

It's semi-final number four

NEW boy Paul Varden bombed Lancaster with a couple of beauties on Thursday last week, as the first division got a taste of life in the fast lane.

The lads from the Giant Axe ground are well on the way to promotion to the premier division, but the team that looks so strong against first division sides was brushed aside by the taunting Tigers.

And, in particular, by ex-Maine Road and Winsford capture Varden, whose goals and presence were a constant threat.

Under-strength Hyde were two-up within 12 minutes. Varden scored in the second minute, when he rose at the far post to nod in an inch-perfect Ged Kimmins cross. Then, Kimmins pounced onto a loose ball in the box to lash home another cracking shot.

<i>Hyde Utd</i>	5
<i>Lancaster City</i>	1

by **DAVID JONES**

UniBond Challenge Cup quarter-final

Lancaster, led by Billy Idol look-alike Sturt Diggle, hit back with two shots cleared off the line. But there was little in their attacking play to trouble the Tigers, who dominated the second half.

Hyde made it 3-0 on 46 minutes, when Mark Thornley was judged to have fouled Kimmins as he sprinted into the box. Dave Nolan rammed home the spot kick.

Varden added number four in the 57th minute, when he stabbed home a fast through ball from Kimmins.

Lancaster had never looked capable of troubling Arthur Williams but, six minutes later, Diggle chased an innocuous ball down the middle and, as Billy Garton challenged, slipped it past the keeper.

The effrontery of the strike stung Hyde into action and, with 15 minutes remaining, Kimmins casually slotted home in a one-on-one with Thornley.

Hyde: Williams 7, Cox 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Murphy 7, Kimmins 8, Owen 7, Varden 8, Esdaille 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Dowe 9 for Esdaille (60), Camilleri 6 for Owen (74), McLellan 6 for Garton (69).

Lancaster: Thornley, Curwen, Chilton, Williams, Estough, Key, Trainer, Sharples, Diggle, Flannery, Morah. Subs: Galling for Sharples (64), Taylor for Chilton (79), Shirley.