

# Tigers' roar is stifled

Hyde Utd.....0  
Blyth Sp.....1

by DAVID JONES

A SHATTERING six minutes resulted in the brilliant Paddy Wilson being sent off, and Blyth snatching an undeserved winner.

Wallasey referee Doug Stewart red-carded Wilson in the 74th-minute, after a touch-line incident with Stephen Walker.

Supporters close to the scene later denied Wilson had even come into contact with the Blyth defender, but it meant an early bath for the man whose inspirational play could have steered Hyde to victory.

Six minutes later, Blyth doubled the Tigers' misery when Wayne Edgecumbe, alone on the right, cut into the box to push the ball past Jon Scargill.

It was a cruel blow for Hyde who created the lion's share of what chances there were in a defence dominated game.

Peter Banz saw his glancing header arc round the post in the opening minutes and, seconds later, Wilson powered into the box to volley a Prince Moncrieffe cross inches over the bar.

Wilson managed to create plenty of space, and he should have capitalised on at least once chance. However, with only Terry Burke to beat, he screwed the ball wide from just inside the penalty area.

Hyde finished the first half with a flourish, with Moncrieffe running on to a defence-splitting pass to crash the ball well over the bar.

Defences tightened, just after the break, and chances got fewer and fewer. However, even after Blyth's shock goal, Hyde still had a chance to at least share the points.

Darren Washington was put through by Richard Annan, but he hit his shot right at the Spartans' keeper.

It was tough on the Tigers, who are beginning to slip down the table. Fans were left wondering what difference Lutet James, currently with Bury, might have made.

Hyde: Scargill 7, P Richardson 7, Annan 6, G.Wilson 7, Edey 7, L Richardson, 7, Moncrieffe 6, P.Wilson 8, Band 6, Page 6. Subs: Washington 6 for Band (60), Haw 7 for Moncrieffe (68), Taylor for Dolby (84).

Blyth: Burke, Walker, Skedd, O'Hara, Hysen, Earnshaw, Alderson, Lumsde, Edgecumbe, Rose, Pitt. Subs: Henderson, Moat, Colledge.

Ref: Doug Stewart (Wallasey).