



STRIKER ... Ged Kimmins searches in vain for a goal

Tigers lose their teeth

EWEN Fields was once the killing field for some of the best regional sides in the country - but not any more. Saturday's sorry showing was Hyde's third home defeat on the run.

Form has gone, confidence is low, and there have been injuries and suspensions. All have combined to produce a poor season.

Yet, for the first 15 minutes, the Tigers looked capable of winning. Boosted by the return of Darren Thornton, from Thackley, they formed a fluent force which gave keeper Simon Marsh plenty of problems.

The attack buzzed; and the defence, in which Gordon Tucker and Jason Gallagher were on song, looked firm.

All the early pressure came from the Tigers, with Chris Molloy clearing a Tucker header off the liner, Ged Manning having an effort blocked, and Marsh

Hyde Utd.....0
Chorley.....2

by **DAVID JONES**

pulling down a glorious George Switzer free kick.

A home goal looked on, but it came at the other end. With 19 minutes gone, Peter Thomson latched on to a through ball on the right as defenders dosed; and, as Jon Scargill frantically raced out, the former Bury man threaded in the ball at the post.

Seventeen minutes later, Thomson doubled his account when he nipped in to intercept a poor back pass from Switzer, and knocked the ball into an empty net.

Two minutes later, Mike McKenzie substituted the ex-Manchester United man with Richard Annan.

Even at two goals down, Hyde still looked

the better side, and they almost pulled one back when Val Owen dispatched a header goalwards. However, it was cleared off the line.

The second half was a huge disappointment, with Chorley tightening their defence, and chances few and far between.

Tucker saved Hyde's bacon when he cleared a goal-bound shot from Matt Swailes but, minutes later, a Ged Manning shot was cleared off the line.

Apart from a rising Ged Kimmins shot which Marsh had no trouble saving, that was the only action of a poor second half.

Hyde: Scargill 6, Gallagher 7, Switzer 6, Wilson 7, Tucker 8, Lambert 6, Kimmins 7, Owen 7, Manning 6, Thornton 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Annan 7 for Switzer (38), Ioannou 6 for Thornton (58), Brewer.

Chorley: Marsh, Ashcroft, Price, Harold, Allardyce, Jones, Malloy, Hyde, Swailes, Critchley, Thomson. Subs: Carrington for Thomson (62), Tague for Critchley (68), Simms.

Ref: Gary Brittain (Doncaster).