

# Battler Nolan hits new heights

THERE were more breakdowns at Ewen Fields on Saturday than the M1 sees on a bank holiday, but it was moves not motors that fizzled and died as Hyde struggled to break Bishops' blockade.

Macca's table toppers had 80 per cent of play and created most of the chances, but they were let down by some dreadful passing, and a defence which stifled most raids at the 18-yard line.

Bishops' aim was simple - smother the Tigers with a blanket defence, then catch them on the break. They did both beautifully, but it wasn't pretty.

Both sides had early chances. Andrew Dixon smashed a rising shot that Martyn Jones plucked from the air and, in the space of five minutes, Val Owen cracked a 20-yard stinger inches wide and Paul Varden headed over.

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**Hyde United..... 1**  
**Bishop Auckland..... 1**

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by DAVID JONES

Then, after 15 minutes, came the goal which seemed certain to give the Geordies full points. Steve West was allowed to chase and cross a ball from the left, which the unmarked Nicky Peverell tucked in at the far post.

Tony Carroll who, like the rest of the attack, had a quiet game, chased a long ball from Jones on the half-hour, but Simon Bishop sprinted out to clear.

Varden should have equalised five minutes after the break, but headed over from close range.

Lutel James outpaced a defender down the

right in a moment of magic, but his cross was skyed over by Varden.

Ged Kimmins came on as the Tigers tried to put more snap into an attack that was getting nowhere but, once again, their saviour turned out to be Dave Nolan.

With 11 minutes left, Carroll pumped over a cross, and Nolan outjumped men six inches taller than himself to thunder in a header.

Suddenly, Hyde came alive and fans shouted for victory. But the same supporters were happy for a point when Peverell turned in the box to hit a super shot which Jones saved well.

Hyde: Jones 7, Esdaille 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 8, Gallagher 7, Henshaw 7, Varden 6, Owen 6, James 7, Carroll 6, Nolan 7. Subs: Brockie 6 for Henshaw (73), Kimmins 6 for Varden (70), Cox.

Bishops: Bishop, Banks, Lynch, Waller, Lobb, Scaife, Bayles, Dixon, Peverell, Bolam, West. Subs: Carter for Dixon (63), Hewson for Bayles (84), Driscoll.

Ref: David Wood (Liverpool).