**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE & NEWSLETTER**

**Two defeats for teams from the Northants Club last weekend but one of them saw the Conference title hopes disappear for the Under 16 Boys**

**Title hopes go with loss to “Big Sky” West Bromwich**

**Cadet Boys NBL Midland 1 Conference**

**Big Sky West Bromwich 99 – 92 Northants “Thunder”**

Needing a win to keep their Conference title hopes alive with a win over fourth placed “Big Sky” West Bromwich Albion, the Northants Under 16 Boys produced their worst half of basketball to trail 34-53 at half time.

There were stern words for the team during the half time interval and it was a different “Thunder” team that took to the court in the second half. Five three-pointers in the third quarter saw “Thunder” outscore their opponents 23-16 to narrow the gap to 12 points with everything to play for in the final ten minutes.

“Thunder” drained another three, three-pointers in scoring 35 points in the final stanza but their defence was once again below par as they conceded 30 points to give the West Midlands team victory by

99 points to 92. “Thunder” have now lost three games to Warwickshire Hawks” one loss so the hoped for showdown between the two teams this coming Sunday is no more.

In the disappointing loss Logan Ormshaw scored 27 points and Harry Dutton 20 this pair draining ten three-pointers between them. Fran Guei scored 22 points but the rest of the team could only manage 23 points between them

**Under 16 Girls get revenge over Bromsgrove**

**Under 16 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 59 - 44 Bromsgrove “Bears”**

Twenty-three points from Jenny Oamen and 21 from Amelia Wesley-Maryan including a brace of three-pointers saw the Northants Under 16 Girls home to a revenge victory over Bromsgrove “Bears”.

The win came on the back of the points scoring of Oamen and Wesley-Maryan but also came thanks to an excellent team defensive effort led by Cameron Keuberg, Rya Barnes and Lauren Eighteen with “Bears restricted to just 44 points.

“Lightning” won three of the four quarters the third being tied and with the game still in the balance at 45-33 going into the final stanza the “Lightning” girls showed a lot of poise to outscore their opponents 10-four over the first six minutes of the quarter before “Bears closed the game with a late flourish to give the final score more respectability.

**Under 14 Girls claim Midlands Conference title**

**Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 87 – 68 Milton Keynes “Breakers II”**

After their disappointing loss to City of Birmingham “Rockets” a couple of weeks ago the Northants Under 14 Girls bounced back to record a convincing win over the Milton Keynes “Breakers” second string and claim the Midlands Conference title.

“Lightning” made a sluggish start to the game and were guilty of missing a number of easy scoring opportunities. Trailing 11-12 midway through the first quarter they mounted an 11-four charge to take the lead and held on to lead 22-19 after the first ten minutes of play.

That lead was extended to 46-34 by half time thanks to a flurry of points from Macie Latimer just before the interval being decisive but trailing by just 12 points “Breakers” were still in the game.

“Lightning” were grateful to Michelle Makuna in the third quarter as “Breakers” kept in touch both team scoring 14 points during the quarter but with a 60-48 “Lightning” knew the game was still on the line.

The fourth quarter saw Campbell Spatcher and Latimer taking control of the game and a 12-four run at the start of the quarter saw “Lightning” take control of the game. They won the quarter 27-20 to close out the 87 points to 68 win and clinch the Conference title. In the 19 points win the “Lightning” scoring was dominated by Latimer, Makuna, and Spatcher

**Under 14 Boys still one win away from Conference title.**

**Under 14 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 85 – 63 Birmingham “Bears”**

With confusion over results involving Walsall “Wizards” the |Northants Under 14 Boys are still unsure if they’ve actually won the Midlands Conference. “Thunder” have lost just two games the same as “Wizards but the Midlands team have only played ten games and have lost to “Thunder” on two occasions; so a win against Tamworth “Tigers” on Saturday will see them claim the Conference title.

Against “Bears” last Saturday, “Thunder” went off like an express team with their pressure defence forcing numerous turn-overs leading to easy scores. “Thunder” took the first quarter 25-nine, and this lead was extended to 47-17 by half time and the game was as good as over.

Knowing that the game was over as a contest “Thunder” were guilty of relaxing their efforts in the second half and a 13-two “Bears” flurry at the end of the game gave the final score a rather flattering look as far as Birmingham were concerned.

