

Coleman's heroes put paid to Ewen Fields giants with performance that is ...



As keen as mustard

ASHTON enjoyed one of the greatest days in their long history on Saturday, when they reached the quarter-finals of the F.A. Trophy at the expense of high-flying neighbours Hyde United.

The biggest Hurst Cross crowd for many years witnessed a pulsating Tameside derby, and a superb display by the Robins.

From keeper John McKenna to late substitute Mike Wolstenholme, the team played as though their lives depended on it.

Player/manager John Coleman deserved much credit, too, for stifling the Tigers' flowing play by putting five across mid-field.

With the wind at their backs, Hyde had the better of the early exchanges. However, aclear-cut chances were at a premium in a tense opening, and it was 15 minutes before the first chance - Ged Kimmins shooting wide.

Tony Carroll and Lutel James also had chances, the latter having only McKenna to beat, but his finish was woeful.

At the other end, Paddy Wilson caused all sorts of problems whenever he was given the chance to run at the Tigers' defence, but it was the half-hour the visitors' defence was finally breached.

Terry Williams did brilliantly to find David Robinson with a cross from the by-line, and the midfield player skillfully beat Val Owen before smashing an unstoppable shot past Martin Jones.

Hyde were clearly rattled by the goal, and Gerry Henshaw was guilty of a crude challenge on Williams that resulted in a booking.

McKenna made a fine stop to deny David Nolan as the half came to a close

Ashton United.....2
Hyde United.....0

by STEVE LEE

F.A. Umbro Trophy
third round

but, second later, the Robins had a two-goal cushion.

John Brown's excellent corner was headed on by Williams at the near post, and Jimmy Bell's header just made it over the line via Karl Bell's back.

Hyde almost made a dream start to the second half, but Carroll's shot missed the target by a matter of inches.

With the Tigers pushing forward, Ashton twice exploited gaps in their rear-guard.

Wilson latched on to a through ball from Stewart Anderson but shot over, and Williams was denied by a top-class save by Jones, when scoring looked to be a formality.

Ten minutes from time, Carroll looked to have grabbed a goal back with a lob, only for McKenna to make a stunning save.

The Tigers went even closer to reducing the arrears, but they hit the post in a goalmouth scramble with the ball ending in McKenna's clutches.

Wolstenholme, who came on after Ashton skipper Paul Clowes had to leave the field with a gashed head, broke past the Hyde defence in injury time, but his cross was headed wide by Wilson.

Ashton: McKenna R, Carroll & Hollis R, K. Bell R, Clowes S, Robinson R, Brown R, Anderson R, Williams R, J. Bell R, P. Wilson R, Sub: D. Wilson R for Brown (54), Wolstenholme for Clowes (75), Hainsigen.

Hyde: Jones T, Gallagher R, P. Bell S, G. Wilson R, Reid R, Henshaw S, Kimmins T, Owen S, James R, Carroll T, Nolan R, Sub: Garton R for Reid (46), Brooker T for Henshaw (56), Moncrieff.

Referee: F. Richards (Preston).



GIANT-KILLERS:
Right: Robins full-back Steve Hollis (right) fights to contain Hyde United striker Tony Carroll. Left: John Brown (right) manages to beat Tigers mid-fielder Dave Nolan, and heads the ball clear.
Pictures: Jayne Emsley.