

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Heartbreaking overtime loss for “Thunder”

National League Division 3

(North Conference)

Brentwood “Fire	96 – 92	Northants “Thunder”
	(84 – 84)	

The Northants senior men slipped to another disappointing defeat and once again it was a tale of what might have been. With less than two minutes of the contest remaining Thunder were leading by 6 points and looked to be in good shape to end their five game losing streak. As it was their opponents launched a late surge to tie things up at 84 all at the closing buzzer. In overtime Fire kept their composure to take the extra period 12-8 and pick up an unlikely win to the despair of the Thunder players.

The game had been a close run affair with the home side edging ahead 46-41 at half time. Thunder had struggled against the height advantage of Fire but with new signing Devon Adams taking care of one of the Brentwood ‘giants’ Thunder enjoyed their best period of the game in the third quarter. Led by rookie Ollie Thomas Thunder outscored Fire 23-15 to take a 64-61 lead going into the final quarter. That lead was extended to six points before the late game collapse.

In the heartbreaking four point set back the battling Jacob Holt once again top scored for Thunder with 28 points. Ollie Thomas supported well with 18 points while Glodi Bomolo and Johnny Yates contributed 15 and 12 points respectively.

Thunder are bottom of the Division 3 South table but there is enough optimism in the team to expect a revival and despite defeats the team has been putting in some decent performances over recent weeks The group face a tough game this weekend when they entertain top of the table Thames Valley Cavaliers

Junior Men aren’t ambushed by “Outlaws”

Junior Men’s East Midlands Development League

Northants “Thunder”	74 – 52	Ilkeston “Outlaws”
----------------------------	----------------	---------------------------

The Northants junior men maintained their unbeaten record with a thoroughly ‘professional’ win over Ilkeston Outlaws.

After Outlaws had opened the scoring, Thunder took complete control of the game displaying some high tempo transitional offence, complimented with good ball movement in the half court. Seven points from Jacob Killeya and three-pointers from Ollie Thomas and David Nieva saw Thunder establish an 18-8 lead after the first period of play.

The second quarter saw Coach Rob Crump rotating his bench with all his players enjoying significant minutes. Strong defensive rebounding from Ayo Oluyede and James Barden allowed Thunder to mount a number of fast breaks with Carlo Nieva and Ollie Thomas far too quick for the Outlaws backcourt. During the second quarter Thunder scored 22 points while restricting their opponents to 10 so extending their lead to 40-18 at half time.

Having established a game winning lead, the Thunder players were urged to remain focussed and not to drop their intensity levels. Coach Crump was able to experiment with different line ups on the floor particularly with a big front court of Killeya, Oluyede and Barden. Thunder edged the quarter 18-13 with key scores from Barden and Jake Nailor.

With the game won, Thunder were guilty of lacking defensive intensity as displayed in the first three quarters. As a result, Outlaws won the final quarter by 5, but it wasn’t enough to stop the home side cruising to 74-52 win led by 18 points from Ollie Thomas. Good support came from Carlo and David Nieva with 16 and 13 points respectively while Jacob Killeya contributed 11 points.

Coach Crump commented “We displayed a professional performance in the first half and proved to be too strong for Ilkeston. It was a good opportunity for me to field different line ups in the second half enabling us to explore options for upcoming fixtures.”

Cadet Boys too strong for “Outlaws”

Under 16 Boys Midlands Development League

Northants “Lightning” 84 - 66 Ilkeston “Outlaws”

Ilkeston Outlaws arrived at the Basketball Centre with the reputation of being the Conference whipping boys. Before the game Coach Grahame Yates warned his players that their opponents should not be taken lightly. Coach Yates was looking to give all his players ample playing time in the game, but he also demanded hard work and good team play.

Despite their poor record it was obvious from the outset that Outlaws fancied their chances and confidently took the game to Thunder. Thunder responded well and surged ahead 16-4 within the first five minutes. Coach Yates started rotating players despite not scoring freely they worked hard and made every effort to execute the plays required of them. For their part Ilkeston gained in confidence but by the end of the first quarter had reduced the Thunder lead to 20-17.

The second period of play saw a complete change in fortunes with Outlaws taking control of the game, Thunder just went to pieces with silly mistakes and bad decisions were costing them dearly. It was to be a full five minutes before they scored forcing Coach Yates to call a time out. After some choice words Thunder did manage to find the basket but they still looked jaded and half asleep. Outlaws took the quarter 24-10 to open up a 41-30 half time lead with a major shock looking to be on the cards.

