

# NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Giant killing “Thunder” cause a major Cup upset**

#### **National Cup Round 1**

**Northants “Thunder”                      71 - 55                      Leicester “Warriors”**

Every time there’s a Cup upset in any sport the reasons and excuses come out so it was at the Northants Basketball Centre last Sunday after Northants “Thunder” had dumped Division 1 outfit Leicester “Warriors” out of the National Cup. “We had a game in London last night and didn’t get home ‘til late.”, “We were missing two of our best player.”, “Our two Americans haven’t arrived yet.” All these excuses were valid but at the bottom line “Warriors” were well and truly beaten by a “Thunder” side who were as miserly on defence as Scrooge at Christmas.

Whatever mindset “Warriors” had at the start of the game they very quickly realised that they were in for a real test as “Thunder” jumped out to a 10-4 lead which was then extended to 19-9 after just six minutes of play. A Leicester time out from coach Karl Brown managed to rally his troops who showed their perimeter shooting ability as they went on a 12-2 run to tie the scores up at 21 all after the first period of play.

The two teams exchanged baskets at the start of the second quarter but late on in the stanza the tempo of “Thunder’s” play had its toll on the “Warriors” defenders and the Northants team were able to mount a 9-2 charge to take a 40-31 lead into the half time break.

During the first twenty minutes of play the Leicester outfit had been trouble by the speed of “Thunder’s” transition offence orchestrated by Jonny Yates and the close to the basket power of Leome Francis



**Leon Henry converts from a “Thunder” fast break against Leicester “Warriors”**

“Warriors” started the third quarter in determined mood but were then torn apart by a number of “Thunder” fast breaks. The home side went on an amazing 17-zero run and the large crowd suddenly became aware that a major upset was on the cards.

“Thunder” went into the final period leading 57-38 and even though they occasionally gave the ball away against a belated “Warriors” press the final result was never really in doubt. The Northants players coolly controlled the clock in the latter stages of the game finally recording a well deserved 71-55 victory and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Round tie against Oxford “Hoops”.

In the sixteen point win Leome Francis put on an impressive personal performance with 25 points and 11 rebounds and he was well supported by Leon Henry and Jonny Yates who scored 15 and 10 points respectively. Other eye catching performances came from Jacob Holt and Jason Tucker who personified “Thunder’s” defensive hustle and also pulled down 20 rebound between them.

Team coaches Rob Eddon and Grahame Yates were delighted but not surprised about “Thunder” giant-killing performance. “We have a talented and hard-working group of players” said Eddon, “there is no reason why this season shouldn’t be as successful as the last one.”

### **Tough day in the North for Under 16 Girls**

#### **Sheffield Invitational Tournament**

<b>Northants “Lightning”</b>	<b>29 – 46</b>	<b>Sheffield “Hatters”</b>
<b>Northants “Lightning”</b>	<b>34 – 36</b>	<b>Southend “Swifts”</b>
<b>Northants “Lightning”</b>	<b>35 - 18</b>	<b>Stockport “Lapwings”</b>
<b>Ipswich “Topcats”</b>	<b>34 - 46</b>	<b>Northants “Lightning”</b>

The Northants “Lightning” cadette women travelled to Sheffield for a pre-season tournament and returned home battered and bruised but better prepared for the forthcoming season. “Lightning” opened up with a game against hosts Sheffield “Hatters” and slipped to a 29-46 defeat despite 12 points from captain Lauren Milne. “For most of the game it looked as if we’d ‘left our game on the bus”, pronounced coach Karen Goodrich.

There was no respite for “Lightning” as they took on Southend “Swifts” in their second game and what a game it proved to be as “Lightning” inspired by 13 points from guard Sarah Round got to within two points of the Essex team finally going down 34-36.

After two very tough games “Lightning” next faced a weaker team in the form of Stockport “Lapwings” and with no less than nine players contributing to the scoring the county girls ran out comfortable winners by 35 points to 18.

By now “Lightning” had lost the services of Caitlin Stewart who had sustained a deep cut on her chin against “Swifts”. Against a tall Ipswich team they played their best basketball of the day eventually winning 46-34 with Milne and Round once again catching the eye with 16 and 12 points respectively.

### **Junior Women just go down to East Midlands**

#### **Friendly game**

<b>Northants “Lightning” Junior Women</b>	<b>49 – 50</b>	<b>East Midlands Under 15’s</b>
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In preparation for their first game of the season against Herts “Warriors” this Saturday the Northants junior women took on the East Midlands under 15’s who are in action themselves in the Inter Regional Tournament.

The game proved to be valuable for both teams with “Lightning” tying up the scores at 49 all with an Amber Leiba three-pointer only for Lauren Milne to hit one of two free throws to clinch the game for the representative team.

For “Lightning” Steph Ogden and Laren Brookes top scored with 14 and 12 points respectively while there were eight point contributions from Tara Hings and Hannah Nolan.

### THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

#### Saturday 28th September

9-30am to 11am

"Ballers" Academy  
For under 12 boys and girls

10am until 11am

"Junior Ballers"  
For boys and girls in Years 1,2,3 and 4 who would like to play basketball

11-30am

Cadet Men versus Shropshire "Warriors"

1-30pm

Junior Men versus Derby "Trailblazers"

All these activities and games will be staged at the **Northampton Basketball Centre** which is based at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are most welcome for the games and admission is *FREE*

#### Sunday 29th September

Under 13 Boys travel to Sheffield "Saints"

Junior Women travel to Herts "Warriors in the National Cup"

Senior Men travel to Stockport "Falcon"

For further information contact:

**John Collins** (Coaching Co-ordinator) on **07801 533 151**