



Lions able to outshine the stars in their home finale

Lee Valley Lions 5, Oxford City Stars 3

THE away leg against Oxford in October last year provided elation for Lions, as they achieved their first win since reforming the previous year.

For the home leg last weekend, Lions were without Andy Watt and James Hatfull, but Ben Williams and Romanas Fedotovas returned from bans.

Lee Valley were caught right at the start as Oxford broke away just two minutes into the game. The shot was foiled by netminder Glen Jackson, who was making his full debut following an extended period of injuries.

Jackson continued in fine form as a flurry of shots headed his way, but a pass from Tom Hooper across the front of the net allowed David Gregory to knock in Oxford's first goal at 06:55.

The same players were instrumental in Oxford's second scored at 08:47, as Hooper flipped the puck over Jackson's shoulder.

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At 2-0 down, Lee Valley didn't lose enthusiasm and at 18:13 Ben Williams scored for the home side, the assist going to Scott Beeson.

The Lions grew in strength during the second period and applied increasing pressure but Darren Elliott scored the third goal for the visitors at 21:21.

Andrzej Maslak (**pictured top**) battled hard in the Oxford zone and eventually found his way through at 21:35 to bring the Lions back to within a goal.

At 23:18 Fedotovas was on the receiving end of a harsh boarding call and as he sat out his two minutes shots began to rain in on the Lions' goal but all were successfully deflected.

It was Maslak who evened the score at 36:05 with a goal that was assisted by Williams and Paul O'Neill.

Not finished, Maslak completed his hat-trick at 37:31, thanks to a tape-to-tape pass from Michael Jacobs.

Just before the period ended fists flew between Lee Valley's Michael Ranby and Oxford's Adrian Haigh.

Both received match penalties for fighting, while Oxford's captain Elliott received two minutes for interference.

The Lions' fifth goal came at 49:41 courtesy of Beeson, assisted by James Scott-Joseph and Fedotovas.

Lee Valley were ecstatic to beat Oxford again, especially as the Stars were sitting even higher in the league table than when the two teams previously met. A fitting conclusion to the last home game of the 2006/07 season.