

Nolan makes the difference

WITH only a handful of games left to go this game lived up to its advance billing as a meaningless end-of-season fixture.

There was little for the fans to get excited about, but both teams began brightly, and Hyde had the first chance, after five minutes, when a mix-up by the home defenders nearly let the Tigers through on goal.

Lancaster's first shot came ten minutes later, when a cross from the wing by Jimmy Graham caused confusion in the Hyde defence. However, McDonald could only blast the ball high and wide.

That turned out to be Lancaster's only real chance of a lacklustre first half, and the Tigers finished the stronger side.

Lancaster got back into the game after the break, with two good attacking moves in the opening minutes.

However, it was Hyde who opened the scoring, just after the hour. David Nolan, who had looked lively throughout, rose above the crowd to head the ball firmly into the top left-hand corner; after a free kick.

The Tigers had the chance to wrap up the game, minutes later, but Ged

Lancaster City.....0
Hyde United.....1

Kimmins miskicked with only the keeper to beat.

Lancaster then missed the opportunity to snatch a point when Graham lofted a free kick into the box, but no one could get the vital touch.

City went close several more times, but they could not beat keeper Jon Scargill, who grew in stature after a shaky first half.

When Graham headed narrowly wide for Lancaster, five minutes from time, the home fans knew it was not to be their day.

City fought hard for an equaliser in the remaining minutes of the game, but they missed their few chances, giving the Tigers the opportunity to beat them for the third time this season.

Lancaster: Thornley, Curwen, Graham, Hartley, Jones, Gelling, Trainor, Boyd, Flannery, McDonald, Cheal. Subs: Taylor for Boyd (68), Phillips, Marshall.

Hyde: Scargill 7, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Lambert 8, Kimmins 8, Owen 9, James 8, Varden 7, Nolan 8. Subs: Annan for Varden (76), Tucker, Brewer.

Ref: Graham Belcher (Cumbria).