

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Senior Men lose in Nottingham Under 14 Boys go one-and –one but a disappointing loss for Cadette Girls

“Thunder” lose the plot in fourth quarter

Division Four (Midlands Conference)

University of Nottingham 76 – 83 Northants “Thunder”

With just four minutes of this Midlands Conference game remaining “Thunder” led 71-70 and seemed to have come to terms with their opponent’s height advantage and ability to shoot from the perimeter. Those final four minutes proved to be a nightmare as the university team closed out the game with a 13-5 run.

“Thunder” struggled defensively in the first quarter and found themselves trailing 19-25 after the first ten minutes of play. “Thunder” lifted their game in the second quarter which they won 21-15 to tie up matters at 41 points all at half time.

By now “Thunder” seemed to have the measure of their opponents and thanks to some excellent defence they edged the third quarter 18-14 to take a 58-54 lead into the final stanza to give themselves a real chance of recording their third consecutive win. Then came that nightmare four minutes and the realization they had lost a game they should have won.

In the disappointing loss Jason Tucker top scored for “Thunder” with 17 points. Richard Higgins, Jake Wyatt and Matt Yates all scored in double figures, Wyatt pulling down 12 rebounds to complete a double-double. Not for the first time this season, “Thunder” were left to contemplate the effect of missing 11 of the 24 free throws they were awarded.

Disappointing Cadette Girls go down to “Hatters” second string

Under 16 Girls (North Conference)

Northants “Lightning” 49 -70 Sheffield “Hatters II”

The Northants Under 16 Girls slipped to a very disappointing loss against the Sheffield “Hatters” second team. The team was obviously adversely affected by the fact that some players were unable to get to the correct meet time and consequently their performance in the first quarter was far from acceptable as “Hatters II” jumped out to a 20-6 lead.

“Lightning” spent the next two quarters playing catch up and going into the final quarter they had closed the gap to 10 points at 38-48 and the possibility of an unlikely win began to grow. Needing a good start to the final quarter, “Lightning” were outscored 17-2 over the first five minutes of the quarter and it was ‘game over’.

In the 21 point loss Poppy Barnett top scored for “Lightning” with 16 points, while Lucy Needham contributed 11 points.

The team will be hoping to pick themselves up before this Saturday’s clash with local rival, “Titans.

Under 14 Boys go one-and one

Under 14 Boys (Midlands West Conference

Northants “Thunder” 108 – 45 Shropshire “Warriors”

The Northants Under 14 Boys completed a routine win over an inexperienced Shropshire “Warriors” team at the Basketball Centre last Saturday.

From the tip, “Warriors found it difficult to cope with the speed of “Thunder’s” play and the home side quickly jumped out to a decisive lead. Led by Tom Greenfield and Dylan Dominici, “Thunder” poured in the points and by half time had established a 67-17 lead.

Stand in coach Rob Crump gave all his players ample court time and although this had the effect of limiting “Thunder’s” scoring, “Warriors” still struggled to score themselves although to their credit the Shropshire boys never gave up and kept playing to the end of the game.

In the overwhelming win Greenfield had 44 points and Dominici 19.

Oxford “Hoops” 86 – 82 Northants “Thunder”

The day after their comprehensive win over Shropshire, “Thunder” made the short trip to Middleton Cheney to take on Oxford “Hoops” a team that had narrowly beaten “Thunder” earlier in the season. “Thunder” began the game in dominant fashion jumping out to a 13-7 lead thanks to some good full court pressure defence which was complimented by strong scoring from Tom Greenfield who nailed 10 quarter points. Oxford were forced to change their line up to cope with the pressure defense, this saw a quicker line up on the floor which “Thunder” found it difficult contain. Hoops” went on a 13-0 run to close the gap to 21-19 by the end of the quarter.

Despite their narrow lead, “Thunder” had lost some of the momentum they had generated in the opening five minutes. They were also guilty of not boxing out to secure defensive rebounds allowing Oxford players to score with a number of put backs. A 13-0 surge by Oxford saw them ease into a 39-29 lead, before scores from Tom Greenfield and Dylan Dominici saw “Thunder” reduce the deficit to 45-39 at half time.

The third quarter was a competitive affair with very little between the two teams, however “Thunder” were doing a much better job of rebounding and forcing the opposition players onto their weak hand. “Thunder” did get into foul trouble in the quarter and Coach Rob Crump was forced to sit down Greenfield, Dominici and Andrew Lleshi.

Trailing 62-68 going into the final ten minutes of play “Thunder” knew a strong effort was required if they were to take the game. A strong surge by the Northants boys saw them reduce the deficit to 74-72 with six minutes to play and despite consecutive baskets from the home side, “Thunder” continued to pile on the pressure with Greenfield responding with consecutive baskets to keep the deficit to two pints. With less than one and a half minutes of the game remaining a score by Benas Maldutis reduce the deficit to 82-81, however “Hoops” managed to extend that lead to 3 points with 13 seconds remaining. Despite having an opportunity to tie the game, “Thunder” missed the three point attempt, and “Hoops” were able to secure victory from the charity stripe.

In the four points loss, “Thunder” were led in scoring by Tom Greenfield with 34 points well supported by Benas Maldutis and Dylan Dominic who scored 19 and 18 points respectively. However, “Thunder” could reflect on scoring just 10 of 24 attempts from the free throw and this proved to be a decisive factor.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 10th November

9-30am to 11-00am	"Ballers and "Junior Ballers" sessions
11-30am	Under 13 Girls versus Ipswich "Bobcats"
1-30pm	Under 14 Boys versus City of Birmingham "Rockets II"
3-30pm	Under 14 Girls versus Leicester "Warriors"
5-30pm	Senior Men versus Mansfield "Giants"

These games will be played at the Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Cadette Girls travel to Northamptonshire "Titans"

Sunday 11th November

Under 13 Girls travel to Northamptonshire "Titans"
Under 12 Boys travel to Coventry to play Coventry and Abingdon

For more information on this Press Release contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151