

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Senior Men go joint top of their Conference, “Titans” record a double win and Under 14 Boys get revenge.

“Thunder” go joint to top after overtime win over “Rockets”

Division Four National League

(Midlands Conference)

Northants “Thunder”	87 – 85	City of Birmingham “Rockets”
	(75 – 75)	

Fifteen late points from Johnny Yates helped “Thunder” record an overtime win over Conference topping City of Birmingham “Rockets”. The comeback win takes “Thunder” to joint top of the Midlands Conference and came thanks to a determined effort after trailing by 12 points with six minutes of the game remaining. Two 10-zero charges gave “Thunder” a 74-70 lead but they were rocked by a “Rockets” three pointer from Steda, the tallest player in the game. Matt Yates could convert just one of two free throws before “Rockets” tied up the score with two successful free throws.

“Thunder” had one final shot to take the game from their out of bounds play but the shot missed and the game went into overtime.

In the extra five minutes “Thunder” the first seven points but after a Yates three pointer spent the last two minutes sweating as they missed six of the eight free throws they were awarded. They held on thanks to some determined defence and despite another deep three-pointer from Steda.

Earlier, “Rockets” had taken the first quarter 28-20, “Thunder” closed the gap 40 43-44 by half time only to lose their way in the third quarter managing just 9 points. Leading 59-52 going into the final stanza, “Rockets” extended their lead to 12 points but lost key players with five fouls allowing “Thunder” to battle their way back into the game.

In the two points win the Yates brothers Johnny and matt scored 19 and 17 points respectively, well supported by Jason Tucker with 16 points. Richard Higgins recorded a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds while Jacob Holt pulled down 12 rebounds to go with his 10 points and his defensive effort against “Rockets”, talented Bradshaw was critical.

Another heavy defeat for Junior Men

Junior Men’s

(Premier Central League)

Northants “Thunder”	47 – 95	West Bromwich Albion
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The Northants Junior Men’s nightmare season continued last Saturday when they were heavily defeated by West Bromwich Albion. Throughout the game “Thunder” struggled to contain the West Midlands team while, with the exception of Chris Amankonah with 17 personal points and Ed Wallhead with 10 points found scoring very difficult.

Under 14 Boys get revenge over “Hoops”

Under 14 Boys National League
(Midlands West Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 65 – 60 Oxford “Hoops”

In these teams two previous meetings this season, “Thunder” had narrowly lost to Oxford so they were keen to get revenge when they clashed again at the Basketball Centre last Saturday. “Thunder” achieved their ambition with an exciting comeback win thanks to a 12-zero charge early in the fourth quarter, a stunning performance from point guard Benas Maldutis and the defensive work of Jordan Gbanjana.

The win looked highly unlikely after the first quarter as “Hoops” stormed into a 21-10 lead with “Thunder” struggling to contain the driving play of the Oxford players Serino and Tzanos. “Thunder” narrowed the deficit in the second quarter which they edged 15-9 thanks to some defensive adjustments by assistant coach Rob Crump.

By now Gbanjana had been given the defensive duties of marking Tzanos and his efforts seemed to frustrate the Oxford player and “thunder” were able to mount the 12-0 rush which gave them the lead. The “Hoops” effort was also adversely affected when Tzanos fouled out of the game and “Thunder” were able to cruise to victory to the delight of their raucous fans.

In the five point win Maldutis scored 24 points and he was well supported by Dylan Dominici and Tom Greenfield who both scored 10 points while the defensive efforts of Gbanjana were vital.

Below par “Thunder” make it a double with win over “Warriors”

Shropshire “Warriors” 71 – 87 Northants “Thunder”

Less than 24 hours after their win over Oxford, “thunder” were on the road to Telford to take on Shropshire “Warriors”. “Warriors” are the whipping boys of the Midlands West Conference so “Thunder” fielded some players who were making their National League debuts. This plan seemed to have backfired when the home side took a 6-zero lead against a lethargic “Thunder” team. Spurred on by Tom Greenfield, “Thunder” closed the quarter with a seven point run to lead 17-16 at the end of the first quarter.

