

Classy Hyde left to rue missed penalty

TONY CAROLL set the alarm bells ringing, on Monday, when he made his first return to Ewen Fields.

The one-time Tigers favourite – signed by Vics during the close season – popped up unmarked at the far post, to nod home Brad Sandeman's cross after 29 minutes.

It was the worst possible scenario for Hyde, who won the Cheshire Senior Cup last May, in a match in which they equalled the Conference side and, in a second-half surge, created far more openings.

Once again, however, the Tigers squandered gift-wrapped opportunities, and the result was that they crashed out of yet another cup competition.

Typical of their fortunes was a last-minute miss by Paul Snape that would have taken the game into extra time.

The Liverpool lad only had to lob over keeper Dean Greygoose, as he chased a long ball

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by **DAVID JONES**

Cheshire Senior Cup quarter-final

towards the penalty area, but he hit it too hard and high.

There was little to shout about in the first half. It was all fits and starts, with free-flowing football a rarity.

Yet, Hyde had their chances, and should have equalised after 35 minutes when Dave Nolan strode up to take a penalty after Sandeman had handled a Richard Annan header.

However, the normally consistent Nolan blasted the ball high over the bar.

The Tigers got a lifeline after 61 minutes, when Annan put the ball into the box, and Billy

Garton stretched to stroke the ball past Greygoose for a lovely goal.

It pepped up Hyde and, soon, the Tigers were running the show.

A Colin Lambert shot crashed off the keeper, and Ged Kimmins cut through to unleash a shot that was cleared off the line.

The Tigers came again and again, and a Lambert 30-yarder saved at the foot of the post.

A Hyde victory looked on but, with seven minutes left, Ian Cooke snapped up a loose ball on the edge of the box to beat Scargill in the bottom corner.

The Tigers rallied, with Kimmins seeing another cracker saved at full stretch, but time ran out.

Hyde: Scargill 6 Finlay 7, Annan 6, Wilson 6, Garton 7, Lambert 6, Kimmins 7, Owen 6, James 7, Snape 6, Nolan 6. Subs: Brockie, Shaw, Switzer.

Northwich: Greygoose, Ward, Fairclough, Crookes, Simpson, Sandeman, Stannard, Walters, Tait, Cooke, Carroll. Subs: Bishop for Walters (26), Hussain, Vicary.

Ref: Richard Sutton (Macclesfield).