

# Varden wins fans' hearts

**Hyde Utd.....3**  
**Chorley.....1**

by **DAVID JONES**

**PROLIFIC** Paul Varden made it four goals in 48 hours on Saturday, as the Tigers clipped the Magpies' wings.

The exciting capture from Winsford followed his two goals against Lancaster with another double strike. And, against a team whose play belied their lowly league position, it was like money in the bank.

Big-spending Chorley had matched Macca's men throughout the first half, with experienced Brian Ross scoring a beauty and missing a sitter.

However, Hyde burst back after the break to murder the Magpies, and keep up their fantastic winning home run.

But fans were fearing defeat after seven minutes, when Ross ran onto a through ball while defenders were appealing for offside, and slipped a shot under Arthur Williams.

Chorley looked good for more as the Tigers laboured. Indeed, it took the home side 27 minutes to create their first chance, but it counted.

A quick ball into the goalmouth was met by Varden, whose ramrod shot gave Simon Marsh no chance.

Ged Kimmins should have given the Tigers the lead seconds later, in a one-on-one, but the keeper blocked the shot with his legs.

The seesaw action continued. Another Magpies' break setting up Ross, but he fired badly high with just Williams to beat.

Hyde had a lucky escape after the break, when Grant Lietch beat Williams in a race for the ball. He whipped in a cross from the wing, but Lee Trundle shot wide.

The Tigers rallied and, on 63, Colin Murphy controlled the ball beautifully on the edge of the area before scorching a shot past Marsh.

Chorley were being opened up continually, and the frustration showed when Steve Hook fouled Evans as he was going for goal. Referee Clay produced the red card, and Varden brought Ewen Fields alive when he despatched the 77th minute free kick into the roof of the net from 25 yards.

Hyde: Williams 7, Cox 7, Gallagher 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Murphy 7, Kimmins 8, Owen 8, Varden 8, Evans 6, Nolan 7. Subs: Carroll 6 for Evans (83), Donnelly 6 for Murphy (85), Esdaille 6 for Varden (90).

Chorley: Marsh, McKearney, Wright, Thorpe, Hook, Critchley, Lietch, Doyle, Ross, Mayers, Trundle. Subs: Ellerby for Worthington (81), Lietch for Ross (81).

Ref: Graham Clay (Gainsborough).