

Cup final number-three looms

THE Hyde United bandwagon rolls on. The Tigers secured a 2-0 first leg lead on Tuesday, making them favourites to progress to the final at Burnden Park.

They went into the game without Billy Garton, injured in Saturday's game with Stevenage; and flu victim Val Owen. Mike McKenzie brought in Tony Camilleri and Iain McLellan.

Arthur Williams was soon called into action as he pulled off a fine reflex save from a Kevin Riley effort in the first 60 seconds, but it was the Tigers who opened the scoring after six minutes.

The lively Paul Varden fed Camilleri, who provided a stunning cross for David Nolan, who rose unchallenged above the static Trinity defence.

Hyde continued to press, and a Tony Carroll

<i>Gainsborough Trinity</i>	0
<i>Hyde United</i>	2

UniBond Challenge Cup semi-final, first leg

shot flew just wide following another quality cross, this time from David Nolan.

The homesters began to have little more possession but, although Williams was tested, he coped admirably with all the forwards could throw at him. However Simpson headed wide when it seemed easier to score.

After the break, the Tigers attempted to tighten their grip on the game and, on 55 minutes, they did just that. Nolan provided the cross, Var-

den flicked on, and Ged Kimmins turned to fire home a shot which gave the keeper no chance.

Trying to reduce the deficit, Trinity tried to push men forwards, but the Tigers' back four stood firm; as did Williams, who had a fine game.

Riley must have thought he had finally beaten the keepers, when a firmly struck shot flew past him, but the woodwork saved the Tigers and the ball was cleared.

Hyde: Williams 9, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 8, McLellan 8, Henshaw 7; Kimmins 7, Camilleri 7, Varden 8, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Dowe 7 for Kimmins, Esdaille 7 for Varden, Donnelly 7 for Henshaw.

Gainsborough: Ingham, Price, Whittam, Matthews, Codd, Ellender, Morrow, Cooper, Riley, Simpson, Hardwick. Subs: Foster for Whittam, Smith for Simpson, Bishop for Hardwick.

Ref: Nigel Pross (Notts).