

Carroll regains golden touch

HOLDERS Hyde sent neighbours Curzon packing on Monday, thanks to a two-goal burst by born-again Tony Carroll.

The Lancashire fireman, left out of the side when he failed to rediscover last season's fire power, is back with a vengeance.

In a game that largely failed as a spectacle, the Tigers did enough to win and never looked in serious trouble.

However, dour defending by the Blues did blunt Hyde's scoring edge, and neat moves involving Demis Ohandjanian and Graham Leishman occasionally opened up the home defence.

The Tigers roared ahead after 24 minutes, when Lutel James drifted into the box and laid a square pass to Carroll, who slammed home the ball.

That seemed to settle the Tigers and, for a time, only good defensive work by Phil Wardle and Chris Patterson kept them at bay.

Leishman had a glorious chance to square things, early in the second half, but he headed a cross wide when virtually under the bar.

However, Hyde continued to cut through the Curzon

Hyde Utd.....3
Curzon Ash.....0

by **DAVID JONES**

*UniBond Challenge Cup
second round*

defence and, when a Ged Kimmins run ended with a foul in the box on 58 minutes, referee Jim McGrath pointed to the spot, and Dave Nolan drilled home.

With 20 minutes left, Kimmins attacked again. His surge down the middle split the defence, and his inch-perfect pass fell to Carroll.

Karl Williams dived and got a hand to the shot, but its momentum took it over the line.

Chris Smith tried to salvage a little glory when he tried to chip Martin Jones, but the shot simply dropped into the keeper's hands.

Hyde went for more and, with seconds to go, a shot from man of the match Carroll was kicked off the line.

Hyde: Jones 7, Gallagher 7, Cox 7, Wilson 7, Reid 8, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 7, Owen 7, James 8, Carroll 8, Nolan 7. Subs: Esdaille 6 for Owen (68), Donnelly 6 for Nolan (71), Megram 6 for Cox (76).

Curzon: Williams 6, Bevan 6, Kamara 6, Patterson 7, Wardle 6, McKie 6, Hyland 5, Nelson 5, Leishman 5, Smith 5, Ohandjanian 5. Subs: Pickering 5 for Ohandjanian (68), Williams 5 for Nelson (85), Washington 5 for Bevan (68).
Ref: Jim McGrath (Birkenhead).