The half time team talk saw Coach Yates reminding his players that a team effort was required with the whole squad contributing and no players looking on themselves as ‘bench warmers’. His words seemed to galvanise the boys none more so than Jared Ryan who seemed to ‘jump into gear’. Not only did he score, but he worked on ball distribution and played solid defence showing good intelligence and decision making. His efforts seemed to calm the team down and they went on to take the quarter 26-13 and ease ahead 56-54.

Having established their authority on the game Thunder didn’t look back for the rest of the game. They took the quarter 28-12 which meant they had won the second half 54-25 on their way to the 84 to 66 victory. For Thunder Zak Kitchen, Josh Lloyd, Shekina Ntumba and Ed Taylan all scored in double figures but Jared Ryan and Chris Amankonah both made huge contributions in key areas and at key times in the win.

Blank weekend for Cadette Women

Under 16 Girls National Cup

(Round 2)

Northants “Lightning” 38 – 84 Ipswich “Bobcats”

The Northants under 16 girls were dumped out of the National Cup by a talented Ipswich Bobcats team. After slipping behind 10-22 after the first period of play Lightning rallied in the second quarter. Playing with more confidence they raised their defensive intensity and were able to force turn-overs leading to scores from Bahira Barakat. The second quarter was tied at 12 all leaving Lightning trailing 22-34 at half time.

Ipswich were able to take control of the game in the third quarter despite the best efforts of the Lightning players, winning it 26-12 to lead 60-34 going into the final ten minutes of play. With the final result now beyond doubt Bobcats showed their class by hitting Lightning with a full court press. This produced a number of steals for Bobcats who poured in the points to win the quarter 24-4 and advance to the 3rd Round with an 84-38 win.

The only significant scorer for Lightning was Barakat who scored 19 personal points while Precious Ogaji who put in a massive defensive shift.

Under 16 Girls Premier Division North

Northants “Lightning” 28 -64 Manchester “Mystics”

Less than 24 hours after their Cup defeat at the hands of Ipswich the Northants girls were back on court against top of the table Manchester Mystics. The danger of a hangover from the previous day was always a danger and so it proved despite Lightning being boosted by the inclusion of England international Holly Winterburn in their line up, Mystics blasted away in the first quarter opening up a 20-4 lead.

With a huge defeat staring them in the face, Lightning battled hard in the second period of play but with Winterburn well marked they found scoring very difficult and lost the quarter 6-16 to trail 36-10 at half time leaving them with a proverbial mountain to climb.

The third quarter was the most successful and could take a great deal of credit for sharing the 26 points scored. With the game won at 49-23, Mystics did not copy the previous days opponents by employing a soul-destroying press but their quality shone through as they outscored Lightning 15-5 to win the game by 64-28 and retain their unbeaten record.

In the 36 points defeat no Lightning player was able to score in double figures although Hannah Davy battled hard for her 9 point haul.

Under 14 Boys slip to defeat against “Warriors” after see-saw game

Under 14 Boys Midlands Development League

Northants “Thunder” 68 – 73 Shropshire “Warriors”

After battling back from an 11 point deficit the Northants under 14 boys threw away all their good work with a poor third quarter which handed the initiative back to Warriors. Trailing 52-58 Thunder battled hard in the final period of play none more so than Jude Carmichael but they couldn't close the gap as the visiting team held on for a five point win.

The Thunder scoring was dominated by Carmichael with 28 points with Jonathan Ntumba contributing 22 points 20 of them coming in the first half. The only other Thunder player to make a major contribution to the scoring was Mateo Baja with 10 points.

Thunder made a poor start to the game and found themselves trailing 18-27 after the first quarter. Led by Carmichael and Ntumba they battled back in the second period which they took 24-7 to lead 42-34 at half time. The two teams traded baskets during the third quarter before Warriors ended the period with a 12-zero rush to open up a lead Thunder were unable to close.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 5th December

9-30am until 11.00am Junior “Ballers” Session
11-45am Under 14 Girls versus West Herts Warriors
1-45pm Senior Men versus Thames Valley Cavaliers

These 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

Junior Men travel to Leicester Warriors
Under 14 Boys travel to Leicester Warriors

Sunday 6th December

Under 16 Girls travel to Nottingham Wildcats

For further information contact John Collins on 07801 533151