

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Girls get the better of “Warriors” but all the male teams lose.**

**Nightmare fourth quarter costs “Thunder” dear**

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

**City of Birmingham “Rockets”      88 – 72      Northants “Thunder”**

Not for the first time this season the Northants senior men can look back on a single quarter as the reason for a defeat. Last Saturday against top of the table City of Birmingham “Rockets” the team recovered from a poor start to trail by just three points at 56-59 going into the final ten minutes of play. During those ten minutes “Thunder” reverted to all their worst habits as “Rockets” outscored them 29-16 to take the game by a flattering 16 points.

“Thunder” are in fourth place in the Midlands Conference and this Saturday face Warwickshire “Hawks” another team looking for a Play Off place. The team needs to re-group and find a way of stopping the major slumps that have become common place over the past few weeks. If they don’t an end of season Play Off place will become increasingly difficult to secure. They should be encouraged that for 30minutes they were competitive against the Conference leaders.

In Saturday’s disappointing loss “Thunder’s scoring was led by Jason Tucker and Matt Yates with 21 and 16 points respectively while Richard Higgins and Jacob Holt both contributed 11 points.

**Junior men go down to “Rockets”**

### **Junior Mens Midlands Premier League**

**City of Birmingham “Rockets”      79 – 56      Northants “Thunder”**

After several weeks without a game due to late withdrawals from the league the Northants Junior Men travelled to Birmingham last Saturday to take on “Rockets”.

Initially, “Thunder” were well off the pace and found themselves trailing 15-24 after the first quarter. The Northants boys were far more efficient in the second quarter which they took 20-17 to close the gap to 35-41 at half time.

Any hope that the recovery would extend beyond the half time interval came to nothing as “Rockets” dominated the final two quarters finally running out comfortable 79 to 56 winners leaving “Thunder” to contemplate an alarming number of turn-overs.

In the 23 point loss Ed Wallhead battled hard for his 15 point haul while Chris Amankonah and Josh Taylor scored 12 and 10 points respectively

**Cadette Girls get back to winning ways thanks to Dina**

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

**Leicester "Warriors"                      45 – 50                      Northants "Lightning"**

Led by an impressive 27 point haul from Dina Kosnikovska the Northants Under 16 Girls got back to winning ways with a battling win over Leicester "Warriors".

After two consecutive losses a determined Northants group arrived at Gateway College to take on "Warriors" but they were rocked when their opponents confronted them with a zone defence. Against this zone, "Lightning" were guilty of poor shot selection giving their opponents the opportunity to fast break and the home side were able to establish a six point lead.

"Lightning" tried to raise the intensity of their defence but "Warriors" were still able to pick up some easy scores while a number of Northants players found themselves in foul trouble. Thanks to the efforts of Kosnikovska and their bench players, "Lightning" were able to get their noses in front and hold on for the narrow win.

### **Impressive Under 13 Girls beat "Warriors"**

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

**Leicester "Warriors"                      46 – 58                      Northants "Lightning II"**

The Northants Under 13 Girls bounced back from the previous weekend's double loss with a spirited win against Leicester "Warriors"

With the 'all must play rules' in operation during the first half "Lightning" with their balanced squad were able to establish their superiority. A clear height advantage allowed Ashia King and Uzor Onyibor to dominate the rebounding at both ends of the court as "Lightning" established a 28-14 half time lead.

With just their better players on court "Warriors" made an impressive comeback in the third quarter which they won 18-10 to close the gap to 38-32. Cheered on by a substantial crowd of parents "Lightning" were able to hold on for an impressive win against older opponents winning the final quarter 20-14 to take the game by 58 points to 46 and move up to fourth in the Midlands East Conference table.

The win was based on an excellent team performance in which all nine "Lightning" players scored led by Ashia King who had 12 rebounds to go with her 17 points while Amelia Sterling scored 10 points.

### **Under 14 Boys hammered by "Trojans"**

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

**Milton Keynes "Trojans"                      134 – 54                      Northants "Thunder"**

The Northants Under 14 Boys have recently beaten teams by margins in excess of 30 points but on Saturday they were beaten by 80 points by a physically superior Milton Keynes "Trojans" team. How "Thunder" and the teams they have comfortably beaten can be in the same Conference beggars belief.

Against "Trojans", "Thunder" struggled to score for three quarters of the game. For their part the coach of the home side made little of no effort to modify the way his team played running in fast break after fast break to total 104 points by the end of the quarter. In the final quarter with some weaker "Trojan" players on court, the game became far more competitive, but stand in coach Karen Goodrich was left questioning who had really benefitted from this totally one-sided game.

In the heavy defeat Benas Maldutis battled superbly against much bigger opponents and scored 16 points while Tom Greenfield and Jaffrey Haidar scored 9 and 8 points respectively.

## **THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES**

### **Saturday 24th November**

There are no activities or games at the Basketball Centre this weekend as the school is closed for the Half Term break.

Senior men travel to Warwickshire "Hawks"  
Under 16 Boys travel to West Bromwich Albion

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