

Former Kidderminster striker haunts Hyde with memories of last year's semi

Delwyn returns with a blast from the past



Hyde Utd.....1
Northwich.....2

by DAVID JONES

F.A. Trophy semi-final first leg
wide. Then, in a two-minute spell, Hyde tasted agony and ecstasy. Just before the break, Billy Garton helped a Nolan cross on its way to Paul Varden, whose shot zipped through defenders past the flat-footed Greycosue. But, 90 seconds later, with cheers still ringing, Vics scored a goal that was simple but superb. A poor header went to Ian Cooke, who ran on to bury a beauty.

Northwich looked strong after the break, with quick moves producing dogged defence. However, Hyde had their chances and a drifting cross from Kimmins just missed Carroll.

Disaster was just around the corner. On 71 minutes, Humphreys picked up the ball, produced a quick shimmy, and poked an angled shot low past Williams.

Hyde could have snatched the draw with two minutes to go, when Garton beat defenders to a header. Seconds later, action was at the other end as Williams dived at Steve Walters' feet to clutch a defence-cutting pass from Humphreys.

With ten minutes to go, the game ended on a sour note when Mike McKenzie was ordered from the dug-out for challenging a decision.

Hyde: Williams 7, Gallagher 7, Switzer 7, Wilson 7, Garton 7, Henchey 7, Kimmins 6, Owen 6, Norden 6, Carroll 6, Nolan 7. Subs: Dowe 5 for Owen (84), Estelle 5 for Norden (84), Cox 6 for Henshaw (74).

Northwich: Greycosue, Ward, Duff, Burgess, Greycosue, Humphreys, Williams, Butler, Cooke, Humphreys, Vicky, Salsie, Salsie for Humphreys (90), Walters for Williams (78), Tait. Ref. R. Pearson (Petterlee).

LAST year he was part of the Kidderminster side which shattered Hyde's Trophy dreams and, on Saturday, he may have done it again.

With 19 minutes left, Delwyn Humphreys came back to haunt the Tigers by scoring a surprise winner.

Lucky Northwich probably think its all over after coming for the draw and snatching a win but, if Hyde can produce flashes of their best form, then the Drift Field side are there for the taking this weekend.

There was nothing at Ewen Fields to trouble any Tigers team on top of its form. Some jinking runs at the veteran Vics central defence should lead Hyde walking out at Wembley.

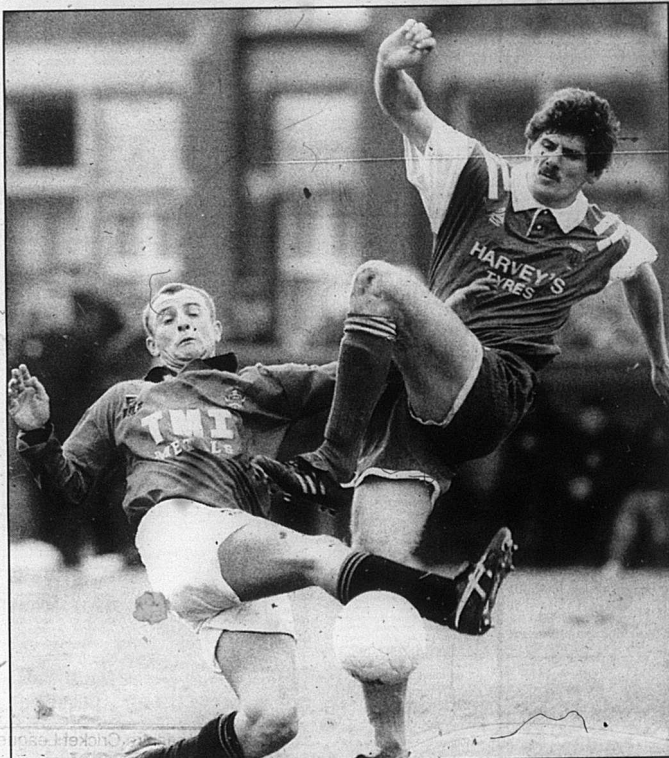
If they rely on high balls into the goalmouth, as so often in this game, the dream will be shattered. But, some class, commitment and a touch of luck, should produce the biggest day in Hyde's history.

In many ways the first leg was disappointing. Northwich's formation frustrated fans and cut the Tigers' effectiveness. Then, when Hyde heads started to fall, the Conference boys' hit them with raids.

The Tigers created the first real chance after ten minutes, when Dave Nolan laid the ball to Ged Kimmins who, spotting Dean Greycosue off his line, hit a lovely chip. However, the keeper twisted backwards to tip the shot over the bar.

From the ensuing corner, a cracking shot from Tony Carroll crashed off a defender. Then, it was Arthur Williams stopping a shot from Darren Vicary.

Northwich gradually took a hold but, in a sudden break, Nolan ghosted in to head a Kimmins' cross



ROCK-SOLID ... Paul Varden (left) struggles to get the ball past Vics' defender Graham Abel. Picture: Jon Snape