

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Blank weekend for Senior men but an excellent ‘double’ for the girl’s programme.

“Thunder” left without a game after “Hoods II” fold

Division Four (Midlands Conference)

Nottingham Hoods II versus Northants “Thunder”

Midway through a tough practice on Thursday evening the Northants club was informed that Nottingham “Hoods II”, their opponents that Saturday had folded leaving “Thunder” without a game. “Hoods” are the second team to leave the Midlands Conference following the earlier withdrawal of Birmingham Elite II.

Cadet Boys no match for hungry “Wolves”

Under 16 Boys Midlands West Conference

Worcester “Wolves” 95 – 35 Northants “Thunder”

Northants “Thunder’s” poor form continued in this West Midlands Conference game against Worcester “Wolves”. Once again, “Thunder” travelled without the services of four key players who may have helped the team to a more competitive performance.

With a late tip off at 6pm, “Thunder” started the game lethargically and failed to meet the intensity of the hungry “Wolves” and they trailed 8-15 at the end of the first quarter. The second quarter saw “Thunder” collapse as they struggled against a questionably illegal zone press applied by the home side. “Thunder” struggled to break the press resulting in numerous turnovers while allowing their opponents numerous second chance scoring opportunities who had extended their lead to 48-15 by half time.

The third quarter saw a good effort from Tom Peachey who scored eight of “Thunder’s” 10 third quarter points. Already under pressure “Thunder” were further hindered when Grigori Litsai was forced to withdraw from the game due to illness and their poor defensive effort from saw them fail to secure defensive rebounds or defend the determined drives to the basket by the “Wolves” players.

With Litsai sidelined Kalen Spatcher had to take over as ball handler and a number of powerful drives to basket saw him top score for “Thunder” with 15 personal points as his team slumped to a disappointing defeat. The only other “Thunder” player to make any significant points contribution was Peachey with 9

Coach Crump commented “Today was a very poor performance which we must hold ourselves accountable for. We turned the ball over too many times and failed to protect the defensive glass”

Under 14 Boys lose heavily to athletic “Bears”

Under 14 Boys Midlands West Conference

Northants “Thunder” 64 - 106 Worcester “Bears”

The Northants Under 14 Boys were well beaten by an tall and athletic Worcester “Bears” team who played some effective ‘route one basketball’ securing defensive rebounds and running “thunder” off the floor.

“Thunder” made a reasonable start to the game but once again were handicapped by missing a number of three throws and they were hit by a 16-1 “Bears” charge midway through the first quarter. Trailing 22-8 after the first quarter “Thunder” made a good start to the second period but were then blown away by a 19-2 Worcester charge which to all intents and purposes settled the outcome of the game as “Bears” eased into a 51-25 half time lead.

“Thunder” battled hard in the third quarter despite having to play without the services of Dylan Domenici who picked up his fourth foul early in the third quarter. Not for the first time this season “Thunder” were confronted by a sagging man-to-man defence with “Bears” packing the area underneath the basket. Even so they managed to score 22 points, 11 of those coming from diminutive guard Benas Maldutis, but they couldn’t stop the “Bears” fast breaks as they racked up 31 points.

The Northants boys continued to give of their best in the final quarter but on many occasions the height difference was just too much for many of hem to cope with and they could do little to prevent the 40+ points defeat in which Maldutis top scored with an outstanding 28 points, 26 of them coming in the second half. Tom Greenfield battled hard for his 18 points but no other “Thunder” player could score in double figures and Coach John Collins was pleased with the efforts of rookie Thomas bates who chipped in with 7 points.

Great ‘road’ win for Cadette

Under 16 Girls North Conference

Manchester “Mystics II” 63 – 66 Northants “Lightning”

The Northants “Lightning” Cadette girls made the arduous journey up the M.6. to Manchester last Saturday to take on the “Mystics” second string and secured a battling three point victory to ease the pain of the return journey.

Going into the fourth quarter “Lightning” had opened up a 13 point lead at 55-42 thanks to an excellent second quarter. A big “Mystics” charge was expected and it came but marshaled by Dina Kosnikovska and Lucy Needham “Lightning” held on for an impressive win.

“Lightning” had made a nervous start to the game after the long journey and trailed 8-10 after the first ten minutes of play. The second quarter was the key to “Lightning’s” victory as good ball movement saw Needham and Chloe Stevens score freely while Sade Chambers and Niamh Saysell did a great defensive job on Manchester’s six feet tall centre. “Lightning” took the period 22-7 and then edged the third 23-21 but had to show a great deal of character during the fourth quarter.

In the three point win Needham top score for “Lightntng” with 20 points excellent support coming from Poppy Barnett, Kosnikovska and Stevens who all scored in double figures.

Strong final quarter takes Under 14 Girls to win over “Wildcats”

Under 14 Girls Midlands East Conference

Northants “Lightning” 65 – 43 Nottingham “Wildcats”

After their narrow win against Norfolk “Inceni” the previous weekend the Northants Under 14 girls went into this game against Nottingham “Wildcats” in optimistic mood but going into the final period of play they only led by five points at 42-37.

The two teams exchanged baskets at the start of the fourth quarter before “Lightning” showed their true class. They kept “Wildcats” scoreless for the final seven minutes of the game while pouring in 15 themselves led by Gregory and Lucie Wilson Gray

In the first three periods of the game, “Lightning” had failed to take the initiative despite doing a lot of things very well. Ruby Harkins and Isabella Rinon had both put in a great defensive shift against Nottingham’s East Midlands players, Alina Riley and Maisey Marvin but “Lightning” struggled to score from close range with only Ellouise Gregory successful in scoring from close range. All that changed in the final seven minutes of the game as “Lightning” cruised to a comfortable 22 points win.

Despite a below par performance for much of the game, Coach Karen Goodrich was pleased that all ten of her players had contributed to the team’s scoring led by Wilson-Gray with 23 points. Gregory recorded an impressive double-double while Harkins contributed 10 points as well as restricting Marvin to the same total.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 27th October

No Junior "Ballers" Session

There are no games at the Basketball Centre this weekend

Senior Men travel to Nottingham Trent “Hoods”

Junior Men travel to Nottingham “Hoods”

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