

A day of disasters down in Gosport

Gosport Sharks 11
Lee Valley Lions 0

GOSPORT had suffered a heavy 15-1 defeat to Peterborough Islanders the night previously, while the Lions had drawn against Peterborough earlier in the season.

On arriving at the pint-sized Gosport rink, expectations of a Lee Valley win were reasonably optimistic.

It only took five minutes for the Sharks to put their first goal past Stefan Nubert. It was scored by James Bennett and with two assists the goal came on the powerplay, as Andrzej Maslak sat out the first of his evening's penalties.

After being sidelined for boarding, Maslak was due to return to the sin bin for slashing, when Gosport's prolific Kent Johnson scored their second.

Undeterred, Maslak continued to slash at his opponents and was rewarded with another spell in the sin bin at 13:29. Kris Abbott was serving two minutes for interference so the Lions were not disad-

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vantaged. Maslak had been sent to the penalty box at 18:32 for slashing once more and a goal was scored on the powerplay.

Throughout the first period Lee Valley had bombarded the Gosport goal with no fewer than 19 shots but each attempt had been thwarted by netminder Aaron Taylor.

Already reeling from the shock of being 3-0 down, the second period didn't start any better for the Lions as 34 seconds was all it took for Johnson to score the fourth goal.

A further nine minutes passed before Gosport were given the opportunity to bring the continually rising scoreline to 5-0. Maslak was in his second home, in the sin bin, but had been joined by Gosport's Kevin Tanner so the goal was scored even-handed.

Maslak's release did not prevent Gosport from scoring a short-handed goal past Stefan Nubert.

Netminder Nubert had not enjoyed the game but neither had his performance given cause for

concern.

The 6-0 scoreline said more about the dire state of Lions' defence but with hopes of a win now extinguished, coach Sergey Smolenko opted to rest Nubert in favour of 17-year-old Andrew Boot.

Boot hadn't played at senior level and Nubert could not avoid venting his frustrations.

Abbott wasted no time in scoring unassisted to widen the scoreline.

At 37:41, Lions' Maslak fell foul of the referee one final time and was ejected from the game. With Romanas Fedotovas already serving a ban, this left Lee Valley without a foreign player.

Gosport scored another powerplay goal at 41:53, Josh Grocutt's first of the game. This was swiftly followed by a second from Bennett.

The winning shot was Abbott's hat-trick, while Scott Beeson served two minutes for hooking.

Grocutt finalised the scoring at 56:17, leaving the humiliated Lions to limp home 11-0 losers.

This weekend Lions can attempt to turn the tables on Gosport as they meet them on home territory.



LEA Valley Lions' teenage netminder Andrew Boot, who was given his chance in the crushing defeat at Gosport.

Picture: Julianne Bonner.