**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ten games for teams from the Northants Basketball Club last weekend with**

**eight wins from those ten games**

**Under 17 Girls go 3 and O**

**Under 17 Girls YBL**

**Northants “Lightning” 72 – 22 Bedford “Thunder”**

A stunning 39 points from Jenny Oamen helped the Northants “Lightning” Under 17 Girls to a win over Bedford “Thunder” and maintain their unbeaten record.

“Lightning” dominated all four quarters and set their stall out in the first when they kept “Thunder” scoreless while Oamen and Ivianah Meadows who poured in points on offence.

Coach Lee Meadows was delighted with the win which takes his team to a 3 and zero record in the YBL and made mention of the defensive efforts of Peace Okun, Tolani Akanmui and Lauren Eighteen

**Cadet Boys lose to “Crusaders in an overtime thriller.**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 74 – 77 Coventry “Crusaders”**

**(67 – 67)**

When “Thunder” embarked on a 14-2 run at the start of the third quarter to open up a 47-31 lead it looked as if the team would cruise to a comfortable victory over a determined Coventry “Crusaders” team. They then proceeded to miss a number of close to the basket scoring opportunities and a 13-2 “Crusaders” charge at the end of the third and start of the fourth quarters got the visitors back to 49-52.

“Thunder” were able to keep their noses in front but two ‘put back’ scores for “Crusaders” gave them the lead as the tension mounted. At 66-67 the ever dangerous Fran Guei was fouled going to basket and he went to the free throw line with the opportunity to win the game for his team. In the event he missed the second of the free throws and the game went into overtime.

Throughout the game “Crusaders” Gilbert had proved to be a ‘thorn in “Thunder’s” side and at the end of the overtime period the Coventry guard scored a mid-range jumper dished out an assist and then went to the free throw line on two occasions converting two of the four free throws to give his team victory.

“Thunder” will surely look back on the defeat as a game lost rather than a game won by Coventry. They will also reflect on fifteen missed free throws, as well as a number of missed shots close to basket and their inability to contain Gilbert who finished on 37 personal points.

In the disappointing defeat Guei top scored for “Thunder” with 21 points, good support coming from Harry Dutton and Logan Ormshaw with 14 points apiece.

**Oamen helps Under 16 Girls to beat “Warriors”**

**Under 16 Girls NBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 53 – 41 Leicester “Warriors”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 16 Girls picked up their first National league win of the season with a 53-41 triumph over Leicester “Warriors”. The victory was more convincing than the final score suggests because “Lightning” went into the final stanza leading 47-23 but they were guilty of relaxing their efforts in final quarter which they lost 6-18.

The “Lightning” win was based on the points scoring efforts of Jenny Oamen who scored 22 personal points plus the defensive efforts of Lauren Eighteen and Cameron Keuberg.

**“Rockets” too strong for Under 15 Boys**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**City of Birmingham “Rockets” 70 – 38 Northants “Thunder”**

Playing a year young in the Under 16 National League was never going to be easy for the Northants Under 15 Boys and this was never truer last Saturday when they travelled to Birmingham to take on “Rockets”.

The home side were in miserly mood in the first quarter restricting “Thunder” just six points while pouring in 22 themselves. The “Thunder” players showed their character in the second quarter which they edged 17-14 and trailing 23-36 at the half they were still ‘in’ the game. A strong third quarter was needed but “Thunder” were overwhelmed 19-3 to trail 26-55 going into the last ten minutes of play. “thunder” salvaged some pride in the final quarter which they only lost 15-12 but they were well beaten by 70 points to 38.

In the heavy defeat only five “Thunder” players scored led by Joe Safo and Oliwier Andrzejczak who both scored 11 points.

**Under 15 Boys get back to winning ways against “Dynamite**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Northants “Thunder” 103 – 23 Leicester “Dynamite”**

The difference between National League and YBL competition was clearly shown when 24 hours after their mauling against City of Birmingham the “Thunder” Under 15 Boys took to the court against Leicester “Dynamite” and against players of their own age recorded an overwhelming victory.

