

LIONS' DOUBLE LOSS AS THEY GO DOWN FIGHTING IN KENT



LIONS' Stas Prokofiev celebrates.

Picture: Julianne Bonner

A TOUGH weekend for Lea Valley Lions as they played the slick Basingstoke Buffalos at home on Saturday and then visited Invicta Dynamos in Kent on Sunday.

Lee Valley Lions 6 Basingstoke Buffalos 16

AFTER the last home success against Slough a fortnight ago, the Lions' faithful were hoping for a respectable result against a strong Basingstoke outfit.

The first 12 minutes were an even contest. Buffalos took first blood, but Lions equalised when Romanos Fedotovas and Michael Jacobs set up Michael Ranby to net on the far post.

Basingstoke re-established their lead, but Lee Valley hopes were raised with a great goal from Stas Prokofiev (pictured), who

shot home over the netminder's shoulder.

From there on it was mostly consolation stuff. Basingstoke took over the match and scored five unanswered goals, Lions being out-shot 22-8.

Although James Hatfull got another Lions goal and Fedotovas netted, the third period saw Lions outscored 13-5.

Lions lost the final period 3-1, but one goal was a cruel deflection past minder George Alley, who had replaced Liem Le Huyen after he had conceded five goals in the previous period.

Invicta Dynamos 11 Lee Valley Lions 3

THE English Ice Hockey League champions of the past four seasons was never going to be a easy task for Lions to recover from the disastrous result against Basingstoke the previous evening.

Lee Valley began well and constant pressure in the opening five minutes saw Stats Prokofiev produce the first of his two goals in the match.

The other Lions score saw captain Scott Pollak put the puck on the stick of Nick Alley, who left ex-Lee Valley netminder Glen Jackson grasping air. But all good things come to an end and Invicta started a strong comeback and at one point scored three times in 41 seconds.

As the Kent team's goals really flowed, they also scored four more in a nine-minute spell, Prokofiev scored a second time, released by Ranby, against the run of play.

The final part of the match saw fights breaking out all over the ice. In the skirmishes, Lions had Joe Berry and James Hatfull punished and both will miss Lee Valley's next game with match penalties.