

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

MEDIA RELEASE

Cadette Women turn on the style for Charlotte and Megan

Cadette Women's Invitational Tournament

Killester B.B.C. Dublin	24 – 54	Northants “Lightning”
London Greenhouse “Pioneers”	33 – 66	Northants “Lightning”

After the disappointment of their Play Off loss against Peckham “Pride” the Northants cadette women were able to end the season on a positive note with two resounding wins in an Invitational Tournament played at Clapton Girls Academy in London.

The wins were pleasing in themselves but the style in which they were achieved was even more pleasing and provided suitable send offs to Charlotte Berridge and Megan Williams. Charlotte is taking up a scholarship offer in Canada while Williams’ family is relocating to Cornwall. Both players were particularly emotional at the end of the second game knowing this would be the last time together with their team mates of three years.

“Lightning’s” first game was against Irish touring team Killester from Dublin. The Irish girls were completely taken out of their stride with the pace and aggression shown by the Northants team which charged out to a 12-zero lead in the first six minutes of play. Using alternating defence “Lightning” totally dominated the second period of play which they won by 20 points to 4 to set up a 32-10 half time lead.

Killester showed more composure in the second half but the final result was never on doubt as “Lightning” cruised to a 30 points win on the back of double figure points tallies from Sarah Round, Caitlin Stewart and Ruchae Walton.

Next up for “Lightning” were the hosts London Greenhouse “Pioneers” an athletic team not unlike the “Pride” team that had defeated the Northants girls in the Play Offs.

After a cagey start “Lightning” was able to break loose early in the first quarter to establish an 18-9 lead and this was extended to 31-17 by half time. What was pleasing to see was the contributions being made by the “Lightning” ‘bench players and the enthusiasm shown by the whole team.

“Pioneers” rallied in the third period of play which they won 11-8 but it was ‘business as usual’ in the fourth with “Lightning” going into ‘Showtime’ mode as they outscored their opponents 18-4 to take the game by 33 points; the highlight of the period being a left handed half court wrap around pass from Ruchae Walton to the speeding Berridge who arrogantly handed the ball off to a team mate for a score.

Once again it was Walton that led the “Lightning” scoring with Sarah Round looking a class act in the back court and Lauren Milne turning in one of her best performances of the season. Her rebounding power was instrumental in her team’s success with Cat Askham and Nia Owens also helping with control of the boards. Harri Owens caught the eye with some dynamic breaks to basket and Eden Brown showed what a good player is going to be while Abbi Hobbs and Ella King both made useful contributions and Caitlin Stewart once again showed her value as the ultimate utility player.

Departee Charlotte Berridge had a quiet tournament by her standards possible affected by the emotion of the occasion while Megan Williams was unable to play because of an ankle injury.

The group may not have achieved their ultimate goal of making it to the Final Fours but they have won Conference titles and shown they were one of the leading under 16 teams in the country and on their day were capable of playing some scintillating basketball.

Tucker is Division Three Player of the Year



“Thunder” guard, Jason Tucker has been voted Division Three North Conference Player of the Year an award which is voted for by all the team coaches in Conference.

This season Tucker led his team to third place in the North Conference and a place in the end of season Play Offs, “Thunder” eventually losing to the eventual 3rd Division champions, London Greenhouse “Pioneers”. Over the course of the season the Northants guard became a major offensive threat from beyond the three-point arc as well as being the team’s defensive inspiration.

Big turn out for the End of Season Presentation Evening

Well over 200 parents and players assembled in the *Reload Cafeteria* at Northampton School for Girls last Friday evening for the Northants Basketball Club’s End of Season Presentation Evening.

During the course of the evening each team coach gave a review of their team’s season and then made an award for either Most Valuable Player or Most Improved Player of the season. Special Long Service awards were made to players leaving the Club after many years of service while Executive Committee member Karen Stewart made the presentation of the Penny Westwood “Fair Play” Award and for the first time this year there was a President’s Award for outstanding service to the Club.

Under 12’s	Presented by Coach Ben Knight	Recipient Ashley Kitchen
Under 13’s	Presented by Coach Mike Round	Recipient Ed Wallhead
Under 14 Boys	Presented by Coach Jonny Yates	Recipient Zin Zan Oosthuizen
Under 14 Girls	Presented by Coach Karen Goodrich	Recipient Holly Winterburn
Under 15 Boys	Presented by Coach Darjius Maldutis	Recipient Ayo Oluymide
Under 15 Girls	Presented by Coach Stacey Shakespeare	Recipient Emma Salisbury
Under 16 Boys	Presented by Coach Rob Crump	Recipient Jacob Killeya
Under 16 Girls	Presented by Coach Karen Goodrich	Recipient Charlotte Berridge
Junior Men	Presented by Coach John Collins	Recipient Sam Round
Junior Women	Presented by Coach Stacey Shakespeare	Recipient Lauren Brookes
Senior Men	Presented by Coach Grahame Yates	Recipient Jacob Holt
Long Service Awards were presented to Lois Bain and Sam Round		
President’s Award	Presented by John Collins	Recipient Mike Kitchen
Fair Play Award	Presented by Karen Stewart	Recipient Jacob Round