**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**On the last weekend of action for 2023 the Northants Basketball played a total of eleven games winning ten of them.**

**After these games no less than nine teams from the Club are top of their leagues or conferences, and six of those teams go into the New Year undefeated.**

**Under 16 Boys get back to winning ways against Tamworth**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Tamworth “Tigers” 63 – 75 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 16 Boys got back to winning ways and moved to the top of the Midlands 2 Conference following a 12 point win at Tamworth “Tigers”.

After their disappointing loss against Warwickshire “Hawks” the previous weekend “Thunder” started the game in determined mood restricting “Tigers” to just seven points whilst pouring in 22 themselves in the first quarter. “Tigers” rallied strongly in the second quarter with “Thunder” being guilty of a little complacency as the home side outscored them 22-12 to reduce the deficit to 29-34 at half time.

The third quarter saw Fran Guei, James Kennett-Maughan, and Logan Ormshaw dominating the scoring for “Thunder” as they outscored “tigers” by 26 points to 16 to extend their lead to 60-45. “Tigers” battled hard in the final stanza but the final result was never ever in doubt, the game closing at 75-63 in favour of “Thunder”, Ormshaw leading their scoring with a 22 point haul Kennett-Maughan and Guei supporting well with 14 and 12 points respectively while Harry Dutton scored 10.

**Under 15 Boys beat West Bromwich in a thriller**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder II”**  **62 – 60 West Bromwich “Big Sky”**

With just under three minutes of this Midlands 1 Conference game remaining West Bromwich held a narrow lead at 57-56 Those remaining three minutes were full of drama as Logan Tanner, Jay Jay ?? Lothian and Oliwier Andrzesczak scored for “Thunder” to give them a 62-57 lead with just under a minute left of the contest. “Thunder” then did everything possible to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. They allowed West Brom’s powerful guard Anderson to score, they turned the ball over on twice and sent Anderson to the free throw line on two occasions. Luckily for them he missed all four of the resulting free throws as they held on for the two-point victory.

A great deal of credit should go to the “Thunder” players for their gritty fightback and to some enthusiastic support from parents and supporters of the team. The Northants boys trailed until midway through the third quarter when Luca Garratt drained a three-pointer and from then the lead changed hands on a number of occasions. Delighted as the “Thunder” players were at the end of the game they will reflect that their opponents missed no less than eighteen free throws.

In the battling win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Andrzesczak and Tanner with 18 points apiece Will Carr and Lothian giving excellent support with 10 and nine points respectively

**Overwhelming wins for Under 17 and Under 14 Girls**

The Under 17 and Under 14 Girls teams sit proudly on top of their respective leagues after comfortable wins over inexperienced opposition last Saturday.

**Under 17 YB All Girls League**

**Northants “Lightning” 72 – 7 Nottingham “Oaks”**

Earlier in the season the Under 17 Girls comfortably beat an inexperienced Nottingham “Oaks” team and although the “Oaks” teams showed some signs of improvement the result of last Saturday’s game was never seriously in doubt.

“Lightning” completely dominated all four quarters of play keeping their opponents scoreless in two of those quarters.

In the overwhelming win the “Lightning” scoring was led Lucie Caulfield and Peace Okun with 20 and 17 points respectively Elloise Tildesley making a 10 point contribution.

**Under 14 Girls EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 116 – 9 Derby “Trailblazers”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls hosted Derby “Trailblazers” last Saturday and proceeded to demolish a young Derby team who struggled to cope with “Lightning’s” ball pressure and fast break offence scoring just four points in the first half while conceding 68.

It was very much the same in the second half as “Lightning” cruised to the win to maintain their unbeaten Conference record. The “Lighting” scoring was led by Michelle Makuna with 25 points excellent support coming from Campbell Spatcher and Queendy Yeboah with 19 and 14 points respectively, four other “Lightning” players scoring in double figures.

The next game for the team will be a ‘friendly’ fixture against Manchester “Mystics” on 6th January, Conference action re-commencing against second placed Nottingham “Wildcats” the following weekend.

**Under 14 Boys cruise past Shropshire**

**Under 14 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 97 – 37 Shropshire “Warriors”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 14 Boys moved up to second place in the Midlands Conference after this comfortable win over Shropshire “Warriors”.

“Thunder” took control of the game in the first quarter with nine players contributing to their 27 points while some intense defence restricted “Warriors” to just six points. The lead was extended to 49-18 by half time and at this stage the game was as good as over as a contest.

Leading 73-32 going into the final quarter Coach Brad Hughes gave all his players substantial court time and no less than ten of them contributed to the 24 points “Thunder” scored in that final stanza.

In the big win Al-Mustafa Yinusa top scored for “Thunder” with 18 points excellent support coming from Joelle Skiete-French, Anton Kelly and Ollie Casey

**Under 9 Mixed team stay undefeated**

**Under 9 Mixed YBL League**

**Coventry “Tornadoes” 19 - 42 Northants “Storm”**

**Daventry “Swifts” 13 – 39 Northants “Storm”**

The Northants “Storm” Under 9 Mixed team travelled to Coventry last Saturday for their latest YBL tournament and picked up another two wins to stay top of their league with an unbeaten record.

Coach Corinne Douglas was really pleased with the way the team played in the two games as they combined excellent defence with some running offence which saw the team passing the ball well.

**Two Under 11 Girls teams win three of four games.**

**Under 11 Girls Rose of the Shires League**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 13 -28 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 22 – 5 Duston “Hawks”**

**Northants “Lightning I” 32 – 10 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning I” 30 – 1 Duston “Hawks”**

Last Sunday two Under 11 Girls teams from the Northants Club played in the latest Rose of the Shires Tournament.

A very young “Lightning Too” team found the superior height and speed of Kettering “Phoenix” too much to handle and they slipped to a 13-28 defeat but against Duston “Hawks” they gave an excellent account of themselves eventually winning by 22 points to five.

When the senior “Lightning” team took to the court they were much better equipped to deal with “Phoenix” especially their talented player Jumilla who was well contained by Urte Maldudyte. “Lightning” played some excellent basketball and beat Kettering 32–10 then comfortably saw off a game Duston team.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**There are no fixtures this coming weekend. The next games will be on the weekend of the**

**6th and 7th January when there are four Conference games and a friendly fixture.**

**The Club’s Management Group all the players, coaches and team managers wish everyone**Text

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