

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Weekend for of mixed fortunes for Northants Basketball Club

“Thunder” crash out of National Shield thanks to poor second quarter

National Shield Rounds 1

City of Birmingham “Rockets” 81 – 63 Northants “Thunder”

A combination of an appalling second quarter and poor shooting from beyond the three point arc was responsible for this disappointing loss. “Thunder” were competitive for three periods of the game but lost the second by 21 points to nine and from then on it was catch up time but one from twenty shooting from beyond the arc proved to be costly.

The new look “Thunder” outfit made a reasonable start to the game with Richard Higgins and Matt Yates scoring freely but the Northants players were guilty of some poor transition defence and “Rockets” were able to ease out to a 24-21 lead after the first quarter.

It was obvious that “Thunder” needed to make adjustments especially in the execution of their offence but in the second period of play they were guilty of poor shot selection and the home side were able to secure rebounds and launch numerous fast breaks. “Rockets” outscored “Thunder” 21-9 to lead 45-30 half time and the game was as good as over as a contest.

For the final two periods “Thunder” tried their best to close the gap but despite a couple of surges they never looked capable of winning the game and their cause wasn’t helped when Higgins got into foul trouble after a number of dubious looking ‘calls’. “Thunder” eventually went down by 18 points and will need to work hard during practices this week before their National Cup clash against Division 2 outfit London United on Sunday.

In the disappointing result Matt Yates top scored with 17 points well supported by Higgins and Jason Tucker with 14 and 11 points respectively. Of the newcomers to the team Hayden Alcindor showed some promising touches and scored 6 points.

Cadets savaged by “Wolves”

Under 16 Boys Midlands West Conference

Northants “Thunder” 43 – 111 Worcester “Woves”

The Northants Cadet Men started their season in disappointing fashion losing heavily to the Worcester Bears. The “Bears” showed their dominance right from the tip storming into a 4-18 lead displaying high tempo offense complimented with efficient shooting from the perimeter. Seven consecutive points by Ashley Kitchen reduced the deficit to 9 points, but a lack of discipline on defence by “Thunder” saw them in foul trouble as the “Bears” extended their lead 13-27. “Bears” continued to showcase their superiority nailing six 3 pointers, whilst a fatigued and foul troubled “Thunder” failed to deny Worcester consecutive opportunities on the fast break. This saw the “Bears” score 34 quarter points boasting a 24-61 lead at half time.

“Thunder’s” foul troubles continued to worsen throughout the second half as Berry, Solazzo, Litsai, Atuanya and Dambrouskas all faced reduced court time. “Bears” continued to show their sharpshooting in the second half finishing the game scoring 12 successful shots from behind the arc. “Bears” eventually ran out winners by 111 points to 43 with “Thunder” wanting to forget this fixture very quickly.

“Thunder” were led in scoring by Ashley Kitchen with 20 points with Ameka Atuanya scoring 6 points.

Coach Crump commented “Despite playing a team that should really be in the Premier League this was a very disappointing start to the season. “Bears” showed their qualities playing a high tempo offense and efficient shooting behind the arc, but we lacked discipline and determination in segments of the game, the large deficit could have been avoided by showing greater focus on doing key elements of the game well.”

Greenfield leads Under 14 Boys to comfortable win.

Under 14 Boys Midlands West Conference

City of Birmingham “Rockets II” 38 – 64 Northants “Thunder”

The Northants Under 14 Boys opened their Conference programme with a comfortable win over a young and inexperienced C.O.B. “Rockets” second string.

Led by skipper Tom Greenfield, “Thunder” dominated the first three periods of play racing out to a 53-22 lead with Benas Maldutis responsible for putting a great deal of pressure on the “Rockets” ball carriers. Coach John Collins was disappointed that when he rested Greenfield the momentum went from “Thunder’s offensive effort and they actually lost the final quarter 11-16.

In the 26 points win Greenfield recorded an impressive double, double of 26 points and 17 rebounds. Maldutis scored 11 points and Jaffrey Haider had 11 rebounds to go with his 10 points haul.

