**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Another very busy and very successful weekend for the Northants Basketball Club**

**with an impressive twelve victories**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Coventry “Tornadoes” 66 – 94 Northants “Thunder”**

Going into the final quarter of this Midlands 1 Conference game “Thunder” were holding a 12 point lead at 69-57. Against a team they had lost to in overtime earlier in the season “Thunder” had dominated the first quarter winning it by 27 points to 14, but they had then allowed “Tornadoes” back into the game by losing the second quarter 17-26.

Eight points apiece from Harry Dutton and Fran Guei in the third quarter had given the edge back to “Thunder” but “Tornadoes” were still well and truly in the contest. Needing to play at their very best “Thunder” proceeded to produce some high quality best basketball and led by nine points from James Kennett-Maughan they outscored their opponents by 25 points to nine to take the game 94-66.

The “Thunder” scoring was led by Logan Ormshaw with 28 points, Guei who also put in a great defensive shift added 20 points while Dutton and Kennett-Maughan chipped in with 17 and 12 points apiece.

“Thunder” stay in top spot in the Conference having lost just two games and having played more games than Warwickshire “Hawks” who have lost just one game.

**Under 17 Girls too strong for “Eagles”**

**Under 17 Girls East of England League**

**Northants “Lightning” 57 -17 Abingdon “Eagles”**

Led by 15 points from Jen Oamen and a dozen from Lauren Eighteen the Northants “Lightning” Under 17 Girls cruised to their fifth win of the season over a game but inexperienced Abingdon “Eagles” team.

“Lightning” dominated all four quarters with their defence proving too much “Eagles” and having forced numerous turn-overs they were able to make numerous fast break scores which pleased Coach Lee Meadows. His team is now committed to going through the season undefeated.

**Confusion reigns as Game is abandoned.**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**West Bromwich (61- 60) Northants “Thunder Too”**

***(Game abandoned)***

With the end of the game approaching and West Bromwich leading by a single point the home side picked up a plethora of player and bench technical fouls. As a result the West Bromwich coach was disquaified from the game and because there was no substitute coach the game was abandoned.

The understanding of the Northants coaching staff was that this should result in the game being awarded to “Thunder” 20-nil as there had been as similar situation in game at The Basketball Centre earlier in the season. In the event the game officials decided they would refer the matter to the national governing body for a decision.

**“Storm” no match for Under 14 Boys**

**Under 14 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Shrewsbury “Storm” 34 – 77 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys made the long trip to Shrewsbury for their latest National League fixture and picked up a comfortable win over “Storm”. All ten “Thunder” players got onto the scoresheet as the Northants teams dominated the first three quarters of play.

Going into the fourth quarter “Thunder” were leading 71-21 but with the final result not in doubt they were unable to execute the offence requested by Coach Brad Hughes in the and they disappointedly lost the quarter six-13.

In the forty points plus victory three “Thunder” players, Luca Garrett, Al-Mustafa Yinusa and Jowell Skiete-Franch all scored in double figures while Jasper Bosworth and Jack Entwhistle had their best offensive games of the season contributing 14 points between them.

The team sits second in the Conference table having lost two games with crucial games against Coventry “Tornadoes” and West Bromwich in the offing.

**Under 14 Girls find it tough in London**

**Under 14 Girls Non-Conference Game**

**London “Thunder Under 16’s” 87 – 42 Northants “Lightning”**

Without a Conference game at the start of 2024 the Northants Under 14 Girls have played two non-Conference games in order to prepare themselves for the resumption of the Conference programme. Last Saturday the team travelled to London to play the Under 16 team of the London “Thunder” club.

The home team won the game thanks in the main to their superior height advantage but Coach Mark Spatcher remained positive in the belief that the game will be ideal preparation for the Conference game against second placed Nottingham “Wildcats” this coming Saturday.

