

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Girls teams go three and zero but disappointing loss for the Senior men

Nightmare three minutes costs “Thunder” dear

Division Four (Midlands Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 77 – 90 Charnwood College “Riders”

With five minutes left of this Midlands Conference game, “Thunder” were holding a narrow 72-64 lead despite not playing to their full potential. They were then hit by a 17-zero blitz in three minutes during which time they completely lost their discipline and despite their best efforts slipped to a 13 points defeat.

After starting the game well “Thunder” lost their momentum in the middle of the first quarter and a 15-1 Charnwood run gave them a 21-17 lead.

In the first quarter “Thunder” had found themselves in foul trouble which caused problems with their player rotations. Despite this they were able to seize the initiative winning the period 27-14 to take a 44-35 half time lead.

In the first half, “Thunder” had been troubled with the ability of the Charnwood players to penetrate past defenders and ‘kick’ the ball to open perimeter shooters. To combat this “Thunder” switched to a zone defence which solved the problem but the Northants team still looked unsure on offence and were disrupted by the loss of Matt Yates. In the third quarter both teams scored 20 points with “Thunder” leading by 64 points to 55 going into the last ten minutes of play.

“Thunder” felt they had a height advantage but were unable to get the ball to their bigger players while Charnwood were relying on perimeter shooting. They connected with three shots from beyond the arc while “Thunder” were guilty of missing a number of free throws. Then came that nightmare three minutes with Charnwood hitting another four three-pointers.

In the hugely disappointing loss Jason Tucker led the “Thunder” scoring with 19 personal points but Richard Higgins with 14 points was the only other “Thunder” player to score in double figures; while for “Riders” the talented Adekeye scored 22. The game statistics made ugly reading for “Thunder”, they converted only two of their 19 three-point shots in comparison with their opponents 12 and they were guilty of missing an alarming 17 free throws.

Cadet Boys beaten by “Rockets” second string

Under 16 Boys Midlands West Conference

City of Birmingham “Rockets II” 62 – 58 Northants “Thunder”

The “Thunder” cadet boys travelled to Birmingham to face Midlands rivals COB “Rockets II” and for the second consecutive game, they were missing three key players particularly the height and inside presence of Tom Peachey and Ameka Awanya.

The “Rockets” began the game in assertive mood and were able to convert second chance shots due to “Thunder’s” failure to contain drives to basket and ‘box out’. This saw them trail 2-10 before two 3 pointers from Ashley Kitchen installed some confidence but “Thunder” trailed 20-23 and the conclusion of the first quarter.

“Thunder” were very poor offensively in the second quarter, only able to score six points in the quarter and became too reliant on the perimeter shoots. They were also hesitant in attacking the basket although they did an adequate job defensively and thanks to the home side missing several easy shots were able to hold C.O.B. to just 13 quarter points. This meant that C.O.B. led Thunder 36-26 at the half.

Coach Crump resorted to employing a zone defense in the third quarter to restrict “Rockets” ability to score close to basket and this frustrated the home side’s offence who struggled to nail shots from long range. This allowed “Thunder” to capitalise on the break reducing the deficit to 41-46 going into the final quarter.

Due to the new Conference defence rules, “Thunder” were required to adapt their game plan as they were ineligible to employ a zone defence in quarters two and four. This meant that “Thunder” had to look to “Help” within their man to man defence in order to limit the “Rockets” penetration to basket. “Thunder” were able to establish a lead in the quarter with back to back scores from Cameron Leighton supported with successful shots from behind the arc by Ashley Kitchen and Kris Dambrauskas.

With Thunder leading as many by seven points with three minutes to go, the game reach a pinnacle moment when a small surge by the “Rockets” and two poor turnovers in quick succession by “Thunder” saw the home side regain the lead. A late three pointer by Grigori Litsai reduced the deficit to two points but the visitors were able to seal the victory from the free throw line.

In the disappointing four point loss “Thunder” were led in scoring by Ashely Kitchen with 17 points, supported by Grigori Litsai with 12 points. Cameron Leighton and Kris Dambrauskas both contributed 10 points apiece.

Coach Crump commented “It is very disappointing to be unable to field a full strength team for the second consecutive game. Regardless of this, we made some very poor decisions offensively in the first half and particularly in the second quarter. We responded positively in the second half overcoming a 12-point deficit, however, two very poor turnovers in quick succession turned the game on its head. These minor elements of the game could have seen a different outcome, this will be a significant learning curve for us as a team going forwards.”

