

Lions double up as they roar to Mustangs win

Invicta Mustangs 2
Lee Valley Lions 4
(ENL SE)

PLAYING for double points, the Lions faced this vital game against high-flying Invicta Mustangs with only two lines.

That saw them missing goal-scorers Scott Beeson and Michael Jacobs.

Undeterred, Lee Valley came out strong and continually threatened the home team's goal throughout the first period.

Despite a number of good attempts it was a signature slapshot from defenceman James Hatfull that secured the Lions' first goal at 07:20. Assists went to Nick Alley and Joe Berry.

In the second period an Invicta goal was becoming inevitable and it finally arrived courtesy of Michal Mikel at 29:02, despite Andrew Boot's effort at sliding across the goal mouth.

The third period opened with the Lions again having a couple of good opportunities denied to them by the Invicta netminder, Sam



Lions star man Ashley Curtin in action (Photo: Julianne Bonner)

Robinson. It was Ashley Curtin who put the Lions 2-1 ahead in style, his unassisted goal whizzing past

Robinson at 41:44.

Peter Carey levelled the scores, his goal coming at 45:52, assisted by Mark

Farrell and James Gosling.

Less than a minute later Lee Valley nipped into the lead once more.

Their third goal was the best of the night, scored by Gennadi Yufit at 46:46, assists going to James Hatfull and Romanas Fedotovas. Yufit was handed a breakaway and he took his time in front of the net to out-wit the Invicta netminder.

With less than five minutes to the end of the period disaster struck for new signing, Luke Kirkland, as he tore the ligaments in his left knee and had to be stretchered off to hospital.

After a delay of several minutes play resumed and Lee Valley held their nerve to hold out for the points to secure their third straight win.

The Lions now take a break for Christmas, before returning to the ice in the New Year. Their first match of 2009 is at Swindon ENL Wildcats on January 4, where Lee Valley will look to avenge November's 5-4 defeat.