

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Half Season Review

With the 2016 – '17 season renewing this weekend it's time to look back on the season so far. In general it's been a slightly disappointing four months with all five of the club's teams underperforming to various degrees.

Senior Men

The team went into the season with high hopes of making the Play Offs. There is still a possibility of this happening but the team, which currently lies 6th in the South Conference will need to beat a couple of the 'high fliers'. The team currently has a 50% won 4 lost 4 record with their performances hindered by injury and non-availability. Coach Grahame Yates will be hoping that following the Christmas break his players will return refreshed ready for their first game of 2017 against Middlesex LTBC.

Under 14 Boys

The team currently lies 3rd in the Midlands II Conference with a won 7 lost 5 record. The team still has a chance of making the end of season Play Offs but might yet live to regret the two losses against Northamptonshire "Titans".

Coach Rob Crump has done a great job developing the younger players in the squad and he will be hoping these players will be able to give support to the likes of Patrick Adedeji, Kalonji Campbell Ashley Kitchen, Cameron Leighton and Jonathan Ntumba.

Under 14 Girls

After a horrendous start to the season this inexperienced team has now recorded three wins, one against local rivals "Titans". They will be looking to maintain their improvement when the season resumes with Coach Janis Kosnikovskis hoping his daughter Dina and Lucy Needham the team's leading scorers will get support from the rest of the squad as those players gain in confidence.

Cadet (Under 16) Boys

Coach John Collins assisted by Pete Dewsnap and with the help of Andrew Gough has been able to accommodate a squad of 24 players with 20 of them having played National League basketball as well as competing in the 'Hoopsterz' Central Venue League. In the East Midlands Conference of the National League the team lies second with a won 6, lost 2 record. The team is well aware that they will need to beat Nottingham 'Hoods' and Leicester 'Dynamite' in the reverse fixtures if they are to have any chance of making the Play Offs.

Collins is keen to get his squad members contributing more to support the outstanding efforts of Chris Amankonah, Josh Lloyd and Ed Wallhead.

Junior Men

It's been a very disappointing first half of the season for the Junior Men with just 4 wins from 14 games which has left them in 13th and last place in the East Midlands Conference. This playing record in no way reflects the true ability of the team which has flair and speed in the back court allied to some size in the front line. The team should reflect positively on the fact that at least six of their games could and should have been won. Coach Darijus Maldutis is confident his group can turn things around in the second half of the season.

Junior "Ballers" Programme

This programme directed by Karen Goodrich and assisted by young leaders will also resume on the first Saturday of 2017. Forty boys and girls have signed up for the programme which is for boys and girls aged 5 to 12 years of age but thanks to the young leaders more players can be accommodated. Sessions run from 9-30am until 11am and no previous playing experience is needed.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 7th January

9-30am to 11.00am

Junior Ballers session

11-30am

Under 14 Boys versus Team Birmingham "Elite"

Under 16 Boys II versus Shropshire "Warriors" Under 15's

2-00pm

Under 16 Boys versus Notts Nova

**These games will be played at the Basketball Centre which is situated at
Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton**

Sunday 8th January

Junior Men travel to Birmingham "Mets"

For further information contact: **John Collins on 07801 533 151**