

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Below par “Thunder” go down to Shropshire “Warriors”

National League Division 4 (Midlands Conference)

Shropshire “Warriors” 69 - 59 Northants “Thunder”

A below par Northants senior men slipped to a disappointing loss against Shropshire “Warriors” last Saturday, leaving the team winless in the Division 4 Midlands Conference. The defeat was doubly disappointing because “Thunder” looked really impressive during the first period of play jumping out to a 19-9 lead. This score line prompted “Warriors” to switch to a zone defence and this proved to be “Thunder’s” undoing.

In the second quarter they were guilty of rushing shots and trying to force the ball inside resulting in turn-overs. The Shropshire team capitalised on these errors scoring with a number of break away scores. They outscored “Thunder” 22-16 in that second quarter but the Northants team still led 35-31 at half time.

The half time interval gave Coach John Collins the opportunity to try and clarify what he wanted his players to do but his team made an appalling start to the third quarter with the home side pouring in 11 unanswered points. A time out got “Thunder” back on track and a 12-2 run saw the scores level at 44 all. Having seemingly got back on track “Thunder” then reverted to all their bad habits to close the period and were outscored 9-zero and “Warriors” went into the last quarter leading 53-47.

The two teams traded baskets at the start of the final period of play before “Thunder’s” efforts were severely handicapped when their leading scorer Matt Yates fouled out of the game. Jacob Holt did his best to rally “Thunder” but “Warriors” outscored “Thunder” 10-4 over a scrappy last five minutes to hold on for a 10 point win.

In the disappointing loss Yates top scored with 23 points, Holt had 14 rebounds to go with his 16 points while Richard Higgins battled hard for his 10 points.

Weekend of mixed fortunes for Junior Men

Junior Men’s National League (Midlands West Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 67 – 58 Coventry “Tornadoes”

A dominant first quarter was mainly responsible for this win over a short-handed Coventry “Tornadoes” team. In that period “Thunder” took a 22-15 advantage which was extended to 36-26 by half time.

During the second half “Tornadoes” close the gap on a number of occasions without ever seriously threatening “Thunders” lead. Defensively the whole team were working hard but there was a concern that only four players were contributing to the “Thunder” scoring.

In the 9 point win Cameron Samuels top scored for “Thunder” with 23 points which included 5 three-pointers. Ed Wallhead and Chris Amankonah scored 17 and 13 points respectively while Matt Major contributed 8 points.

Junior Men dumped out of Cup by Southwark “Legends”

Junior Men’s National Cup

(Round 2)

Southwark “Legends” 140 – 50 Northants “Thunder”

The day after the win over Coventry, a below strength “Thunder” travelled to London to take on Southwark “Legends” in the 2nd Round of the National Cup. They returned up the M.1 contemplating a massive defeat against a team that fielded a front line containing three players standing over 2 meters in height. The Londoners pressed for the entire game and by the final period of play “Thunder” were virtually out on their feet and were outscored by a massive 33 points.

In the heavy loss Cameron Samuels once again top scored for “Thunder” with 24 points while Ed Taylan gallantly battled against the giants for his 10 points.

Both Junior Men’s reports compiled by Matt Major

“Thunder” Cadets see off local rivals

Under 16 Boys National League

(Midlands West Conference)

Northamptonshire “Titans” Purple 45 – 87 Northants “Thunder”

Last Saturday the Northants Cadet Men made the short journey to Wellingborough to take on “Titans” Purple. They duly recorded a comfortable win over an enthusiastic but inexperienced “Titans” team.

“Thunder” led 42-24 at half time with the home team struggling to contain the fast breaking skills of Adam Lewandowski, Grigori Litsai and Connor White. The third quarter saw “Thunder” really establish their dominance taking it 29-2 to put the final result beyond doubt. During that period of play Patrick Adeji and Ali Solazzo showed some impressive perimeter shooting skills.

With the game as good as won Coach John Collins gave his less experienced players plenty of playing time in the fourth quarter and to their credit “Titans” rallied well and led by Aldridge took the period 19-16.

In the 42 point win Lewandowski and Litsai led the “Thunder” scoring with 22 and 18 points respectively while Adeji, Solazzo and White all scored in double figures.

Cadette Women lose to “Warriors” despite late rally

Under 16 Girls National League

(North Conference)

Northants “Lightning” 52 – 58 Leicester “Warriors”

As the game entered the fourth and final quarter “Lightning” found themselves trailing by 21 points having scored just 30 points to “Warriors” 51 over the previous three periods of play. During those three periods “Lightning” had stuck to their game plan of playing their pass, cut and replace offence. All this changed over the last ten minutes of the game and led by Poppy Barnett and Sade Chambers, “Lightning” began to pile in the points and the possibility of a win became a real possibility.

It turned out to be too little too late as the Leicester outfit held on for a six point win but the young “Lightning” team had showed how much improvement they have made.

