

# Sucker punch floors Macca's men



CARROLL: goal

ON a weekend dominated by world championship boxing, Hyde had this game ripped from their grasp by an 88th-minute sucker punch.

With the Tigers leading 1-0 and looking good for more, home fans were streaming out of Wincham Park on Saturday. Then, an innocuous ball from the right was met by the unmarked Liam Watson, who turned in the box to clip a shot that took a deflection off Gus Wilson before crossing the line.

The late sickener was hard on Hyde but, on reflection, neither side deserved to lose a cracker of a match.

Albion were the more impressive in the first half, and only poor finishing and backs to the wall defending kept them out. Bustling striker Geoff Horsfield proved a handful for Billy Garton, and strong breaks down the wings had the Tigers under pressure.

Arthur Williams saved at the foot of the post,

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<i>Witton Albion</i> .....	<b>1</b>
<i>Hyde United</i> .....	<b>1</b>

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by DAVID JONES

then soared to his left to deny Mark Sartori as Witton came again.

Hyde improved as the half went on, and Albion had a lucky let-off when indecision by keeper Andy Oakes almost let in Tony Carroll.

The home side surged forward after the break, and Williams had to pull off another cracking save from the dangerous Horsfield.

However, the stalemate was broken by in the 54th minute when Oakes made a mess of a cross, and Carroll blasted home a ball that bobbed in the box.

Hyde fans filled the air with mock fire engine

siren sounds as the jubilant fireman punched the air.

Seconds later, Carroll went close again, powering in a twisting, screwing shot that Oakes somehow pushed over the bar.

The Tigers should have gone in further ahead from a low cross that practically zipped along the goal line, but there was no one to turn it in.

Witton threw everything into a last-ditch effort but, although the forwards got themselves into scoring positions, weak shooting let them down.

What would have been a great win seemed certain, then came that sucker punch.

Witton: Oakes, D. Wilson, Ranson, McNellis, Sartori, Rodwell, Whalley, Rose, Horsfield, Staniard, McDonald. Subs: Watson for Rodwell (58), Pritchard for Ranson (65), Cowley for McNellis (80).

Hyde: Williams 9, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Murphy 8, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, Varden 6, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Evans 6 for Carroll (67), Cox, Camilleri.

Ref: Andy Breckell (Accrington).