

Hyde slide to last-gasp defeat

JUST when we thought Christmas was over, Hyde gifted Winsford three points - and the man behind the Santa mask on Saturday was Mr Dependable, Gus Wilson.

Time was up, and the Tigers looked certain of a point. Then, a Winsford player burst past the ex-Crewe man, chasing a ball he may never have caught. Wilson stuck out an arm, and Jock Russell dispatched the penalty.

It was Hyde's third league defeat of the season, and each one has been the result of a last-minute goal.

Fans later claimed the offence had taken place just outside the box but, really, it was immaterial.

Forget the bumpy pitch that inhibited good football, forget a Winsford side quick to defend. Hyde had enough chances to have gone top of the table. The fact that they didn't, is worrying.

Tony Carroll looked lively during the first five minutes, hooking in a shot that keeper John Bagnall fell to save.

Val Owen had an effort blocked; and Ged Kimmins, switching wings, looked effective and threatening.

However, although the Tigers pushed back Winsford, that was their total first half chances.

The home side had one - bang on half time - and it resulted in a lucky let-off.

Billy Garton and Martin Jones were caught in a tangle as Paul Allan chased a long ball. Neither cleared, and the keeper was judged to have fouled Allan outside the box.

Jones was booked as Winsford bayed for a send-

Winsford Utd2
Hyde Utd.....1

by **DAVID JONES**



WILSON: penalty

ing-off, and the free kick came to nothing.

Hyde looked strong after the break. Lutel James set up Garry Henshaw, and a tricky Jason Donnelly cross was tipped over the bar.

The Tigers looked good for a goal, but it was Winsford who scored. With 64 minutes gone, Gary Talbot headed a corner onto the bar, and Allan bundled home the rebound.

After that, Hyde were in control as Winsford defended their lead, but the equaliser proved elusive.

Then, with four minutes left, Prince Moncrieffe saw his shot cleared off the line to Val Owen, who blasted home from close-in.

It was to prove a false dawn.

Winsford: Bagnall, German, Goodhall, Edwards, Talbot, Came, Cartwright, Danakin, Russell, Bishop, Allen. Subs: Dicken for Allen (76), Blundell, Stokes.

Hyde: Jones 6, Gallagher 6, Cox 6, Wilson 6, Garton 6, Henshaw 6, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, James 6, Carroll 5, Nolan 7. Subs: Doineally 5 for Gallagher (57), Brockie 5 for Henshaw (69), Moncrieffe 6 for Carroll (80).
Ref: Ron Marsden (Preston).