

Heaton denies tiring Tigers

JOHN McMAHON'S Ewen Fields comeback lasted just six minutes on Friday, when he became the first of two players to be stretchered off with broken legs.

The match had already started late after Droylsden turned up with the wrong kit. Then, the match had barely begun, when McMahon fell awkwardly following a tackle.

It was obvious the injury was bad by the players' reactions, and Darren Pybus ran towards the press box shouting "get an ambulance".

Twenty minutes later, another ambulance was called for after Dave Nolan and Mark Molyneaux went for a 50/50 ball. The Bloods' keeper seemed to catch the full impact on his legs, and was also stretchered off.

McMahon later underwent more than three hours' surgery for a broken fibula and tibia. Molyneaux broke his ankle.

Both incidents were purely accidental, with no one to blame. However, they threw a tense cloud over a game that Droylsden needed to win, and almost did.

Simon Heaton took over in goal and, although he performed heroics to keep out the Tigers, it was by no means one-way traffic.

The electric pace of Nigel Evans, and the bludgeoning of Allan Pannett, gave Hyde's shaky central defence plenty of problems,

Hyde United 1
Droylsden 1

by **DAVID JONES**

but the Tigers stormed into a 14th-minute lead when Tony Carroll headed a Gary Henshaw cross over Molyneaux.

But the glory was shortlived. Four minutes later, Evans rounded Gus Wilson with alarming ease, to squeeze a shot between Arthur Williams and the post.

If Hyde thought beating the stand-in keeper was easy, they were made to think again. Heaton courageously came out to block shots and make saves any goalie would have been proud of.

But the Tigers through should have scored. Keith Evans wasted a great chance, and a Gary Henshaw cracker hit the bar.

In the main though, the strong Bloods' back four restricted Hyde's chances and, with Evans so good on the break, a shock was always on against the tiring Tigers.

In might have happened in the last minute, when Evans twice glided towards goal; but, on each occasion, Paul Cox made a saving tackle.

Hyde: Williams 7, Gallagher 7, Cox 8, Wilson 6, Hawtin 6, Henshaw 7, Evans 6, Eadaille 6, McMahon 6, Carroll 7, Nolan 7. Subs: Donnelly 6 for McMahon (6), Switzer 7 for Gallagher (28), McLellan 6 for Nolan (80).

Droylsden: Molyneaux 6, Cooke 7, Chappell 7, Ashton 7, Tunnicliffe 8, Lattis 8, Heaton 9, Pybus 6, Hall 7, N. Evans 9, Heywood 6. Subs: Pannett 7 for Chappell (12), Bradshaw 7 for Molyneaux (30), McKie 6 for Pybus (76).

Ref: Paul Canadine (Rotherham).