

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

No joy for Northants senior in Middlesex after ‘rough house’ loss.

National League Division 3
(North Conference)

Middlesex LTBC

86 – 57

Northants “Thunder”

The Northants senior men travelled to Harefield Academy to take on Middlesex LTBC still looking for their first league win of the season. They returned still empty handed after losing a bad tempered and poorly controlled encounter.

Thunder made a slow start to the game and soon found themselves playing catch up but were still in contact after the first period of play. The second quarter was not a good one for the Northants outfit as the home side were able to capitalise on Thunder turn overs to score from breakaways. By half time LTBC had opened up a 17 point lead at 46-29 and Thunder knew they would have to take better care of the ball if they were to get back into contention.

The third quarter saw Thunder doing just this but unfortunately they became impatient on offence taking shots too early and then rebounding poorly. The home side were able to gather in numerous rebounds and launch a series of fast breaks so increasing their lead without any great effort. By now the game had begun to degenerate with the game officials struggling to keep control and after a number of unsavoury incidents one of which saw Johnny Yates having his shirt ripped off his back, three players were disqualified from the game.

The game ended with a comfortable 29 points win for LTBC who remain unbeaten. For Thunder Richard Higgins had 11 points and Jacob Holt 10 while Danny Barrett and Johnny Yates chipped in with nine apiece. Thunder now need to turn their thoughts to this coming weekend when they have two games one in the league and the second a National Shield clash against local rivals Oxford Stealers,

.Big time revenge for Junior Men over Warriors

Junior Men’s East Midlands Development League

Northants “Thunder”

107 – 49

Leicester “Warriors”

Last weekend Thunder and Warriors met in the National Cup resulting in a disappointing loss for Thunder despite holding an 11 point lead going into the final quarter. So Thunder went into this game with a point to prove, and despite only being able to field six players for the game were able to exact revenge in no uncertain fashion.

Thunder made a sloppy start to game which saw them missing a number of easy shots around the basket following good offensive play. Both teams exchanged baskets through the early stages of the quarter until a 9-0 surge from Thunder which included a 3 pointer from Jacob Killeya. This saw the home team take the upper hand and by the end of the quarter they had opened up a 20-14 lead.

Thanks to some energetic play from David Nieva at the start of the second period of play Thunder were able to extend their lead thanks to an 8-zero run. Feeding off Nieva’s efforts the rest of the Thunder players ‘raised’ their games forcing Warriors into a number of errors which Thunder capitalised on to score fast break baskets. With the home side a respectable lead at 33-18, they were able close out the quarter in dominant style with a 19-3 surge including a Carlo Nieva four point play on the buzzer.

With Thunder leading 52-22 at half time both teams seemed shell shocked. Despite his teams domination Coach Rob Crump reinforced to his players the importance of not becoming complacent. Needing a major effort Warriors started the third quarter in determined mood displaying strong penetration to the basket as they managed to reduce the deficit. Coach Crump made some defensive adjustments which unsettled the Warriors offence, and when they did get the ball into the keyway Ayo Oduyede was on hand to block a number of shots. Midway through the quarter, Thunder exploded into life finishing the period with a stunning 22-zero run with Carlo Nieva hitting four consecutive three pointers. This saw Thunder leading 80-30 lead at the end of the quarter

With the game as good as won Thunder continued to exhibit some good perimeter shooting with Jake Nailer and Ollie Thomas combining for five three pointers taking their game total to an impressive 11. Warriors continued to battle despite it being a 'lost cause' for them but they could do nothing to stop Thunder cruising to a 107 to 49 victory with Ollie Thomas capping an impressive performance with 33 personal points while the Nieva brothers Carlo and David contributed 23 and 17 points respectively. Coach Crump commented: "The response the players gave today after last week's disappointment was faultless. Despite only fielding six players, this was an excellent team effort, with each player making a significant contribution offensively and defensively. We played with confidence and showed excellent effort levels which allowed us to capitalise on offence. This is something we must build upon in the upcoming weeks when we compete against tougher opposition."

