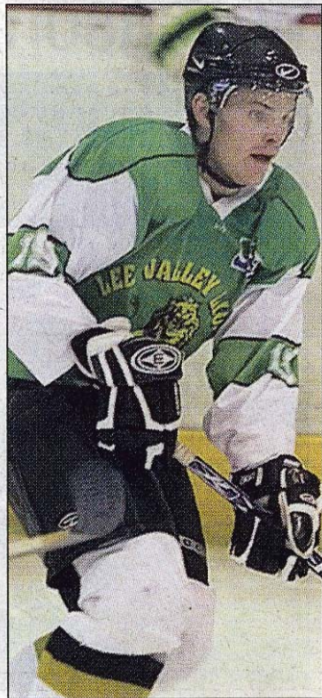


No joy for Lions with defeats by Buffalo and Thunder



IT proved to be another miserable weekend for the Lee Valley Lions ice hockey team as they crashed to heavy back-to-back defeats against the Basingstoke Buffalo and the Milton Keynes Thunder.

On Saturday the Lions entertained the Buffalo looking to avenge the 12-1 and 13-1 defeats they suffered against them last season.

And while they were able to restrict their opponents a bit better this time the hosts eventually went down 9-1.

**ROMAN SOLDIER:
Romanas Fedotovas,
who was Lions' only
goalscorer and man of
the match against
Basingstoke**

(Picture: Julianne Bonner)

The first period saw play that was more evenly matched than the scoreline suggested, with the visitors enjoying a bit of luck along the way to race into a 3-0 lead.

Basingstoke began to dominate play in the second period although the Lions did well to restrict them to three further goals.

Glen Jackson took the place of Stefan Nubert in goal for the third period and the Buffalo amassed a lead of 7-0 before the Lions finally broke through with a blistering far-reaching shot from Romanas Fedotovas which thumped the back of the net at 47:03.

The visitors came back with two further goals leaving the home side to limp back to the changing rooms

following this heavy loss. Things didn't get much better on the road on Sunday as the Lions went down 7-1 at Milton Keynes.

The first 15 minutes saw an invigorated Lions side that was more than capable of holding their own.

But a problem with the plexi glass saw the players returning back to the changing rooms earlier than planned and it was at this point that they appeared to lose momentum.

The extra minutes were added to the start of the second period and it was between 15:31 and 19:57 that the Thunder took advantage of their visitors, gaining a 3-0 lead.

Tom Hurley then added a fourth for the hosts, before Paul O'Neill got the Lions on

the scoresheet by grabbing an unassisted effort at 27:49

Despite 16 shots, Milton Keynes were unable to get past netminder Stefan Nubert and the Lions had the satisfaction of drawing the second period 1-1.

In an ill tempered final period the hosts scored two power play goals and one short-handed effort, boosting their unreachable scoreline to 7-1.

Reflecting on events Lions manager Deryk Beeson, said: "Even though we lost on Sunday it was not through a lack of effort on behalf of the lads.

"They really were up for the game throughout and I was bitterly disappointed for them.

"At the end, I was proud to be their manager."