

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **“Thunder” win sets up local derby**

#### **National Shield 1<sup>st</sup> Round**

**Northants “Thunder”                      78 – 61                      Derby “Trailblazers III”**

The newly formed Northants men’s team took on the Derby “Trailblazers” third string at Northampton School for Boys last Saturday and picked up a convincing win. “Thunder” set out their stall in the first quarter of the game with some aggressive full court defence which force numerous Derby errors leading to easy scores. The home side took that first period 25-18 and opened the second quarter with an enormous three-pointer from Asher Kirby but then went scoreless for fully six minutes allowing “Trailblazers” to close the gap to six points. “Thunder” recovered their composure with back to back scores from Nick Waller and Merson Paul but Derby closed the period with a 14-4 surge to take the score to 38-36 at half time.

The third period was to prove critical as Derby sensed victory but determined “Thunder” defence and then a change in defensive tactics saw “Thunder” mount a 12-zero rush to ease the nervousness on the Northants bench. Leading 58-48 going into the final ten minutes of play “Thunder” were now in total control of proceedings and only a 7-zero Derby run at the end of the game kept the scores respectable as “Thunder” cruised to a 78-61 win.

For “Thunder” Leon Henry led his side’s scoring with 21 points and he received good support from Jonny Yates, and Merson Paul who scored 18 and 15 points respectively while Nick Waller chipped in with 10 points.

This 17 point win sets up a National Shield 2<sup>nd</sup> Round game against local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”

### **Junior Men downed by “Eagles”**

#### **Junior Men’s Premier Division North**

**Northants “Thunder”                      65 - 88                      Newcastle “Eagles”**

The Northants “Thunder” junior men’s team slipped to defeat against Newcastle “Eagles” and will now appreciate just how tough life in the Premier Division is going to be.

“Thunder” were competitive for two of the four periods of play but were literally blown away in the other two. The other concern for Coach Rob Eddon is the fact that only two of his players scored in double figures. There is a desperate need for more players to step up to plate and play with more confidence.

“Eagles” rushed out to a 25-15 lead after the first quarter despite the best efforts of Matt Yates who scored all but one of his team’s points. “Thunder” edged the second period 26-24 with five players contributing to the scoring but the team slipped back to their old habits in the third which Eagles” took 23-12 and the game was as good as over as a contest.

To their credit “Thunder” never gave up and only lost the fourth period by just two points eventually slipping to a 65-88 defeat.

In the 23 points defeat Yates scored 29 points with the major support coming from Jack Thomas, Linas Bajouras and Lewis Mooney

## **Nightmare four minutes costs Cadets dear**

### **Cadet Men's Premier Division North**

**Northants "Thunder"                      64 – 72                      Derby "Trailblazers"**

With four minutes remaining of the third period of play in this North Premier Division game "Thunder" were holding a narrow 48-45 lead in a game which had seen the lead change hands on a number of occasions. "Thunder" then virtually gifted their opponents 12 points allowing "Trailblazers" to score almost at will and from then on the home side were desperately playing catch up.

Trailing 61-50 "Thunder" mounted a spirited comeback and a 9-zero charge reduced the deficit to just two points. Needing control and composure "Thunder" were guilty of poor shot selection and sloppy defence which allowed Derby to regain control and the visitors ran out winners by a rather flattering eight points.

In the 64-72 loss the "Thunder" scoring was led by Andre Agassi and Josh Round with 20 and 18 points respectively. Good support came from Pauli Laurinolli and George Paul who scored 12 and 9 points but the other six "Thunder" players could only contribute five points between them.

## **Heavy defeat for Under 15 Boys**

### **Under 15 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Leicester Dynamite                      95 – 53                      Northants "Thunder"**

The Northants "Thunder" under 15 boys made the short to Leicester for their first Midlands Conference game and returned after suffering a heavy defeat. "Thunder" scored the first two baskets of the game but were then guilty of losing the ball on a number of occasions against "Dynamite's" full court press. "Thunder" were also finding it difficult to contain their opponents big men and found themselves trailing 23-9 after the first 10 minutes of play.

An 8-zero "Thunder" run got them back into the game but then, despite their best efforts they conceded a number of Leicester put backs who led 43-24 at the half. Coach Rob Crump employed a zone defence in the third period and this reduced "Dynamite's" scoring opportunities but "Thunder" found scoring difficult themselves and lost the quarter 21-13 which saw the Leicester outfit leading 74-37

"Thunder" battled to the end despite the fact the result was no longer in doubt and they only just lost the final quarter 21-16 to slip to a 95-53 loss despite the best efforts of Ed Hall who amassed 19 points. He received good support from Carlo Nieva who scored 10 points and Jacob Killeya who contributed 8 points while Coach Crump praised the hustle of his whole team especially Will Grosvenor.

## **"Slam" presents no problem for Under 14 boys**

### **Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants "Thunder"                      72 – 43                      Team Wolverhampton "Slam"**

The Northants "Thunder" under 14 boys opened their season with a routine win over a game but inexperienced Wolverhampton "Slam" team. The home side were guilty of missing a number of easy scoring opportunities in the first quarter which they took 23-16 and this lead was extended to 39-26 by half time.

"Thunder" were in determined mood in the third quarter with their defensive effort noticeably increased. "Slam" found it increasingly difficult to advance the ball up court and on numerous occasions the visitors had the ball stolen away from them by the tenacious defence of Jacob Round and David Nieva who then fed the ball to debutant Robert Clarke for easy scores. "Thunder" took the period 21-4 to extend their lead to 60-30 and they held on for the win despite losing the final quarter 12-13.

In the 29 point win the "Thunder" scoring was dominated by David Nieva and Jacob Round who scored 28 and 22 points respectively while Clarke had a 10 point haul.

## THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October

11.30am Under 13 Boys versus London Feltham "Warriors"  
Junior Women versus Chiltern "Pumas"

1.30pm Under 15 Boys versus Coventry "Tornadoes"  
Under 15 Girls versus Gloster "Jets"

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

Cadet Men travel to Manchester "Magic"  
Junior Men travel to Trafford