

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

“Thunder” are sunk by “Ducks”

Men’s National League Division 3

South Conference

Brunel University “Ducks”

82 – 69

Northants “Thunder”

The chances of the Northants senior men reaching the end of season Play Offs suffered a major setback last Saturday when they lost by 13 points to Brunel University “Ducks”. Having played several recent games under-strengthened, “Thunder” travelled to Uxbridge with a full compliment of players but several of them were well short of match fitness having returned from injury and that was a key factor at the end of the game.

The home side had the best of the first period of play which they won 19-16, but “Thunder” came into their own in the second quarter and by half time had established a 42-38 lead.

Led by their forward Thoseby, “Ducks” seized the initiative in the third quarter but with a 60-57 score line going into the final period “Thunder” were still well in contention. It was at this stage that fatigue set in for a number of players. This led to a number of turn-overs resulting in easy scores for “Ducks” as they took a tempestuous final period 23-11 to run out comfortable winners.

In the 13 point setback Matt Yates top scored with 17 points with Devon Adams and Johnny Yates both scoring 10 points while Coach Grahame Yates made special mention of the impressive rebounding of rookie James Barden. For “Ducks” Thoseby threw in 32 points.

Junior Men get back to winning ways

Junior Men’s Midlands Conference

Northants “Thunder”

59 – 48

Leicester “Dynamite”

With the Junior Men returning back to home ground, a win was a must against an out-of-form “Dynamite” side. From the first minute of the game, “Thunder” loaded the pressure on the away team through quick fast break scores resulting from Shaq Ntumba and a three pointer from David Nieva. This put the home side up 16-11 at the end of the first quarter.

The second period saw a more successful run of scores for “Dynamite” and led by their captain Callendar, they combated the “Thunder” 2-3 zone with several scores in transition,. “Thunder” were able to respond through a barrage of points from Ayo Oluyede, who was able to knock down a three pointer, ensuring a six point half time lead at 33-27.

The third quarter followed a similar pattern to the second. Despite giving away fouls in their defensive set up and conceding free throws. “Thunder” answered with a fine shooting display from beyond the arc, knocking down three, three pointers in reply. This allied to some determined defence saw them edge the period 13-10 to take a 46-37 lead into the final ten minutes of the game.

As the game drew to a close in the fourth quarter, both teams were guilty of committing turnovers which led to an open game. Clutch scores from David Nieva saw off any advances from the visiting team; “Thunder” holding on for the 59 points to 48 win.

This was an important confidence-boosting win ahead of their game against local rivals NEBC “Titans”. In the low scoring affair David Nieva and Ayo Oluyede joint top-scored for “Thunder” with 13 points each, and they were well supported by Shaq Ntumba with 11.

Cadets too strong for “Thunders”

Under 16 National League

Midlands Conference

Rutland “Thunders” 41 -81 Northants “Thunder”

The Northants cadet team journeyed to unknown territory when they travelled to Oakham to take on Rutland “Thunders” a team new to the national league this season.

Knowing little about the opposition Coach John Collins urged his team to make an aggressive start to the game and put “Thunders” under as much pressure as possible. Led by Chris Amankonah and Ed Wallhead his team did just that jumping out to a 21-7 first quarter lead.

“Thunders” were employing a very static zone defence to protect the close to basket areas which gave opportunities for uncontested shots from the perimeter but the Northants boys were unable to capitalise missing a lot of open shots although Roman O’Hara did chip in with 7 points. “Thunder” took the quarter 18-12 to open up a 39-19 half time lead.

The home side led by Meade-Bramble looked a lot sharper on offence in the third quarter while “Thunder” were guilty of taking the first shot available to them. Despite a lack-lustre ten minutes “Thunder” extended their lead by one point to 55-34 but Collins decided he’d seen enough of Meade-Brambles offensive skills and switch his team to a Box-and-One defence for the final quarter. This resulted in a number of ‘stops’ for “Thunder” and from missed shots Amankonah was rampant on the break as his team outscored “Thunders” 26-7 during the period to take the game by 81 points to 41.

For “Thunder” Amankonah and Wallhead led their team’s scoring with 19 points apiece while Josh Lloyd and Aaron Mutari chipped in with 14 and 11 points respectively. Collins was delighted that all ten of his players contributed to his team’s final total.

Outstanding win for Under 14 Girls over “Titans”

Under 14 Girls National League

(East Conference)

Northants “Lightning” 72 – 53 NEBC “Titans”

The recent improvements made by the Northants under 14 girls were clearly in evidence at the Basketball Centre last Saturday when they comfortably beat local rivals N.E.B.C. “Titans”

In his pre-game meeting, “Lightning” coach, Janis Kosnikovskis encouraged all his players to take shots if they were free. In the first quarter rapid ball movement created numerous shooting opportunities with five players scoring as “Lightning” took a 23-11 lead. Meanwhile at the defensive end Grace Cosford and Lucy Neadham were doing a great job on “Titans” scoring machine Teigan Opongntim limiting her to just six first quarter points.

The start of the second quarter saw defences dominating with “Lightning” going scoreless for three minutes. When the game became more open Neadham looked impressive on the break scoring nine personal points as her team took the period 17-14 to establish a 40-25 half time lead.

It was expected that “Titans” beaten only once this season, would make a big charge in the third quarter and their intense defence restricted “Lightning” to just two points during the first six minutes of the period whilst they scored 13 themselves. With “Lightning’s” advantage down to just four points it looked as if the initiative would swing to the visitors but the home side closed with a 14-2 charge to re-establish a double digit lead at 54-40.

Led by Dina Kosnikovska, “Lightning” maintained their momentum at the start of the fourth quarter and their cause was boosted when the impressive Opongntim fouled out midway through the quarter having scored 25 points. By now the unlikely looked likely and “Lightning” comfortably extended their lead to take the game by 72 points to 53.

In the 19 point win Kosnikovska had an impressive game scoring 29 points, Leadham supporting well with 15 points but what was most pleasing for Coach Kosnikovskis was the fact that no less than nine players contributed to the final total in a satisfying all-round team effort.

Under 14 Boys cruise to win over enthusiastic “Outlaws”

Under 14 Boys
East Midlands II Conference
Northants “Thunder” 79 – 42 Ilkeston “Outlaws”

The Northants under 14 boys completed a routine win over an enthusiastic but inexperienced Ilkeston “Outlaws” team.

“Thunder” won all four periods of play but struggled in the first quarter which they only took by 14 points to 6. For the rest of the game the “Thunder” ‘big’ men, Kalonji Campbell and Jonathan Ntumba dominated proceedings at both ends of the court while Ashley Kitchen orchestrated proceedings from the back court.

Ntumba top scored with 22 points and Campbell netted 18 while Cameron Leighton enjoyed one of his best games of the season scoring 11 points. Stand in coach Darjius Maldutis was delighted that nine players contributed to his team’s 79 points total.

THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 13th December

7-45pm

Junior Men versus N.E.B.C. “Titans”

Saturday 17th December

9-30am until 11am

11-30am

Junior Ballers Session

Under 14 Girls versus Norfolk “Inceni”

Under 14 Boys versus City of Birmingham

**These games will be played at the Basketball Centre which is situated at
Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton**

Under 16 Boys travel to Leicester “Warriors II”

Sunday 18th December

Junior Men travel to Ilkeston “Outlaws”

For further information contact: **John Collins on 07801 533 151**