

# Tigers' cup hopes take a mauling

**THE Tigers hopes of a long F.A. Cup run were brought to an abrupt end at Darlington Road on Saturday.**

An inspired West Auckland turned the form book upside-down to make a mockery of the two divisions which separate the teams.

Two first half goals settled the issue and despite the atrocious conditions Hyde had only themselves to blame as their recent dismal form continued.

It could have been different as Hyde opened brightly and the home side were fortunate to clear a Steve Haw shot but it was Auckland who almost went ahead with Keith Gorman rattling the cross-bar then putting the ball into the net only for the linesman to spot an infringement.

Hyde at last settled and a timely intervention by home keeper Sams denied Peter Band then following a lovely cross Cec Edey, Lutel blasted wide.

It became all Hyde briefly and Sinclair cleared a Haw shot with keeper Sams beaten.

The Tiger's pressure came to nothing in the 28th minute when a mix up in defence allowed Keith Gorman to blast the opener from close range.

It only took another 10 minutes for the home side to go further ahead when Gorman receiving the ball in a suspiciously looking off-side position passed to Paul Harrison who had a simple tap in. Hyde still looked out of sorts after the break but James and Dolby had efforts cleared, then a great chance was

**West Auckland....2  
Hyde United....0**

**FA Cup Third Qualifying Round.**

missed when Lutel James crossed weakly with Page and Hall in good positions.

Then with five minutes remaining James crossed again but this time the effort was headed wide by Highfield and the Tigers furious fight back came to nil.

Hyde boss Mike McKenzie wasn't for mincing words or searching for excuses 48 hours after Hyde United's shock defeat.

The Tigers' boss was bitterly disappointed at the way his side were beaten by a team that had the fight but shouldn't have had the flair to dent Hyde's cup aspirations.

The loss means an end to any thoughts of a lucrative run with the possibility of bringing a big name Football League side to Ewen Fields.

And it killed off the dreams of the Tigers fans who made the long journey north on Saturday.

"On the day we were poor and we played poorly," said Hyde's boss. "We got exactly what we deserved."

Mike refused to blame the conditions - heavy rain and a mud-bath pitch - for Hyde's defeat.

"It was a 50-50 kind of game I told the players that before the game. The conditions were bad but they were bad for both teams," he said.

"But they battled and we didn't."

Mike felt West Auckland were the equivalent of Unibond

League first division side and as such, should not have been expected to beat a Hyde team challenging at the top of the Premier Division.

"We always seem to do better against better teams," he said. "Having said that we were never going to win the FA Cup."

"My immediate priority now is getting three points at Colwyn Bay and hoping we don't pick up any injuries before Saturday's FA Trophy tie with Bilston Town."

As usual Mike was delighted with the following on Saturday and hopes more fans will make the journey to the Midlands this weekend.

Bilston are currently eighth in the Southern League Midland Division. Like Hyde they are inconsistent.

Town are also out of the FA Cup, beaten by Congleton Town, so both sides will be out for victory this weekend.

Town are managed by former Wolves player Theo Jackson. Most of the side is from the Birmingham and Wolverhampton area.

●Fans wanting to book a seat on the club coach which leaves Ewen Fields at 11.30pm should contact Tigers secretary Ray Stanley. Fare is £8 for adults, and £6 pensioners and children.

West Auckland: Sams, Bainbridge, Stout, Sinclair, Jackson, Flemming, Weldon, Innes, Harrison, Gorman, Ormsby. subs: Southers, Cowell, Johnson, Mellamby, Morris.

Hyde: Scargill 6, G. Wilson 8, Annan 6, Richardson 6, Edey 7, Dolby 7, Haw 7, Hall 6, James 8, Band 7, Page 7, subs: Washington 6 (for Richardson 71), Moncrieffe 6 (for Haw 67), Highfield 6, (for Dolby 52).