



IN THE AIR ... Jason Gallagher (left) in an aerial duel. (CD98-47) Picture: David Dent.

Little to cheer the fans

DAGENHAM spies must have thought they had stumbled on the wrong game on Saturday.

On this showing, the chances of Hyde pulling off an F.A. Trophy win at Victoria Road look poor.

However, a week can be a lifetime in football, and it's odds on the Tigers will have learned from their mistakes.

Once again, they failed to bury a team struggling at the bottom of the table.

However, what is more amazing, is that they failed despite defender Wayne Maddock going in goal after 42 minutes, after keeper Ian Senior ruptured an Achilles tendon, and had to be stretchered off.

More incredibly, Val Owen fired wide of an open goal while Senior was on his knees in agony.

The Tigers missed lots of chances, but what they really missed was

Hyde United... 1 Bamber Bge... 1

by DAVID JONES

the injured Gus Wilson. There was a lack of cohesion at the back, and most raids depended on hopeful long balls.

Hyde should have had two goals in the first five minutes but Ged Kimmins squandered both chances.

In a one-on-one with Senior, he blasted high after a long ball penetrated the Bridge defence. Then, he ran onto a Lutel James pass, but slammed it wide.

The misses gave struggling Bridge hope, and Ashley Hoskins was soon orchestrating moves that had defenders dizzy.

He and Peter Borrowdale brought great saves from Jon Scargill, but the keeper knew little about the one that beat him.

Defenders were left for dead as Dave Leaver pushed a ball into space, inside the penalty area, and Stuart Diggle fired home.

The equaliser came on 54 minutes, when a George Switzer cross was brilliantly headed home by Paul Varden.

Suddenly, Hyde were pushing forward, but the old troubles materialised as James, with only the stand-in keeper to beat, hit the ball against Maddock's legs.

Hyde never put him under pressure, and it could have gone horribly wrong when a Switzer mistake let in Diggle. However, he raced back to clear.

Hyde: Scargill 6, Gallagher 6, Switzer 6, Lockett 6, Garton 7, Lambert 6, Kimmins 5, Owen 5, James 6, Varden 6, Nolan 6. Subs: Annan 6 for Lockett (46), Ioannou 5 for Kimmins (56), Camilleri for Varden (90).

Bamber: Senior, Walmsley, Milligan, Maddock, Sculpher, Walsh, Trainor, Leaver, Diggle, Borrowdale, Hoskin. Subs: Emerson for Senior (42), Eaves for Hoskin (62), Spencer for Borrowdale (68).

Ref: Wright Shaw (Blackburn).