

# Tigers' find pressure pays dividends



COX: opening goal

STRUGGLING Buxton proved a much tougher nut to crack than Hyde could ever have expected on a bitterly cold Boxing Day afternoon.

They soaked up pressure for most of the game, and almost caught the Tigers colder than New Year turkey left overs.

Hyde fans hoping to see their favourites blitz the beleaguered Bucks were disappointed. The Tigers created lots of chances, but it was late in the game before the goals finally came.

The match began with Hyde besieging former Manchester United reserve keeper Jim O'Donnell, but the first chances were at the home end.

Steve Bouchett slipped past a slow-moving Gus Wilson only to see his slick inside pass blasted wildly over the bar by Jason Tee.

Bouchett then fired wide, but these were Buxton's only chances of a half the Tigers should have taken by the scruff of the neck.

O'Donnell, in constant action, saved from

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<i>Hyde United</i> .....	<b>2</b>
<i>Buxton</i> .....	<b>0</b>

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by DAVID JONES

Tony Carroll and saw a Jason Gallagher effort go wide. And Hyde should have gone ahead two minutes from half time.

Paul Cox beat two defenders, and O'Donnell, in a mazy run into the goalmouth. However, a defender caught his leg as he was poised to shoot.

A penalty? Maybe. But Cox stayed up, and the linesman's flag stayed down.

The second half was dominated by the Tigers. Val Owen's attempt on goal brought a great reflex save and, during a period of purple pressure, Dave Nolan had a shot cleared off the line,

and Prince Moncrieffe saw his fierce attempt fisted to safety.

A stalemate looked on but, after 59 minutes, Cox turned in a crowded goalmouth to hook home the ball.

Two minutes later, the game was effectively over, Ged Kimmins getting to a high cross to head past O'Donnell.

Hyde should have had more goals, but Buxton might have got on the scoresheet soon after, when ex-Tiger Bevon Blackwood burst down the middle.

Fortunately, Jones came out to save with his legs.

Hyde: Jones 6, Gallagher 8, Cox 8, Wilson 6, Garton 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 7, Owen 8, Moncrieffe 8, Carroll 6, Nolan 6. Subs: Donnelly 6 for Nolan (78), James 6 for Moncrieffe (66), Brackin.

Buxton: O'Donnell, Green, Oxton, Goldison, Brown, Martin, Webb, Tee, Bruckes, Bouchett, Hall. Subs: Blackwood for Bruckes (63), March for Bouchett (84), Rainbridge.

Ref. Mark Cowburn (Blackpool).