

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

MEDIA RELEASE

Sarah wins European ‘silver’

Northants “Lightning” guard Sarah Round has just returned from Estonia the proud owner of a silver medal. Sarah a pupil at Northampton School for Girls, was a member of the England Under 16 team that came runners up in the European Championship ‘B’ Tournament which was staged in the Estonian capital Tallin. Second place was enough to secure England promotion to the ‘A’ competition next year.

England won all their pool games with victories over Israel, Norway, Netherlands and Finland. In the cross-over games England beat Poland 65-52 then in the semi-finals saw off Slovakia 54-51 in a very tight game, to earn them a place in the Final against a very talented German team. This proved to be one step too far for the English girls with Germany taking the title with a 68-54 win.



Sarah played a major role in the success of the England team sharing the point guard position and playing on average, 18 minutes in each game and averaging almost 5 points per game but these statistics tell only part of the story which saw her fighting a personal battle against injury.

Throughout the latter part of the 2013-'14 season Sarah was inconvenienced by a foot injury which was eventually diagnosed as a stress fracture requiring total rest. Going into a critical period of preparation with the England team Sarah and her parents opted for a 'Beckham Boot' and partial rest which would allow her to travel with the team to France and Bulgaria for tournaments. Sarah's performances were enough to earn her a place on the final team but during the European tournament she was still to be seen wearing the 'boot' when not playing or practicing.

Sarah now faces an extensive period of rest followed by an MRI scan to establish the exact extent of her injury but at least she will have that treasured silver medal to look at during that time.

Sarah wasn't the only player from the Northants Basketball Club to enjoy international action during the summer. **Ollie Thomas** the point guard from the Northants “Thunder” cadet men's team gained selection for the Welsh junior men's (under 18 team) that played in the European Small Nations 'C' Championships which were staged in Andorra.

Ollie played a total of 38 minutes over the four games played by Wales all of which unfortunately ended in defeats although the team improved massively over the course of the tournament.

It's been a big summer for the Round family and the day before Sarah returned from Estonia her younger brother **Jacob** 'jetted' off to Turkey for an International Players Camp. Jacob a pupil at Northampton School for Boys and a member of the England Under 15 Development squad was selected to represent England at the Camp which involved over one hundred boys and girls from all over the world.

Like his sister Jacob has battled against adversity recovering from peritonitis just over a year ago

If that wasn't enough last weekend the oldest of the Round children, **Sam** flew out to the United States of America to take up a place at South Florida University. Here Sam will study for a music degree specialising in jazz drumming. Sam was also an England international who played national league with the Northants Club last season; and who knows his shooting talents might be spotted by the South Florida basketball coach and earn him a 'walk on' spot on the NCAA 2 team.