

"Up for the Cup" at Wembley Stadium - the Rugby League "Battle of the Roses" between Halifax (the team of great traditions) and Warrington, renowned Cup fighters...

81,000 fans were packing the stadium when Halifax, (in their zebra-striped jerseys) kicked off. And the knowledgeable Northern crowd settled down to watch a great tactical battle - if not a classic encounter...

They expected Halifax, with their fine pack (rated by the experts the best in the League) to keep the game tight - and this they did - relying on their superior forward strength.

In contrast - ~~Warrington~~ Warrington hopes rested on an open game - to create scoring-chances for their flying wingers.

The result was a mauling forward battle - a close-contact battle of solid endeavour. And when Halifax did ~~they~~ <sup>GET AWAY</sup> get - they found the Warrington side no mean exponents of defensive strength.

Then came a score - Warrington were caught offside, and Welshman ~~Wyskul~~ <sup>Wyskul</sup> Griffiths kicked the goal.

Halifax two points up - a slender lead maybe - but when ~~added~~ backed up by a great defence - a possible winning score. So the game stayed close - ~~negative tactics~~ <sup>negative tactics</sup> that at one stage brought a slow handclap from the crowd.

Another determined thrust by Halifax brought play down to the Lancashire 5" and again - an offside decision brought a scoring chance.

And Griffiths made no mistake.

The second half - Warrington still four points down. Now more than ever - attack was their only policy. Somehow, they must force a way through that cast-iron defence to save the game.

They did - but not via the ground. Bath - their Australian forward kicked a penalty goal.

Encouraged by this ~~success~~, Warrington gained the ~~the~~ initiative and their sustained pressure brought last-minute ~~achievement~~ <sup>the 11 5</sup> ~~achievement~~.

~~colourless game~~

Rugby League cup final

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Then Bath kicked another penalty goal to level the scores at four-each - the first Final draw for over forty years.