

# Easy, easy Lightning

BY ROB GIBSON

rob.gibson@mk-news.co.uk

**MK Lightning climbed to third in the English Premier League after a comfortable four-point weekend.**

With Ales Parez and Greg Randell back in full swing for Lightning, the side was back at its best ahead of the congested Christmas schedule.

On Saturday they swept aside Chelmsford Chieftans 7-2 before beating title rivals Sheffield Scimitars 5-3 away on Sunday.

The side will receive another boost as Nick Poole aims to return to the ice at Slough – the coach said he will test his fitness during training this week.

At Planet Ice Lightning had two goals ruled out in the first two minutes before Grant McPherson set up a Michael Wales opener.

Parez made his mark with a goal follow-

ing Matt Towalski's finish to make it 3-0 at the second break, before Gary Clarke bagged two, with Parez turning supplier.

Former Lightning player Bari McKenzie scored for the Chieftans but Parez bagged his second, McPherson netted and the Chieftans added a second consolation goal.

Coach Poole said: "We had key players back in the line up and it showed how much we missed them while they were out. Greg (Randell) played really well and we really missed him."

The side continued that form at Sheffield with goals from Adam Carr and an Alasaarela penalty adding to a hat-trick from Captain Clarke.

Poole said: "They've beaten us twice this year so it was good to get our own back.

"Sheffield are a top four side and very similar to us. We did let them get a few goals but the win was never in doubt.

We've played them four times now and won three. If we do that to every team we play we'll finish high in the league standings."

Lightning are now set to play four games in a week, including what Poole describes as 'a meaningless cup game' away at Guildford on Boxing Day.

"The players aren't thrilled about playing on Boxing Day," said Poole.

"Everyone wants to eat more, drink more and be with their families at that time but they can't. It's a meaningless cup game because we've already qualified.

"This Saturday will be a good indicator of where we stand because Slough are probably the best team in the league.

"We're expecting a tough game."

■ On Saturday Lightning host Slough at 7pm before heading to Wightlink for a 5.30pm face-off on Sunday.



**Ales Perez  
fires in one  
of his two  
goals  
against the  
Chieftains  
– report  
inside**

Picture Jez Tibbetts