

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Senior Men get back to winning ways but Cadet Boys are beaten.

“Thunder” wins a rollercoaster game

Division Four (Midlands Conference)

Warwickshire “Hawks” 89 – 96 Northants “Thunder”

In a game which saw them try to snatch, ‘defeat from the jaws of victory’ only to snatch ‘victory from the jaws of defeat’, the Northants senior men got back to winning ways against a capable Warwickshire “Hawks” team.

After a close run first quarter “Thunder” broke the game open with 25-7 charge over the first six minutes of the second quarter. During these seven minutes, “Hawks” had some of their bench players on the floor and “Thunder” were able to destroy them in the ‘broken floor’. Leading 51-31 “Thunder” were then guilty of trying to play with the same abandon when the home side strengthened their line up and “Hawks” took the final four minutes of the quarter 13-4 to close the gap to 44-55 at half time.

The message to the “Thunder” players at half time was very clear, control the tempo of the game and don’t try to beat “Hawks” by going ‘up and own’ with them. For six minutes of the third quarter “Thunder” were able to control the game and maintain their 10 point advantage before things literally fell apart. “Hawks” embarked on an 11-zero run to take a 68-67 lead at the end of the quarter.

“Thunder” had found themselves in this position in several recent games and at the start of the final quarter their confidence was at rock bottom. “Hawks” sensed victory and with Glover scoring twice from the perimeter and Edwards working well in the paint a 14-6 run gave them an 82-73 lead midway through the quarter. “Thunder” coach John Collins needed a miracle and he switched his team to a half court trapping zone and suddenly his players were able to regain control of the game. An 11- 6 run with Jacob Holt scoring eight of those points, got the score back to 84-88 and the momentum was now with “Thunder”. In the last two minutes of play they outscored their opponents 12-1 to take the game by 96 points to 89.

In an exciting see-saw game which had seen “Thunder” lose a 20 point lead, go behind by nine points only to win by seven; Holt scored 26 points and completed a double-double with 13 rebounds, Jason Tucker was just one rebound off a triple double scoring 15 points dishing out 11 assists and pulling down nine rebounds. Good support came from Matt Yates with 9 points all of them in the last two minutes of the game while Coach Collins was full of praise for rookie Hayden Alcindor who was pressed into service as a ‘big’ man and came up with 15 points.

Cadet Boys lose heavily to West Bromwich Albion

Under 16 Boys (Midlands West Conference)

West Bromwich Albion 70 – 37 Northants “Thunder”

The Northants Under 16 Boys returned to action after four weeks without a fixture. "Thunder's" preparation for the fixture was hindered because of injury, illness and commitment to other sports and the team travelled to West Bromwich seriously under-strength.

A slow start to the game, saw neither team score within the opening three minutes. Three pointers from Ally Solazzo and Ashley Kitchen sparked some momentum in "Thunder's" offensive performance with the team confidently coping with West Brom's full court press. "Thunder" were struggling on the boards which saw the home side convert consecutive second chance shots to take a 17-8 lead after the first quarter.

"Thunder" showed more confidence in the 2nd quarter attacking the basket with more energy leading to back to back scores for Cameron Leighton in the paint. "Thunder" however, were guilty of making some poor decision in the broken floor and Albion were able to capitalised on these mistakes to win the quarter 26-16, and extend their lead to 43-24 at half time.

A low scoring third quarter, saw a poor offensive performance from "Thunder". Despite displaying some good ball movement on offense missed too many lay ups and become too reliant on perimeter shooting. Thunder's 3-2 zone helped to restrict Albion to 10 quarter points, however, too many missed shots failed to reduce the deficit and they trailed 28-52 going into the last ten minutes of play.

With the game out of reach, "Thunder" were guilty of poor execution in the final quarter as they were able to score just nine points as they slipped to a heavy defeat. "Thunder" were led in scoring by Ashley Kitchen with 15 points supported by 9 points from Cameron Leighton.

Coach Crump commented "After returning to action after four weeks out, it was very disappointing to be restricted to so few players for this fixture. Today we were very poor on offense, at any level, you cannot expect to be competitive scoring 37 points in the National League. Unfortunately, we became too reliant on perimeter shooting alongside we failed to take care of the basketball. Alongside our execution within the half court was lacking especially off the ball".

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 1st December

9-30am to 11am

Junior "Ballers" Session

11-30am to 3-30pm

Under 12 Girls Northern League Tournament

Derby "Trailblazers" and Manchester "Mystics" visiting

4.00pm

Under 16 Boys versus Coventry "Elite"

The "Ballers" sessions and games will be staged at the Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Senior men travel to Birmingham "Mets II"

Under 18 Men travel to Bristol "Flyers"

Under 16 Girls travel to Hatfield

Sunday 2nd December

11-00am to 3-30pm

Under 12 Boys Central England League Tournament

Leicester "Riders" and West Bromwich visiting

At the Basketball Centre

Under 14 Girls travel to Nottingham "Wildcats"

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