In the 22 point win the “thunder” scoring was led by Al Mustafa Yinusa with16 points, Luca Garrett, Anton Kelly, and Jerome Maroodza all scoring in double figures.

**Under 13 Boys to strong for “Eagles”**

**Under 13 Boys YBL Group ‘D’**

**Abingdon “Eagles” 95 - 27 Northants “Thunder”**

Already crowned Group ‘D’ champions the Northants Under 13’s recorded a convincing win over an enthusiastic Abingdon “Eagles” team.

Throughot the game “Eagles” struggled to score against “Thunder’s” defence even when they were forced to take off their press having established a substantial lead. Led by Sam Dominic who scored 21 points “Thunder” scored at will Kaiyin Dada using his height to good advantage scoring 18 points while Jensen McCauley contributed 12 points and Kyjah Adams 11.

**“Lightning Too” convincing winners over Cambridge**

**East of England Regional League**

**Cambridge “Cats” 31 – 80 Northants “Lightning “Too”**

The Lightning Too Under 14 Girls made it ten wins from ten starts after a convincing win over a much improved Cambridge “Cats” team.

With both coaches agreeing that press defence would not be used in the first a third quarters “Lightning Too” made a slow start to the game and only led 12-10 after the first ten minutes of play.

In the second quarter the Northants ‘press’ was too much for the “Cats” players and they ran in countless fast breaks to take the quarter 28-nine. Their tenacious defence limited Cambridge to single figures in quarters three and four while their unselfish offence saw them score a further 40 points.

Ten “Lightning Too” players contributed to their 80 points total lead by Macie Latimer with 18 points Freya Tauber Anderson, Alicia Joy and Nadia Merenza also scoring in double figures

**“Storm Too” edged out by “Titans”**

**Under 12 Mixed NBL Region III**

**Northants “Storm Too” 77 – 80 Northamptonshire “Titans”**

Thirty points from Deev Patel and 22 points from Jack Thompson couldn’t prevent the Northants Under 12 Boys second team slipping to a narrow defeat against local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”, the game being marred by a broken arm suffered by Storm Too’s” Theo Burdett.

The game was a tight battle throughout with “Titans” edging each of the second, third and fourth quarters by a single point to clinch the win in a game which saw the two teams ‘called’ for no less than 50 fouls with four players fouling out of the game.

Earlier in the season “Storm Too” had lost to “Titans” by eleven points so this narrow defeat shows how much the group has improved.

**Golden Basket wins it for Junior Men**

**Friendly Challenge game**

**Northants “Thunder” Under 18’s 53 -51 Northants “Thunder Under 15’s”**

**(51 – 51)**

With “Leodonites” dropping out of the Midlands II Conference the Northants Under 18 Boys were left without a fixture for three weeks so took on the Northants Under 15 Boys in order to give players some court time.

The game proved to be a close fought affair which ended all square at 51 points each. Coaches Hughes and Maldutis agreed to play a ‘Golden Basket’ conclusion rather than the usual extra period. The Under 15 Boys failed to convert neither of the two free throws they were awarded Cole Serrant scoring a decisive basket for the Under 18’s to win the game.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 16th March**

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

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

**12-15pm** Under 16 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix” (NBL)

Under 14 Boys versus Tamworth “Tigers” (NBL)

**2-30pm** Under 12 Boys II versus Leicester “Riders” (NBL)

Under 15 Boys versus “Ballers Heaven” (NBL)

**4-45pm** Under 18 Boys versus Stourport “Spartans” (NBL)

Under 14 Girls II travel to Braintree to play Braintree “Blue Devils”

and Southend (ERL)

Under 12 Boys travel to Warwickshire “Hawks” (NBL)

**Sunday 17th March**

**10-30am** Under 16 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks” (NBL)

**12-30pm** Under 13 Mixed play Abingdon “Eagles” (YBL)

**2-30pm** Under 15 Boys play Birmingham “Bears” (YBL)

Under 14 Girls travel to Nottingham “Wildcats” (NBL)

Under 12 Boys travel to Tamworth “Tigers” (NBL)

**The “Ballers” activities and home** **games will take place at the Basketball Centre which is based**

**at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG.**

For further information about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on **+44 7801 533 151**