

Hello, hello, hello, Lightning in trouble

LOSING a cup final and the opening play-off games against Slough Jets in the space of four days could have ruined MK Lightning's season.

A disappointing end to the English Premier League, which saw Lightning finish in sixth place, could have been rescued as MK took a slender one goal lead into the second leg of the Cup final.

But Peterborough Phantoms tore them apart to win 6-3 on aggregate.

There was hope on the horizon with the play-off competition beginning at the weekend, but double defeats at the hands of Slough has given Lightning a very slim chance of reaching the finals.

After losing 5-2 to the Jets on Saturday, Lightning played host on Sunday and it was a return leg that was marred by a pre-match incident between Kurt Irvine and Paddy Ward for which police were called to the rink.

When the game did eventually get started there was no sign of Irvine although Ward did make an appearance later in the match.

Slough built a two goal lead within the opening 90 seconds as Blaz Emersic beat Barry Hollyhead after just 59 seconds and Nick Chinn doubled their advantage just 24 seconds later.

In the second period Lightning found their feet enabling them to pull



Toni Alasaarela raises his arms in celebration after Ross Bowyers nets for MK Lightning against Slough

Pic Jezz Tibbetts

back on level terms through Ales Parez and Ross Bowyers.

Over time was needed to separate the two sides as the scores were locked at 2-2 but that came to an end when Jan Krajicek scored the winning goal on the 63rd minute.

With games against Swindon and

Bracknell to come Lightning will need to pick up points if they are to have any chance of reaching the the finals in Coventry.

■ **LIGHTNING** are at home to Swindon Wildcats this Saturday, face-off is at 6.30pm. The return leg on Sunday, face-off at 5.45pm.