

Dawn of Dowe

CREWE Alexandra capture Colin Little watched from the sidelines on Saturday, as his successor marked his first appearance for Hyde with a superb strike.

As the £50,000 signing and the Tigers' travelling army held their breath, Julian Dowe picked up a Gary Henshaw ball and smashed it home from close range.

He had become a hero within four minutes and, after the game, supporters were queuing up to slap him on the back.

You couldn't blame them. Barrow and Bamber Bridge had dropped points, and Dowe had shown he had the precision and power to help the Tigers take the title.

Not that Hyde had things all their own way. Matlock might be bottom of the table but they didn't play like it.

Never overawed by their visitors, they always looked to attack and, at times, their

Matlock.....1
Hyde Utd.....3

by **DAVID JONES**

defence took some breaking down.

On a heavy pitch, three-quarters covered in snow, both sides played some good football, but the Tigers grabbed their goals at the most crucial times.

Their second came ten minutes before the break. Ged Kimmins broke into the penalty area and unleashed a fierce shot that was beaten out by Jon Scargill, before being deflected over the goal line by Dave McNicholas.

Dave Nolan, who had several chances, almost put Hyde three-up, but his stinging far-post header went straight at Scargill.

Matlock pushed Hyde back at the start of the second half, and Imre Varadi forced a save

from Arthur Williams.

After 55 minutes, they were back in the game when a Mark Culley close-range shot took a deflection and eluded Williams.

Varadi went close again but, on 73 minutes, Kimmins was fouled in the box and Nolan cracked home the spot kick low at the left-hand post.

To their credit, the Gladiators refused to lie down and former Manchester City man Varadi, facing Williams from ten yards, put in a shot that the keeper saved with his legs.

In the dying moments, Culley put in a snap header that Williams - seeing it late - twisted in mid-air to claw clear.

Matlock: Scargill, McNicholas, Hayward, Handbury, Flynn, Glennister, Tilly, Burton, Varadi, Culley, Taylor. Subs: Reid, Pugh, Bland.

Hyde: Williams 8, Cox 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 8, Garton 7, Henshaw 7, Kimmins 7, Owen 7, Dowe 7, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Esdaille 6 for Cox (80), Murphy 6 for Dowe (80), McLellan.

Referee: Mr Alan Bite (Bolsover).