

Ashes test adds spice for Lightning fans

MK LIGHTNING did the double over Romford in the perfect start to their pre-season, and this weekend they face their biggest rivals, Peterborough Phantoms.

Lightning scored six in both of their games, with Ross Bowers and Michael Wales getting hat-tricks, and conceded four in two dominating displays.

With a mix of old and new faces, it was chance for player-coach Nick Poole to get an idea of his teams chances before the league campaign starts in two weeks.

Poole said: "I was pleased with the performances, it was the first chance to look

at the new players in a competitive game."

Last season was the first time in five years that Lightning have not picked up a piece of silverware, but Poole is setting his sights high this time round.

"Realistically our target this year is the top three for the league. There are three trophies up for grabs and we want to be in the finals."

After a long summer break, Poole admitted the players were glad to be back out on the ice, he said: "We are looking forward to playing Peterborough this weekend and we're playing for the ashes!"

The 'ashes' at stake are those of the equipment former Lightning players James Morgan and Dwayne Newman used before they moved to Peterborough in the summer.

"They are our biggest rivals and for two players to move from MK to Peterborough is a pretty big deal. The ashes will give the game an extra competitive edge, and a little added twist for fans."

■ Face-off at the Planet Ice Arena is 7pm. The return leg is on Sunday, at Peterborough's Planet Ice, face-off is at 5.30pm.