**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Only two games for the Northants Club last weekend with the Junior Men losing their unbeaten record to local rivals “Titans” and a good win for the Under13 Boys in Coventry…….and great news for three club volunteers and Northampton School for Girls**

**Junior Men ‘downed’ by “Titans”**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Northamptonshire “Titans” 77 – 69 Northants “Thunder”**

When Benas Maldutis drained a three-pointer to cap a 13 - 4 run“Thunder” had regained a lead they had lost at the end of the third quarter. At 63- 56 victory was within their grasp but a 17-zero “Titans” charge put paid to those hopes and despite their best efforts “Thunder” were unable to close the gap and they eventually slipped to an eight point defeat.

Both teams went into the game undefeated, and “Thunder” had the best of a low scoring first quarter which they took 15-8. “Titans” close the gap to 32-27 by half time and then took the lead midway through the third quarter. “Thunder” were troubled by “Titans” press defence and were guilty of turning the ball over on a number of occasions, they were also having problems containing the talented Ethan Round who closed the quarter with a run of seven personal points.

The fourth quarter saw those two decisive runs but having taken the lead “Thunder” missed a number of easy scoring opportunities and that was to prove decisive as “Titans” held on for a hard-fought win.

For “Thunder” Tom Greenfield and Ellis Phillips top scored with 15 and 13 points respectively with good support coming from Rapolas Radavicius with 12 points and Dylan Dominici with 10 while Maldutis contributed nine. Round scored 24 points for “Titans”.

“Titans” are now the only unbeaten team in the Conference and “Thunder” face another tough test this coming weekend when they travel to Milton Keynes to take on the “Breakers” second string who like them have lost just one game

**Stunning second quarter sees Under 13 Boys home in Coventry**

**YBL Under 13 Boys East Conference**

**Coventry “Tornadoes” 45 – 72 Northants “Thunder”**

This win takes “Thunder” to the top of the East Conference and came thanks to a stunning second quarter which saw them blitz their opponents by 26 points to seven. This came after they had edged the first quarter 14 – 9 thanks to some excellent full court defence with Freddie Schryver catching the eye.

Leading 40 -16 at half time “Thunder” had to comply with the YBL rules a take off their press. Forced to defend in the half court seemed to adversely affect “Thunder” and they were guilty of rushing their offence. They played as if they were chasing the game rather than holding a convincing lead. “Thunder” narrowly won the last two quarters of play but had problems containing “Tornadoes” Gill who finished the game with 21 points.

“Thunder” coach Pete Dewsnap was disappointed that his team’s performance had dropped off in the second half but was generally pleased with his team’s efforts. The “Thunder” scoring was led by Luca Garrett with 19 points good support coming from Osagie Efosa with 12 points while Jowell Stiete-French and Jerome Moroodza both scored 10 points the latter also doing a good job in controlling the game. Dewsnap also made mentioned of the efforts of Anton Kelly who had an excellent all-round game.

**Awards for three Club volunteers**

Three volunteers from the Northants Basketball Club have been recognised by the East Midlands Region for their work last season.

**Ellie Baker** who ‘fronts up’ the club’s highly successful “Ballers” and “Budding Ballers” programmes has been named as East Midlands Children’s Coach of the Year.

**Dawn Greenfield** is the administrator of the “Ballers” programme, she also helps with the club’s Tuck Shop, runs a successful fund-raising tombola, often helps with table officiating and serves on the club’s Management Group. Dawn has won the *Volunteer of the Year* award.

Last season it was not unusual to see **Lucie Wilson-Gray** at the Northants Basketball Centrefrom 9am until 7pm every Saturday. She helped coach and referee at the “Ballers” sessions, table officiated some of the National League games, served tea and coffee from the Tuck Shop, stayed to support other teams as well as being a key player for the Junior Women’s team. Lucie has been rewarded for her commitment and dedication with the award of *Young Volunteer of the Year.*

To complete a quartet of wins for the county, **Northampton School for Girls** has been named as *Education Institute of the Year.* Basketball is part of the culture at N.S.G. with over 150 girls actively involved in extra-curricular basketball activities every week. Fronted by Karen Goodrich the school provides sessions for girls of all abilities with teams being run at five age groups from under 12 to under 19

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**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 3rd December**

**9-15am to 10-15am** Budding “Ballers” session

**10-15am to 11-30am** Junior “Ballers” session

**12.00 noon** Under 12 Mixed team versus Coventry “Tornadoes”

**2-15pm** Under 12 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix”

**3-45pm** Under 11 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix”

Under 16 Girls travel to Brentwood “Leopards

Under 15 Boys travel to Oxford “Hoops”

**Sunday 4th December**

Junior Men travel to Milton Keynes “Breakers II”

The home games will be played at the **Northants Basketball Centre** which is based at

**Northampton School for Girls,** Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are welcome admission is **FREE** and refreshments are available

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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