

# Curzon delight in night of glory

**HYDE United's three year hold on the Manchester Premier Cup was brought to an end on Monday - and in the most incredible circumstances.**

The gap between the teams could hardly have been bigger in terms of UniBond football - the Tigers third in the premier division, and the Blues 18th in the first - but it was one of those nights when the home side was never going to be denied.

Some will look upon this as a freak result and, it is true that, even in the Curzon camp, most were expecting a good pasting; but it would be wrong to suggest that the Blues did not deserve their night of glory.

The desire to win was etched on every player's face as they fought both Hyde, and the appalling weather.

Looking back, it is hard to believe this was virtually the same Curzon side that surrendered so tamely to Bradford Park Avenue.

On that occasion, frustrated by the Yorkshire side's defensive tactics, they simply gave up. Yet, against a team considered by most to be as good as you can get outside the Conference, they were never fazed - even after conceding an 87th-minute equaliser.

The Tigers dominated the opening period, and could have found the net three times, yet it was Curzon who opened the scoring on 19 minutes, signalling the start of an incredible spell in which four goals were scored, one after another.

Graham Leishman lashed home for the Blues, Hyde hit back with a Garry Henshaw goal, Leishman scored again, and David

**Curzon Ash .....4  
Hyde Utd.....3**

by **MIKE PAVASOVIC**

**Manchester Premier Cup quarter-final**

Nolan levelled from the spot after Phil Wardle had brought down Lutel James.

Ten minutes of relative calm followed yet, despite Hyde's style and skill, it was Curzon who scored



**HEYWOOD: winner**

again. Keeper Martin Jones came out for a ball into the box from Paul Daughtry, missed it completely, and Colin Heywood took full advantage.

After that, the Blues had their backs to the wall, but the Tigers could not score. James was through time and again, but there was no way past Karl Williams.

Then, with three minutes left, Tony Carroll outwitted the home defence with a ball in from the right, and Prince Moncrieffe levelled.

Hyde had reassured their mastery, but the cheers were still ringing as Heywood swiped home the ball.

Curzon: Williams 8, Bevan 7, Kamara 7, Nelson 7, Wardle 8, Patterson 8, Daughtry 8, McKie 7, Leishman 9, Heywood 9, Pickering 7. Subs: Ohandjanian, Smith, Taylor.

Hyde: Jones 5, Megram 6, Donnelly 6, Wilson 6, Reid 6, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 7, Owen 6, James 6, Moncrieffe 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Camilleri, Brockie for Donnelly (84), Carroll for Kimmins (46).

Ref: Allan Rawcliffe (Manchester).

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**AT THE DOUBLE ... Striker Graham Leishman, who scored Curzon's first two goals.**

Picture: David Dent