

Tigers close with a whimper

Hyde United 1

Lancaster City 1

IN the end Hyde fans were happy with the draw because it meant the Tigers finished higher in the league than old rivals Stalybridge Celtic - even if it was on goal difference (writes *David Jones*).

But for long periods of Saturday's typical end of season match you were praying for the game to end.

Lancaster and Hyde tried to send supporters home happy, but with nothing at stake and 40-plus energy sapping matches under the belts, produced little to get the adrenalin flowing.

With a bit of luck Hyde could have scored a couple in the first 10 minutes.

Chris Dolby ran onto a through ball to put a lob over the advancing keeper but unfortunately for Hyde it went over the bar.

Then Simon Yeo scorched into the box to let fly a shot that went wide.

Hyde's persistence was rewarded in the 19th minute when Dolby found Don PAGE just inside the City penalty box, and the Hyde skipper's glancing header flashed past Mark Thornley.

John Kennedy, said to be interesting Bradford City, had a chance to pull the scores level seconds later but he shot right at Kurt Edginton.

Lancaster's goal came from the penalty spot.

John Rodwell tackled Steve Trainor from behind, the player went down and KENNEDY gave Edginton no chance with a deadly accurate spot kick.

Yeo had a great chance to double Hyde's score minutes into the second half but he crashed a Richard Annan shot over the bar literally yards from the goal line.

And a Steve Haw goal-bound free-kick clipped a defender and spun out for a corner.

But there was little action to get the 575 supporters excited.

City threatened little. Kennedy had the ball in the net but was adjudged offside and an accidental Paul Taylor back header forced Edginton into a diving save.

Hyde could have snatched victory in the last few minutes when Thornley dropped a testing Page cross but Mike Turner took too much time to reach the ball and it was scrambled away for a corner.

Picking up one point in two games against struggling City isn't the best way to end the season, but at least it meant the Tigers pipped Celtic.

Hyde: Edginton 7, Taylor K 7, Annan 7, Wilson 7, Taylor P 7, Pringle 7, Page 7, Rodwell 8, Yeo 7, Haw 7, Dolby 8. Subs: Band 6 (for Pringle 67), Turner 6 (for Haw 76), Washington 6 (for Yeo 83).

Lancaster: Thornley, Fleming, Graham, Udall, Hartley, Gelling, Taylor, Trainor, Diggle, Kennedy, Crompton. Subs: Parkinson (for Crompton 67), Flannery (for Diggle 63), Martin.

Ref: David Wood (Liverpool).