

Undefeated run undermined

THE only time Tigers' fans cheered on Saturday was when the Stalybridge result came through. Their 23-game unbeaten run, stretching back to October, had finally come to an end.

Hyde were beaten by a side that out-fought and out-thought them. Struggling Frickley battled for the entire 90 minutes and, although the scoreline flattered them, they deserved to win.

The Tigers, without Colin Little and Ged Kimmins, lacked precision and punch; and it was hard to believe their defence was the same one that looked so unyielding against Welling.

Throw in a midfield that struggled to supply the attack with decent service, and you have the reason for Hyde's shoddiest show in months.

The one bright spark was the form of debut boy Keith Evans. Late on, he almost scored two spectacular goals, and his all round involvement promised much.

In fact, Evans twice went close before the Pit-

Frickley Athletic	3
Hyde United	0

by **DAVID JONES**

men scored. However, the home side deserved their 25th-minute opener, claimed when a Gary Hatto corner was headed back into six-yard area, where Glynn Yates was waiting to pounce.

Eight minutes later, as Tigers' defenders watched, Gary Duffy raced on to the ball, and slid it over the line.

Hyde had fast become a shambles, and they almost went further behind, seconds before the break, when Mark Hancock burst into the box but fired over the bar.

Frickley made the Tigers squirm, ten minutes into the second half, when Miles Thorpe ended a run down the right by slipping the ball into the

goalmouth, for the unmarked Duffy to sidefoot home.

Embarassed, Hyde tried to hit back and, in the space of ten minutes, Evans struck the post with a diving header, and put an overhead kick just over the bar.

Tony Carroll missed the kind of chance strikers dream about when he ran through to blast in a shot that beat Ian Taylor, but rattled the upright.

On the journey home, fans were coming out with phrases like "all good things come to an end". They do, but it shouldn't have been against the likes of Frickley.

Frickley: Taylor, Kelly, Hilton, I.Thompson, M.Thompson, Yates, Colley, Hancock, Thorpe, Duffy, Hatto. Sub: Rayson for I.Thompson (83), Dickinson, Dempsey.

Hyde: Williams 6, Gallagher 6, Switzer 6, Wilson 7, Garton 6, Henshaw 6, Dowe 5, Owen 5, Evans 6, Carroll 5, Nolan 6. Sub: Donnelly 5 for Gallagher (73), Camilleri 5 for Henshaw (73), McLellan.

Ref: Darren Drysdale (Lincoln).