

Minnows survive against toothless Hyde

HYDE United's indifferent run of form really should have ended at UniBond premier division bottom club Alfreton, on Tuesday.

However, their inability to find the net stretched their run of games without a win, and presented the battling home side with their first clean sheet of the season - and only their ninth point.

Tigers' boss Mike McKenzie made it clear, after the match, where he felt that the trouble lay. He said: "We saw a lot of the ball, but lacked the killer instinct, and that's been the story of our season. We're too inclined to over-elaborate in front of goal.

"I thought we were the better side, but Alfreton battled very hard and, perhaps, deserved a draw. They certainly didn't strike me as a team that was down and out."

He added: "It's down to the players to put things right, because there will be no new players coming in. The ones out there are good enough. They have

Alfreton Town	0
Hyde United	0

scored goals in the past, and they will have to soldier on.

Alfreton have suffered a similar problem all season, which is why they are where they are in the league. However, they did enough to remind Hyde that they will be no pushovers in the return fixture, a week on Saturday.

Indeed, having weathered the Tigers' early onslaught, the home side had the better of the first half; and it took three fine saves from Jonathan Scargill to keep his side on terms.

Alfreton's young keeper, Duncan Roberts, on loan from Mansfield Town, also did very well; especially in the second half, when Hyde upped the tempo.

He saved well at the feet of Lutel James, did excellently to hold the same player's close-range

header from Colin Lambert's pinpoint cross, and frustrated Ged Kimmins with another confident block.

Generally, however, the defences were on top although, when home player/manager Mark Dempsey limped off, midway through the second half, his replacement, Dean Bartholomew, brought the best out of Scargill.

In addition, a dipping 25-yard shot flew narrowly wide.

Paul Snape was probably the pick of the Hyde side, but the forwards really must find the way to goal if the season is to receive the kick start it needs.

Hyde: Scargill 7, Finley 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 6, Garton 6, Lambert 6, Kimmins 5, Warden 6, James 5, Snape 8, Nolan 6. Subs: Henshaw for Warden (76), Gallagher, Brockie.

Alfreton: Roberts, Noble, Connelly, Pickering, Warren, Weston, Schofield, Dring, Taylor, Adams, Dempsey. Subs: Brady for Taylor (88), Bullivant for Adams (90), Bartholomew for Dempsey.

Ref: Gary Brittain (Beckingham).