

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

“Thunder” advance to 3rd Round of the National Shield after win over “Hawks”

National Shield Round 2

Northants “Thunder” 85 – 75 Warwickshire “Hawks”

The Northants senior men advanced to the 3rd Round of the National Shield with a battling win over Warwickshire “Hawks” at the Basketball Centre last Sunday. The win came thanks to an impressive final third of the game after “Hawks” had taken a 50-41 lead midway through the third period of play. Three pointers from Jacob Holt, Sam Mennell and Johnny Yates got “Thunder” back on course before a 14-3 run at the end of the period established a 66-57 lead for the home side, going into the final period of play.

“Hawks” tried everything to close the gap in the last ten minutes of play but “Thunder” kept their noses in front thanks to nine points from Jake Barr and despite missing six free throws in the final quarter.

“Thunder” had led 18-14 after the first quarter but when leading 25-18 they inexplicably went into a four minute slump during which time they were outscored 0-13 by the visitors who went into the half time break leading 41-40. That lead was extended to nine points before the impressive “Thunder” closing barrage.

In the ten point win Holt and Matt Yates top scored with 23 points apiece Barr supporting well with an 11 point haul.

In the 3rd Round, “Thunder” will face tough opposition in the form of Birmingham “Mets” who play in a higher division than the Northants team.

Junior Men beaten in overtime despite the best efforts of Samuels and Wallhead

Junior Men’s National League (Midlands West Conference)

**Frankley “Falcons” 92 – 91 Northants “Thunder”
(83 – 83)**

Last Saturday a short-handed Junior Mens side made their way down the motorway to take on national league newcomers Frankley “Falcons” in their fourth Conference game of the season. They returned with a disappointing, one point overtime loss.

"Thunder" made a really positive start to the game in the, jumping out to a 28-15 first quarter lead, with big man Ed Wallhead scoring 14 personal points. Despite this strong start, "Thunder" were guilty of not boxing out for rebounds and occasional poor defence. "Falcons" were able to exploit these mistakes and by half time had closed the gap to 45-40, with Thunder still in the lead.

The third quarter saw Thunder once again begin well, yet they soon returned to their old habits and "Falcons" started an 11-0 run which saw them take the lead for the first time in the game. "Thunder" struggled to regain composure but did narrow the gap after a time-out from Coach Maldutis and the quarter ended with "Falcons" leading 63-59.

A tiring, "Thunder" side did extremely well to retake the lead during the final quarter but at this stage, in addition to fatigue, two players had to play through injuries. In the last few seconds, "Thunder" were leading 83-81, but a "Falcons' buzzer beater saw them tie the game and force overtime.

"Thunder" continued to work hard throughout the extra five minutes of play; however their task became harder when one of their players fouled out of the game. Despite this, "Thunder" kept their noses in front and an unlikely win looked possible but unfortunately for the county boys, "Falcons" scored a second buzzer beater to win the game.

In the disappointing loss, Ed Wallhead and Cameron Samuels top scored for "Thunder" with 31 and 26 points respectively.

Report compiled by James Reid

Heavy loss for Under 16 Girls

Under 16 Girls National League **(North Conference)**

Northamptonshire "Titans" 106 - 42 Northants "Lightning"

The Northants Cadette girls made the short trip to Wellingborough last Sunday to take on local rivals "Titans" and suffered a comprehensive defeat.

"Lightning" could manage just 15 points in the first two periods of play while their opponents poured in 44. The Northants girls adjusted to the physicality of the game in the third quarter which they lost 17-30 with Poppy Barnett battling hard close to basket while Chloe Stevens and Jainika Saifa coped well with the "Titans" pressure.

The talented "Titans" team maintained their efforts in the final period of play which they won 32-10 to record a 64 points victory. For "Lightning", Barnett top scored with 13 points, Dina Kosnikovska and Lucy Needham both scoring nine.

It's going to be a tough season for the young "Lightning" team but with all the players still available for the same age group next year the experience should be invaluable.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 28th October

No Junior "Ballers" session

No National League fixtures at the Basketball Centre

Under 16 Girls travel Machester "Mystics II"

"Hoopsterz" Under 15 Boys CVL @ Northampton School for Boys

"Hoopsterz" Under 11 CVL @ Northampton School for Boys

For more information contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151