

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Junior Women open their campaign with a big win

Junior Women's Midland Conference

Northants "Lightning" 86 – 23 Chiltern "Pumas"

Against this young and inexperienced team "Lightning" were able to dominate all four periods of the game. By half time the game was as good as over as a contest with a 40-14 score line in favour of "Lightning". To their credit "Pumas" kept trying to the end but couldn't prevent all eleven Northants players getting onto the score sheet. Steph Ogden turned in a high quality performance in scoring 27 points and she was well supported by captain Isobel Johns with 15 points while both Amy Boot and Lois Bain scored in double figures.

Under 15 Girls take a major scalp

Cadette Women's Midlands South West Conference

Northants "Lightning" 65 – 58 Gloster "Jets"

This season the Northants "Lightning" under 15 girls will play in the Under 16 Girls National League. Last Saturday they had their first game and picked up a creditable win against Gloster "Jets". "Jets" arrived with just six players and to conserve energy sat in a zone defence for the entire game.

The young Northants team trailed through the first three quarters of the game with Gloster's Lucy Jane Weaver causing the home team a lot of problems with her perimeter shooting and close to the basket work. Karen Goodrich the "Lightning" coach was giving all twelve of her players plenty of court time with a lot of up-court pressure. Trailing 37-40 going into the final period of play the Northants pressure finally paid off and they took the quarter 26-18 to win the game 65-58.

In the seven point win the "Lightning" scoring was led by Charlotte Berridge and Caitlin Stewart with 18 and 15 points respectively while Sarah Round scored 12 points. Coach Goodrich was full of praise for the sharp shooting of Ellie McHarg who scored 10 points.

Nightmare third quarter costs Cadet Men dear

Cadet Men's Premier Division North

Manchester "Magic" 90 – 60 Northants "Thunder"

This score line looks as if last Saturday's game was the usual one-sided affair seen when Northants teams take on the might of Manchester but nothing could be further from the truth. Ignoring the third period of play the score was "Magic" 64 "Thunder" 54. What happened in the third quarter was little short of carnage with the Northants zone defence totally capitulating while their offence became totally based on individual efforts.

At half time "Thunder" trailed 32-46 and had problems with the Manchester 'big' men Ali and Walters with their slashing cuts to basket. This led to Coach John Collins switching to a zone defence but "Thunder" spent the next six minutes playing like headless chickens as "Magic" scored at will from both the perimeter and close to the basket.

To their credit "Thunder" took the final quarter 22-18 but by then the result of the game wasn't in doubt and the Manchester coach was resting key players ready for the Junior Men's game.

In the 30 point loss Pauli Laurinolli top scored with 18 points while Andre Arissol scored 13 points and tried to organise his team's offence. George Calvey picked up a double-double with 10 points and the same number of rebounds.

Junior Men see off Trafford

Trafford **Junior Men's Premier Division North**
70 – 49 **Northants "Thunder"**

Just less than hour after overpowering the Northants Cadet Men, Manchester now in the guise of Trafford took on the Northants Junior Men. It didn't take them long to realise that they were in for a rather different kind of game as Luke Lewis and Matt Yates put enormous pressure on their guards. On a number of occasions this pressure led to turn-overs and easy scores for "Thunder" and by the end of the first period of play they had opened up a 31-12 lead.

After a superb first quarter it was a case of 'after the Lord Mayor's Show' in the second. "Thunder" scored just four points in six minutes as Trafford began to score freely in the paint. The Northants coaching staff had stern words for their charges but Trafford took the quarter 16-12 to reduce the deficit to 15 points at 43-28 by half time.

As the third quarter unfolded "Thunder" were still having problems with their offensive cohesion managing just nine points. Thankfully their defence remained sound and Trafford were restricted to just 10 points. Even so at 52-38 the home side were back in the game and they started the final stanza in confident mood.

This mood was well and truly subdued early in the quarter as the "Thunder" pressure once again forced numerous Trafford errors and Pauli Laurinolli and Josh Elliott were clinical with their finishing. Defensively "Thunder" were playing out of their skins led by the efforts of Jack Thomas while Linas Bajorumas was rebounding superbly. "Thunder" took the quarter 18-11 to take a well deserved 21 point win.

