

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Under 14 Boys march on but it's the end of the Play Off road for Cadette Girls**

#### **Under 14 Boys 1<sup>st</sup> Round Play Off** **Northants "Thunder"                      97 – 51                      York "Eagles"**

The Northants "Thunder" Under 14 Boys advanced to the quarter finals of the Play Offs with a comfortable 46 points win over a below strength York "Eagles" team.

"Thunder" started the game like the proverbial express train rushing out to a 37-9 lead after the first period of play. "Thunder" had created numerous scoring opportunities with their pressure man to man defence which forced a number of errors from the York ball handlers. The "Thunder" lead was extended to 32 points early in the second quarter before "Eagles" mounted a 9-zero run but the Northants boys responded with a 17-4 charge to close the period and open up a 65-29 half time lead.

With the game as good as over "Thunder" were guilty of taking their foot off the gas winning the second half by 32 points to 22 points to cruise into the next round of the Play Offs. Coach Grahame Yates was able to try various combinations of players in preparation for the next round and he was full of praise for the efforts of Zinzan Outhuizen, P.J. Preston and Ainsley Reynolds.

In the next round of the Play Offs, "Thunder" will come up against another "Thunder" this time from Worthing. The south coast team won the South Conference after a perfect season winning all eighteen of their Conference games and last Saturday they beat Southend "Swifts" by 33 points in their Play Off game.

#### **Under 16 Girls 1<sup>st</sup> Round Play Off** **Northants "Lightning"                      44 – 52                      Peckham "Pride"**

Two years ago Coach Karen Goodrich set off on a journey with her then under 14 team girl's team; the aim was simple, make the Final Four Play Offs in 2014. That dream ended last Sunday when the Northants "Lightning" cadette women's team were beaten by an athletic Peckham "Pride" team in the first round of the Play Offs.

The game started well for "Lightning" as a 12-2 run at the end of the first quarter gave them a 19-13 advantage. The London team made their intentions very clear in the second period of play as their guard Akako and centre Ozzy-Momodou got to work at the offensive end and the whole team 'upped' their work rate at the defensive end. "Lightning" were restricted to just six points in the second quarter as "Pride" poured in 12 to tie the scores up at 25 all at half time.

"Lightning" needed a good start to the third quarter but in the event just the opposite happened. "Lightning" heads were elsewhere as Peckham outscored the home side 8-2 to take a 33-27 lead, a lead they were to hold for the remainder of the game. In the third period "Pride's" point guard Scott was beginning to show her quality with a number of penetrating drives into the heart of the "Lightning" defence and at the end of the quarter she had helped her team open up a 39-32 lead.

At the start of the final quarter it was Scott again who caught the eye as an 8-2 Peckham run took them 47-32 ahead. This meant that in a 21 minute period "Lightning" had managed just 13 points to Peckham's 28 and at 32-47 "Lightning's" season looked to be 'on the rocks'. Goodrich pleaded for one last effort and her team responded superbly and a 10-zero run gave their supporters a glimmer of hope. With time running out "Lightning" were forced to foul and send their opponents to the free throw line in the hope they would miss the resulting free throws but "Pride" held on for the eight point win.

In the 44-52 loss only Charlotte Berridge was able to score in double figures for "Lightning" netting 12 points. Lauren Milne, Sarah Round, Caitlin Stewart, and Ruchae Walton who are usually prolific scorers were all restricted to single digit totals despite giving their all. The other five "Lightning" players Eden Brown, Cat Askham, Abi Hobbs, Ella King and Holly Winterburn all saw court time in the game and battled hard for the cause and have been vital cogs in the team's development.

The “Lightning” coach Karen Goodrich was bitterly disappointed about the defeat but also pragmatic. She bemoaned the fact that her team had been placed in such an easy Conference. “My team just got used to winning despite making mistakes. Most of the games this season were just too easy so when we came up against good physical teams we found it difficult to compete.”

She can look back on two very successful seasons including a perfect Conference season in the current campaign, but in the end the team came up just short against a team that was used to tough games most weekends in the South Conference.

### THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April

Under 14 Boys travel to Worthing “Thunder” (Quarter Final Play Off Game)

### **Moulton girls come fifth in British Colleges Championships**

Representing the East Midlands the Moulton College girl’s team claimed 5<sup>th</sup> place in the British Colleges Championships which were staged at Bath University last weekend. Moulton came 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool which contained the two teams that eventually contested the Final.

Having beaten Wyke 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Moulton were well beaten by the eventual champions Oaklands College. This meant that they needed to beat Loreto College from Manchester to make the semi-finals but came up just two points short and were condemned to play off for the minor placings. In these games they comfortably beat Birmingham “Met” and Richard Huish to claim 5<sup>th</sup> place and a feeling they were really the third best team in the competition.

Over the course of the five shortened games the Moulton scoring was led by Rionan Blessyn who totalled 36 points with excellent support coming from Lauren Brookes and Stephanie Ogden.