

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Quarter Finals nightmare for “Lightning”

Three girl’s teams from the Northants Basketball Club reached the quarter finals of the Play off but last weekend all three of them suffered a heavy defeat which of course means no Final Four place for the teams.

Junior Women go down to “Blue Devils”

Junior Women’s Play Off Quarter Final

Bury “Blue Devils” 71 – 40 Northants “Lightning”

The Northants junior women travelled to Holy Cross College in Bury last Saturday to take on “Blue Devils” in a Play Off quarter final game and ended up on the wrong end of a 66-41 scoreline. The Bury team has been boosted by two players from London currently studying at Burnley College and two players who have defected from Manchester.

From the very start of the game the Northants girls found the game just a little too physical for their liking and the intensity of the Bury defence made scoring very difficult. “Lightning” managed just 20 points in the first two periods of play and found themselves trailing 40-20 at half time.

Things didn’t get any easier for the Northants girls in the third quarter which “Blue Devils” took 15-7 to extend their lead to 55-27 going into the final stanza. “Lightning” kept battling to the end and only lost the last quarter 16-13 but Bury were good value for their 31 point win.

In a game where scoring was at a premium for the Northants girls, Steph Ogden with 14 points was the only “Lightning” player to score in double figures.

Battling “Lightning Too” fall to “Mystics”

Cadette Women’s Play Off Quarter Final s

Manchester “Mystics” 66 – 41 Northants “Lightning Too”

After the game against Bury the eight Cadette Women who had played in the Junior game stayed over in the north of England ready for their game against Manchester “Mystics” the next day.

The final score is no reflection on a battling performance by the Northants girls. They lost the first three periods of play by single figures in a game dominated by defences but at 43-28 they were still in with an outside chance of winning the game going into the last ten minutes of play. Early in the fourth quarter they lost the services of defensive enforcer and top rebounder Rio Blessyn and “Mystics” went on a points scoring charge to take the final quarter 23-13 and win the game by 66 points to 41.

Once again scoring proved difficult for the Northants girls but Amy Boot totalled 10 points and Steph Ogden in her own inimitable way recorded a magnificent 20 point total

“Angels” to strong for Under 15 Girls

Haringey “Angels” 81 – 50 Northants “Lightning”

Ask any coach what they look for in successful players and most of them will answer that they would like technical ability, speed and strength combined with tactical awareness. That is exactly what the Northants under 15 girls faced when they took on Haringey “Angels” last Saturday. Add to this a very accomplished game coach and it is clear that the Northants girls would be really up against it.

The hard fact is that “Lightning” took a 30 plus point beating but that really did not give a true reflection of the game which for long periods was very competitive. The keys to the game lay in a storming start by “Angels” which took them into a 19-4 lead early in the first period of play, and a terrible period at the end of the third quarter and start of the fourth when “Lightning” were outscored 18-1. Other than that the county girls played some determined defence and committed offence to stay competitive with the very talented north London team.

After being outscored 23-9 in the first period of play “Lightning” coach Karen Goodrich switched her team to a zone defence and entered into a fascinating tactical battle with “Angels” coach Dan Bowmaker. Haringey took the second quarter 25-22 and the two sides exchanged baskets for five minutes at the start of the third quarter before “Lightning” hit that nine minute drought to fall behind 77-43 and it was ‘game over’.

There were several positives for the young “Lightning” team with Charlotte Berridge top scoring with 15 points. Ruchae Walton just missed out on a double-double with 13 points and 9 rebounds while Sarah Round scored 9 points and Lauren Milne contributed 7 points and pulled down 9 rebounds.

As a team playing a year young “Lightning” have probably over-achieved this season but they face a summer of hard work if they are to go one better next season and reach the Final Four.

PAST versus PRESENT GAME
&
PRESENTATION EVENING

Next Saturday 27th April is a **BIG** day for the Northants Basketball Club with a Past versus Present Exhibition game a 3 Point Shoot Out and then the Club's Presentation Evening. Full details of the day are:

1-30pm **Past versus Present** game at the Northants Basketball Centre (Admission FREE)

2-15pm **Three Point Shoot Out** Everyone welcome to join in.
(aprox)

7-30pm **Presentation Evening** at the Cripps Recreation Centre at Northampton Hospital

- * Refreshments
- * Most Valuable Player Awards
- * Player's Player of the Year
- * Raffle
- * Table Quiz
- * Music and Entertainment

An evening not to be missed