

Night of wasted chances

Accrington 1

Hyde Utd..... 1

HYDE had only themselves to blame for winning only one point on Tuesday. They ran Accrington ragged, but failed to convert their chances.

In fact, they almost paid a heavy price for such wastefulness, having to come from behind and withstand a late rally.

The night did not get off to the best of starts for the Tigers. Keeper Jon Scargill was stuck in traffic and reached the ground minutes before kick-off, by which time he had been replaced.

However, they started well. Richard Annan fired a corner to the far post, where Billy Garton failed by inches to get a touch. In the ensuing melee, Lutel James's shot was blocked.

Hyde continued to hold the upper hand, being quicker to every ball, stronger in every challenge, and more accurate with their passing. However, the ball would not go in the net.

Annan himself sent a free kick dipping viciously, but not quite enough to get it under the bar. Dave Nolan cracked a low drive, but Mulloy saved.

After the break, the Tigers continued to find it hard to score and, after so long under the cosh, Stanley at last came to life.

In the 68th minute, Mulloy punted the ball forward and Smith latched on to it before hitting a low shot into the corner of the net.

It was a stunning blow and, as if raging at the injustice of it, Hyde launched a furious response which brought them level within four minutes.

Annan's free kick caused a terrific scramble in the box. Garton saw his header hit the bar, and Val Owen drove the ball back in for Nolan to divert past Mulloy.

With Stanley trying to hit back, the game entered a thrilling finale.

Owen raced on to a ball, only for Mulloy to snatch it off his toes. At the other end, Haw mis-hit with the goal at his mercy. In the closing minutes, Welch's cross found Smith in the clear - only for Annan to kick it off his toes.

Hyde: Edginton 8, Finley 7, Annan 9, Wilson 8, Garton 7, Lambert 8, Kimmins 7, Owen, James 9, Snape 7, Nolan 8. Subs: Varden for Snape (84), Lockett, Switzer.

Accrington: Mulloy, Davies, Smith, Baldwin, Procter, Challenger, Cliff, Borland, Welch, Haw, Leaver. Subs: Quick, Gelling, Shields.

Ref: David Commins (Preston).