

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

MEDIA RELEASE

“Thunder” win keeps them top of the pile

Men’s National League Division 3 North

Northants “Thunder” 95 – 84 Leeds Carnegie II

The Northants senior men duly saw off a below strength Leeds Carnegie second string to retain leadership of the North Conference of the National League 3rd Division. The winning margin of 11 points didn’t really reflect the dominance “Thunder” had for most of the game but not for the first time this season they were guilty of ‘taking their foot off the pedal’ and not closing out the game in the third period of play. The “Thunder” coaching staff certainly will not be pleased that their charges conceded a massive 60 points in the second half.

With Leome Francis back in the starting line up after injury, “Thunder” dominated the early exchanges and by the end of the first quarter had built up a 22-10 lead. This was extended to 44-24 by half time and the Basketball Centre settled back in the anticipation of some ‘Showtime’. In fact it was the visitors who caught the eye as they visibly raised their game and caused the home side a lot of problems with their zone press defence. At one stage “Thunder’s” twenty point advantage shrank to single figures but there never seemed to be any real chance of the Leeds pulling off an amazing comeback win however there were times when the “Thunder” players looked visibly rattled; something you would not expect to see a team at the top of the table.

In the 11 point win Francis led all scorers with 19 points, good support coming from Leon Francis with 14 points while Jonny Yates and rookie Sam Round also scored in double figures.

Lethargic Under 15 Boys go down against “Warriors”

Under 15 Boys Midlands Conference

Leicester “Warriors” 53 – 48 Northants “Thunder”

Just a few weeks ago “Thunder” defeated “Warriors” by over 50 points but from the outset of the game at Gateway College last Saturday it was clear there was going to be no repeat of that result. In the previous game “Thunder” had played tenacious defence but on Saturday they seemed lethargic whilst offensively they were lack-lustre. For their part “Warriors” controlled the game well and in their off-guard Aibrika who scored 20 personal points, they had the match winner.

“Warriors” took the first quarter 13-11 and extended their lead to 36-27 by half time with “Thunder” failing to run their fast break aggressively while in the half court they were forced to rely on speculative perimeter shooting.

Coach John Collins tried to persuade his team to run with more purpose in the second half and during the third quarter which they took 14-9, they did this. With a four point deficit going into the final stanza and the short “Warriors” bench beginning to look rather tired “Thunder” looked to have every chance of taking the game. In the event they totalled ‘dried up’ on offence and could manage only seven further points while their opponents scored eight to take the game 53-48.

For “Thunder” Ayo Oluyede battled hard for his 15 points and Reece Zubal showed he’s recovered from his broken finger by chipping in with 10 points but the other four “Thunder” big men could only manage nine points between them

Awesome Cadette Girls crush “Hatters”

Under 16 Girls Non – Conference game
Northants “Lightning” 89 – 43 Sheffield “Hatters”

In search of a competitive game “Lightning” coach Karen Goodrich set up this ‘friendly’ game against North Conference side Sheffield “Hatters”. Both clubs agreed to play without players selected to attend England Camps but it was the Northants girls who seemed more motivated to gain ascendancy and they jumped out to a 14-zero lead with Charlotte Berridge proving to be almost unstoppable. “Lightning” maintained their pressure and led 27-6 after the first period of play.

“Hatters” were a little more competitive in the second quarter and managed to score 12 points but “Lightning” were still in a different class pouring in 25 points themselves to lead 52-18 at half time.

Goodrich was able to run a number of different combinations during the final two periods and this had the effect of producing a rather more competitive encounter but “Lightning” still won the second half 37-25 to take the game by 89 points to 43.

In the 46 point rampage Ruchae Walton continued in her awesome form with her usual double-double scoring 26 points and pulling down 12 rebounds. Berridge scored 24 points and dished out an impressive eight assists while skipper Lauren Milne scored 17 points and hauled down eight rebounds whilst leading the team superbly. Goodrich was delighted with her team’s performance as they prepare for a tough Cup game against Southend and was particularly pleased with the efforts of Caitlin Stewart, Eden Brown and Abi Hobbs.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 30th November

9.30am to 11am	Under 12 Practice with older Junior “Ballers”
10am to 11am	Junior “Ballers” (In small gym)
11.30am	Under 14 Girls versus Ipswich “Topcats”
1.30pm	Cadette Girls versus Solent “Suns”
3.30pm	Cadet Men versus Sporting Club Albion

These games and practices will take place at the Northants Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Under 13 Boys travel to Mansfield “Giants”
Junior Women travel to Sporting Club Albion
Under 15 Boys travel to Notts Nova
Under 14 Boys travel to Sheffield “Saints”

Sunday 1st December

Senior Men travel to Derby “Trailblazers II”
Junior Men travel to Birmingham “A’s”
Cadet Men travel to Bromsgrove “Bears”