

# Treble goes begging

**Leigh.....2**  
**Hyde Utd.....1**

TWO late strikes cost Hyde a hat-trick of league wins at muddy Hilton Park on Saturday.

Torrential rain had turned the ground into a mudbath but, for much of the game, the Tigers' breakaway tactics posed problems for the high-flying home side.

Hyde handled the conditions better, with Colin Lambert using his speed and power to good effect, while Paul Varden's defence-splitting passes had Leigh on the back-foot.

Indeed, it was Varden who provided a teasing cross on 17 minutes which deceived the home defence, allowing the unmarked David Nolan to race in at the far post and head home.

It was nothing more than the Tigers deserved, and they should have added a second, eight minutes before the break, when Varden's long ball found Lutel James on his own. However, James could only fire straight at the legs of keeper Dave Felgate.

James was again the culprit, two minutes into the second half, when a George Switzer long ball found him with only the keeper to beat. However, he shot wide of the target.

Leigh have proved all season they are one of the top sides, able to bounce back from almost any situation, as they did in the game at Ewen Fields, salvaging a point after being 3-0 down.

Hyde were to be severely punished for those glaring misses by the classy midfield skills of Dave Ridings.

As the game wore on, Leigh began to dominate; and they levelled, ten minutes from time, when Peter McCrae trapped a long Felgate free kick, and played it on to Ridings, who chipped Jon Scargill from 15 yards.

Two minutes from time, Ridings did all the hard work himself. He beat two defenders, and produced a neat turn before smashing the ball into the back of the net.

It was rough justice on the Tigers, who had dominated for long spells. However, they paid the price for sitting back in the last 20 minutes instead of taking the game to Leigh, as they had done so effectively in the first half.

Hyde: Scargill 6, Gallagher 6, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Lambert 8, Tucker 7, Owen 7, James 6, Varden 7, Nolan 6. Subs: Annan, Manning for Garton (88), Kimmins 6 for Varden (68).

Leigh: Felgate, Williams, Wallace, Schofield, Smyth, Locke, James, Ridings, Cryer, Evans, Rostron. Subs: Anderson, McCrae for James (75), Barker for Rostron (68). Ref: Nigel Bannister (Goole).