**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Thirteen games for teams from the Northants Basketball Club last weekend and just one defeat and that when teams from the Club played each other.**

**\*\* Score correction \*\***

The score in last week’s Press Release for the Under 13 YBL game was incorrect.

It should have read, Coventry “Tornadoes” 49 Northants “Storm” 79

**“Thunder” Under 16’s beat Under 15’s in an overtime thriller**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder Too” 81 - 90 Northants “Thunder”**

**(79-79)**

The Northants Under 16 and Under 15 Boys’ teams put on a breathless display of basketball last Saturday the Under 16’s finally triumphing in overtime.

The Under 15’s had been involved in a titanic battle against West Brom the previous day and it appeared they were suffering from a serious hangover when they took to the floor against their older rivals and at the end of the first quarter found themselves facing a 27–2 deficit with Harry Dutton and Fran Guei scoring freely for the Under 16’s.

To their credit the Under 15’s regrouped in the second quarter and a 12-2 start was a clear indication that they weren’t in the mood to capitulate. The under 16’s responded with a brace of three-pointers from Logan Ormshaw; the Under 15’s still took the quarter by 20 points to 15 but still trailed 22-42 at half time.

That lead was reduced to 44-38 after the Under15’s opened the third quarter with a 16-2 charge led by a dozen close to the basket points from Oliwier Andrzejczac. The Under 16’s were able to stem the efforts of the younger team but “Thunder Too” took the quarter 35-17 and at 59-57 in favour of the Under 16’s it was ‘game on.’

For the third quarter running the Under 15’s started the final quarter in devastating fashion outscoring their opponents 10-4 to take the lead at 67-63 and a major shock looked to be a distinct possibility. “Thunder Too” had been using a combination defence to combat the effectiveness of Ormshaw but this left space on the perimeter for other players and James Kennett-Maughan took advantage of this by draining two long range ‘twos’ and a three-pointer. With the scores tied up at 77 all, “Thunder Too” had opportunities to take the game but they could convert only three of six free throws they were awarded, and the game went into overtime.

The massive effort given by the Under 15’s in regulation time proved to be too much and the Under 16’s showed their quality and a three-pointer from Dutton and six points from Ormshaw saw them home by 90 points to 81 and a win which keeps them top of the Midlands 1 Conference.

The game was a great credit to the players and coaches of both teams. For “Thunder Too” Andrzejczac was immense scoring 34 points with good support coming from J.J. Lothian with 18 points while for “Thunder”, Dutton, Geui and Ormshaw all made major scoring contribution but the three baskets from Kennett-Maughan were probably the most decisive of the game; but on the day the real winner was basketball.

**Under 15’s battle past West Brom**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder Too” 57 - 51 West Bromwich**

Less than 24 hours before their epic battle with the Club’s Under 16 team the Under 15’s ground out a win against West Brom thanks to 14-point hauls from J.J. Lothian and Logan Tanner with Ezra Yankey contributing vital points in the fourth quarter.

“Thunder Too” trailed 12-14 after the first quarter but mounted a 12-zero charge at the start of the second quarter. They then managed just two further points during for the rest of the quarter to trail 26-31 at half time.

“Thunder Too” made a good start to the third quarter but not for the first time this season were inaccurate from the free throw line. They won the quarter 16-12 to reduce the West Brom lead to a single point at 43-42 going into the final ten minutes of play.

With the support for both teams becoming deafening the two teams took to the court for the final quarter and it was a determined “Thunder Too” who looked the sharpest and with West Brom handicapped by the loss of their influential off-guard Chambers with cramp “Thunder Too” took the lead thanks to a 10-2 run. They should have run out comfortable winners but they again proved fallible from the free throw line missing another five shots from the ‘charity stripe’ but they held on for a well-deserved 57-51 victory.

**Under 16 Girls too strong for “Warriors”**

**Under 16 Girls EBL Midlands Conference**

**Leicester “Warriors” 29 – 62 Northants “Lightning”**

On the back of 22 points from Amelia Wesley-Maryan and 14 from Jen Oamen the Northants Under 16 Girls duly completed a double over Leicester “Warriors”, with Coach Lee Meadows delighted with the way his team had worked hard to stick to the game plan.

Excellent defence helped ‘Lightning” to a 37-11 half time lead with Lauren Eighteen and Cameron Keuberg making major contributions to the defensive effort. In the second half “Lightning” continued to play excellent team offence with Iviannah Meadows , Eloise Tildesly and Allanah Major all playing major roles in this area.

The last time the two teams met “Lightning” won by just 12 points so this represents a significant improvement for the team.

**Two wins keep Under 14 Boys on top of the pile.**

**Under 14 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

The Northants Under 14 Boys consolidated their place at the top of the Midlands Conference with two conclusive wins last weekend.

**Northants “Thunder” 81 – 51 West Brom**

West Brom arrived at the Basketball Centre having suffered just one defeat so far this season and in a confident mood having beaten “Thunder” by six points just before Christmas. Their confidence was well and truly rocked in the first quarter of this game with “Thunder” storming out to a 31-11 lead as they produced some of their best basketball of the season with eight players contributing to their 31 points.

Any hope of a West Brom resurgence came to nothing at the start of the second quarter with a “Thunder” 15-7 run and at half time their lead stood at 51-27.

The final two quarters were much more competitive, but the final result was never seriously in doubt “Thunder” closing out the game with a nine point surge from Jowell Stiete-French.

In the thirty points win Stiete-French top scored for “Thunder” with 17 points a total matched by Anton Kelly, Osagi Efosa contributing 11 points.

