

ICE HOCKEY

Fightback at Steeldogs makes up for Tigers loss

BY PAUL BROOKMAN

editor@mk-news.co.uk

MK LIGHTNING staged a dramatic fightback to come from two goals behind to win 3-2 in overtime at Sheffield Steeldogs on Sunday.

With more than half the match played, Steeldogs looked set to hold on for victory when Lewis Christie set up Bobby Chamberlain to claw a goal back after 35 minutes after Lightning showed an improvement on a first period in which they conceded twice within the first 17 minutes.

It went some way to making up for the disappointment of the New Year's Day 3-0 loss at home to Telford Tigers.

That was the second successive win for the Shropshire outfit against Pete Russell's men and the second time this season they have shut the side out.

At Sheffield, netminder Dalibor Sedlar performed heroics to keep the home side in front by the odd goal at the second break but his resistance was broken for the equaliser on 47 minutes, with Markku Tahminen and Jordan Cownie having a hand in Frankie Bakrlik's leveller.

Lightning started the match minus the previous evening's man of the match Martti Jarventie and forward Grant McPherson, who had not iced in the latter part of the Telford encounter following a fight.

That meant Ross Green slotted in at the back while Glenn Billing joined Adam Carr and Jack Watkins on a forward line.

Lightning continue their campaign with a tie against Bracknell Bees at home this Saturday, before they travel to local rivals Peterborough Phantoms on Sunday.

Lightning are third in the table, one point behind Phantoms.



Disappointing: MK Lightning lost 3-0 to Telford Tigers on New Year's Day

Pic by Tony Sargent

We take a look back at Dons' 2015

JANUARY

The year started off with the FA Cup second round replay against Chesterfield which they lost 1-0.

Off the field Benik Afobe left the club for Wolves and Dele Alli signed for Tottenham Hotspur in a £5million deal that would see him loaned back to Dons for the remainder of the 2014-15 season.

Dons beat Sheffield United 1-0 thanks to Carl Baker, and the month ended with a wonderful 5-0 win at Crewe Alexandra.

FEBRUARY

A 0-0 draw at Bristol City represented an excellent result. The highlight of the month was the crushing 3-0 victory over Peterborough United as the visiting fans booed manager Darren Ferguson.

MARCH

The low point of the season was the 2-0 defeat at home to fellow promotion candidates Preston North End. But a 1-1 draw at Walsall kick-started their unbelievable end to the season, with Oldham Athletic and Notts County put to the sword.

APRIL

There were seven games in April, and Dons won six. They comfortably beat Swindon Town 3-0 in front of the Sky cameras, while other victories included a 3-0 success at Fleetwood Town and a 6-1 demolition of Leyton Orient.

MAY

Dons beat Yeovil Town 5-1 and Preston North End lost at Colchester United to give Dons promotion to the Championship for the first time in the club's history.

AUGUST

Dons began Championship life with a convincing 4-1 win at Rotherham United and they also beat Bolton Wanderers 1-0, while a draw at Reading gave Dons seven points from August.

SEPTEMBER

Dons lost all five games against Middlesbrough, Derby County, Burnley, Leeds United and Southampton.

OCTOBER

Daniel Powell's late equaliser gave Dons a point at Bristol City and they also beat Blackburn Rovers 3-0 at home.

NOVEMBER

An absolutely vital 1-0 win over Charlton Athletic helped keep Dons out of the bottom three, and there were also draws against Fulham and Wolves.

DECEMBER

After the dreadful 2-0 loss at Brentford, Dons chalked up two very important home wins against Sheffield Wednesday and Cardiff City, before losing their last game of 2015 at Birmingham City.

FIXTURES

SAT NORTHAMPTON (A) FAC3
TUES BURNLEY (H)
JAN 16 READING (H)
JAN 23 BOLTON (A)
JAN 30 MIDDLESBROUGH (H)

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

Team	P	Home					Away					GD	PTS
		W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1 Middlesbrough	24	10	2	1	20	2	6	2	3	16	10	24	52
2 Derby	25	7	4	1	23	8	6	5	2	14	9	20	48
3 Hull	25	9	2	1	22	6	5	3	5	14	12	18	47
4 Brighton	25	8	2	3	15	12	3	9	0	16	13	6	44
5 Burnley	25	8	3	2	25	11	3	6	3	9	12	11	42
6 Ipswich	25	4	5	3	15	13	7	3	3	19	17	4	41
7 Sheffield Wed	25	7	4	1	22	10	3	5	5	14	18	8	39
8 Birmingham	25	6	2	5	13	14	5	4	3	17	13	3	39
9 Cardiff	25	7	5	1	19	11	2	5	5	11	15	4	37
10 Brentford	25	6	2	4	17	16	4	4	5	20	19	2	36
11 Wolves	25	3	5	4	13	14	6	2	5	19	18	0	34
12 Reading	25	6	4	3	16	9	3	2	7	14	19	2	33
13 Leeds	25	3	5	5	11	15	4	6	2	15	13	-2	32
14 Notts Forest	25	5	4	3	16	11	2	6	5	9	13	1	31
15 Preston	25	4	6	3	11	10	3	4	5	10	12	-1	31
16 QPR	25	4	7	2	21	16	3	2	7	9	17	-3	30
17 Blackburn	24	3	6	2	11	7	3	4	6	11	14	1	28
18 Huddersfield	25	4	3	5	16	15	3	4	6	14	21	-6	28
19 Fulham	25	4	4	5	23	22	2	5	5	17	21	-3	27
20 DONS	25	5	1	6	12	14	1	4	8	9	19	-12	23
21 Rotherham	25	4	2	6	19	20	2	1	10	11	24	-14	21
22 Bristol City	25	2	5	5	13	20	2	4	7	9	24	-22	21
23 Charlton	25	3	5	5	14	21	1	3	8	7	21	-21	20
24 Bolton	25	2	8	3	12	14	0	3	9	7	25	-20	17

DONS COLUMN



James Reeve posts his Cowshed Commentaries blog on our website. You can get involved at onemk.co.uk

IT'S the New Year, the mid-season transfer window is open and clubs are preparing for the daunting second half of their campaigns.

It is important to kick-start the New Year with a positive result and for MK Dons, that's what they did.

A 1-1 draw away to Leeds United is a positive result, with the visitors deserving a win.

But the draw, coupled with the teams below them suffering defeats, has seen the Dons increase their distance from the relegation zone to two points.

The draw itself highlighted the ability Dons have and how they are more than capable of competing with clubs further



up the Championship, but it's been their recent form that has seen the club cement belief in the minds of fans that avoiding relegation is achievable.

Over their last five matches Dons have picked up two wins, a draw and two losses. That's seven points out of 15 and is more than what the club were managing in previous months.

Dons have picked up points on teams challenging in the top-half of the table and the 1-1 draw with Leeds rounded off

what is arguably Dons' most successful period this season.

Losses to Nottingham Forest (14th) and Birmingham City (8th) were disappointing, but the performances Karl Robinson's men had during those matches has shown fans that Dons are fighting and will do anything in their power to avoid the drop.

With results such as the ones seen recently, there is much hope for the future of the boys from MK1.