In the 52 to 58 loss the “Lightning” scoring was led by Chambers with 18 points and she received good support from Barnett and Lucy Needham who scored 10 and 11 points respectively

Great Cup win for Under 16 Girls

Under 16 Girls National Cup **(2nd Round)**

Northants “Lightning” 73 – 32 Manchester “Mystics”

Twenty four hour after their narrow Conference loss to Leicester “Warriors” the Northants under 16 girls were back on court against the Manchester “Mystics” second team. The young “Mystics” team were held up on the motorway and had limited warm-up time and made a nervous start. “Lightning” capitalised on this and showing a great deal of confidence jumped out to a 17-8 lead after the first period of play.

In the second quarter a 14-zero run saw the Northants girls extend their lead to 37-19 by half time and a win was suddenly a real possibility. During the third period of play “Lightning” were guilty of some over aggressive defence leading to a large number of fouls. Luckily “Mystics” missed nine of the ten free throws they were awarded allowing the home side to extend their lead to 51-24.

In the final stanza “Lightning” played with a great deal of freedom pouring in 22 points while the Manchester girls could manage just 8 as “Lightning” cruised to a 73 points to 32 points win which earns them a 3rd Round tie against the talented Manchester “Mystics” first string.

In the 40 plus points win, Sade Chambers completed an excellent weekend’s work with 22 point and she received good support from Poppy Barnett, Maia Chinnick, Dina Kosnikovska, and Lucy Needham

Under 14 Boys win on the road

Under 14 Boys National League **(Midlands West Conference)**

Oxford “Hoops” 66 – 72 Northants “Thunder”

The Northants “Thunder” under 14 boys opened the new season with a well earned victory over Oxford City “Hoops”, after a tightly contested game with “Thunder” really made to work hard for their win. The win was doubly impressive because the Northants boys trailed by 10 points going into the fourth period of play.

The opening minutes of the first quarter were very scrappy with neither team able to establish a lead. “Thunder” were guilty of missing consecutive high percentage shots, following some good offensive team play but back-to-back scores from Kristupas Dambrouskas helped to give “Thunder” 13-12 lead at the end of the quarter.

The second quarter proved to be another tight affair but Oxford managed to extend their lead to 7 points with three minutes of the period left. “Thunder” Coach Rob Crump took a time out and returned to the court with an aggressive full court press which sparked a 9-0 to conclude the quarter and give “Thunder” a 28-26 lead at half time.

It was the home team who proved to be the dominant force at the start of the second half, and consecutive fast breaks earned them a small lead. “Thunder” were trying to play an up-tempo offence but were guilty of consecutive turnovers which gave a great deal of confidence in the Oxford team. Despite trailing “Thunder” did not give up and put pressure on the hosts lead with back to back three-pointers from Ashley Kitchen.

During that third quarter Coach Crump had rotated his younger players with Jaffery Haidar, Jakobus Milencius and Tom Bates all displaying a lot of promise on their National League debuts. Despite Oxford leading 53-45, it was becoming apparent they were struggling with foul trouble being forced to continuously rotate their bench.

Trailing by ten points in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter, “Thunder” were still fielding a young line up and it seemed that it would take a huge effort to produce a comeback. “Thunder” were urged to employ a full court press to unsettle the Oxford offence and this worked successfully, forcing a number of turn-overs. Continuous pressure from the Northants players saw them overturn the Oxford lead in the final minute of play and they kept their noses in front until the final buzzer to record a 72-66 win

“Thunder” were led with an impressive scoring performance by Ashley Kitchen nailing 40 points including four 3 pointers. He was supported with a solid scoring performance from Dambrouskas with 18 points, while young Benas Maldutis scored 11 points.

Coach Crump commented “I was really impressed how the boys opened their season with a well earned victory. Fielding a young team lacking National League experience, it was very pleasing to see how the team remained very composed in the final quarter despite trailing by 10 and sticking to the game plan. If we display the same work ethic and attitude throughout the season, we will have a successful season.”

Under 14 Girls get close to “Warriors”

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

Northants “Lightning” 49 - 53 Leicester “Warriors”

After a highly competitive game a very young Northants “Lightning” team emerged on the wrong end of a 53-49 score line. Despite the disappointment of losing the real winner was the game of basketball as with both coaches giving all their players ample court time, 23 young ladies had the opportunity to enjoy the game.

The lead see-sawed between the two teams and going into the last quarter the scores were tied at 40 points all. “Warriors” were able to seize the initiative when the influential Dina Kosnikovska fouled out of the game, and held on for the narrow win.

In the four point loss Kosnikovska top scored with 17 points, Chloe Stevens and Olivia Baldwin contributing 13 and 8 points respectively

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION

Saturday 14th October

9-30am until 11.00am
11-30am

Junior “Ballers”

Under 14 Girls versus Luton

Under 14 Boys versus Northamptonshire “Titans”

2-00pm

Under 16 Boys versus Birmingham “Mets”

4-00pm

Senior Men versus Nottingham Trent University “Hoods”

These games will be staged at the Northants Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Spectators are welcome and admission is **FREE**

Junior Men travel to Worcester “Wolves”

Under 13 Central Venue League at Northampton School for Boys”

For more information contact: John Collins on 07801 533 151