

Prince ignites faint hopes

Hyde Utd.....1
Witton Albion0

by **DAVID JONES**

HYDE'S hopes of the UniBond title might be ebbing fast, but that did not mean they were going to do relegation-haunted Witton any favours on Saturday. They won with a goal scored five minutes into the second half, after Steve Jones had been bundled over by Brian Pritchard as he charged for goal.

Dave Nolan's spot kick crashed off the post, but Prince Moncrieffe raced in to hammer the rebound past Mark Statham.

Moncrieffe, a half-time substitute for Paul Varden, took his chance well; and went on to give a sparkling display on the right.

The scoreline might suggest that the match was close, but the Tigers should have won more convincingly.

Playing for their lives, Witton tried to attack throughout but, when it came to chances, there was only one team in it - and most fell to Steve Jones.

In the opening minutes he had a shot kicked off the line by Andy Taylor and, seconds before he was subbed on 83 minutes, rattled in a swirling shot that Statham was happy to hold. In between, he forced Statham into a great near-post save.

Val Owen might have scored in the tenth minutes but, after slipping past the keeper, fired against the post.

Witton had to wait 30 minutes for their first real chance - a Peter McCrae shot that Ade-

mola Bankole saved at the foot of the post.

Yet, they might have stolen an interval lead when Paul Bennett intercepted a suicidal back header from George Switzer, only to hit the ball over, practically from under the bar.

Although Albion looked a little sharper after the break, the Tigers could have added to Moncrieffe's goal.

John Aspinall saved a certain second when he knocked a Nolan header off the line, and Statham raced to block a shot from Moncrieffe.

Hyde did have a scare, and with only seconds left. Bennett got to within 15 yards of goal, but Bankole saved the point-blank shot.

Hyde: Bankole 7, Leberl 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 8, Owen 7, Jones 8, Varden 7, Nolan 7.

Subs: Moncrieffe 7 for Varden (46), Murray 6 for Jones (83).

Donnelly.

Witton: Statham, Aspinall, Jones, Pritchard, Taylor, Megson, Rose, Hutchinson, McCrae, Bennett, Rodwell. Subs: Gayle for Hutchinson (59), Benchley for Bennett (71), Dullaghan for McCrae (86).

Ref: Richard Rawson (Sheffield).