**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**After all the home games the previous weekend, last weekend saw the Northants Club ‘on the road’ with eight away games.**

**Dire first half is too much to make up for Junior Men.**

**Under 18 Boys EBL Midlands 2 Conference**

**Shropshire “Warriors” 49 – 47 OEH Group Northants “Thunder”**

A Northants “Thunder” team decimated by injuries and illness travelled to Telford last Saturday and suffered a two point defeat in a low scoring game, “Thunder” did everything they could to recover from a dire first two quarters which saw them score just 14 points while “Warriors” managed 24.

“Thunder” won the third quarter 18-12 and with just seconds of the game remaining stole the ball but the breakaway lay up which would have tied the scores was missed and the team slumped to their second consecutive loss.

In the two point loss Rapolas Radavicius with 17 points was the only “Thunder” player to score in double figures.

**Cadet Boys complete the ‘double’ over “Ballers Heaven.”**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**“Ballers Heaven” 62 -72 Northants “Thunder”**

Just a week ago the Northants “Thunder” Under 16 Boys beat “Ballers Heaven” by 29 points but the team realized that without the injured Logan Ormshaw the return game was always likely to be very tough and so it proved. In a very hostile atmosphere “Thunder” prevailed by just ten points thanks to 21 points from Fran Guei and excellent support from Harry Dutton and James Kellet- Maughan.

The first half was a close attritional affair which saw the teams tied at 29 points each at half time. “Thunder” edged the third quarter 18-13 and thanks to the efforts of Guei and Jasper Roache consolidated their lead to close out the game in the fourth.

The win takes them to the top of the Midlands 1 Conference table but they will be very aware that Warwickshire “Hawks” who have played less games than “Thunder” have only been beaten once.

**Oliwier and Wills see Under 15 Boys home against Coventry “Elite”**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Coventry “Elite” 52 – 59 Northants “Thunder II”**

After their stunning win over Coventry “Tornadoes” the previous week the Northants “Thunder” Under 15 Boys travelled to Coventry “Elite hoping to consolidate their position in the Midlands 1 Conference of the National League. In the event they managed to do just that with a battling seven point win thanks to 19 points from Oliwier Andrzesczak and 17 from Wilson Carr who the previous week had suffered a nasty wrist injury.

“Thunder II” made a good start to the game edging the first quarter 16-10 but found scoring very difficult in the second quarter managing only nine points. They kept themselves in the contest with some determined defence holding “Elite” to nine points as well.

Holding a 25 points to 19 lead at half time the Northants boys traded baskets with their opponents through the third but with “Thunder” holding a narrow 40-34 lead going into the last stanza “Elite” still fancied their chances of clinching the win. Those hopes were dashed by the determination of Coach Brad Hughes’s team as they managed to edge the fourth quarter 19-18 to take the game by

59 points to 52.

As well as the major points hauls from Andrzesczak and Carr a brace of three pointers from Jay Jay Lothian were also decisive.

**Under 14 Girls far too strong for Mansfield “Giants”**

**Under 14 Girls NBL Midlands Conference**

**Mansfield “Giants” 30 - 109 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning” under 14 girls made it three wins from three National league starts following a comfortable win at Mansfield “Giants”.

“Lightning” dominated the game and made their intentions clear by winning the first quarter by

30 points to two. “Giants” were more of a force in the second period scoring 13 points but “Lighting” had added 24 points to lead 54- 15 at half time.

“Lightning’s” defence was a lot tougher in the two remaining quarters of the game restricting “Giants” to 14 points whilst scoring 54 points themselves finally closing out the game by 109 points to 30.

In the overwhelming win “Lightning’s” scoring was led by Michelle Makuna with 27 points; Campbell Spatcher scored 19 and Karina Kaite 11 while three other “Lightning” players” scored in double figures.

**Under 14 Boys tame the “Bears”**

**Under 14 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Birmingham “Bears” 47 – 66 Northants “Thunder”**

Not too long ago teams from the Northants Club used to fear trips to Birmingham but no longer and last Saturday the “Thunder” Under 14 Boys picked themselves up from the disappointment of the previous weekend’s one point loss to get the better of Birmingham “Bears” despite missing several players because of injury.

Coach Peter Dewsnap asked his players to play with passion and intensity and they responded superbly by winning all four quarters of the game the first and fourth decisively as they took the game by 66 points to 47. The “Bears” main threat was the tall athletic Clarke who was effectively defended by Jowell Stiete-Franch who also scored 14 points.

The “Thunder” scoring was led by Anton Kelly with 16 points and while Luca Garrett continued in his good points scoring form with 12 points; but the key to the win was some tenacious team defence based on some very hard work in practice. Throughout the game “Thunder” kept the Birmingham ball carriers under pressure thanks to the efforts of Kelly, Jerome Maroodza and Sam Dominici while the contributions of Jack Entwhistle and Jasper Bosworth were also key.

**Under 12 Boys Too claim second win of the season**

**Under 12 Boys EBL Region III**

**Mansfield “Giants” 29 – 82 Northants “Strom Too”**

The Northants “Storm Too” under 12 boys have been making steady progress over recent weeks and last Saturday they picked up their second win of the season with a convincing win over Mansfield “Giants”.

“Storm Too’s” success cam thanks to some excellent defence and the scoring power of Deev Patel

with 26 points as they dominated all four quarters. In addition to Patel, Edmund Thompson scored 12 points and Mark Spatcher chipped in with nine.

**Under 11 Girls reign supreme in Nuneaton**

**YBL Under 11 Girls Tournament**

**Nuneaton “Predators” 33 - 36 Northants “Lightning”**

**Kettering “Phoenix 12 – 58 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 11 Girls travelled to Nuneaton for their latest YBL tournament and returned having picked up two wins but not without a huge scare. Against the home side “Lightning” found themselves fifteen points down at half time but battled their way to an amazing three-point victory. Coach Shane Rowland commented, “What the girls achieved was truly amazing. I am so proud of them,”

The game against “Phoenix” was a much more routine win and with Urte Maldutyte subduing the threat of Kettering’s Jamilla, “Lightning” cruised to victory.

Over the course of the two games Sayuri Wood scored 24 points and Maldutyte 20.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 2nd December**

**9-30am to 10-30am** Budding “Ballers”

**10-30am to 11-45am** Junior “Ballers”

**12-15pm** Under 14 Boys versus Shrewsbury “Storm”

**Games at Moulton College**

**11-45am** Under 11 “Storm” and “Storm Too” play Frankley “Falcons”

and Oxford “Hoops”.

Under 12 Boys travel to Walsall “Wizards”

Under 15 Boys travel Leicester “Dynamite”

Under 16 Girls travel to Bromsgrove “Bears”

**Sunday 3rd December**

OEH Group Junior Men travel to “Leodonites”

Under 15 Boys travel to Shrewsbury “Storm”

Under 14 Girls “Lightning Too” travel to Oaklands “Wolves”

Under 13 “Thunder” travel to Northamptonshire “Titans”

**The “Ballers” activities and the Under 14 Boys game will take place at the Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG**

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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