

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

“Thunder” record first Conference win

National League Division 4 (Midlands Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 76 – 59 Nottingham Trent University “Hoods”

After two losses in Conference games “Thunder” were looking to reverse their fortunes against a team they had defeated in the National Shield. “Thunder” were able to field three new signings in the shape of Jake Barr, Chris Ketchell and Sam Mennell and with a full bench available Coach John Collins was able to play the up-tempo game he prefers.

The two teams exchanged scores at the start of the game with “Hoods” employing a zone defence in an attempt to curtail the “Thunder” scoring. Leading 11-10, “Thunder” reverted to some of the bad habits of the previous week allowing the visitors to seize the initiative with an 8-3 run.

With his team trailing 14-18, Collins pleaded with his team for patience on offence and more intensity on defence. It was a different “Thunder” that took the floor for the second quarter and a 10-zero run gave them a 30-22 lead only for slack defence to allow “Hoods” two, three-pointers at the close of the period.

Holding a narrow 32-28 lead at half time, “Thunder” could be pleased with their defensive effort and nine points in four minutes from Jacob Holt helped them to extend their lead to 45-32 at the start of the third. Just as a comfortable win looked to be on the cards, “Hoods” came battling back closing the period with a 7-2 run to give “Thunder” plenty to think about during the break between periods

Any thoughts of a “Hoods” comeback were dispelled thanks to the efforts of Holt and Matt Yates and massive put back from Richard Higgins as “Thunder” extended their lead to 20 points at the start of the fourth period of play and they were able to cruise to a convincing 76 points to 59 win.

In the morale boosting win Holt led the “Thunder” scoring with 19 points, Yates scored 15 and Higgins 14, Jake Wyatt and Sam Mennell chipping in with invaluable 12 and 8 point contributions.

Shorts handed Junior Men see off “Wolves”

Junior Men’s National League (Midlands West Conference)

Worcester “Wolves” 66 – 83 Northants “Thunder”

A number of factors meant that only eight players were available to make the journey to Worcester to take on “Wolves”. To their credit they returned after recording an 83-66 win so maintaining their undefeated Conference record.

“Thunder” certainly didn’t ‘leave their game on the bus’ charging out to a 30-13 lead after the first period of play with their ‘big’ line up causing the home side all kinds of problems.

“Wolves” re-grouped in the second quarter which they took 19-11 reducing the deficit to 32-41 but “Thunder” came storming out in the third blasting their opponents 22-12. Trailing 44-63, “Wolves” had the proverbial mountain to climb but “Thunder” were in no mood to surrender the lead in the last ten minutes of play. “Wolves” did win the final quarter 22-20 but the final result was never in doubt as “Thunder” held on for the 17 point win.

Coach Dariaus Maldutis was full of praise for the efforts of all eight of his players. His teams scoring was led by Cameron Samuels and Ed Wallhead with 25 and 21 points respectively; excellent support coming from Chris Amankonah who scored 12.

Cadets have to settle for formal scrimmage.

Under 16 Boys Scrimmage Game

Northants “Thunder” Maroon 69 – 60 Northants “Thunder” Gold

Late on Friday afternoon the Northants Basketball Club found out that Birmingham “Mets” their opponents the following day had withdrawn from the league. Rather than let the show court at the Basketball Centre lie inactive for two hours a formal scrimmage game was organised between the team selected to play “Mets” and other players from the Under 16 squad.

“Thunder” Gold made a positive start to the game and led 11-10 after the first quarter but were handicapped by an injury to Ali Solazzo. Maroon took control of the game in the second period of play outscoring Gold 26-12 to lead 36-23 at half time; thanks to 14 points from rookie Ashley Kitchen.

The two teams traded scores in the third quarter with Gold battling to close the gap without success. In the final quarter Gold closed the gap by taking the period 22-16 thanks to the efforts of Connor White and Adam Lewandowski but it was too little too late.

For Maroon, Kitchen top scored with 24 points and he received excellent support from Patrick Adeji with 14 points while Hashim Khan displayed his perimeter shooting skills with 11 points and Jacob Barlow-Hurdeman was the pick of the ‘big’ men on view with the same total.

Lewandowski led the way for Gold with 23 points, White contributing 18.

Young Under 14 Boys hammered by “Titans”

Under 14 Boys National League

(Midlands West Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 21 – 95 Northamptonshire “Titans”

Northants Thunder Under 14 boys suffered their first defeat of the season when they suffered a heavy defeat against local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”.

Straight from the start it was obvious that the game was going to be a tough challenge for the young “Thunder” with “Titans” who holding a significant height advantage. “Titans” showed their dominance straight from the tip storming into 2-13 run. “Thunder” struggled to match up with the “Titans” players and were out rebounded continuously as “Titans” charged into a 31-8 lead at the of first quarter.

Despite “Thunder” containing their opponents to 14 second quarter points, they continued to struggle offensively becoming very static. They also found it difficult to finish around the basket and they managed just one field goal in the quarter through an Ashley Kitchen 3 pointer. “Thunder” trailed 11-45 at half time.

“Titans” continued their dominance in the second half, opening the third quarter with an 13-0 run with “Thunder” kept scoreless for fully eight minutes before Kitchen ignited Thunder’s offensive performance with back-to-back baskets.

Despite strong efforts by all Thunder players, “Titans” won the local derby in dominant fashion with a 95-21 triumph.

Thunder were led in scoring by Ashley Kitchen with 9 points supported with 4 points from Kristupas Dambrauskas.

Coach Crump commented “After opening the season last weekend on a high, this weekend has been perceived by many players as a low. “Titans” showed their dominance through their size, age, experience and no little skill and we just couldn’t compete with those factors. Despite losing by a significant score line, I am proud with the efforts displayed by all the players. We will learn lots from this fixture, as we continue to develop as a team”

Luton too big for game Under 14 Girls

Under 14 Girls National League **(Midlands Conference)**

Northants “Lightning” 66 – 99 Luton Basketball Club

Quite a few spectators at the Basketball Centre last Saturday questioned the age of some of the Luton players when they arrived for this Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference fixture. When the game got underway the Luton girls showed they were blessed with a lot of talent as well as size scoring 13 unanswered points at the start of the game. A time out by Coach Karen Goodrich stemmed the flow of points but another 10-zero charge saw the visitors leading 36-18 after the first quarter.

With the Luton coach putting some of his smaller players on court “Lightning” were able to compete and were only outscored 18-17 in the second quarter.

Again, in the third period of play “Lightning” found themselves outsized and when Luton did miss their first scoring attempt they were able to convert put backs. The visitors won the third quarter 25-12 extending their lead to 88-48 but the “Lightning” players did not give in and only lost the final stanza 18-21.

In the 66-99 loss Dina Kosnikovska top scored for “Lightning” with a 29 points while Fiona Arthur enjoyed her best game of the season with 13 points and a clutch of rebounds.

With many of her players still available in this age group next season, Coach Goodrich was positive about her team’s performance and delighted that they had managed to amass 66 points against such big opponents.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 21st October

No Junior “Ballers” session

No National League fixtures at the Basketball Centre

Junior Men travel to Frankley “Falcons”

Sunday 22nd October

Under 16 Girls travel to Northamptonshire “Titans”

For more information contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151