

Lightning take it to the max

MAXIMUM points from two matches keeps MK Lightning snapping at the heels of Slough and Guildford for top spot in the English Premier League.

Lightning are two points behind leaders Guildford, with a game in hand and look ready to take the race for the title right to the wire.

On the back of two cup defeats and icing without player-coach Nick Poole and injured Michael Wales it was a tough test for Lightning to bounce back to victory, but MK, without ever reaching third gear, passed with flying colours.

Saturday saw Lightning record their fifth win and a whitewash over Wightlink Raiders this season.

Struggling Wightlink are rock bottom and after failing to post a score, were far too poor for Lightning.

Greg Randall continued his fine firing form by opening the scoring six minutes into the match and while chances fell for the remainder of the period Lightning were only ahead by one after 20 minutes.

But it did not take long for Ales Perez to double the advantage five minutes into the restart and when Toni Alasaarela found the back of the net to effectively end Wightlinks chances of a comeback before Grant McPherson wrapped up the points deep into the final period.

In six games Lightning have leaked 21 goals, yet this time round they were able to hold out for their fifth clean sheet of



Toni Alasaarela battles on the floor against Isle of Wight

Picture
Jez Tibbetts

the season.

Sunday's clash with Chelmsford proved to be more testing for Lightning as they battled to keep hold of a lead they held over the lowly Chieftains.

The first and second periods were slow moving, but Perez had Lightning leading the way following his power play goal and Gary Clarke struck at the buzzer for a healthy two goal cushion heading into the final period.

Clarke then struck the third on the 47th minute but Chelmsford found their way through the Lightning defence to reply with their first of the evening.

There were six minutes remaining on the clock when the Chieftains struck there second, pulling the score to 3-2 and ensuring the travelling MK fans were in for a nervous end to the match.

But ex-Chelmsford man Radmall had the last laugh when he bagged the fourth and eventually winner for Lightning, and although the home side managed to sneak in a third a minute from time, it was too little too late.

■ **LIGHTNING** play host to Peterborough Phantoms on Saturday, face-off is at 7pm and on Sunday the return fixture at Peterborough Arena at 5.30pm.