

Tigers survive late blast

Hyde Utd.....3
Spennymoor2

by DAVID JONES

HYDE started Saturday's second half looking as though they had been given a rocket, but it was Spennymoor who produced the fireworks. After a damp squib first half, when the Tigers frustrated fans with bags of pretty play but few chances, Hyde went for the throat. However, Moor had a sting in their tale.

With Keith Gorman a constant threat, they were dangerous on the break, and they might have led at half time if Mark Pearson hadn't ballooned an easy ball over the bar.

Yet, that would have been hard on the Tigers, who twice went close. Ged Kimmins ended a run down the left by slanting a shot past the far post, and Tony Carroll fired another good ball wide. Dave Nolan seemed to be rewarded for continually unlocking the Moor defence, but his rocket shot screamed inches over the bar.

Hyde looked more alert after the break and, two minutes in, Carroll tucked the ball to Steve Tobin, who drilled home. Seconds later, with defenders nowhere, Adrian Swan raced out to beat Kimmins to the ball.

However, Kimmins got his reward on 58 minutes, when he tore into the box to score with a shot that squeezed inside the post.

The Tigers seemed to have the game sewn up with 15 minutes to go, when Nolan flicked in a Kimmins cross, but Moor then provided their firework display. With three minutes left, Lee Ludlow pulled one back with a shot from the 18-yard line. Just an irritation, fans thought, as Carroll raced upfield to crash a shot off the bar. However, a minute later, Brian Healy made it 3-2.

Then, in injury time, fans held their breath as a Craig Veart shot beat Williams, and hit the inside of the post.

Hyde: Williams 8, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garlon 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 8, Tobin 7, Little 6, Carroll 6, Nolan 8. Subs. Owen 6 for Tobin (78), Eadaille 6 for Kimmins (85), McLellan 6 for Henshaw (87). Spennymoor: Swan, O'Hara, Gorman, Watson, Suddick, Healy, Alderson, Goodrick, Shaw, Skedd, Veart. Sub. Goodrick for Pearson (9), Ludlow for Suddick (77), Cowell.