**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Junior Men open their season with a win**

**Junior Men’s Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 71 – 53 Shropshire “Warriors”**

By the end of the third quarter of this Midland Conference game “Thunder” had established a 20 points plus lead at 57-34, but by this time three of their players had fouled out of the game. There was never any real possibility that “Warriors” would close the gap, but they did win the final quarter

19-14.

The first quarter was a typical early season game with both teams struggling to find any kind of rhythm. “Thunder” edged the quarter 16-10 and this lead was extended to 37-25 by half time. Some excellent “Thunder” defence in the third quarter restricted the visitors to just nine points while scoring twenty points themselves to establish a 57-34 lead. That defence however, had come at a price with three players having fouled out leaving “Thunder” to hang on for the victory.

In the 18 point win Benas Maldutis top scored for “Thunder” with 21 points, Thomas Bates supporting well with 13 points before fouling out.

**Under 15 Boys cruise to victory Over “Titans”**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 119 – 26 Northamptonshire “Titans II”**

This season the Northants Under 15 Boys will be playing in two competitions the YBL Primis and a year young in the EBL National League. They opened their national league programme with a game against the second-string team of local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”. Recent departures meant that “Titans” had to field a number of hastily licenced players from their casual programme and from very early on it was evident they would struggle to compete.

“Thunder” opened the game missing a number of lay ups but Oliwier Andrzejczak was on hand to score with ‘put backs’. “Thunder” dominated all four quarters with Coach Brad Hughes putting a number of restrictions on his players. At the end of the game Hughes commented, “We were expecting a much tougher game but this was great way to build confidence for what we expected to be a long and tough season.”

In the big win eleven “Thunder” players scored led by Andrzejczak with 22 points and the team opens their YBL programme this Saturday when they travel to West Bromwich Albion.

**Two wins for Under 13 Girls**

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

The Rose of the Shires League is an ‘All Girls’ all must play initiative set up by Hannah

Valentine-Rice and her husband Paul Rice and Sunday saw the first tournament staged

at the University of Northampton

**Bedford “Thunder” 14 – 39 Northants “Lightning”**

“Lightning” made a nervous start to their first game against an athletic Bedford team and were guilty of missing a number of easy scoring opportunities and were obviously short of game practice.

Helped by the guiding hand of Urte Maldutyte in the second quarter “Lightning” were able to establish a 19-10 lead by half time and thanks to some excellent defence won the second half 20-4 to run out comfortable winners by 39 points to 14.

**Kettering “Phoenix II” 9 – 33 Northants “Lightning”**

“Lightning” were far too strong for the Kettering second string and with Brooke Foster and Rosheedat Khamodeen looking particularly impressive as they ran out comfortable winners to complete a successful afternoon on the first occasion of this admirable venture.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 30th September**

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

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

**12-15pm** “Storm Too”Under 12 Boys versus Sheffield “Blue”

**2-30pm** “Thunder” Cadet Boys versus Tamworth “Tigers”

**5-15pm** “Thunder” Junior Men versus Hereford Elite

“Thunder” Under 15 Boys travel to West Bromwich Albion

**Sunday 1st October**

YBL Under 13 Girls Tournament

**10-15am** “Lightning” Under 13 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix”

**11-30am** “Lightning” Under 13 Girls versus Leicester “Riders”

Kettering “Phoenix” versus Abingdon “Eagles”

**12-45pm** “Lightning” Under 13 Girls versus Abingdon “Eagles”

Kettering “Phoenix” versus Leicester “Riders”

“Thunder” Under 14 Boys travel to Shropshire “Warriors”

“Thunder” Cadet Boys travel to City of Birmingham II

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

Spectators are welcome at the games; refreshments will be available and admission is FREE

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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