

Tigers fail to close gap

Hyde Utd.....1
Emley2

by **DAVID JONES**

THE Tigers' unbeaten home league record came to an end on Saturday, and against a team which finished with only ten men. Emley were without a recognised keeper for the last half-hour, but the Tigers still lost - and it was no one's fault but their own, they had enough chances to have won hands down.

Emley had caught Hyde - and giant keeper Ademola Bankole, on loan from Crewe - cold in the third minute. A quick ball inside had defenders on the hop, and Carey Williams scored from close range. The Tigers could have levelled several times after that, and Tony Carroll had two great chances to become a hero.

He wasted the first by firing wildly over the bar after breaking into the box; and then beat Chris Marples with a low shot, only to see it crash off the post.

Ged Kimmins seemed certain to score in a one-on-one with Marples, but the keeper saved with his legs.

However, Hyde's hopes soared four minutes after the break, when Gary Henshaw picked up a pass 30 yards out, looked up, and dispatched a rocket into the roof of the net.

The scene seemed to be set for victory but, on 57 minutes, Emley were back in front. A Michael Reynolds corner looked innocuous enough but it flashed through to Neil Lacey, whose header left Bankole motionless.

Sixty seconds later, there was more drama. Marples raced 20 yards out of his area to stop Kimmins, received the red card, and threw his jersey to full back Simon Jones.

With half an hour to go, and Emley down to ten men, home fans expected the floodgates to open, and the Tigers should have won.

Unfortunately, they failed to test the stand-in keeper.

Hyde: Bankole 6, Leberl 7, Pybus 7, Wilson 8, Garton 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, Jones 6, Carroll 6, Nolan 7.

Subs: Camilleri 5 for Henshaw (81), James 5 for Jones (72), Reid for Pybus (90).

Emley: Marples, Nicholson, Jones, Fearon, Lacey, Hurst, Banks, Williams, Thompson, Wilson, Reynolds. Subs: Tunks for Thompson (84), Graham for Reynolds (84), Wood for Williams (86).

Ref: Gary Kellett (Bradford).