**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Last weekend was the busiest in the history of the Northants Basketball Club with no less than fourteen competitive games played over the two days.**

**Seventeen three-pointers too much for Shrewsbury**

**Junior Men’s Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 94 – 60 Shrewsbury “Storm”**

A stunning seventeen three-pointers was the highlight of this comfortable win over a gutsy Shrewsbury “Storm” outfit. That meant that over half of “Thunder’s” points came from beyond the arc.

“Thunder” won all four quarters but after winning the first stanza 24-12 they were guilty of relaxing their efforts and “Storm” mounted a 12-2 charge at the start of the second quarter to close to four points but ten points from Benas Maldutis got the “Thunder” team back on track.

“Thunder” remain unbeaten despite playing without some players still awaiting international clearance but some of their defence last Saturday was not of the standard Coach Darjjis Maldutis is looking for. In the comfortable win Maldutis led the “Thunder” scoring with 18 points, Danielus Jokulis and Rapolas Radavicius scoring 17 and 16 points respectively while Jakob Milencius made a useful 12 point contribution.

After the game the “Thunder” players were introduced to a representative of the team’s new sponsors (Full details in next week’s report)

**Under 17 Girls overwhelm Nottingham Oaks**

**YBL Under 17 Girls**

**Nottingham “Oaks” 2 – 87 Northants “Lightning”**

The “Lightning” Under 17 Girls travelled to Nottingham last Sunday to play the newly formed “Oaks” team who managed just one basket in the whole game. The inexperienced “Oaks” team never gave up but “Lightning” were able to score at will despite Coach Lee Meadows imposing a number of conditions on them.

In the landslide victory Tolani Akanmu scored 20 points, Ivannah Meadows and Kelis Foster both scoring in double figures.

**Two big wins for Cadet Boys**

The “Thunder” Under 16 Boys recorded back-to-back wins over the weekend to retain their unbeaten record with Harry Dutton, Fran Guei and Logan Ormshaw impressing in both games.

**Under 16 Boys Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 82 -41 West Bromwich**

Against and athletic West Bromwich “Big Sky” team the “Thunder” Under 16’s decided to perform in the odd quarters and then go to sleep in the even ones. The aggregate score for quarters one and three was 48-13 whereas in quarters two and four they could only outscore their opponents by two points in each quarter.

“Thunder” were able to make a number of steals from their ‘trapping’ zone defence but when playing man-to-man they were unable to force their opponents in to as many errors.

By the end of the third quarter “Thunder” had built up a 65 to 26 lead and the game was over as a contest but all credit to the west Midlanders who didn’t give up and only lost the final quarter 15-17.

In the 41 point win Logan Ormshaw capped an excellent all-round performance with 24 personal points, Harry Dutton, Fran Guei and James Kennett- Maughan all providing good support.

**Northants “Thunder” 78 – 38 Coventry “Elite”**

The day after beating West Bromwich the “Thunder” Under 16’s entertained Coventry “Elite” and duly completed the double of wins. Once again their win was based on easy points generated from steals forced by their ‘trapping’ defence, the inside power of Fran Guei who scored 20 points in the first half alone, The excellent perimeter shooting of Harry Dutton and the all-round play of Logan Ormshaw.

After slow start to the game “Thunder” totally dominated quarters two and three outscoring their opponents by 58 points to 24. The team is without a game this coming weekend so will be working hard in practice in an attempt to maintain their unbeaten record.

**Under 15 Boys go down against “Tigers”**

**Under 15 Boys YBL Primis**

**Tamworth “Tigers” 79 – 66 Northants “Thunder”**

The Tamworth club has developed a reputation for vociferous support, well coached teams and excellent officiating and they didn’t disappoint last Sunday as “Tigers” were able to inflict a thirteen point defeat on the “Thunder” Under 15 team.

“Thunder” made an excellent start to the game edging the first quarter 23-21 but the influential Logan Tanner had picked up three fouls and this was to be a major factor for the remainder of the game. The game was won and lost in the second quarter with “Tigers” hitting “Thunder with a 12-zero charge taking the quarter

22 to nine to establish a 43 points to 32 half time lead.

“Thunder” were able to reduced the deficit by two points in the third quarter thanks to the efforts of Tanner and Luca Garratt but “Tigers” won the final quarter 16-14 to take victory by 79 points to 66.

In the defeat Tanner and Garratt led the “Thunder” scoring with 16 and 14 points respectively Al Mustafa Yinu supporting well with 10 points.

Coach Brad Hughes was obviously disappointed about the defeat but he was pleased with the battling qualities displayed by his team. He recognized that Tanner and Oliwier Andrzejczak getting into early foul trouble was a massive handicap to his team.

**Under 14 Boys get home in overtime**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Walsall Wizards” 74 – 82 Northants “Thunder”**

**(68-68)**

Ina game played in less than ideal conditions and with a barely legible scoresheet the “Thunder” Under 14 Boys ‘escaped’ from Walsall with an overtime win.

Against a team fielding two very tall players “Thunder” struggled to establish any kind of rhythm and found themselves trailing by 32 points to 33 at half time. In the third quarter “Thunder” were able to produce their best basketball of the game winning the quarter 18-7 to take an eight point lead but they were overwhelmed 26-17 in the final quarter as the game ended at 68 all at full time.

In overtime Coach Hughes’s team were able to keep their composure and marshalled by point guard Jereome Maroodza edged their way to an eight point win.

