

Hopes dashed in extra time

Hyde Utd.....1
Witton Albion3

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Cheshire Senior

Cup final

after extra time

THREE goals in 13 minutes ripped the county cup from Hyde's grasp on Monday and, really, the Tigers could blame no one but themselves.

For the first 45 minutes, Hyde had woeful Witton so much under the cosh it just wasn't true. They dominated in every department but, when it came to putting away chances, they failed miserably.

For the second time in 72 hours the Tigers were plunged into extra time, where a dubious penalty and poor defending caused them to kiss their dreams goodbye.

Yet, it should have been so different. After four minutes a close range header from the brilliant Dave Nolan was acrobatically knocked over the bar by David White.

Paul Varden missed a sitter, then clipped his shot wide after another rapid raid had opened the Witton defence.

Keith Evans had a goalmouth shot scrambled clear, with the keeper beaten, before an effort from Nolan was knocked off the line by Carl Maccauley.

Witton rode their first-half luck and, after the break, closed down Hyde, hitting them hard on the break. The Tigers' defence was suddenly at full stretch.

With eight minutes to the end of normal time Tony McDonald should have done better with a precision pass which he volleyed wide from almost under the bar.

But the best chance, dead on the 90th minute, fell to Carroll. Varden flashed over a super cross, and all the unmarked striker had to do was connect, but he completely missed, and the lottery was on.

Two minutes into extra time, John Stannard shrugged off a tackle and fired wide. Wirral referee David Pugh claimed he had been fouled, and Liam Watson drilled home the pen.

It was hard on Hyde, but worse was to come. Five minutes later, Stannard raced down the left to hammer a low shot past Kurt Edgington.

Hyde tried to hit back, with Keith Evans and Carroll finding themselves in scoring positions, but they needed too much time.

In the 105th minute, Stannard was again given acres of room, and he obliged by rifling past Edgington.

The Tigers pulled one back, ten minutes later, with an Evans overhead kick, but it was too little too late.

Hyde: Edgington 7, Cox 8, Switzer 8, Wilson 8, Garton 8, Henshaw 7, Evans 6, Camilleri 6, Varden 6, Carroll 6, Nolan 5. Subs: Gallagher 7 for Camilleri (87), Dove 5 for Varden (108), Hawtin 7 for Henshaw (108).

Witton: White, Maccauley, Benchley, Jones, McNeillie, Pritchard, Whalley, Faby, McDonald, Morley, Watson. Subs: Stannard for Maccauley (77), Taylor for McNeillie (106), Walker.