

# Band stakes claim for regular place

THIS game consisted of seven furlongs of humdrum heavy going, topped by a pulsating finish.

Despite much pretty footwork, and superior possession, Hyde's diminutive strikers, and worryingly anonymous midfield, failed to impose themselves upon Nantwich's honest toilers.

A major weakness was the unwillingness of Lutel James to part with the ball to colleagues in better scoring positions than himself - and usually when it was his own undoubted skills that had created those positions.

Even so, Darren Washington and James missed simple chances.

The second half brought little respite for the by-now chilled home fans. Further chances came and went, but signs of better things to come emerged with the substitution of Washington for Peter Band, a strapping six-footer, on 70 minutes.

---

<b>Hyde United</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Nantwich Town</b> .....	<b>1</b>

---

## *UniBond Cheshire Senior Cup first round*

Although somewhat raw, he displayed a commendable workrate, and impressive pace; and, on 84 minutes, he hammered home a cross from James, who had at last got the message to move the ball around.

Unfortunately, slack marking allowed Town an immediate reply, Ray Notice converting a free header, at the far post.

In extra time, as Nantwich wilted, Hyde's skilful ball play began to pay dividends.

Another James cross was fumbled by goalkeeper

Simon Pay, and Band was there to seize on the rebound.

Technically, however, it was an own goal as desperate defending by Scott Preece helped it on its way.

The floodgates opened in the second period. Another fine cross from James was converted by Band, who completed an impressive debut.

Two real spectaculars rounded off proceedings. James netted with a perfect 20-yard free kick, after Richard Annan's mazy dribble on goal was brought to an illegal end.

Shortly after, Chris Dolby fired a screamer across the box and into the net. It would have beaten any keeper on the planet.

Hyde: Scargill, P. Richardson, Annan, G. Wilson, Taylor, Dolby, Haw, Hall, James, Washington, Page. Subs: P. Wilson for Haw (55), Band for Washington (70), Coggins for Page (100).