**Northants “Thunder” 70 -30 Bromsgrove “Bears”**

Having beaten high flying West Brom the previous day there was a possibility that complacency might set in the for the Northants Under 14 Boys when they faced Bromsgrove “Bears”. In the event “Thunder” took to the court in determined mood and their defensive effort restricted the West Midlanders to just three first quarter points while scoring 18 themselves.

“Bears” were far more competitive in the second quarter which “Thunder” edged 16-11 to lead 34-14 at half time. Any thought of “Bears” comeback was well and truly dispelled by a ruthless defensive effort from “Thunder” which kept “Bears” scoreless for eight minutes as they poured in 20 points themselves to extend their lead to 57-19 going into the final ten minutes of play. Coach Brad Hughes substituted freely during the final stanza which “Thunder” edged 13-11 to close out their second win of the weekend and complete the double over “Bears”.

In the 70 to 30 victory the “Thunder” scoring was led by Al Mustafo Yinusa (?) with 14 points, Jowell Stiete-Frnch and Jerome Maroodza both scoring in double figures.

**Under 14 Girls overwhelm Mansfield**

**Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 96 -15 Mansfield “Giants”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls maintained their unbeaten record and their top of the table spot in the Midlands Conference after a totally conclusive win over a very young and inexperienced Mansfield “Giants” team.

With superior size and athleticism “Lightning” totally dominated the first two quarters of play and by half time had built up 65 points to six advantage. They proceeded to win the second half 31-nine to take the win by 96 points to 15 with no less than six “Lightning” players scoring in double figures led by Grace Eighteen with a 20 point haul.

The team needs just one more win to clinch the Conference title.

**“Lightning Too” too strong for Braintree.**

**Under 14 Girls East of England Regional League**

**Northants “Lightning II” 70 - 20 Braintree “Blue Devils”**

The strength of girls’ basketball in the Northants Club was clearly illustrated last weekend with the Under 14 Girls second string turning on an impressive performance to defeat Braintree “Blue Devils” to add to the overwhelming victory by the first team .the previous day.

Earlier in the season “Lightning Too” had won a close game against Braintree so Coach Adam Latimer was expecting a tough game but in the event his team totally dominated their opponents in this latest encounter. Not only did they score freely but their defence restricted “Blue Devils” to just two points in the first half.

The visitors found their rhythm in the second half which the Northants girls won 29-18 but it was too little too late as they went on to complete a conclusive victory with Macie Latimer leading their scoring with 18 points while Freya Tauber-Anderson, Alicia Joy and Nadia Bereza all scoring in double figures.

**Third win of the season for “Storm Too” Under 12 Boys**

**Under 12 Mixed EBL Region II**

**Northants “Storm Too” 61 - 44 Mansfield “Giants”**

The Northants “Storm Too” Under 12’s picked up their third win of the season with a 17 point victory over Mansfield “Giants”, thanks to an impressive fourth quarter.

“Storm Too” fielding an almost full strength team made an excellent start to the game jumping out to a 20-10 lead after the first quarter and this was extended to 32-17 midway through the second quarter. They were then hit by a 10-2 “Giants” surged as the gap was closed to 34-27 at half time.

“Storm Too” needed to dig deep and they edged the third quarter 12-10 before finishing the game on a high note by winning the final quarter 15-seven to take the game by 61 points to 44; the majority of their points coming from Fraser Lovitt, Deev Patel, Edmund Thompson,

**“Full house” for the two Northants Under 11 teams**

**Under 11 YBL Group ‘A’**

**Northants “Storm” 47 - 6 Oxford “Hoops”**

**Northants “Storm” 66 - 2**  **Oxford “Hoops”**

**Northants “Storm Too” 20 – 18 Oxford “Hoops”**

**Northants “Storm Too” 24 – 10 Oxford “Hoops”**

The two “Storm” teams completed four wins over a much-improved Oxford “Hoops” outfit who agreed to play back-to-back games at the Basketball Centre last Sunday.

“Storm” totally dominated their two games against “Hoops” with the power of Liam McIlhiney and Henry Dowdells combined with the speed and technical ability of Kyjah Adams, Ernie Windrum and Urte Maldutyte proving far too much for the Oxford players to handle.

In their first game against “Hoops”; “Storm Too” struggled defensively while on offence they overdribbled and were slightly fortunate to win by two points. In the second game they shared the ball better Blake Bain-Cambell proving to be an effective offensive threat while Romeo Bovell did an excellent defensive job marking a much taller player.

**No game for Under 18 Boys**

**Junior Men’s EBL Midlands 2 Conference**

**OEH Northants “Thunder” 20 - 0 Worcester “Wolves”**

Unable to raise a team Worcester conceded this game to Northants. The team will be hoping for better luck this coming weekend when they are scheduled to play two games.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 10th February**

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

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

**12-15pm** “Storm Too” Under 12’s versus Derby “Trailblazers” (EBL)

**1-15pm** Under 15 Boys versus Leicester “Riders” (YBL)

**4-45pm** Under 18 Boys versus Northamptonshire “Titans” (EBL)

Under 12 Boys travel to City of Birmingham “Rockets” (EBL)

Under 13 Girls travel to Nuneaton to play Nuneaton “Predators”

and Kettering “Phoenix” in a YBL Tournament

**Sunday 11th February**

**10-15am** Under 16 Boys versus Under 15 Boys (EBL)

**12-30pm** Under 11 Girls versus Nuneaton “Predators” (YBL)

Under 11 “Storm” versus “Strom Too” (YBL)

**1-15pm** Kettering “Phoenix” versus Nuneaton “Predators” (YBL)

**2-00pm** Under 11 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix” (YBL)

Junior Men travel to Hereford “Elite” (EBL)

Under 16 Girls travel to Kettering “Phoenix” (EBL)

Under 9 Mixed travel to Daventry to play Daventry “Swifts”

and Kettering “Phoenix” in a YBL Tournament

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