The "Thunder" scoring was once again dominated by Matt Yates who totalled 33 points but Coach Rob Eddon was quick to emphasise the effort of his team mates in providing him with those scoring opportunities.

Sam Round

Last Saturday England international guard Sam Round underwent successful surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament. The injury occurred when Sam was training with the East Midlands team and he is likely to be side lined for nine months.

Big win for Under 15 Boys

Northants "Thunder" **Under 15 Boys Midlands Conference**
87- 29 **Coventry "Tornadoes"**

The Northants Thunder under 15 boys bounced back from last weekend's big defeat against Leicester Dynamite with a home win against Coventry Tornadoes. For various reasons "Thunder" were only able to suit up eight players for the fixture but they exploded into an 11-2 lead. This lead came about thanks to Thunder's aggressive full court pressure defence intimidating the Tornadoes ball handlers who turned over the ball numerous times resulting in easy "Thunder" scores.

Despite a Coventry time out and a speculative but successful three point shot a number of drives by Carlo Nieva saw "Thunder" go on a 10-zero run which gave them a 25-5 first quarter lead.

Coach Rob Crump encouraged his team to maintain their defensive presence and his players responded positively and "Thunder" embarked on a 19-zero run to extend their lead. Carlo Nieva continued to look impressive and he was well supported by Brendan Ross, Jacob Round and David Nieva while Rhys Hill and Jacob Killeya were rebounding strongly. By half time "Thunder's" efforts had been rewarded with a 52-19 lead and there was no way back for "Tornadoes".

In the third quarter Coventry resort to a 2-3 zone defence which they implemented for the remainder of the game. Good ball movement by "Thunder" found Jacob Killeya for consecutive scores close to basket while frequent fast breaks kept the scoreboard ticking over and by the end of the quarter their lead had been extended to 62-19.

The full court pressure defence had its effect on the “Thunder” players in the final period of play and they looked a little jaded and fatigued. Their dominance wasn’t as marked as in the previous three quarters but they still took the period 16-10 to run out comfortable winners by 87 points to 29.

The “Thunder” scoring was led by Carlo Nieva with 32 points and he was well supported by Jacob Killeya with 16 points, whilst Rhys Hill and Brendan Ross contributed with 15 and 10 points respectively. Coach Crump was very happy with his team effort and commitment but he was less pleased by the fact that his team was only able to make 3 free throws out of 22 attempts.

Round’s efforts not enough to save Under 13’s

Under 13 Boys Midlands South Conference

Northants “Thunder” 76 – 88 London Feltham “Warriors”

The Northants “Thunder” under 13 boys slipped to defeat against Feltham “Warriors” despite a mercurial effort from Jacob Round who finished the game with a massive 54 point haul.

“Thunder” eased into a 19-12 lead after the first six minutes of the game despite missing no less than ten free throws. “Warriors” raised their defensive efforts and kept “Thunder” scoreless for the remainder of the period to take a 24-19 lead

The two teams traded baskets through the second period but try as they may “Thunder” couldn’t close the gap and at half time they trailed 42-49. Coach Mike Round asked for an increased defensive effort in the second half and his players responded well. With the gap down to just three points and several “Warriors” in foul trouble a “Thunder” win looked possible but the visitors held on for a deserved 88-76 win.

Coach Round commented that 95% of the visitors points had come from just three players while obviously his own team’s total was dominated by Jacob Round with the only real support coming from Laurence Williams who scored 16 points.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 13th October

9-30am to 11-00am	Under 13 and Under 13 Practice
10-00am to 11-00am	Junior “Ballers”
11-15am	Under 14 Boys versus Northamptonshire “Titans”
	Under 13 Girls versus Ipswich “Bobcats”
1-15pm	Cadet Men versus Northamptonshire “Titans”
3-15pm	Junior Men versus Sheffield Junior “Sharks”
	Junior Women travel to Herts “Warriors”

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

Sunday 14th October

Under 14 Girls travel to Southend “Swifts”