

# Coach rues leg break

MK Lightning lost their first league game at the weekend, but the biggest blow was two of their big stars picking up injuries.

The defeat came on the back of a comprehensive win over Chelmsford Chieftains in the EPL Cup.

Both Ales Perez (shoulder) and Greg Randell (fractured tibia) were sent to hospital following Lightning's 1-0 defeat to Romford Raiders and could be facing lengthy spells on the sidelines.

"Despite the loss the most upsetting aspect of the game was the injuries that we have suffered," player-coach Nick Poole added, "Greg got caught with his foot planted in the ice and looks to have suffered a broken tibia.

"Ales made a great hit on one player behind their net and was then jumped by a Romford bench warmer from behind.

"The most disappointing thing is that fellow sportsman can have such a lack of respect for their opponents."

The club are waiting for the swelling to go down before they can assess how long the players will be out of action for.

Lightning played their usual attacking game but could not breach the Romford defence and Juraj Rusic's goal proved to be enough for the Raiders.

Poole said: "The Raiders scored early in the match and then defended desperately for the remainder of the game and if it were not for some great net minding and a few posts we could have won."



**Ales Perez turns the puck back with Nick Poole waiting**  
Picture Tony Sargent

The news had been better for Lightning as they moved closer to a semi-final place in the EPL with a stunning victory over the Chieftains.

Lightning got an early shock as Kaupo Kaljuste put the visitors in front after two minutes, but MK hit back through Chris McEwen and Toni Alasaarela.

It was in the second period when Lightning started to take control, despite Cotton pulling the Chieftains back on level terms, with Gary Clarke hitting the third before Mikko Skinnari got his name on the score sheet.

Alasaarela completed a hat-trick at the start of the third period and grabbed his fourth at the end while Clarke and Perez also posted goals.

■ Lightning host Wightlink in the cup on Saturday with face-off at 7pm, before travelling to Guildford on Sunday, face-off is at 6pm.