

It's gutsy Lions that end season

**Invicta Dynamos 9, Lee Valley Lions 4
ICE HOCKEY SPECIAL**

LEE Valley reached the end of their comeback season with an away encounter against league leaders, Invicta Dynamos.

They knew they wouldn't have an easy time against formidable opponents, but Lions played with real guts and determination from start to finish.

Back-up netminder George Alley iced for the whole of the game and gave an outstanding performance, while Ben Osborne excelled with a hat-trick.

The game began with Lions were harshly called for having too many men on the ice, although similar lapses by the Invicta team went unnoticed.

The powerplay situation gave Andy Smith the chance to score his first of four goals, assisted by Peter Carey.

Smith was sent to the sin bin at 13:10 for a tripping offence, but this handicap did not damage the Dynamos' power, a short-handed goal slipping past George Alley at 14:36. Donald Gagnon scored the final goal of the first period, unassisted.

It was Lions' Ben Osborne who opened the scoring in the second period, his goal at assisted by defenceman Ian Courtney.

Smith made a breakaway and struck the back of the net with another short-handed goal for Invicta.

This was followed by Smith's hat-trick goal at 38:34 which left George Alley with no chance to make a save.

Scott Beeson scored unassisted for the Lions with a terrific slapshot and the period ended 6-2 to the Dynamos. In this 20 minute spell, Lions scored with two out of seven shots, whereas Dynamos scored three out of 16, demonstrating 17-year-old Alley's competence in goal.

He faced the same number of shots from Invicta in the final period, while the Lions stepped up a gear by shooting 12 shots against Jonathan Silvester.

The Dynamos scored a further three times before the Lions could get past Silvester, despite the determined efforts of Matyas Vas.

The Lions' two final period goals both came courtesy of Ben Osborne. His hat-trick was only the second Lions hat-trick of the season, the first achieved by Kevin Murphy against Solent back in September 2005. Osborne's goals were assisted by Nick Braithwaite and Ben Shrubsole.



L I O N S ' teenage net-minder George Alley: Outstanding against Invicta Dynamos.

Picture: Julianne Bonner

Lions gave a sterling performance that they could be proud of, their under 19s players on show, again being a real credit to the side.

LEE VALLEY LIONS: Stefan Nubert (g), Daniel Sampson, Matyas Vas, Ian Courtney (0+1), Ben Shrubsole (0+1), Scott Beeson (1+0), Michael Ranby, Nick Braithwaite (0+1), Richard Hodge, Chris Goddard, Grant Hutcheon, Michael Jacobs, Joe Berry, Ben Osborne (3+0), George Alley (g), James Scott-Joseph, Rob Courtman.