

Hyde give horror show

AN horrendous second-half display left Hyde manager Mike McKenzie seething on Saturday. Cruising at 3-0 up, the Tigers allowed Knowsley to claw back a point.

Hyde opened the scoring after seven minutes. Jason Donnelly, in for the suspended Vinnie Brockie, supplied a through ball, and Ged Kimmins set up David Nolan to fire in his eighth goal of the season.

But the homesters kept Martin Jones on his toes, and he had to pull off a tremendous save from Congleton. However, Hyde continued to press, and increased their lead on 37 minutes.

A Gus Wilson free kick found Val Owen, whose precise header beat Haigh and, just three minutes later, Moncrieffe made it 3-0 when he picked his spot following a defensive mistake.

However, Knowsley gained a glimmer of hope on the stroke of half time. Kinney appeared to be tripped in the box, and Eddie Johnston made no mistake from the spot.

The second half began with the home side increasing the physical side of their game, yet many reckless challenges went unpunished.

Indeed, one of these incidents led to the

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build-up of the second goal. Kimmins was upended by Johnston, but play was waved on and the ball played into the Hyde box.

The Tigers' misery was then compounded by a disputed penalty, the referee saying Wilson had handled the ball. Johnston again gave Jones no chance.

Hyde's defence was at sixes and sevens. A little later, they reacted slowly to a weak defensive clearance, and failed to close down Congleton, who volleyed into the net.

Jones kept the Tigers in the game when he produced a fine stop from Kinney.

McKenzie introduced Jim Cameron and Tony Carroll in an attempt to inject some life into a side now holding out for a point. However, Knowsley continued to dominate.

In the dying moments, Johnston was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Knowsley: Haigh, Byrne, Diggle, Bolland, Johnston, Morley, Stannard, Congleton, Gouldbourne, Kinney, Doherty. Subs: Weathers, Jones, Kelly.

Hyde: Jones 7, Esdaille 6, Switzer 6, Wilson 6, Gallagher 6, Donnelly 6, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, James 6, Moncrieffe 6, Nolan 6. Subs: Cameron (for James), Megram, Carroll (for Moncrieffe).

Ref: Barry Oldham (Poulton-le-Fylde).