

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Senior Men beat “Giants”, Under 14 Boys see off “Rockets” but it’s a tough weekend for the girls**

**“Thunder” get back to winning ways ..... Just!!**

#### **Division Four (Midlands Conference)**

**Northants “Thunder”                      74 – 71                      Mansfield “Giants”**

Midway through the third quarter of this Midlands Conference game, “Thunder” had established a 13 point lead at 50-37 against a young Mansfield “Giants” team. “Giants” were employing a full court pressure defence forcing “Thunder” to attack them ‘in the broken floor’ and an 11-zero run late in the first quarter had seen them do this successfully and establish their superiority.

Leading 24-11 after the first quarter, scoring was at a premium in the second and “Giants” were able to close to 38-28 at half time. This lead was extended to 13 points in the third before the “Thunder” effort totally collapsed. What could go wrong went wrong as the visitors went on a 22-2 scoring spree on either side of the interval between the third and fourth quarters and at 59-52 a humiliating defeat looked to be on the cards.

By this time “Thunder” had totally lost their confidence but to their credit they were able to regroup and a pull up jump shot from Matthew Yates and a Terrell Salmon put back calmed their nerves. Even so it wasn’t until the last two minutes of the game that they were able to regain the lead with a breakaway score from Sam Mennell, and they were able to hold on for the three point win.

“Thunder” were led in scoring by Matt Yates who had 23 points with good support coming from Richard Higgins who posted a double-double of 17 points and 12 rebounds.

John Collins was a relieved coach after the game commenting, “When things started to go badly for us we didn’t react in a positive way at all. We let things get to us and then tried to solve the problems as individuals rather than a team, but a win is a win.”

### **Disappointing Cadette Girls lose to local rivals**

#### **Under 16 Girls (North Conference)**

**Northamptonshire “Titans”                      86 - 49                      Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants under 16 girls slipped to a disappointingly heavy defeat to local rivals N.E.B.C. “Titans” at Weavers Leisure Centre last Saturday. “Lightning” lost all four quarters and were only really competitive in the third period of play which they lost 15-17.

The team will hope to be in better form this weekend when they travel to Leicester “Warriors”

## **Under 14 Boys see off “Rockets”**

### **Under 14 Boys (Midlands West Conference**

**Northants “Thunder”                      79 -46                      City of Birmingham “Rockets II”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys were too strong for the City of Birmingham “Rockets” second team picking up a comfortable 33 point win at the Basketball Centre last Saturday.

“Thunder” dominated the first two quarters of the game and by half time had established a 40-18 lead allowing Coach Rob Crump to use all his players in the second half and reduce the defensive pressure. It was rather disappointing that none of these players were able to make point scoring contributions although they did make every attempt to stick to the game plan and play good defence.

The “Thunder” scoring was dominated by four players led by a Tom Greenfield double-double of 22 points and 15 rebounds while Benas Maldutis and Dylan Dominici both scored 18 points and Jaffrey Haidar 14.

## **Under 14 Girls beat “Warriors” but a double loss for Under 13’s**

### **Under 14 Girls Midlands East Conference**

**Northants “Lightning”                      63 – 31                      Leicester “Warriors”**

“Lightning” moved up to second place in the Midlands East Conference following this routine win over Leicester “Warriors”. The win was based on some impressive pressure defence which forced a number of turn-overs and easy scores; it also restricted “Warriors” to just 19 points in the first three quarters of the game.

With the pressure off in the fourth quarter both teams scored 12 points but the final result was never in doubt with “Lightning” cruising to the win despite not being in their best form offensively. The “Lightning” scoring was led by Fiona Arthur with 15 points while newcomer Zoe Ormshaw scored 10 and hustled well on defence.

**Northants “Lightning II”                      29 – 70                      Ipswich “Bobcats”**  
**Northamptonshire “Titans”                      78 – 50                      Northants “Lightning II”**

It was a tough weekend for the Northants under 13 girls, on Saturday they faced Conference leaders Ipswich “Bobcats” and the following day local rivals N.E.B.C. “Titans”.

Against unbeaten “Bobcats”, “Lightning” struggled to score against physically bigger opponents but stuck determined to their defensive allocations, however they were undone by several high scoring runs by their opponents.

The game against “Titans” the following day was very competitive for three of the four periods of play with “Lightning” struggling to contain the outstanding Imogene Williams. At the end of the third quarter “Titans” were edging the contest 47-41 but early in the fourth quarter, “Lightning” lost the services of their tallest player Ashia King with five fouls. “Lightning” tried to raise the intensity of their defence but this met the disapproval of the game officials and they were swept aside by 9 points to 31 as “Titans” cruised to victory.

In the 28 point loss all nine “Lightning” players scored led by Keris Ndubisi, Karly Osgood and Athena Thompson

## **Two wins for Under 12 Boys**

### **Central England Under 12 Boys Central Venue League**

The Northants Under 12 Boys travelled to Coventry for their second tournament and came away with a brace of wins.

**Coventry “Tornadoes”                      24 – 25                      Northants “Thunder”**

Against the host team “Thunder” were able to establish an 11 point half time lead thanks to some good ball movement and shot selection. Things fell apart in the second half with too many players content to go 1 versus 5 but the team were able to hold on for the one point win

**Abingdon “Eagles”                      10 – 35                      Northants “Thunder”**

“Thunder” had a distinct height advantage over a young “Eagles” team but on many occasions were outrebounded by their smaller opponents. Again, “Thunder” were unable to recapture the good team play they had displayed for half the game against “Tornadoes”, once again on relying too much on individual play.

Over the two games Leo Smartt, Thomas Bates and Joe Jeffries were responsible for the bulk of “Thunder’s” points while Tafari Clarke put in two excellent defensive shifts. Coach Peter Dewsnap commented, “While it was good to pick up a couple of wins we still have some major weaknesses in our basic skills.”

### **THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

#### **Saturday 17th November**

There are no activities or games at the Basketball Centre this weekend because of Primary Schools assessment tests.

Senior men travel to C.O.B. “Rockets”  
Junior Men travel to C.O.B. “Rockets”  
Cadette Girls travel to Leicester “Warriors”  
Under 14 Boys travel to Milton Keynes “Lions”

#### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

Under 13 Girls travel to Leicester “Warriors”

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