“Thunder” will face a much sterner test this Saturday when they face Milton Keynes “Trojans”

No action for Junior Men

Junior Men’s Central Premier League

“Thunder’s” opponents Oaklands “Wolves” were unable to find transport so the game was postponed. The fixture will be re-arranged for later in the season

Sade inspires “Lightning” to comeback win

Under 16 Girls North Conference

Northants “Lightning” 70 - 54 Leicester “Warriors”

Led by Sade Chambers the Northants Cadette Girls staged a spirited comeback to defeat Leicester “Warriors” by 16 points at the Basketball Centre last Saturday.

“Lightning” made a lethargic start to the game and compounded by missing nine three throws found themselves trailing 11-15 after the first period of play. New Coach, Emma Salisbury urged her team to pick up the tempo of their play and a three-pointer from Poppy Barnett and a free throw from Chambers early in the second quarter saw “Lightning” take the lead. “Warriors” battled back to re-take of the lead but despite missing another eight free throws “Lightning” were able to ease ahead again thanks to Dina Kosnikovska’s first basket of the game and they led 28-25 at half time.

“Lightning” went into the third quarter full of confidence and with six players scoring they were able to extend their lead to 48-37 going into the final ten minutes of play.

Any hopes “Warriors” had of getting back into the game were dashed by the efforts of Chambers. Not only did she score six points, she also generated energy in the “Lightning” defensive effort with a number of interceptions and rebounds. Despite losing the services of Barnett with five fouls, “Lightning” took the final quarter 22-17 to run out winners by 70 points to 54 which will send them into their Cup game against local rivals “Titans” full of confidence.

In the 16 points win Chambers top scored with 17 points with good support coming from Barnett, Olivia Baldwin and Kosnikovska all of whom scored in double figures

Under 14 Girls well beaten by “Bobcats”

Under 14 Girls Midlands East Conference

Northants “Lightning” 43 – 66 Ipswich “Bobcats”

The “Lightning” Under 14 Girls came out second best in their Midlands East Conference game against a well drilled Ipswich “Bobcats” team.

From the outset the “Lightning” players were shocked by the intensity of the “Bobcats” defence and the speed of their offence. The Northants girls were guilty of giving the ball away on numerous occasions resulting in fast break scores for Ipswich who had raced into a 35-16 half time lead.

During the half time break Coach Karen Goodrich tried to lift her shell shocked players and they responded in the second half. They were able to come to terms with the pace of the game and were much more competitive only losing the half 27-31 with Lucie Wilson-Gray who closed the game with 21 personal points including three 3 pointers showing her class while Isabella Rinon put in a good defensive shift.

Gutsy Under 13 Girls beat Inceni “Demons”

Northants “Lightning II” 41- 38 Norfolk Inceni “Demons”

With less than six minutes of this Midlands East Conference game remaining “Lightning” were trailing by 38 points to 31. Urged on by a large vociferous crowd “Lightning II” kept their opponent’s scoreless while scoring ten themselves to win an enthralling game by three points.

The Northants girls made a nervous start to the game and trailed 5-14 after the first quarter having missed an alarming nine free throws. They were able to close the gap in the second period of play which they took 12-6 but they lost the services of Ashia King who picked up a nasty ankle injury.

Trailing 29-34 “Lightning” exerted a lot of defensive pressure in the third quarter with Keris Ndubisi making numerous steals and Latesha Betsy hitting some crucial perimeter shots. Despite the best efforts of the “Lightning” players, “Demons” were able to take the period 14-12 to go into the last ten minutes of play leading 34-29.

That lead was extended to 38-31 before the amazing finale as “Lightning II” recorded a tremendous victory.

In the three point win the “Lightning” scoring was led by Betsy and Athena Thompson who both scored 10 points while Ndubisi capped a fine all-round performance with 9 personal points.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 29th September

9.30-11.00am	Junior "Ballers" Session
11.30am	Under 14 Boys versus Milton Keynes "Trojans"
1.30pm	Under 18 Boys versus Team Birmingham

These games and the "Ballers" session will take place at the **Northants Basketball Centre** which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill road, Northampton.

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Under 16 Boys travel to Coventry "Tornadoes"
Under 14 Girls travel to County Upper

Sunday 30th September

1.00pm	Under 16 Boys versus Oaklands "Wolves" (National Cup)
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This game and will be played at the **Northants Basketball Centre** which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill road, Northampton

Senior Men travel to London United (National Cup)
Under 18 Boys travel to Canterbury (National Cup)
Under 16 Girls travel to Northamptonshire "Titans" (National Cup)

For more information on this Press Release contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151