

Burrell stars as Tigers triumph



soccer

STEVEN MAHER

MORE than 10 months of hard work was rewarded in the best way on Sunday when Wyoming won its third Premier League title in six years.

Defender Alex Burrell was the hero for the Tigers, netting two first half goals to propel Wyoming to a 2-0 win over minor premier Berkeley Vale at Plum Park, Lisarow.

Burrell, who has been a rock in defence throughout the season, was an unlikely attacking weapon for the winners.

He was in the right place at the right time to head home the first after a Wyoming freekick in the fourth minute and 19 minutes later was at it again, smashing a volley into the back of the net after another Tigers freekick.

"We set up the win in the first half," said Wyoming captain Ryan Marshall, who has now won six Premier League titles, three of which with Wyoming.

"The first half was good, we could have led by four or five goals. They came at us in the second half but we showed great spirit. I think we deserved it."

Wyoming coach Bret Lomax said: "Berkeley Vale was good all year but that was our third win against them so I think we deserved to win it. We started train-



Wyoming's Ryan Marshall takes on the Berkeley Vale defence.

ing in November for this - it's a great feeling."

Wyoming could have been up by more than two goals at half-time but a mixture of poor finishing and strong Berkeley Vale defence saw the score remain unchanged.

While Wyoming dominated long

periods of the first half it was a different story after the break with Berkeley Vale pushing forward in a desperate attempt to reduce the deficit.

The northerners came close several times but were denied by some bad luck and two outstand-

ing reflex saves from Wyoming goalkeeper Scott Bromfield.

It was a disappointing end to what has been an outstanding season for Berkeley Vale. The Stuart Davis-coached side was runaway minor premiers but was beaten by Wyoming two times



Wyoming's Daniel Surridge clashes with Berkeley Vale keeper David Mitchell.

during the finals, including Sunday's defeat.

"We just couldn't get the ball in the back of the net," a disappointed Davis said.

"The boys are disappointed to end the season this way but it's still been a great year for the club. We won the minor premiership for the first time in the club's history and made a grand final, it's a great effort."

■ After several near misses in recent years East Gosford turned in a great performance to beat Budgewoi 3-0 in the Premier League reserve grade grand final.

East Gosford led 1-0 at half-time and went on with the job in the second half. Glenn Watkins netted two goals, including a spectacular strike deep into the second half.

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