

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

“Thunder” overwhelm depleted students to pick up win number three

National League Division 3
(South Conference)

Northants “Thunder” 101 – 64 Loughborough Student “Riders”

Historically student teams have always struggled to field teams before and after holiday periods and so it proved at the Basketball Centre last Saturday. Loughborough arrived with just seven players, three of them former Northants players, and one them, Linas Bajorunas was injured during the warm up.

Despite their lack of players Riders made a confident start to the game jumping out to an 11-8 lead. A time out from Thunder coach Grahame Yates seemed to fire up his team and they responding with a 12-zero run to lead 20-11 after the first period of play. The two teams exchanged baskets at the start of the second quarter before a 14-3 charge saw the initiative once more switch to the home team. Riders were able to re-group to a certain degree but by half time Thunder had established a decisive 45-29 lead.

Riders needed a huge third quarter in order to get back into the contest, but in the event they just didn't have the manpower to do it and three minutes into the period they were hit by a 23-3 Thunder blitz which to all intents and purposes put the game beyond them at 70-42. To their credit Riders battled hard in the final period no more so then Joe Pinchin, but Thunder took the quarter 31-22 to run out winners by 101 points to 64 to pick up their third win of the season.

In the 37 point win Benji Henry with 17 points, Jacob Holt with 16 and Danny Barrett with 15 led the Thunder scoring with Viv Lee and Richard Higgins both scoring in double digits. As far as the Northants old boys were concerned George Paul scored 15 points while his brother Merson netted 14.

The win moves Thunder up to 9th in the South Conference so for the moment, allaying, fears of relegation. It is important that the team returns in 2016 in the right frame of mind to continue their battle for mid-table respectability.

“Thunder” and “Lightning” 2; “Titans” 1

Over the weekend three teams from the Northants and Northamptonshire Elite clubs clashed with Northants Club gaining a 2-1 advantage

Junior Men remain undefeated despite nightmare fourth quarter

Junior Men’s East Midlands Development League

Northants “Thunder” 73 – 61 N.E.B.C. “Titans”

Going into the final period of play between the two local rivals Thunder held a commanding 63-37 lead and the game looked to be over as a contest. Titans however, had other ideas and with the home side handicapped by the loss of Ayo Oluyede (five fouls) and James Barden (injured), they mounted a spirited 17-4 charge to add respectability to the final scoreline.

Earlier Thunder had made a dominant start to the game and 11 points from Ollie Thomas gave them a 21-8 lead after the first period of play. Titans had obviously ‘left their game in another place’ during that first quarter but their coach Danny Alexis was able to get his team playing in the second quarter which they won 18-12 to close the gap to 26-33 at half time.

During that second period Titans had frustrated Thunder with their zone defence to get back into the game but in the third quarter it was Thunder’s defensive effort especially from David Nieva that made the difference. Thunder were able to force a number of Titan turn overs to generate fast break scores one of them a thunderous dunk from James Barden. Thunder won the period 30-11 to establish that game winning lead but they will be acutely aware that they were outscored 24-10 in the final period they played in 2015.

Thunder remain uneaten in the East Midlands Development league with a perfect 9 and zero record. The team has a small roster but have been superbly led by Welsh international guard Ollie Thomas. In the game against Titans, Thomas had 29 personal points with excellent support coming from the Nieva brothers David and Carlo with 13 and 11 points respectively.

Josh does it for Cadet Boys

Under 16 Boys Midlands Development League

Northants "Thunder" 92 – 83 N.E.B.C. "Titans"

Never can the expression, "Cometh the hour, cometh the man", been truer than at the end of this game. In truth it was a young man but at a time when defeat for his team looked a distinct possibility up stepped Josh Lloyd to score 14 of his teams last 19 points. Lloyd's efforts helped his team to a 92-83 victory which was some compensation for the 19 point loss earlier in the season.

The game had been a close run thing with the first two periods of play just edged by Thunder as they established a 48-42 half time lead. Titans made the better start to the third quarter and edged ahead 53-52 but Thunder responded and held a narrow 67-64 advantage going into the final stanza. After Shekina Ntumba had extended Thunder's lead at the start of the fourth quarter, Titans went on what looked to be a match winning 11-2 run to take the lead at 75-73. With four minutes of the game remaining enter Josh Lloyd and thanks to his 14 points it was game over despite the best efforts of Titans.

In all Lloyd scored a stunning 41 points with excellent support coming from Ntumba with 26 points and Chris Amankomah with 15 while Jared Ryan's 9 points all came at crucial times for his team.

Thunder lie 4th in the league table with the possibility of a Play Off place still a realistic possibility

"Titans" totally dominate Under 14 Girls clash

Under 14 Girls East Midlands Development League

N.E.B.C. "Titans" 84 – 29 Northants "Lightning"

In the third and final clash between teams from the Northants and Northamptonshire Elite clubs it was the Titans under 14 girls that recorded a decisive win. The physically stronger and more experienced Titans team dominated all facets of the game. The young Lightning team failed to reach double figures in all periods of play but never gave up and were successful in reaching some of the mini-goals set for them by Coach Stacey Shakespeare.

In the heavy defeat the only Lightning player able to score in double figures was Ruby Mabbutt with 10.

There are no National League fixtures for the next two weekends. Games will resume on Saturday 9th January so until then..... the players, coaches and officials of the Club would like to wish the all the parents of our players and our many fans a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2016



For further information contact John Collins on 07801 533151