

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Much improved performance from Cadet Boys still ends in defeat.**

### **Under 16 Boys National League (Midlands West Conference)**

**Northants “Thunder”                      58 – 82                      Stoke-on-Trent “Knights”**

The Northants Under 16 Boys concluded their season with a loss to Stoke-on-Trent “Knights” despite a spirited performance from an under sized team.

“Knights” quickly opened up a 10-4 lead at the start of the game to open the quarter, but “Thunder” were then able to move the ball quickly before “Knights” were able to organise their 2-3 zone. Ali Solazzo and Tom Greenfield combined for 11 quarter points with “Thunder” trailing 13-16 end of the first quarter.

“Thunder” struggled defensively in the second quarter, with Greenfield and Demantas Cebatoriunas picking up their third fouls. “Knights” concluded the quarter with a 14-1 run to lead 23-46 at the half.

In order to protect players in foul trouble Northants employed a 3-2 zone in the third quarter and this had the effect of forcing “Knights” to rely on perimeter shots. Offensively, “Thunder” found it difficult to break Knights zone in the opening minutes but they did display a positive effort driving inside. This resulted in numerous fouls by the visitors and multiple trips to the free throw line for the “Thunder” players. Six of those free throws were converted with “Thunder” losing the quarter by 15-16 to trail 38-62 going into the final ten minutes of the game.

Despite trailing by a large deficit, “Thunder” put in a spirited performance at the start of the fourth quarter forcing a time out from the opposition. Tom Greenfield poured in 11 personal points during the quarter to inspire the Northants team but “Knights” were held out for the comfortable win.

“Thunder” were led in scoring by Tom Greenfield with 22 points good support coming from Deimantis Cebatoriunas, Ashley Kitchen, and Ali Solazzo

**“Lightning” complete the double over “Lightning Too” ..... just**

### **Under 14 Girls National League (Midlands East Conference)**

**Northants “Lightning”                      60 – 52                      Northants “Lightning Too”**

Having beaten their young opponents by 15 points the previous week Northants “Lightning” were entitled to think that another comfortable win was a ‘gimme’ but with the scores tied at 42 all going into the fourth quarter that was obviously not going to be the case.

“Lightning” showed more vigour at the start of final quarter to lead 50-44 but “Lightning Too” weren’t finished and an 8-zero charge saw them leading 52-50 with less than three minutes of the game remaining. Inspired by the efforts of Fiona Arthur and Lucie Wilson-Gray, “Lightning” were able to close the game with a 10-zero run to take the contest by 60 points to 52 a margin which was very flattering.

For “Lightning”, Arthur top scored with 22 points while Keris Ndubisi led the “Lightning Too” scoring with a 16 point haul.

### **Players from the Northants Club gain representative honours**

Ashia King who plays for Northants “Lightning Too” has been selected for the England Development squad. Teams from the squad will be selected to play in tournaments in Copenhagen and Valencia to be played over the summer months

Three boys and two girls from the Northants Club have been selected for the East Midlands Under 11 teams following the Inter Counties Tournament which was dominated by the three teams (Two boys and one girls) from Northamptonshire. The county teams were coached by Curtis Noel and Kim Thompson with Colleen Clarke acting as team manager.

The three boys selected for East Midlands are, Reggie Maswega, Gabriel Noel and Tafari Pryce and the girls were Amelia Heng and Athena Thompson.

Four other boys and one girl played for the county, Simeone Tekam in the ‘A’ team and Henry Boulton, Caelin Chin, Mylo Isaacs and Seth Wilborn in the ‘B’ team while Stephanie Tekam played for the girls’ county team.

### **THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

#### **Saturday 23rd March**

9-30am – 11.00am	Junior “Ballers” session
	<u>North of England Under 12 Girls Central Venue League</u>
11-30am	“Lightning” versus Derby “Trailblazers”
1-30pm	Derby “Trailblazers” versus Bury “Blue Devils”
2-30pm	“Lightning” versus Bury “Blue Devils”
4-15pm	Under 14 Girls versus Southend “Swifts”

The “Ballers” session and the Under 16 boys game will all be staged at the Northants Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Northants “Thunder” travel to Abingdon for a Central England Under 12 Boys Central Venue Tournament where they will play Abingdon “Eagles” and N.E.B.C. “Titans”

#### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Senior Men travel to Team Birmingham Elite for a friendly game.

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