**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A busy weekend for the Northants Basketball Club with six teams playing nine games**

**and recording seven wins**

**Short-handed Junior Men hold on for a win against Hereford**

**Junior Men’s Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 63 – 55 Hereford Elite**

A combination of injuries, illnesses and registration problems meant that the Northants Junior Men had only six of their roster available for their second national league game of the season. Three Under 16 players were drafted in for the game having already played against Tamworth and facing another game the following day so the six “Thunder” ‘regulars’ knew they would have to play mega minutes.

Coach Darjius’s message to his team was very simple, “Play smart and keep out of foul trouble.” In the event his players did just this and on the back of some disciplined defence were able to record a hard fought eight point win.

“Thunder” made an excellent start to the game rushing out to a 19-9 lead after the first quarter. That lead was maintained until midway through the second quarter at which stage Hereford poured in 12 points “Tunder’s” only response coming from six points from Rapolas Radavicius.

Leading 35-30 lead at half time, “Thunder” extended their lead by three points in the third quarter thanks in the main to Radavicius and Benas Maldutis but were struggling to contain the perimeter shooting of Hereford’s Biggs .

Hereford made a positive start to the final quarter closing the gap to six points despite missing four free throws. They backed this up with another 7-zero surge to get back to 55-58 and with the “Thunder” players looking fatigued things looked black for the home team. The growing tension was relieved by a three pointer from Danielius Jokulis who backed it up with two free throws before a put back from Jakob Milencius extended the lead to seven points and a free throw from Maldutuis put the final result beyond doubt.

So back-to-back wins for “Thunder” with Maldutis and Radavicius leading their scoring with 18 and 16 points respectively Milencius contributing an invaluable 12 points.

**Under 14 Boys win ‘at a canter’**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Shropshire “Warriors” 27 – 99 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys turned in a highly efficient performance against an inexperienced Shropshire “Warriors” team eventually running out winners by a massive 72 points.

Leading 29-8 after the first ten minutes of pay “Thunder” scored 20 points in the second quarter and kept their opponents scoreless. Leading by 49 points to 18 at half time “Thunder” kept up the pressure in the third quarter which they won 30-6 to put the final result beyond doubt.

“Warriors” battled hard in the final quarter and they only lost the quarter 20-13 “Thunder running out comfortable winners all eleven of their players contributing to the 99 point total lead by Al Mustafa Yin with 20 personal points.

**Brace of wins for Under 16 Boys**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 65 – 57 Tamworth “Tigers”**

The Northants Under 16 Boys recovered from an appalling start against Tamworth to record a hard fought win despite never playing to their full potential.

In the first quarter they were guilty of missing numerous lay ups, put backs and free throws and this allowed “Tigers” to take control of the game taking the quarter by 18 points to 14.

Back to back scores from Fran Guel at the start of the second quarter provided the impetus that “Thunder” needed and a short ranged jump shot from Logan Ormshaw gave them the lead midway through the quarter. “Thunder” won the quarter 20-10 to establish a 34-28 half time lead.

“Tigers” made a number of surges over the final two quarters of the game but “Thunder” were able to keep their noses in front holding on for the 65-57 win and helped a great deal by the fact that “Tigers” missed a crucial eight free throws over the final ten minutes of the game.

In the eight point win Ormshaw led the “Thunder” scoring with 18 points good support coming from Harry Dutton and Fran Guei with 12 and 10 points respectively.

**City of Birmingham II 57 – 71 Northants “Thunder”**

Less than 24 hours after their battling win over Tamworth the “Thunder” Under 16’s travelled to Birmingham to take on the City of Birmingham second string.

Both teams found scoring difficult in the first quarter but “Thunder” edged ahead 10-5 but they found their rhythm in the second quarter which they took 20-14 to establish a 30 points to 19 half time lead. During that ten minute period “Thunder” had employed a trapping zone defence which was successful in forcing a number of C.O.B. turn-over leading to easy scores.

“Thunder” were able to maintain their high level of work in the third quarter with Harry Dutton, Fran Guei and Logan Ormshaw all scoring freely. “Thunder” outscored their opponents 30-17 in that third quarter to extend their lead to

60-36 and despite a rather lacklustre final quarter which they lost 11-21 they held on to record a 14 point win to record an impressive double for the weekend.

In the 71-57 win Ormshaw led all scorers with 25 points, Guei and Dutton supporting well with 18 and 15 points respectively but Coach Bain was quick to stress that the win came as a result of the hard work of all ten of her players.

**Under 15 Boys are second to best against WBA**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands Conference**

**West Bromwich Albion 67 – 51 Northants “Thunder”**

The “Thunder” Under 14 Boys chose their second game in the National League to turn in their worst performance for some time eventually losing to an athletic West Bromwich Albion team by 16 points.

The game was played in less than ideal conditions with rings that weren’t level, one referee and a scoresheet that made little or no sense.

“Thunder” made a good start to the game and thanks to some determined defence took the opening quarter 13-12 but made the mistake of going toe-to-toe with a more athletic team in the second quarter which they lost 25-17 to trail by 37 points to 25 at half time. “Thunder” were able to contain the W.B.A. scoring in the final two quarters but found scoring difficult themselves and were unable to close the gap, finally losing by 16 points.

It was difficult to decipher the final scoresheet but it appeared that the only “Thunder” player to score in double figures was Logan Tanner who scored 12 points , Oliwier Andrzejczak, J.J. Lothian and Joe Safo all posting valuable points.

**Full House for dominant Under 13 Girls**

**YBL Under 13 Girls Tournament**

**Northants “Lightning” 65 – 11 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning” 62 – 10 Leicester “Riders”**

**Northants “Lightning” 77 – 10 Abingdon “Eagles”**

Kettering “Phoenix” 52 – 20 Abingdon Eagles” Kettering “Phoenix” 33 -15 Leicester “Riders”

The Northants “Lightning Under 13 Girls picked up three convincing wins in their first YBL tournament of the season. In all three games “Lightning” were physically and technically superior to their opponents and combined aggressive defence with attractive running basketball. In all three games Coach Karen Goodrich imposed restrictions on her team in order not to run up cricket scores.

In the other games Kettering “Phoenix” picked up two wins including an excellent victory over Leicester “Riders”

**Brave “Storm Too” go down to Shefield**

**Under 12 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Storm Too” 46 – 78 Sheffield “Blue”**

The Northants “Storm Too” made a promising start to their National League season despite losing to Sheffield “Blue”. Coach Mark Spatcher identified several positives from his team’s performance and midway through the third quarter the Northants boys were only trailing Sheffield by seven points. They were then hit by an 11-2 blitz and there was no way back.

Whereas the “Storm Too” team had only one player with National League experience Sheffield were able to field a number of players who had played at this level. For “Storm Too” Deev Patel led the scoring good support coming from Fraser Lovitt, Cairon Odoom and Mark Spatcher.

The team are back in action this Saturday wen they entertain Leicester “Riders”

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 7th October**

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

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

**12-15pm** “Storm” Under 12 Boys versus Stourport “Spartans”

“Storm Too”Under 12 Boys versus Leicester “Riders”

**2-30pm** “Thunder” Under 14 Boys versus Worcester “Wolves”

“Lightning” Under 16 Girls versus Derby “Trailblazers”

**5-15pm** “Thunder” Under 15 Boys versus Shrewsbury

**Sunday 8th October**

**10-30am** “Thunder” Under 18 Boys versus Milton Keynes “Breakers II”

**12-30pm** “Thunder” Under 16 Boys versus West Bromwich Albion

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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