Against Thunder” the Northants girls made a bright start to the game but very soon began to struggle to contain the opposition’s big player. Trailing 21-49 at half time “Lightning” played with more confidence in the third and fourth quarters only losing the second half by 27 points to 34 and in the process encountering a zone defence which isn’t allowed in the Under 14 leagues.

In the loss Cambell Spatcher led the “Lightning” scoring with 19 points good support coming from Michelle Makuna and Macie Latimer with 10 and nine points respectively.

**Second Under 14 Girls team stay undefeated**

**Under 14 Girls East of England League**

**Northants “Lightning “Too” 54 -12 Cambridge “Cats”**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 68 – 24 Norfolk “Inceni”**

Cambridge “Cats” 37 - 29 Norfolk “Inceni”

Coach Adam Latimer’s “Lightning Too” remains undefeated after their latest East of England regional League tournament.

Last Saturday they had no problem in beating Cambridge “Cats” and Norfolk “Inceni combining hard nosed defence with some attractive running basketball which proved to be too much for their opponents.

Over the course of the two game Nadia Bereza and Ellen de Banke scored 31 and 26 points respectively Eve Burgess and Freya Tauber-Anderson Anderson also scoring freely but the two wins were very much down to excellent all-round team performances

**Under 13 Boys complete the double over “Titans”**

**Under 13 Mixed YBL**

**Northants “Storm” 87- 42 Northamptonshire “Titans”**

Led by 24 and 15 point hauls from the Dominici brothers Arlo and Sam, the Northants Under 13 Boys completed the double over local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”.

By half time “Storm” had established a convincing 45-14 lead but were guilty of some sloppy play in the third quarter which they only won by 14 points to 13. Stern words from Coach Danielius Jokulis got the team back on track in the fourth quarter which his team won 28-15 to close out a comfortable 45 point victory.

In addition to the Dominicis, Alex Rados was the third Storm” player in double figure with 12 points including a brace of three pointers.

**Under 13 and Under 11 Girls stay perfect in their Rose of the Shires Leagues**

**“Rose of the Shires” Under 13 Girls League**

**Northants “Lightning” 42 – 20 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning” 26 – 8 Duston “Hawks”**

**Northants “Lightning” 26 – 10 Bedford “Thunder”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 13 Girls comfortably won all three of their games in the latest Rose of the Shires tournament.

Over the three game Freya Tauber-Anderson and Brooke Foster scored 31 and 22 points while Niamah Jones and Emilie Milsome gained confidence during the course of the tournament and both scored in double figures.

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

**Northants “Lightning” 52 – 0 Bedford “Thunder”**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 11 – 16 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning” 45 - 8 Northants “Lightning Too”**

The Northants Under 11 Girls totally dominated their latest Rose of the Shires tournament while the “Lightning” second string put in an excellent performance against Kettering “Phoenix” only losing because of the height superiority of “Phoenix”

**“Storm” Under 9’s impress against “Tornadoes”**

**Under 9 Mixed YBL**

**Northants “Storm” 22 – 10 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

**Northants “Storm Too” 18 - 26 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

The Northants Under 9 Mixed team maintained their 100% record with a win over Coventry “Tornadoes” their tough defence being the key to their victory.

With Daventry unable to make the tournament the Northants club fielded a second team who put up a spirited performance before losing by eight points to “Tornadoes”.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 27thh January**

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

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

**12-15pm** Under 12 Boys versus Birmingham “Bears” (EBL)

Under 14 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks” (EBL)

**2-30pm** Under 15 Boys versusWarwickshire “Hawks” (EBL)

**4-45pm** Northants “Lightning” versus Nottingham “Wildcats” (EBL)

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

Under 13 Mixed travel to Coventry “Tornadoes” (YBL)

Under 12 Boys II Leicester “Riders” (EBL)

**Sunday 28th January**

**10-30am** Under 16 Boys versus City of Birmingham II (EBL)

**12-30pm** Under 14 Girls II versus Southend “Scorpions” (ERL)

**These two games will take place at The Basketball Centre**