

R. L. CUP FINALTHIRD TIME LUCKY FOR WARRINGTON

It's the third Wembley final in three weeks and the Prime Minister is there to do the honours with these dour cup fighters - Warrington, and their near neighbours, heep-shirted Widnes. An all-Lancashire battle, it's Rugby League's day of the year and a world record 95,000 crowd has travelled to Wembley to be in on it. From the word "go," Warrington (attacking the goal to your right) put their fans on tip-tee with some dashing movements. After a neat dropped goal by Harold Palin has put them in the lead, his brilliant penalty kick makes Warrington four points up.

An early lead breeds final success. Willington did it - Arsenal proved it. And now in final No. 3, Warrington do it, too. Speedy in attack, eagle-eyed in grabbing half a chance, the "Wirepullers" hit their neighbours hard and often. From Palin to Bath - and the skipper bulldozes his way to the perfect try, gracefully converted by Palin.

There's no holding these men from Warrington. Another spell of brilliant passing and Ronnie Ryder dives across.

Twelve points up, Warrington keep on attacking. This time, it's the unorthodox running of Australian Brian Bevan that brings them into the danger zone. Widnes, out-played and out-paced, never give up trying, but their chances sink to zero when Palin's penalty makes the interval score 14 nil.

In the second half, it's the same story - Warrington pressing all the time - Widnes fighting hard to keep 'em out.

Palin makes his goal-tally "five" with yet another penalty kick. 16 nil! Without a cup win for 40 years, Warrington are making sure of it this time. It's enough to send the crowd's temperature to fever pitch, as a brilliant bout of inter-passing ends in the move of the match, with Knowledon touching down.

Another final's over and skipper Harry Bath becomes the first Australian to captain a Cup-winning team at Wembley. Winners by 19 points to nil (the highest-ever final score) Warrington crown a wonderful year with a wonderful win.