Under 14 Boys get the better of “Titans Purples”

Under 14 Boys Midlands West Conference

N.E.B.C. “Titans Purple” 62 – 80 Northants “Thunder”

The Northants under 14 boys picked up their second win of the season after defeating Northamptonshire “Titans Purple” last Saturday. “Thunder” turned in an efficient performance although the 18 point final margin wasn’t a true reflection of a very competitive game.

The early exchanges were a battle between the two teams talented point guards Benas Maldutis for “Thunder” and Ethan Round for “Titans”. Round got the better of these early exchanges but good work from “Thunder’s” Dylan Dominici and a couple of baskets from Andrew Lleshi gave their team a 17-16 lead after the first period of play.

In the second quarter Maldutis scored with a number of strong drives to basket and with Jaffrey Haider and Tom Greenfield scoring close to basket, “Thunder” were able to gain the ascendancy moving ahead by 39 points to 29 at half time.

“Titans” were able to keep in touch at the start of the third quarter but thanks to the continued efforts of Greenfield and Maldutis, “Thunder” were able to keep their noses in front edging the quarter 22-17 to take a 61-46 lead into the last ten minutes of play. “Titans” made a strong start to the last quarter reducing the lead to 11 points with Doyle causing them problems with his ball handling skills. “Thunder” were able to regroup and closed the game with an 11-4 charge to give the final score line a rather unrealistic look.

For “Thunder”, Greenfield top scored with 22 points well supported by Maldutis and Haider with 19 and 16 points respectively while Coach John Collins paid tribute to the efforts of Dominici and Lleshi

Under 13 Girls edge past Nottingham “Wildcats”

Under 14 Girls Midlands East Conference

Nottingham “Wildcats”	62 – 65	Northants “Lightning”
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The Northants under 13 girls recorded an impressive comeback win against Nottingham “Wildcats” last Saturday. With three minutes of the game remaining “Lightning” trailed by six points but inspired by some outstanding rebounding from Ashia King, backed up by some excellent defence from Athena Thompson they clawed their way back into the game. Their effort was handicapped when Kerid Ndubisi fouled out of the game but cheered on by a large contingent of supporters and thanks to crucial steals from Latesha Betsy and Deyanna Singh-Hurditt, they were able to take the game by just three points.

Earlier in the game “Wildcats” took an early 14-11 lead but “Lightning” came storming back to win the second quarter 22-12 thanks to some excellent defensive pressure. Leading 33-26 going into the third period of play, “Lightning” were guilty of some sloppy play and “Wildcats”, led by Marvin seized the initiative and closed the gap to 49-45 by the end of the quarter.

Then came the nail-biting final period before “Lightning” were able to take the game but the real winner was the sport of basketball with 23 girls contributing to an excellent game played in excellent spirit.

Two wins for Under 12 Girls

North of England Under 12 Girls Central Venue League

Northants “Lightning”	64 – 4	Leeds “Force”
Northants “Lightning”	45 – 18	Derby “Trailblazers”

The Northants Under 12 Girls travelled to Repton for their second North of England tournament and returned with two comfortable wins.

Leeds have only just established their girls programme and fielded a very young and inexperienced team which was no challenge for “Lightning”. In the first half the sharp “Lightning” players made a number of interceptions and ran in lay ups and the one-side contest continued in the second half despite Coach Kim Thompson withdrawing her players into a half court defence and stopping fast breaks.

In the easy win all ten “Lightning” players scored led by Rosie Hodgson and Keris Ndubisi

Derby had also comfortably beaten Leeds so a more competitive contest was expected and “Trailblazers” jumped out to a 4-zero lead capitalising on some sloppy “Lightning” play. The Northants girls edged the first quarter 9-6 but turned in a sparkling performance in the second period taking it 20-2 thanks to some aggressive defence.

Coach Thompson was able to give all ten of her players plenty of court time in the second half which “Lightning” won 16-13 to take the game by 45 points to 18 with their scoring led once again by Keris Ndubisi.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 13th October

- 9.30-11.00am Junior "Ballers" Session
- 11.30am Under 16 Boys versus Team Birmingham
- 1-30pm Under 14 Boys versus Oxford "Hoops"
- 3-30pm Under 16 Girls versus Leeds "Force"
- 5-30pm Senior Men versus Coventry "Flames"

These games and 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

Under 13 Girls travel to County Upper "Wolves"

Sunday 14th October

- Under 12 Boys travel to Leicester to play Leicester "Riders" and City of Birmingham
- Under 14 Girls travel to Norfolk Inceni

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