Below par Cadets go down to Trailblazer

Cadet Men's Midlands Development League

Derby "Trailblazers" 68 – 55 Northants "Thunder"

Fresh from their convincing win over Nottingham Hoods the previous weekend the Northants Cadet Men went into this East Midlands derby against Derby Trailblazers in optimistic mood; after all the Derby team had lost to Hoods. It seemed that the Thunder players thought they had just got to turn up to earn the win because at the start of the game they were 'on another planet'. Turn over followed turnover and missed shot followed missed shot with only Shekina Ntumba keeping his team in the game. Despite his efforts Thunder found themselves trailing 12-19 and forcing coach Grahame Yates to take a time out. His words seemed to inspire his team and Zak Kitchen connected with a couple of jumpers to take Thunder on a 10-2 run to give them a narrow 22-21 lead after the first period of play.

The second quarter saw the Northants boys revert to all the bad habits of the first and they went fully five minutes without scoring. In fact they only managed seven points all quarter while the home side continued to capitalise on Thunder errors. Despite this Derby could only manage 12 points themselves to take a narrow 33-29 half time lead.

During the half time interval Coach Yates urged his team to be patient and take control of the game. Once again his charges seemed to have taken his advice on board and after six minutes of the third quarter had edged ahead 43-39. Once again though Thunder lost their concentration and Trailblazers mounted a 9-2 run to lead 48-45 going into the final stanza.

Hopes that Thunder would close the game in a positive style were quickly dispelled as the team slipped back into all their bad habits. As the game became more and more scrappy several of the players lost their control eventually leading to one player from each team being expelled from the game. By now Derby had gained total control of the game winning the fourth quarter 20-10 to close out a 13 point win.

For Thunder 30 of their points came from Ntumba and Josh Lloyd who contributed 18 and 12 points respectively while Chris Amankomah put in a good shift at both ends of the court. The team has two games next week and it's to be hoped the positive side of the team turns up.

Under 16 Girls well beaten by Wildcats

Under 16 Girls Premier League North

Northants "Lightning" 39 - 104 Nottingham "Wildcats"

In the past games between these two East Midlands rivals had been close run things but this wasn't the case in Lightning's first game in the Premier League. Without last seasons' leading scorers Lucy Amena and Holly Winterburn, both sidelines because of injury Lightning struggled against the athleticism of England players Denise Lawal and Mya Hyacinth.

Wildcats dominated all four periods of play but the Lightning players never gave up despite the visitors continuing to employ a full court pressure defence even when they had established a 50 plus points lead. For Lightning the only player to score in double figures was Odera Onwumechili with 13 but Bahira Barakat put in a gutsy performance.

Gutsy Under 14 Girls edge past Leopards

Under 14 Girls East Midland Conference

Northants "Lightning" 51 – 45 Brentwood "Leopards"

After the previous week's defeat against the other Brentwood team the Northants Under 14 girls were understandably nervous going into this game. Once the contest was underway those nerves disappeared but still trailed Leopards 10-16 after the first quarter.

The second period of play saw some impressive offensive play from Katie Dinnell and Dina Kosnikovska which helped Lightning take the quarter 22-12 and edge out to a 32-28 half time lead.

Both teams struggled to find the basket in the third quarter with the spoils being shared at 8 points each so there was still everything to play for going into the fourth quarter. Leopards did everything in their power to close the gap giving the fans and parents of the Lightning girls some nervous moment but the Northants girls were able to take the period 11-9 and win the game by 51 points to 45 and so record their first win of the season.

The Lightning scoring was led by Kosnikovska and Dinnell with 15 and 14 points respectively while Ony Onwumehili capped another strong all-round performance with 12 points.

Coach Stacey Shakespeare was pleased with the efforts of all her team and his hoping the girls can carry this performance into this weekend's game against Oakland Wolves.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 17th October

9-30am to 11.00am

11-45pm

1-45pm

Junior "Ballers" session

Under 16 Boys versus Derbyshire "Arrows"

Senior Men versus Barking & Dagenham "Thunder"

These games will be played 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**

Junior Men travel to Notts Nova

Under 14 Girls travel to Oaklands "Wolves"

Sunday 18th October

12.00 noon

Senior Men versus Oxford "Stealers"

(National Shield game at the Basketball Centre)

Under 16 Boys travel to Sporting Club Albion

(National Cup game)

Under 14 Boys travel to City Of Birmingham II

For further information contact John Collins on 07801 53315