**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Teams from the Northants Basketball Club played six games last weekend winning four of them including close victories for the Junior Men and Under 14 Girls**

**Awesome Under 14 Girls get the better of “Arrows”**

**Under 14 Girls North 2 Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 60 -58 Derbyshire “Arrows”**

A stunning 34 point haul from Campbell Spatcher supported by 15 points from Jennifer Oamen saw the Northants “Lightning” to a battling win over a well organised Derbyshire “Arrows” team. The win their third of the season, moves ”Lightning” up to fifth in the North 2 Conference table and came in front of a large crowd at the Basketball Centre including several former players plus parents and friends of the team.

“Lightning” made an impressive start to the game and thanks to 12 points from Spatcher jumped out to a 20 points to 10 lead after the first quarter. Third placed “Arrows” battled back into the game during the Second quarter which they took 19 -13 to close the deficit to 29-33 at half time.

The visitors maintained that effort in the third quarter and two 6 - zero runs saw them lead 44-43 going into the last ten minutes of play. “Arrows” extended their lead to 50-45 early in the final quarter but two jump shots from Spatcher and a powerful drive by Oamen handed the initiative back to the home side at 51-50. “Arrows” forward, Hinchclifffe kept “Arrows” in the game, but she missed four free throws at vital moments and a score from Campbell and a converted free throw saw “Lightning” home to the delight of the players and crowd alike.

After the game “Lightning” coach Mark Spatcher said, *“I’m incredibly proud of the girls’ effort and performance today. “Arrows” had only lost two games so far this season and were third in table. They are a well organised team and play hard for 40 minutes.*

*It didn’t all go to plan for us today, but the key thing was when we needed to close the game out we made bid plays. All the girls did well today and that allowed Campbell and Jen to dominate the game for large parts of the game which helped “Lightning” to back-to-back wins.”*

**Another heavy loss for the Under 16 Boys**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 30 – 91 Leicester “Dynamite”**

The previous weekend the Northants Under Boys were heavily beaten by an athletic Leicester “Dynamite” team. They had to face the same team last weekend and suffered another heavy defeat. “Dynamite” dominated a “Thunder” team that never gave up but were physically overpowered.

“Dynamite” comfortably won all four quarters with only Logan Ormshaw making any significant points contribution for “Thunder” with 13 personal points.

**Benas the hero as Junior Men edge past “Saxons”**

**Junior Men’s Midlands 2 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 67 -65 Gloucester “Saxons”**

With the scores tied at 65 all with seconds of the game remaining, “Saxons” missed a perimeter shot and “Thunder’s” guard Benas Maldutis was launched on a fast break pursued by a “Saxon” defender. Under massive pressure Maldutis made the lay up and “Saxons” were unable to score in the remaining time “Thunder” holding on for the 67-65 win.

Against lowly “Saxons”, “Thunder” had turned in a lethargic performance during the first two quarter so the game. Whether it was complacency or excellent “Saxons” defence is a mystery, but the Northants boys could manage only seven points in the first ten minutes of play and things didn’t get much better in the second quarter and trailing 19-28 at half time a shock defeat looked to be on the cards.

Whatever Coach Maldutis said to his players during the half time break certainly worked with “Thunder” embarking on two major scoring surges to take the third quarter 33-14 inspired by three, three-points from Ellis Phillips. “Thunder” took a 52-42 lead going into the final ten minutes of play but an 11-2 run from the visitors got them back in touch. The two teams exchanged baskets with the visitors edging ahead once again at 59-58 but they missed crucial free throws and a three pointer from Maldutis and that stunning lay up gave “Thunder” the win that takes them to the top of the Midlands Conference.

In the nail-biting win Phillips had five, three-pointer in his 21 point haul while Maldutis supported well with 19 points but “Saxons” would have been kicking themselves all the way back to Gloucester as they reflected on missing no less then 20 free throws.

**Under 15 Boys too strong for Oxford**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Northants “Thunder” 95 – 27 Oxford “Hoops”**

The Northants Under 15 Boys moved to the top of the YBL Primis League with this comprehensive win over an inexperienced Oxford “Hoops” team.

“Thunder” were guilty of missing a number of layups in the opening minutes of the game but a stunning 16-zero charge at the end of the first quarter gave them a 22-4 lead. The game was over a as contest early in the second quarter as “Thunder” mounted a 21-zero run inspired by a brace of three-pointer from Alex Bot.

“Hoops” battled hard during the third quarter which was dominated by 11 points from the impressive Fran Guei and the misery continued for the visitors in the fourth as “Thunder” ran out winners by almost seventy points.

In the overwhelming win ten “Thunder” players contributed to the final total; Guei leading the way with 25 points while Henry Brandrick and Kamil Jazwinski both scoring in double figures

**Under 13 Boys breeze past “Hoops”**

**YBL East Zonal League**

**Northants “Thunder” 77 – 27 Oxford “Hoops”**

An impressive all round performance took the Northants “Thunder” Under 13 Boys to the top of the YBL East Zonal League with a perfect 6 and 0 record.

Saturday’s comfortable win against an enthusiastic Oxford “Hoops” team came on the back of a disciplined defensive efforts combined with balanced scoring with ten players contributing to the 77 points final total. “Thunder’s” offensive play was expertly controlled by Jerome Maroodza and this allowed them to dominate all four quarters with Jowell Skiete-French looking particularly impressive in scoring 22 points while Luca Garett, Anton Kelly and Maroodza gave excellent support with 12, 11 and 10 points respectively.

**Below par Under 14 Boys lose to Breakers” second string**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 57 – 65 Milton Keynes “Breakers II”**

Trailing 35-49 going into the final quarter the Northants “Thunder” Under 14 Boys mounted a spirited 15-2 charge to get to within two points of the Milton Keynes “Breaker” second string. An amazing comeback win looked to be on the cards but crucial “Thunder” players fouled out of the game and “Breakers” finished the game the stronger and took the win by eight points.

“Thunder” gave themselves a mountain to climb during the first quarter as they slipped to a 12-22 deficit. They closed that gap during the second quarter which they took 14-8 to close the gap to 26-30 at half time. The third quarter saw “Thunder” once again lose their momentum as “Breakers” opened up a 15 point lead and setting up the “Thunder” comeback which proved to be too little too late.

In the topsy turvy game the “Thunder” scoring was led by Cameron Iviengabor and Logan Tanner with 19 and 17 points respectively but no other “Thunder” player was able to get into double figures only Oliwer Andrzjczak making any significant scoring contribution with eight points.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 28th January**

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

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

 **12.00 noon** Under 13 Girls versus Under 12 Boys

 **2-15pm** Under 13 Boys versus Coventry “Tornadoes”

 **4-30pm** Under 16 Boys versus Milton Keynes “Breakers II”

 Junior Men travel to Warwickshire “Hawks”.

 Under 14 Boys travel to Warwickshire “Hawks”

 Under 12 “Storm” travel to Derby “Trailblazers”

 Under 15 Boys will play in the Hoopsterz Tournament at Northampton School for Boys

 These 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: **John Collins** on 07801 533 151