

Tigers throw it away

Hyde Utd.....0
Runcorn.....2

by **DAVID JONES**

THEY lets kids in for free at Ewen Fields, on Saturday, and Hyde responded with some schoolboy howlers. In fact, the cock-ups would have kept Jeremy Beadle going for a fortnight.

The only challenge left for the Tigers was to ensure they retained their record of never having finished in the bottom half of the UniBond League. Unfortunately, they failed.

In fact, Runcorn almost caught Hyde cold in the sixth minute, when Aidan Warder bent a quickly taken free kick around the wall.

Jon Scargill must have seen it late, but he soared to his right to turn the shot for a corner.

The Tigers went close when Lutel James turned in the box to blast in a shot that Mark Morris somehow smothered; and a Dave Nolan header was cleared off the line.

It was Runcorn, however, who went into a 31st-minute lead, when Paul McNally bundled home the ball home after Scargill had parried his close-range header.

Four minutes later, Hyde had a glorious chance to equalise when a defender handled as Val Owen scorched into the box. However, Nolan's penalty was too close to Morris.

Seconds later James broke into the box, but his weak shot, in a one on one with Morris, was pushed out by the keeper; and Colin Lambert fired badly wide.

Runcorn's response to a series of lucky let-offs came on the stroke of half time, when Billy Garton was slow to react to a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area; and Danny Worthington nipped in to shoot into the far corner.

After that, it was no fun in the sun, as Runcorn sat back and let the home side chase what was an impossible dream.

James again fired right at the keeper, Ged Kimmins looked slow, and a diving header from Lambert was palmed away.

The only happy Hyde fans were 70 of the kids who got in free. At least they also got a voucher for free hamburger.

Hyde: Scargill 7, Gallagher 7, Annan 8, Wilson 6, Garton 6, Lambert 7, Kimmins 5, Owen 5, James 6, Brewer 6, Nolan 5. Subs. Tucker 5 for Garton (71), Hughes 5 for Gallagher (76), Switzer 5 for Annan (77).

Runcorn: Morris, Salt, Ward, Oliver, Ellis, Ruffer, Warder, McNally, Irving, Fleming, Worthington. Subs. Callaghan for Ward (37), Dunn for Warder (70), Bushell for Worthington (82).

Ref. Richard Sutton (Macclesfield).