

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

“Thunder” suffer another road loss.

National League Division 3
(South Conference)

Team Solent 84 – 69 Northants “Thunder”

For the second week running the Northants senior men were on their travels and for the second week running they returned empty handed. The latest loss came at the hands of high-flying Team Solent but the south coast team nor their supporters showed much class in what turned out to be a tetchy bad-tempered affair which saw one Solent player disqualified. To their credit the Thunder players kept their composure despite the physical nature of the game.

After their journey south Thunder made an excellent start to the game jumping out to a 23-15 lead after the first period of play. Not surprisingly Solent rallied in the second quarter with their aggressive defence restricting Thunder to just 11 points while they poured in 25 themselves to take a 40-34 half time lead.

Thunder battled hard to reduced the margin in the third quarter which was edge 22-20 by the home side and Thunder were unable to maintain there energy in the final period as Solent ran out winners by 84 points to 69.

In the 15 point setback Jacob Holt maintained his rich vein of scoring form top scoring for Thunder with 24 points. Good support came from Richard Higgins and Glodi Bomolo with 13 and 11 points respectively while Adam Thomas and Johnny Yates both contributed nine points.

This weekend Thunder are ‘on the road’ again with a journey to Brentwood to face Fire who like Thunder, are struggling near the foot of the Division 3 South table. A win for Thunder on Saturday is a real possibility and that could prove to be just the confidence booster that the team needs.

Thunder just edged out by “Speeders”

Hoopsterz Under 19 Central Venue league

Milton Keynes Speeders 28 – 27 Northants Thunder

In their latest visit to the Hoopsterz Under 19 Central Venue League, Thunder slipped to a one point loss against a Milton Keynes team that boasted a massive advantage in standing height.

From the very outset of the game the attitude of the Thunder players seemed to be, “It’s not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog”. They started the game with some good full court defence which saw a full four minutes go by before anyone scored. Thunder opened the scoring by finally cracking a gap amongst the Speeders and during the first half Tom Berry showed some excellent ball distribution as Thunder ended the half ahead by one point.

Thunder carried the same determination into the second half and surged ahead, however their lack of height was taking its toll and Speeders coach piled on the size towards the end of the game in an attempt to clinch victory. Thunder never gave up though and they stuck to their game plan and this kept them in the hunt but as their taller players got into foul trouble and this restricted their effectiveness on defence. The whole squad worked hard and impressed with their intelligent play but in the end Speeders’ height advantage was decisive as they took the game by a single point.

Coach Oosthuizen was impressed with the mentality of the boys and indeed there was nothing to be ashamed about losing to such a tall team but stressed that this was going to be the way for the remaining CVL games.

“Thunder” third in Hoopsterz Under 15 Central Venue League

Hoopsterz Under 15 Central Venue League

Kettering Phoenix	11 – 22	Northants Thunder
NEBC Titans I	35 – 22	Northants Thunder
NEBC Titans II	34 - 6	Northants Thunder

With no U16 or U14 National League fixtures this week, Coaches Yates and Maldutis took the opportunity to send a team comprised of U15 and U14 players to the Hoopsterz U15 Tournament at Northampton School for Boys. The scratch side opened with a confident win against Kettering Phoenix. After racing into a ten point lead, Thunder controlled the game to run out 22-11 winners.

A much sterner test followed, with Northamptonshire Titans fielding a tall, powerful first team. Despite some strong work from Jonathan Ntumba under the basket, Titans guard Hamilton was allowed too much freedom to drive in at will and the Wellingborough side soon opened a match-winning lead. Thunder came back towards the end of the second half, but were unable to prevent Titans closing out the game 35-22.

Many of the senior Thunder players had played less than 15 hours before in the Friday CVL, so it was no surprise that tired legs played a part in a disappointing 34-6 loss to Titans supposedly second string.

The Thunder Central Venue teams are totally run and coached by parents and the time they commit is much appreciated by the Northants Basketball Club

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 28th November

9-30am until 11.00am Junior “Ballers” Session
11-45am Junior Men versus Ilkeston Outlaws
1-45pm Cadette Girls versus Ipswich Bobcats (National Cup Round 2)
Cadet Boys versus Ilkeston Outlaws
Senior Men travel to Brentwood Fire

Sunday 29th November

11-45am Under 14 Boys versus Shropshire Warriors
Cadette Girls versus Manchester Mystics

All the home games will be played at the Northants Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

For further information contact John Collins on 07801 533151