

Fortress Leek holds out against Tigers

IN the UniBond premier division match of the day title-chasing Hyde, with their flying front men, came up against leaders Leek and their dogged defence.

Ultimately, the rearguard held out, frustrating the Tigers' attempts to close the gap on their hosts.

However, with this performance, Macca's men left the thousand-plus spectators in no doubt that the title race was far from over.



GARTON: red card

In fact, the Tigers, featuring new signings such as Jake Leberl, Steve Jones and Tommy Murray, were on top for most of the afternoon.

Unfortunately, former Ewen Fields keeper Tony Bullock kept the home side in the game with two brilliant second-half saves.

The Tigers hit the home-sters from the off, and Tony Carroll put a chance into the side-netting early in the game. Jones, on loan from Bury, looking very lively.

Leek only caused trouble from set pieces, but Gus Wilson and Billy Garton, along with Leberl, snuffed out the threat posed by Martin Filson and ex-Burnley frontman Colin Carr-Lawton.

Leek Town0
Hyde United0

by **SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

For most of the game, Jones used his pace to cause problems for Town's back line, and he tested Bullock with a snap shot just before the break.

Leek began the second half looking considerably brighter, and both Gary Baurens - one of six Stalybridge Celtic old boys - and Carr-Lawton had shots blocked. Martin Jones saved well from Steve Soley.

On 58 minutes, a melee in the goalmouth led to Filson and Garton throwing punches at each other. Both were shown the red card by referee Foy.

Shortly afterwards Leek had their best chance of the match. Hawkes broke through the Tigers' defence but, with only Jones to beat, made a complete hash of his shot.

From that point on, the pendulum swung back in favour of the visitors, and Bullock kept his side in the game with two superb saves, keeping out efforts from Val Owen and Ged Kimmins.

Jones left the home defence standing with a dazzling run, but his cross failed to find a fellow Hyde player as it went through the box.

By now, it was constant pressure from Hyde and, following a great run, Gus Wilson found Carroll, but the striker put his shot agonisingly wide.

Leek: Bullock, Locke, Beebey, Ogley, Dickinson, Soley, Ellis, Tobin, Filson, Carr-Lawton, Baurens. Subs: Lester for Ellis (82), Evans for Tobin (84), Hawkes for Carr-Lawton (83).

Hyde: M. Jones, G. Garton, D. Donnelly, T. Wilson, R. Garton, E. Hinchshaw, J. Kimmins, T. Owen, S. Jones, S. Carroll, G. Nolan. Subs: Camilleri, Murray for S. Jones (80), Reid.

Ref: Chris Foy (S. Halton).



GOOD IMPRESSION ... new signing Steve Jones. (R97-181). Picture: Richard English