

Tigers rue goal that never was

HYDE players swarmed around referee Graham Salisbury after he disallowed a Dave Nolan goal they were convinced should have been the winner.

There was eight minutes left when Nolan drifted in at the far post and powered the ball over the line. Mr Salisbury disallowed it for offside, although the Hyde camp claimed the George Switzer free kick that produced the 'goal' was headed back by Stanley's ex-Tigers' defender Chris Molloy.

It was a shame, because this was a game Hyde should have won. After wasting chances, they mounted a grandstand finish that deserved a goal.

Colin Lambert blasted in a beauty that almost squirmed out of Rob Malloy's hands, and Paul Varden saw a shot hooked off the line.

However, once again, the Tigers found themselves struggling against a side that were less than average.

Unfortunately, Hyde are still lacking creativity in midfield, and the type of big bustling striker that could take some of the pressure from Lutel James and Ged Kimmins.

They are making chances, but there is no one with the height and power to shake up defences, and it all gets rather predictable.

Hyde United 1
Accrington Stanley 1

by **DAVID JONES**

Hoping for a great start to get the taste of the Salford City shambles out of their mouth, the Tigers found themselves relying on Jon Scargill. After five minutes, he beat out a Steve Haw stinger, then twisted in mid-air to push a powerful Matt Shields' header for a corner.

Varden then brought the best out of the keeper with a low shot that was blocked, and then booted away.

Stanley went ahead on 16 minutes, from a set piece. While Hyde were forming a wall on the edge of the box, Dave Leaver nipped in to thread a shot through a forest of legs.

The Tigers hit back, ten minutes later, with a goal that underlined James' class. Kimmins and Switzer contrived to push through a defence splitting pass, and James drew the keeper and slotted home.

Hyde: Scargill 7, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 8, Lambert 6, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, James 7, Varden 6, Nolan 6. Subs: Brockie, Finley, Snape.

Accrington: R. Molloy, Davies, Dowell, Proctor, Quick, C. Molloy, Welch, Greenwood, Shields, Haw, Leaver. Subs: Cliff for Haw (80), Smith for Leaver (86), Pennington.

Referee: Graham Salisbury (Preston).