Leading 48-10 at half time “Thunder” were absolutely ruthless in the third quarter pouring in 28 points whilst keeping the Leicester boys scoreless. “Dynamite” did manage 13 points in the fourth quarter but “Thunder” proceeded to cruise to an eighty point win led by 24 points from Oliwier Andrzejczak and Logan Tanner.

**Under 14 Boys get back to winning ways against “Rockets”**

**Under 14 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**City of Birmingham “Rockets II” 50 - 69 Northants “Thunder”**

A week after losing a bruising battle against West Bromwich the “Thunder” Under 14 Boys faced another trip to the West Midlands last Saturday when they travelled to Birmingham to take on the “Rockets” second string.

With stricter officiating “Thunder” jumped out to a 17-7 lead after the first quarter and they consolidated their lead by winning the second quarter 21-14 to lead by 38 points to 21 at half time. “Thunder’s” switching man-to-man defence was thwarting “Rockets” offence and their dominance of the boards allowed Jerome Maroodza to orchestrate a number of fast breaks.

The “Thunder” lead was extended to 54-32 by the end of the third quarter but the Northants coaching staff were rather disappointed that their charges lost the final quarter 15-18 but the final result was never in doubt “Thunder” taking the game by 69 points to 50 with Luca Garrett and Joelle Skiete-Franch leading the “Thunder” scoring.

**Battling Under 12 Boys beat “Rockets”.**

**Under 12 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Storm” 55 -50 City of Birmingham “Rockets”**

For the second week running the Northants Under 12’s faced opposition from the second city and for the second week running they were able to clinch victory.

“Storm” struggled in the first two quarters of the game managing just 20 points while “Rockets” managed 25 the “Storm” cause not being helped by missing an alarming 12 free throws.

I was a different team that took to the court for the second half and a 12-4 charge at the start of the third quarter saw “Thunder” take the lead at 32-29. The two teams proceeded to trade baskets during the remainder of the quarter, “Thunder” going into the final stanza holding a one point lead at 40-39.

With four minutes of the game remaining “Rockets” were leading 46-44 but inspired by Kyjah Adamas and Arlo Dominici who made all of his four of four free throws and encouraged by enthusiastic parents, “Thunder” went on an amazing 11-4 charge to take the game by 55 points to 50.

In the hard-earned win Jude Constable led the “Thunder” scoring with 12 points Dominic scoring 11 but this was a win based well and truly on team work.

**“Storm” Under 11’s rule in Birmingham**

**Under 11 YBL Tournament**

**Frankley “Falcons” 6 – 84 Northants “Storm”**

**Northants “Storm” 57 – 13 Northants “Storm Too”**

**Frankley “Falcons” 9 – 58 Northants “Storm Too”**

Both Northants Under 11 teams travelled to Birmingham last Sunday for their first YBL Tournament and on arrival at the venue were disappointed to discover that Oxford “Hoops” the fourth participating team hadn’t made the journey.

In the revised schedule the older “Storm” team played the first game against the hosts, Frankley “Falcons”. The young Frankley team were unable to cope with the speed and physicality of “Storm” who cruised to an 84-six win.

The second game saw the two “Storm” teams taking to the court and for long periods the younger “Storm Too” were competitive but late in the game the height and strength of Henry Dowdells and Liam McIlhiney plus the speed and skill of Ernie Windrum Urte Maldutyte proved to be decisive as “Storm” cruised to a 57-13 win.

“Storm Too” were confident they could finish the day on a ‘high’ against Frankley and so it proved as they ran out winners by 58 points to nine with all eight players contributing to the 58 point total.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**With the sportshall at Northampton School for Girls being used for CATS Tests their will be**

**NO “Ballers” sessions or home fixtures at the Basketball Centre this weekend.**

**Saturday 11th November**

Under 9 “Storm” versus Daventry “Swifts” and Coventry “Crusaders”

(YBL Tournament)

Under 15 Boys travel to Birmingham “Bears”

Under 16 Boys travel to Coventry “Elite”

**Sunday 12th November**

Under 12 “Storm Too travel to Derby “Trailblazers”

Under 14 Girls travel to Derby “Trailblazers”

For further information on this Press Release contact:

**John Collins** on 07801 533 151