**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**There were five games for the Northants Club last weekend with the Junior Men getting back to winning ways while 23 girls from the club played in two friendly games against**

**Kettering “Phoenix”**

**Junior Men get back to winning ways**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Milton Keynes “Breakers II” 64 - 80 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Junior Men got back to winning ways with a comfortable win over the Milton Keynes “Breakers” second string. The win was based on an excellent first quarter which saw “Thunder” outscore their opponents by 25 points to 9 with seven players contributing to the 25 point total.

“Thunder” extended their lead to 51-28 by half time with their scoring dominated by Dylan Dominici and Fareed Ofusa, but the quarter was spoiled for “Thunder” with an injury to the sharp-shooting Ellis Phillips.

After an impressive two quarters “Thunder” rather went ‘off the boil’ in the second half which the home side took 36-29 but the final result was never really in doubt with “Thunder” holding on for the 16 point win with Osufu scoring 24 points and Dominici 20.

**Under 16 Girls lose out to “Leopards”**

**Under 16 Girls East Conference**

**Brentwood “Leopards” 69 – 41 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 16 Girls took on top of the table Brentwood “Leopards” last Saturday and suffered a 28 points defeat a result overshadowed by the disqualification of one of the “Leopards” players for violent conduct.

After the long journey to Essex “Lightning” were restricted to single figure scoring in each of the first two quarters. The Northants girls raised their game in the final two quarter which they lost by 29 points to 40.

**“Storm” Under 12 Mixed team come up just short against “Tornadoes”**

**Under 12 Mixed League Regional 1 Conference**

**Northants “Storm” 80 – 81 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

A stunning 33 point haul from Dominykas Jokulis wasn’t enough to guide the Northants “Storm” Under 12 Mixed team to victory over Coventry “Tornadoes” after an exciting contest.

“Storm” struggled to contain the bigger “Tornadoes” team in the first quarter which the Coventry team took by 21 points to 12. “Storm” were far more competitive in the second quarter but were struggling to contain the “Tornadoes”, Danoudis but several Coventry players were in foul trouble and when substitutes were introduced to the game “Storm” were able to mount a 12-zero charge which gave them a 40-36 half time lead.

The third quarter was a tense affair with “Tornadoes” edging it 14-13 and a 9- 4 start to the final quarter gave “Tornadoes” the lead with “Storm” handicapped with the loss of the influential Samuel Dominici with five fouls. With two minutes of the game remaining “Tornadoes” were leading by 79 points to 72 but “Storm” mounted a stirring 8-2 run but were unable to take the game into overtime.

Jokulis’s superb points scoring effort was supported by Dominici who scored 13 points before fouling out; Kyjah Adams and Neitas Kurila scored nine and eight points respectively while Amelia May Wesley-Maryan scored seven points, rebounded well, and played some tough defence.

**“Lightning” youngster record a double over Kettering “Phoenix”**

At a time when girls basketball is struggling in many parts of the country all credit to these two clubs for fielding teams at Under 11 and Under 12 age groups

**Under 12 Girls (Friendly)**

**Northants “Lightning” 56 – 38 Kettering “Phoenix”**

Trailing 22-14 at half time “Phoenix” mounted an outstanding effort in the third quarter which they won 16-12 to close the gap to 30-34 thanks to the efforts of Poppy Harris.

Harris maintained her efforts in the final quarter but a 14-2 run at the start of the quarter was sufficient to give “Lightning” victory with their scoring led by Brooke Foster with 10 points good support coming from Zuri (?) Chambers and Freya Anderson with 8 points apiece, while Harris scored 24 points for Kettering.

**Under 11 Girls (Friendly)**

**Northants “Lightning” 41 – 30 Kettering “Phoenix”**

For ten of the girls who played for “Lightning” in this ‘friendly’ fixture it was their first experience of a full competitive game. It turned out to be a ‘game of two halves’ with “Phoenix taking a 24-9 half time lead.

It was a different “Lightning” that took the court for the third and fourth quarters. All twelve players hustled hard on defence limiting “Phoenix” to just six second half points while they scored 32 points themselves with their scoring dominated by Elizabeth Cook and Urte Maldutyte

**THIS WEEEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 10th December**

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

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

**12.00 noon** Under 14 Boys versus City of Birmingham “Rockets”

**2-15pm** Under 16 Girls versus Southend “Scorpions”

**4-30pm** Under 18 Boys versus Warwickshire “Warriors” Ballers Heaven

Under 16 Boys travel to Coventry “Tornadoes”

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

**Sunday 11th December**

Under 12 Mixed team travels to Leicester “Riders”

Under 13 Boys versus Leicester “Riders”

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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