This lead was extended to ten points at 39-29 by half time, but “thunder” were struggling from the free throw line which encouraged the “Warriors” players to be overly aggressive close to basket.

Determined to put the game beyond the reach of “Warriors”, Coach John Collins put an experienced team on the court at the start of the second half but this group were guilty of missing a number of easy shots and “Warriors” mounted a 14-6 run to close the gap to 43-45 Suddenly a real shock result looked to be on the cards but Greenfield and Benas Maldutis had other ideas and they steered their team to an 87-71 victory.

In the 16 point win which takes “Thunder” up fourth in the Conference table, Greenfield top scored with 35 points, well supported by Maldutis with 19 while Dylan Dominic scored 15, but possibly the most telling statistic was the horrifying 26 missed free throws.

Local Derby double for “Titans”

Nightmare third quarter costs “Lightning” dear

Under 16 Girls National League
(North Conference)

Northants “Lightning” 60 – 74 NEBC “Titans”

Holding a 37-36 half time lead thanks to 19 points from Dina Kosnikovska, “Lightning” were optimistic about recording a rare win over their local rivals. That optimism disappeared in the third quarter which saw “Titans” switching to sagging defence which completely bamboozled “Lightning” who could manage just six points while “Titans” netted 22 to take a 58-43 lead.

“Lightning” won the final quarter 17-16 but it was too little too late as “Titans” ran out winners by 74 points to 60.

In the 14 point defeat Kosnikovska top scored with 26 points but Poppy Barnett with 13 points was the only other “Lightning” player to score in double figures.

Under 14 Girls National League
(Midlands East Conference)

Northants “Lightning Too” 36 – 81 NEBC “Titans”

After the previous weeks win over Nottingham “Wildcats”, “Lightning Too” went into this local derby hopeful of putting on a competitive performance. In the event they were heavily defeated after possibly, their worst performance of the season so far.

“Lightning Too” made a dreadful start to the game and found themselves 5-17 down after the first quarter. Things improved in the second quarter which was edged by “Titans” by two points but the third quarter turned out to be a nightmare for the home team. Poor decisions were compounded by poor execution as “Titans” led by the talented Imogene Williams totally dominated proceedings outscoring “Lightning Too” 20-4 to take an unassailable 53-23 lead. The carnage continued in the final quarter, “Titans” finally running out winners by 81 points to 36.

No “Lightning” player could score in double figures although Mia Gajaga and Amelia Stirling battled hard and Madison Ward made an encouraging debut,

“Lightning get back to winning ways with comfortable victory over “Warrriros”

Leicester “Warriors” 39 – 71 Northants “Lightning”

After their unpleasant experience at Ipswich the previous week “Lightning” were able to get their confidence back with a comfortable win over a gutsy Leicester “Warriors” team.

“Lightning” jumped out to an 11-1 lead thanks to some excellent offensive rebounding by Gee Joksaitė and long triple from Lucie Wilson-Gray and they maintained the pressure to lead 23-7 after the first quarter with Fiona Arthur impressing on offence and Kyla Soya Bongay putting in a determined defensive shift.

By half time “Lightning” had moved 44-14 ahead and with the game as good as over as a contest, Coach Karen Goodrich took off the pressure defence and experimented with some different playing combinations. With Leicester able to play all their more experienced players together the second half was a much more competitive affair which “Lightning” edged 27-25 to take a 71-39 win.

For “Lightning”, Joksaitė top scored with 20 points, Arthur contributed 15 points and made 10 steals while Soya- Bongay and Wilson-Grey kept “Warriors” best offensive players in check but Coach Goodrich was pleased with the effort put in by all ten of her players.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 26th January

**9-30 – 11- 00am
11-30am**

**Junior “Ballers”
Under 16 Boys versus Worcester “Wolves”**

This games and the "Ballers" session will be staged at the Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Under 14 Boys travel to City of Birmingham "Rockets II"

Sunday 27th January

Under 16 Girls travel to City of Leeds

For more information on this Press Release contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151