

Two off as Tigers hold title favourites

HYDE certainly lived up to their Tigers nickname on Tuesday, with a well-earned draw at highly-rated Runcorn, finishing the game with nine men after Paul Richardson and Lutel James were sent off.

The game began with Hyde on the attack and, showing an amazing piece of skill, Paddy Wilson controlled and shot in one movement, the ball flying just wide.

However, it was Runcorn who opened the scoring, with a well-taken goal from Paul McNally, who netted after a cross from Liam Watson.

Hyde fought back, with Wilson and Lutel James looking dangerous.

Runcorn.....1
Hyde United.....1

A cross from Chris Dolby found Wilson sneaking behind the home defence, but his header flew just wide.

Hyde gained a deserved equaliser when the ball broke to Mark Highfield following a corner. His 20-yard shot flew into the net past the despairing Mark Morris.

The Tigers were reduced to ten men, nine minutes after the break, when Paul Richardson pulled down Liam Watson.

Hyde's defence was now under pres-

sure, but Runcorn failed to create any clear chances.

Jon Scargill's improved form continued, and he performed with a confidence gained after conceding only two goals in six games.

The Tigers' task was made more difficult with five minutes left, when Lutel James was sent off for a second bookable offence following a clash with David Nolan.

Runcorn: Morris, Ward, Callaghan, Randles, Ellis, Ruffer, Salt, McNally, Irving, Nolan, Watson. Subs: Warder, Brooks, Oliver.

Hyde: Scargill, P. Richardson, Gallagher, Wilson, Taylor, Dolby, Highfield, Hall, James, Wilson, Page. Subs: Haw, Washington, Hughes.

Ref: Barry Oldham (Blackpool).