

Bridgeholme's remarkable collapse

BRIDGEHOLME, on the crest of a wave after winning three of their last four matches including the splendid victory over league leaders Northowram, came close to another win against Stones but a remarkable batting collapse saw the Eastwood side finally desperately hanging on for a draw.

Disaster struck with Bridgeholme coasting along at 94-2 chasing 128, when Houlker stepped in for Stones with a real vengeance. He finished with a splendid return of 7-29 but Bridgeholme held on with just one wicket standing.

Stones were sent in on the dull

and wet afternoon and the visitors were soon on the rack, struggling all the way to their 128 all out score. Top scorers were Houlker with 31 and Goodwin (21) who had to retire hurt with a snapped Achilles tendon.

Bridgeholme bowled well throughout and Robinson had the best figures with 4-27 from his 13 overs.

There were several stoppages for rain but Bridgeholme were looking good at 93-2 — the good start including an excellent 50 stand for the second wicket between David Heaton (32) and David Butcher (30). Then along came Houlker to complete a fine all-round performance with his

seven wicket haul. Apart from Heaton and Butcher only Shepherd reached double figures and at the finish several disappointed Bridgeholme batsmen were kicking themselves at letting this match slip away.



WITH Bridgeholme second team it was another typical batting display that let them down as they went down by six wickets against Stones.

There was a good enough start with an opening stand of 51 and a score of 81-2 with only half the overs gone. A big score was promised by the middle order failed to build on the fine start and the

innings folded at 123. Only Barry Whitehead (23) stayed any length of time to try and build an innings.

But Ian Hill got his side off to a flying start when Stones batted when he bowled Taylor with his second delivery.

Hill continued to bowl well but Hamer and Normington took Stones well within sight of victory. The local side had some consolation in claiming three more wickets — one a fine running catch taken by Adrian Lee — but it was too late and Stones coasted home with six wickets in hand.

Hill finished with 4-59 from his 15 overs.