

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Senior Men just fail to pull off Cup upset

National Cup Round 1

Nottingham "Hoods" 76 -70 Northants "Thunder"

The newly former Northants senior men almost caused a minor shock in yesterday's National Cup 1st Round game against Nottingham "Hoods". Going into the final period of play the 4th Division "Thunder" led the 3rd Division "Hoods" by no less than nine points. In the last ten minutes of play the Nottingham outfit showed their experience, and this combined with a number of defensive lapses by "Thunder" plus the loss of guard Jonny Yates with five fouls gave the home side the initiative. They took the final quarter 25-10 to take the tie 76-70.

The Northants coaching staff were upbeat despite the defeat and with a couple of other players likely to be available in the near future felt that if they take on the lessons learned in this game, their charges could enjoy a successful Division Four campaign.

At the start of the game "Thunder" had disturbed their opponents with their up-tempo play and aggressive full court defence. "Hoods" responded with some successful pick and roll offences but at the end of the first quarter "Thunder" led 18-10.

"Hoods" switched to a zone defence in the second period of play and with "Thunder" missing a number of open shots, were able to launch a number of fast break attacks. That led to the Nottingham team going on a 16-4 run to take the lead but "Thunder" responded with a 6-zero run of their own to take a 31-28 half time lead.

The third quarter turned out to be a bit of a shoot out with both teams connecting with a number of perimeter shots. "Hoods" were trying to slow the tempo of the game down but this ploy wasn't successful and "Thunder" took a high scoring period 29-23 to take what looked to be a game winning lead at 60-51. In the event "Hoods" rallied in that final quarter to the disappointment of the "Thunder" players.

In the six point loss the "Thunder" scoring was led by Leon Henry with 32 points with Jonny Yates contributing 10 points before fouling out of the game.

"Thunder" will have an early opportunity to get their season back on track when they play their first home game of the season on Saturday. It's a National Shield game against the Derby "Trailblazers" third team.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 19th September

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| 11.30am | Under 14 Boys versus Wolverhampton "Slam" | |
| | Cadet Men versus Derby "Trailblazers" | |
| 1.30pm | Junior Men versus Newcastle "Eagles" | |
| 3.30pm | Senior Men versus Derby "Trailblazers III" | (National Shield) |

All 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

Sunday 30th September

Under 15 Boys travel to Leicester "Dynamite"