

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Nightmare final quarter costs Thunder” dear

Men’s Division Three North

Northants “Thunder” 63 – 75 Cardiff Met “Archers”

The Northants senior men went into their game against Cardiff Met “Archers” in optimistic mood having won their previous game. With the scores tied at 49 all going into the final period of play there was still every hope of a home victory but several “Thunder” players were in ‘foul trouble’ and that factor proved to be decisive over the final ten minutes of play.

In the final quarter no less than three “Thunder” players fouled out of the game as “Archers” took the period by 26 points to 14 to take the game 75-63.

“Thunder” were the dominant force in the first period of play opening up a 19-13 lead and this was extended to 34-26 after a low scoring second quarter. The Welsh team dragged themselves back into the contest winning the third quarter 23-15 to tie matters up at 49 all as the “Thunder” players became increasingly concerned that they were being ‘hard done by’, by the game officials. They were unable to overcome their frustrations as Cardiff dominated the final period of play to run out surprisingly comfortable winners.

In the disappointing defeat only Jacob Holt was able to score in double figures with 14 points, useful contributions coming from Devon Adams, and Johnny Yates but “thunder” will not be pleased to see they were outscored by 49 points to 29 in the second half.

Junior men hold on for win against “Outlaws”

Junior Men’s East Midlands Conference

Northants “Thunder” 72 – 68 Ilkeston “Outlaws”

The Northants “Thunder” Junior Men were looking to continue their purple patch last Saturday when they took on Ilkeston “Outlaws” at the Basketball Centre.

The first quarter was excellently played by ‘rookie’, Ed Wallhead, who contributed 9 points for himself in the opening exchanges of the period. This was matched by a number of inside scores as well as free throw conversions from “Outlaws” as the quarter closed at 18-16 in favour of the home side.

In a low scoring second period of play it was the defences of both teams that dominated. Close to the basket scores were denied, leaving both sides having to resorting to longer range shots. Despite tough baskets from behind the line from Jake Nailor and David Nieva, “Outlaws” took the quarter 19-15 to lead 35-33 at half-time.

The Northants players were visibly disappointed to have squandered their early advantage and they came out rejuvenated and energised for the third quarter, this led to an 11-2 run late in the period led Shekina Ntumba. The away team’s advantage had been taken away with “Outlaws” totally stifled scoring-wise as they managed just 8 points as “Thunder” powered in 23. The key to “Thunder’s” success was the retrieval of defensive rebounds so reducing Ilkeston’s second chance shots in and around the key, and also setting up fast break scores.

Boasting a double digit lead “Thunder’s” nerves were tested over the final minutes of the game as “Outlaws” mounted a challenge reducing the “Thunder” advantage to just three points with less than a minute to go in the game. The pressure was relieved by a free throw make by Ayo Oluyede which put the game just out of reach for Ilkeston, and “Thunder” were able to walk away with their fourth win on the bounce.

In the topsy turvey game, “Thunder’s” scoring was led by Nieva and Wallhead with 16 points apiece with good support coming from Shaq Ntumba and Jake Nailor with 13 and 10 points respectively.

(Written by Ayo Oluyede)

Under 14 Boys get back to winning ways

Under 14 Boys East Midlands II Conference

Ilkeston “Outlaws” 25 - 83 Northants “Thunder”

After the tough game against Worcester “Bears” the previous weekend, the Northants under 14 boys travelled to Ilkeston “Outlaws” looking for a morale boosting win. Initially they were rocked as the home side jumped out to a 6-2 lead but then back to back scores from Kalonji Campbell ignited a 21-0 “Thunder” run. From then on there was no looking back for the Northants boys who held “Outlaws” scoreless for eight minutes and rocked their opponents with some stunning transition offence. “Thunder” were further boosted with the introduction of Jonathan Ntumba to the game. The “thunder” forward scored 10 personal points to help his team to a 23-6, lead at the end of the first period of play.

The second quarter saw “Thunder” continue in impressive style with Benas Maldutis putting in an excellence defensive performance putting the “Outlaws” point guard under a lot of pressure and forcing consecutive turnovers. “Thunder” were able to capitalised on these steals and by half time had extended their lead 39-15.

Despite boasting a big lead and the game seemingly out of reach for their opponents, the “Thunder” players were urged to build on their positive first half display. They responded by turning in a good second half performance exhibiting some strong team defence which saw “Outlaws” limited to just five points in both the 3rd and 4th quarters. Meanwhile “Thunder” continued to show their appetite to score in transition complimented with some excellent ball movement advancing the ball up the floor far too quickly for the home side to recover.

“Thunder” were led by some strong scoring performances in the second half with Henri Berry scoring eight consecutive points contributing to his best scoring performance of the season with a total of 12 game points. This was supported with backcourt duo Ashley Kitchen and Patrick Adedeji who demonstrated some confident shooting in the half court earning “Thunder” a dominant victory.

Over the course of the game, “Thunder” saw a total of four players scoring in double figures, led by Jonathan Ntumba with 22 points, well supported by Patrick Adedeji with 17 points while Henri Berry and Ashley Kitchen displayed respectable scoring performances scoring 12 and 10 points respectively. “Thunder” limited the Outlaws to single figure scoring in each quarter thanks to some excellent team defence.

Coach Rob Crump commented “I was very happy with our performance today. It was a great opportunity for all players to receive significant court time, whilst it was pleasing to see all players display positive contributions offensively and defensively. We showed today how much we have improved since the beginning of the season. It is very important we try to play with the same intensity and execution against more superior opposition in the closing weeks of the season”

(Written by Rob Crump)

“Dynamite” claim Hoods’ scalp to boost “Thunder’s” Play Off hopes

Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference

Leicester “Dynamite”

68 – 62

Nottingham “Hoods”

The chances of the Northants under 16 boys reaching the end of season Play Offs were boosted when Leicester “Dynamite” beat Nottingham “Hoods” in an East Midlands Conference top of the table clash. This means that “Hoods” join “Thunder” on two losses with “Dynamite” having been beaten just once but that was a forfeited game so the Leicester outfit will not have gained a losing point.

The clash between “Thunder” and “Dynamite” in two weeks time remains a must win game for the Northants boys

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 18th February

No Junior “Ballers”

There are no home games this weekend

Junior Men travel to Sporting Club Albion

Senior Men travel to Sussex “Bears”

Sunday 19th February

Under 14 Girls travel to N.E.B.C. “Titans”

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