

Tigers keep heads to win

THERE'S still a long way to go but, if Hyde do well in the league this season, they will surely look back to Monday night's epic encounter at Emley as a turning point.

Advance publicity billed the game as a clash of the titans, with the premier division top spot as first prize. Unfortunately - and despite some superb play by Hyde - there were times when the match was more like a prize fight.

Emley were prepared to go to almost any lengths to knock the Tigers out of their stride and, within the first five minutes, there was a brawl on the halfway line involving something like 18 players.

It was clear the game needed a firm hand, but referee Paul Canadine gave the wrong signal when he decided a free kick to Emley was sufficient action on his part.

The remainder of the first half was littered with clashes and, with some of the Hyde players reacting by wanting to take the law into their own hands, it was incredible that only one player was sent off.

That incident took place on 32 minutes when Simon Jones, who had already been booked, hacked down Lutel James as he hared towards goal.

Seven yellow cards were issued in total, two of them going to Hyde players.

Such was the atmosphere of aggression, that one might have been forgiven for overlooking the fact that the Tigers had taken the lead after only eight minutes.

Emley2
Hyde Utd.....4

by **MIKE PAVASOVIC**

For all Emley's early pressure, they were caught cold when Dave Nolan popped the ball over a static defence, and Tony Carroll ran through to put a perfect lob over keeper Ray Dennis.

The Yorkshiremen equalised two minutes from the break, when Martin Jones failed to get down properly to a corner from the left. A scramble ensued, and Deiniol Graham crashed home.

Fortunately, things were a lot calmer after the break, and Hyde got the chance to play some football, although the home side fought hard to make up for their one-man deficit.

The Tigers clawed back their lead on 56 minutes, when Nolan converted a penalty given after Paul David had handled; but back came Emley to level with a penalty of their own, on 72 minutes, which Graham tucked home.

That might have been a fair score, but the Tigers claimed the game with two cracking goals in the last ten minutes.

Carroll scored the first with a blockbuster shot which suprised everyone as it exploded into the net. Three minutes later, Nolan took advantage of a split-second of hesistancy to dash in, dispossess the keeper, and ram home the ball.

Emley: Dennis, Whitehead, Jones, Thompson, Lacey, David, Banks, Shaw, Graham, Wilson, Williams. Subs: Viner, O'Donnell for Shaw (46), Reynolds for Whitehead (73).

Hyde: Jones 7, Esdaille 8, Switzer 7, Wilson 8, Cox 8, Brockie 9, Varden 7, Owen 8, James 8, Carroll 8, Nolan 8. Subs: Cameron for Varden (38), Moncrieff, Kimmins.

Ref: Paul Canadine (Rotherham).