and Mathieson.

—C.J.W.

Instonians end on low note

Old Instonians 8 pts.,
Collegiate O.B. 18 pts.

INSTONIANS completed the season with a rather inauspicious display against a useful Collegiate side whose willingness to run with the ball on a rock hard surface always set the Old Boys' defence.

The Old Boys, fielding a weakened team (six reserves and two positional changes), were unable to combat the visitors' team work. Eventually, the visitors overcame the Old Boys by three goals and a penalty to a goal and a penalty.

Collegiate started the scoring with a good try. A quick heel in the loose left the Collegiate backs with an overlap which was duly used, with a score under the post. The goal was kicked.

BRILLIANT TRY

The Woodchurch side then came back on to the offensive and equalised shortly afterwards with a brilliant try. Daniels transferred the ball from the blind side to the open, where McIntosh, with a devastating burst opened up the visitors' defence to allow Ratcliffe to score. With Mathieson kicking the goal the score was five points all.

Then both sides received a penalty for a similar offence. First the Old Boys' backs were caught offside at a line-out and then Mathieson equalised for a second time a few minutes later.

With a quarter of an hour of the first half left the Old Boys received a shock when Billings had to leave the field with a back injury. He courageously returned in the second half although still suffering badly.

NO SURPRISE

The second half lost some of its bite in comparison with the first. Although both packs were equally matched, outside the half-backs the reshuffled Instonian backs were constantly tested by Collegiate and it came as no surprise when the visitors scored the two goals to give them victory.

Daniel's kicking and tackling was one of the features of an uninspiring display by the Old Boys.

W.E.Z.