

Heartbreak for Lightning

MK Lightning's season ended in heartbreak when defeat to Bracknell Bees knocked them out of the play-offs.

The 2007-08 campaign had started so brightly for Lightning but fell apart at the start of the year and the play-off competition had been seen as a way to rescue their season.

Despite two rallying performances Lightning could not quite pull off the results they needed and instead of finishing second in their group and qualifying for the finals they finished at the bottom of the pile with five points.

The weekend's double header with Bracknell Bees began in an optimistic fashion when Lightning took the lead on the 13th minute through player-

coach Nick Poole.

If Lightning were to take something from the game they needed their big players to put on big performances, and they were doing it well.

But two minutes later Bracknell were back on level terms to tie the first period.

Matt Towalski fired Lightning back in front with a short handed goal on the 22nd minute, yet once again Bracknell levelled ten minutes later before scoring minutes before the interval to go ahead for the first time in the game.

Lightning dug deep to come from behind with Michael Wales scoring to take the score to 3-3.

The sides were inseparable after sixty minutes so the game when down to overtime,

again there was no break through.

Bracknell emerged as the winners in a dramatic penalty shoot-out but Lightning had the return leg to gain revenge.

However, it was not to be for Poole's hard working side. They plugged away, skated tirelessly, hit shots wide and simply could not break the deadlock.

Instead it was Bracknell who found their way through to take a two goal lead in the second period.

A desperate surge in the final twenty minutes did work for Lightning as Greg Randall put his name on the score sheet, and while net minder Barry Hollyhead was pulled late on MK were never able to take the game any further.



Nick Poole battles with Shaun Thompson Pic Jezz Tibetts