

Tigers suffer loss of verve

Hyde Utd.....0
Winsford Utd ...0

by **DAVID JONES**

IT is rare to see supporters streaming away from Ewen Fields before the end of a match, but it happened on Monday during a game best forgotten.

Those fans missed the Tigers' coming close to snatching a last-gasp victory, but no one really deserved to win.

With the referee playing injury time, on-loan Andy Reid raced in to lash a 20-yard shot which John Bagnall saw late. However, he somehow turned in mid-air to push the ball over.

It was one of the few clear-cut chances either side created, and that was because of Reid - loaned from Altrincham - and Gary Talbot, his opposite number.

Both stood out in tough defences which, faced with some indifferent attacking, made it a hard night for the fans. Hyde were without at least five players so it is not too surprising they struggled, but the game never got going.

Spotting Bagnall off his line, early on, Ged Kimmins tried a 40-yard chip, but it dropped over the bar as the keeper made a vain scramble to get back.

Midway through the second period, he had another go, but this time the ball went wide.

Then, Bagnall raced out to knock the ball away from Lutel James, who was in full flow, and blocked a shot on the turn from Dave Nolan.

Winsford, not to be outdone, also got in on the act. Jason Danskin shot inches wide, Talbot headed past the post, and Darren Lyons tested Martin Jones.

Things might have been different if Tony Carroll's shot had been on target with the keeper beaten, but they could also have been worse.

Just after the break, and with the goal at his mercy, Lyons missed a pin-point pass from Jock Russell.

Hyde: Jones 7, Esdaille 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Reid 8, Brockie 7, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, James 6, Carroll 6, Nolan 6.
Subs: Moncrieff 6 for Kimmins (77), Cameron, Donnelly.
Winsford: Bagnall, German, Goodhall, Edwards, Talbot, Came, Lyons, Danskin, Russell, Newton, Allen. Subs: Leeming, Dicken, Stokes.
Ref: Andrew Page (Ilkeston).