The “Thunder” scoring was led by Oliver Casey, Maroodza and Jowell Skiete-Franch and Hughes was full of praise for Casey who was forced to defend on the “Wizards” ‘bigs’.

**“Lightning Too” open their season with an impressive win.**

**East Regional League**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 73 – 34 Oaklands “Wolves”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls second team played their first East Region League game last Sunday and turned in an efficient performance in comfortably beating Oaklands “Wolves” with the win based on some excellent defence and an impressive 21 point haul from Macie Latimer.

“Lightning Too” won all four quarters playing some impressive team basketball with nine of their players contributing to the final total. In addition to Latimer’s contribution Freya Tauber-Anderson and Emilie Milsome both scored in the double figures.

**“Riders” no match for Under 13 “Storm”**

**YBL Under 13 Boys**

**Northants “Storm” 93 -35 Leicester “Riders”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 13 team is a mixture of boys who didn’t make the Under 14 team, some Under 12’s with girls supporting the group when needed. It was this sort of combination that took to the court against Leicester “Riders” last Saturday.

Playing some aggressive full court defence “Storm” took the first quarter 22-10 with Sam Dominici running in a number of fast break lay ups. Forced by the rules to defend in the half court “Storm” totally dominated the second quarter winning it by 27 points to seven to establish a 49-17 half time lead.

“Storm” maintained their defensive intensity in the last two quarters and with Kayin Dada and Isaac Yankey dominating the defensive boards were able to mount a number of fast breaks to win the second half 44-18 and the game by 93 points to 35.

In the comfortable win Dominici scored a stunning 38 points, Yankey contributing 12 points and Neitas Kurila ten points.

**Another big win for Under 12 Boys**

**Under 12 Boys Mixed League**

**Northants “Storm” 86- 20 Bromsgrove “Bears”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 12 Boys followed up their win over Stourport with an overwhelming win over Bromsgrove “Bears” with all ten of their players contributing to the final points total.

“ Bears” were restricted to single figures in the fist three quarters and could manage just ten in the fourth with “Storm” playing some impressive team defence. The “Storm” scoring was dominated by Max Abraham with 22 points with Arlo Dominici and Jude Constable both making important contributions.

Once against Coach George Adeseko was delighted with the way his players played as a team sharing the ball well.

**“Storm Too” Under 12 Boys find it tough in Leicester.**

**Under 12 Mixed League**

**Leicester “Dynamite 68 – 30 Northants “Thunder Too”**

The “Thunder” Under 12 Boys second team travelled to Leicester last Saturday and came up against a tall “Dynamite” team who were allowed to ‘park’ big players underneath the basket at both ends of the court without any intervention from the game officials.

Throughout the game “Thunder Too” struggled to score in the first three quarters and found themselves trailing by 19 points to 47 after the third quarter. To their credit the team came out for the fourth quarter in a positive frame of mind and were able to match “Dynamite’s” eleven points.

In the heavy defeat Deev Patel with ten points was the only “Thunder” player able to score in double figures, but the game will have helped with the basketball education of the young Northants players

**FRIENDLY GAMES**

**Impressive double for “Lightning” Under 11 Girls teams**

**Northants “Lightning” 48 – 42 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning Too” 32 – 26 Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Northants “Lightning” 38 – 25 Northants “Lightning Too”**

Thirty-four girls participated in this triangular event watched by a large animated crowd of relatives and friends that would have put many senior national league games to shame.

Both Lightning teams were troubled by the superior height of “Phoenix”. It was not until the tall and athletic Jamelia fouled out of the game that “Lightning” were able to control the game but it was a different story when “Lightning Too” took to the floor. They were able to use the experienced Urte Malduyte to mark Jamelia and with her offensive threat contained “Lightning Too were able to take the win.

At a time when many clubs are struggling to get girls playing basketball both clubs should be praised for making this event so successful.

**“Lighting” Under 14 Girls too strong for “Breakers” second string**

**Northants “Lightning” 81 – 54 Milton Keynes “Breakers II”**

The “Lightning” under 14 girls maintained their 100% pre-season record with a comfortable win over the Milton Keynes “Breakers” second team.

Having not played for four weeks not surprisingly the girls made a slow start but were still able to edge the first quarter 17-15. The second quarter saw “Lightning” find their rhythm and 14 straight points from Campbell Spatcher helped them to establish a 42-23 half time lead.

In the third quarter “Lightning” were penalised for a number of fouls which saw “Breakers” go to the line for eighteen free throws. During the quarter “Lightning” were only to extend their lead by a single pont to leas 60-40 going into the final stanza.

With the game as good as won “Lightning” were able to get into their running game thanks to some hard-nosed defence. During the quarter Amelia May Wesley-Maryan was able to hit two three-pointers in transition as the Northants girls closed out the game.

In the 27-point win Campbell led all scorers with 27 points good support coming from the Makuna sisters Michelle and Danielle with 14 and 13 points respectively while Wesley-Maryan scored 11 points

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 21st October**

**There are NO “Ballers” sessions or home games this weekend.**

”Lightning” Under 13 Girls travel to Daventry to play Daventry “Swifts”

and Nuneaton “Predators”

“Thunder Under 14 and Under 15 Boys travel to Warwickshire “Hawks”

**Sunday 22nd October**

“Lightning” Under 16 Girls travel to Leicester “Riders”

“Thunder” Under 15 Boys travel to Leicester “Riders”

“Lightning Too” Under 14 Girls travel to Norwich to play Norfolk “Inceni”

and Southend “Scorpions”

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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