

Lutel shows colleagues the way to goal

OVER the years, the traditional scenario at Hyde United has been that they are less than strong at the back, but razor-sharp up front.

This season, that has changed somewhat. The Tigers are no longer quite as lethal up front, and that point was proved on Monday, when they failed to take a series of chances they would normally have dispatched with glee.

In fact, they found themselves a goal down after 23 minutes and, although they equalised moments before the break, they could have conceded with nine minutes left.

Neil Matthews powered in a shot from the left that may have taken a deflection, and it struck the far post before bouncing away to safety.

Over the game, Guiseley's big central defenders, Stephen Hook and Paul Bottomley, proved difficult to pass, but Hyde might have been ahead as early as the tenth minute. Unfortunately, David

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by **MIKE PAVASOVIC**

Nolan failed by a fraction of an inch to get his head to a George Switzer cross.

Lutel James was highly industrious up front, but the Tigers failed to beat Steve Dickinson, and then, suddenly, found themselves trailing. A split-second after Matthews had narrowly missed, the ball was played back across the goal line at speed, and Michael Jordan touched it home.

The goal was followed by much head-shaking and, as Hyde continued to display bluntness up front, fans began to fear that their side would go into Saturday's Trtrophie tie on the back of three

consecutive defeats – hardly the ideal preparation for such an important.

Consequently, there was great relief when James saved the day. He was on to a disastrous ball from Bottomley like quicksilver, and gave Dickinson no chance with a hard, low shot.

Switzer had to clear off the line from Simon Parke, at the start of the second half, but the Tigers still had enough chances to claim all three points.

Gordon Tucker was close with a header and, four minutes from time, Paul Varden fired wide when through on goal.

Hyde: Scargill 7, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Lambert 7, Kimmins 7, Tucker 6, James 8, Varden 7, Nolan 7.

Subs: Ioannou for Tucker (80), Annan, Brewer.

Guiseley: Dickinson, Atkinson, Hogarth, Hook, Bottomley, Parke, Hazel, Parsley, Matthews, Davison, Eelam. Subs: Proctor for Hazel (86), Jordan for Davison (6), Bower for Jordan (77).

Ref: Douglas Stewart (Wallasey).