

Double defeats see Lions slip to fifth

DOUBLE defeats have cost MK Lightning heavily as they slipped to fifth place in the English Premier League.

The only bright note for Lightning was results elsewhere allowed them to progress through to the Knock-out Cup semi-final where they will meet Guildford Flames tonight.

Lightning have now lost five consecutive games and all hopes of clinching the league title have now died out.

Both Swindon Wildcats and Slough Jets fired six goals passed Lightning at the weekend as they slumped to two defeats on the road.

It took four minutes for Swindon to take the lead as Matt Davies found an opening for Robin Davison to push into the net during a power play.

Joel Petkoff added the second on the eleventh minute before the Wildcats played some sublime hockey to set up Davison for the third at the end of the first quarter.

Toni Alasaarela finally posted a response from Lightning on the 24th minute but it only came after Tomas Janak had given Swindon a four goal lead.

Gary Clarke, the league's top British scorer, reduced the deficit to two

which seemed to inspired Lightning in the later stages of the second period.

And just 37 seconds after the break Ales Parez took Lightning to within a goal of their hosts, it led to them pulling the net minder in favour of an extra skater.

Unfortunately, for MK it was a gamble that did not pay off as Jan Vrtik Petkoff hit two more in the closing stages.

On Sunday, it was much the same for Lightning who trailed Slough Jets by three goals within 22 minutes. Again it was Clarke who replied for MK but Jan Krajicek scored his second of the evening with twenty sec-

onds remaining in the middle period.

A swift start in the third for Lightning provided plenty of hope which was helped by Parez netting within the first minute.

Yet, Slough were able to dig deep to hold off some pressure and put the final nail in the coffin came with Les Millie and Zoran Kozic scoring late to win the match 6-2.

■ MK Lightning travel to Guildford in the cup tonight for an 8pm face-off. On Saturday they host Romford in the league, face-off is at 7pm with the return leg taking place on Sunday, face-off is at 5.15pm.