Promotion form deserts Tigers

HIGH drama and disappointment went hand in hand on Monday in a game in which two players were sent off, and Hyde's promotion hopes took a tumble.

Jason Gallagher, and former Chelsea and Scotland striker David Speedie were dismissed after a clash in the 72nd minute. They had to go but, if Sheffield referee Mike Swift had stamped his authority on the game earlier, the incident might not have happened.

To be charitable, Mr Swift had a less than momentous match, although Hyde fans might have added a few stronger words after some decisions which, to say the least, were questionnable.

The Tigers needed to win this one to keep tugging at Leek's coat tails. They should have got the points, but a lapse in concentration – with three minutes to go – gifted Guiseley the equaliser.

Fans attracted by Speedie's name must have gone home disappointed. He showed little other than a high degree of petulance.

But back to Hyde, who went into the match without the injured Ged Kimmins, and lost Steve Jones with a hamstring injury after only eight minutes.

Their opener came after 26 minutes, when lethal Lutel James went down the middle like a bullet, before hitting a low beauty past Steve Dickenson.

Tony Carroll had already headed a free kick over the bar from one of the few first half chances.

Hyde Utd.....2
Guiseley 2

by **DAVID JONES**

The Tigers dominated, just after the break, with the keeper tipping a Dave Nolan cross over the bar, and saving testing shots from Carroll and James.

However, Guiseley gradually came into it, and they shocked Hyde in the 51st minute, when Stephen Hook fired in from close range.

For a time, the Yorkshiremen took a scappy game to the Tigers, with Ademola Bankole having to save from Ian Blackstone.

Hyde reacted better to the dual sending-off and, with 25 minutes left, Jake Leberl headed over the keeper's clawing hands. They continued to attack from midfield and, with three minutes to go, victory looked certain.

However, a lapse in defence gave an unmarked Colin Hogarth room to net with a stooping header from just inside the box.

Hyde: Bankole 6, Gallagher 7, Pybus 7, Wilson 8, Garton 7, Leberl 7, Jones 6, Owen 8, James 7, Carroll 6, Nolan 7. Subs: Murray 7 for Jones (8), Camilleri for Leberl (90), Reid.

Guisley: Dickenson, Atkinson, Hunter, Hook, Abbott, Hogarth, Hazel, Bottomley, Blackstone, Speedie, Parsley. Subs: Ledingham for Hook (76), Ryan for Hunter (89), Green.

Ref: Mike Swift (Sheffield).

●On Saturday, the Tigers are home to Blyth Spartans as they bid to get their faltering title challenge back on line.

Two days later, they travel north to take on Barrow, who are third in the table, but have played more games.