

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Super Nieva inspires below strength “Thunder” to win**

#### **Under 16 Boys Midland Conference**

**Sporting Club Albion                      60 – 74                      Northants “Thunder”**

Deprived of the services of five leading players the Northants cadet boy’s team had every reason not to play their fixture against Sporting Club Albion. With two other players suffering from the effects of ‘flu this fixture suddenly turned into a potential ‘banana skin’. That they came through the game with a win was a tribute to their resolution and in no small part to the efforts of David Nieva. The diminutive guard not only scored 35 personal points but he also inspired a super-human effort from his team mates.

Led by Nieva’s 11 points, “Thunder” edged the first quarter 17-15 but as “Albion” made more effort to stop him scoring opportunities opened up for the “Thunder” ‘big’ players. They scored 12 points between them as “Thunder” took the second quarter 21-10 to set up a 38-25 half time lead.

By the end of the third period of play this lead had been increased by six points to 54-35 but it had come at a price. The three “Thunder” ‘bigs’ were exhausted as was the mercurial Nieva while Jaz Campbell was still recovering from a hefty blow to the mouth. “Thunder” had been persisting with their full court pressure defence but “Albion” were beginning to find gaps and were successful with a number of shots from the deep perimeter. “Thunder” switched to a man-to-man defence and thanks to the efforts of Campbell, James Healy and Jake Nailer the threat was stemmed and “Thunder” held on for the 74 to 60 win.

In the 14 point victory Nieva’s 35 points were key but a number of other players played important part not least team captain Ayo Oluyede who scored 12 points and rebounded superbly. Emanuel Arimoro and Julian Abeam were also rebound giants while Hayden Sayers worked manfully on defence and chipped in with 9 important points. Coach John Collins was quick to praise the input of Laurence Williams who handled the point guard duties when Nieva was rested.

“Thunder” go into the Christmas break in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Conference table with a single loss. Early in 2015 they will have the opportunity to revenge that loss when they travel to Derby “Trailblazers”

### **Game under 13 Boys go down to Nova**

#### **Under 13 Boys Midland Conference**

**Shropshire “Warriors”                      65 – 30                      Northants “Thunder”**

Against one of the weaker teams in the Midland Conference the Northants under 13 boys travelled to Telford to take on Shropshire “Warriors” in optimistic mood knowing that earlier in the season they had lost to the same opposition by only 16 points. The team started the game full of energy but were guilty of missing several very easy scoring opportunities. “Warriors” were able to pull down the resulting rebound and mount fast break offences of their own. With “Warriors” scoring at will the Northants boys lost concentration at both ends of the court and at half time found themselves trailing by 41 points to 9.

At the start of the third quarter “Thunder” were able to stop the “Warriors” fast break but on offence there were still too many poor passes resulting in unnecessary turn-overs. With “Thunder” becoming more and more competitive the “Warriors” players began to concentrate more and more with defending the area close to their basket. “Thunder” coach Darjius Maldutis was convinced that this was stretching the man-to-man defensive rule to the limit but not for the first time the game officials did nothing to correct it.

There was some encouragement for “Thunder” in the second half which they only lost 24-1 as they slipped to a 65-30 defeat in which debutant Ben Nailer top scored with 10 points with Isaac Round and Jude Carmichael contributing 7 and 5 points respectively

## **“Lightning” win without breaking sweat**

### **Under 16 Girls Midlands South West Conference**

**City of Birmingham “Lightning”**

**0 – 20**

**Northants “Lightning”**

Unable to raise a team C.O.B. conceded this Midlands South West Conference game on Friday evening. The ‘no effort’ win’ sees “Lightning topping the Conference table going into 2015.

### **ACTIVITIES IN 2015**

#### **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

9.30am until 11am

10am until 11am

“Ballers” Academy

“Junior Ballers”

11.30am

Under 13 Boys versus Leicester “Warriors”

Under 14 Boys versus Mansfield “Giants”

Under 15 Boys travel to Milton Keynes “Lions”

Senior Women travel to Mansfield “Giants”

Senior Men travel to Team Solent

#### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Cadette Women travel to Wiltshire “Devils”

Senior Men travel to Plymouth “Raiders II”

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



**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 2015**

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