**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Four away games for teams from the Northants Basketball Club again last weekend with two wins and two losses.**

**All-round team effort sees Junior Men to victory against Coventry “Elite”**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Coventry “Elite” 55 - 75 Northants “Thunder”**

An excellent team effort which four players score in double figures was a major factor in this 20 point win over Coventry “Elite” a win which keeps “thunder” on top of the Midlands 2 Conference table. With local rivals “Titans” losing last weekend this very nicely sets up this Saturdays’ game between the two county teams.

Initially “thunder” found the going difficult against a sharp-shooting “Elite” team and were happy to ‘share the spoils’ at 17 all after the first quarter.

It was different “Thunder” team that hit the court for the second quarter combining resolute defence with some excellent offensive play. They outscored the Coventry outfit 26-12 to take a 43-29 half time lead and their defensive effort was repeated in the third quarter as “Elite” were restricted to just nine points. Trailing 38-60 going into the final ten minutes of play “Elite” were able to capitalise as “Thunder” relaxed their efforts winning the quarter 17-15 but the final result was never seriously in doubt.

In the twenty point victory Fareed Issufi led the “Thunder” scoring with 14 points, Gabriel Akande, Dylan Dominici, and Benas Maldutis all scoring in double figures

**Lack lustre Under 16 Boys hammered by “Hawks”.**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands 1 Conference**

**Warwickshire “Hawks” 80 - 38 Northants “Thunder”**

Following their battling win in Gloucester the previous weekend the “Thunder” Under 16 Boys were hopeful of a repeat performance against a “Hawks” team holding third place in the Midlands 1 Conference table. In the event a lacklustre performance saw them slip to a heavy defeat.

Despite struggling to score in the first quarter “Thunder” were well in contention in the first quarter before being hit by a 10-zero blitz. Trailing 11-17 after the first ten minutes of play “Thunder” needed a good second quarter but once again found scoring difficult as their offensive effort became more and more based on individual effort easily subdued by the “Hawks” defence. Trailing 22-33 “Thunder” were hit by another “Hawks” charge as the home side outscored “Thunder” 12-2 over the three minutes of the quarter.

Trailing by 20 plus points at half time a huge effort was needed by “Thunder” in the second half but they could manage just 14 points as they slipped to a heavy defeat with only Fran Guei with 11 able to score in double figures while Jake Muxlow battled hard for his 8 point contribution. Regrettable one or two “Thunder” heads ‘went down’ but Coach Brad Hughes made special mention of Toby Ward who gave everything for the team on defence.

**Poor final quarter costs Under 14 Girls dear.**

**Under 14 Girls North 2 Conference**

**Bromsgrove “Bears” 60 – 43 Northants “Lightning”**

Two weeks ago the Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls were just beaten by Bromsgrove “Bears” so the team travelled to Worcestershire for the return game in optimistic mood. That optimism seemed well founded as the two teams traded baskets for the first three quarters of the game with neither team able to establish a lead.

Not for the first time this season “Lightning’s” main scoring threats were Jennifer Oamen and Campbell Spatcher and when the former fouled out the “Lightning” scoring threats became limited. Going into the final stanza “Bears” were holding a 35-34 lead and “Lightning” were still ‘in’ the game midway through the quarter. They were then hit by 14-zero “Bears” charge finally going down by 43 points to 60 their final total representing their lowest score of the season so far.

In the disappointing loss Campbell top scored with 18 points Oamen contributing 15.

This weekend the team travel to Nottingham to take on “Wildcats” hoping to complete the double over the Nottingham team.

**Storm complete the double over Walsall “Wizards”**

**Under 12 Mixed Region 1 League**

**Walsall “Wizards” 47 – 62 Northants “Storm”**

Earlier in the season the Northants “Storm” had beaten “Wizards” by twenty plus points and a similar margin seemed to be on the cards last Sunday until the home side staged a spirited end to the game restricting “Storm’s” winning margin to just 15 points.

Playing without a female player for the first time this season “Storm” made a tentative start to the game but we able to edge ahead 14-10 after the first quarter thanks to some excellent fast breaks.

Playing with a great deal of confidence in the second quarter “Storm” extended their lead to 36-19 in the second quarter but in accordance with the competition rules had to take off their preferred full court defence. They were also handicapped when two of their most influential players Sam Dominici and Dominykas Jokulis picked up their third fouls. This made the job of defending “Wizards’s” talented Diego Batalla-Panichelli all the more difficult and eventually the task fell to Kyjah Adams who did a great job for his team.

All ten “Storm” players scored led by Arlo Dominici with 15 points while Sam Dominic and Jokulis both contributed 10 points but “Storm” were guilty of missing a number of lay ups and easy put backs.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 25th February**

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

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

12.00pm Under 18 Boys versus Northamptonshire “Titans”

2-30pm Under 11 “Storm” and “Storm II” versus Coventry “Tornadoes”

‘Blue’ and ‘White’.

Under 16 Boys travel to Leicester “Warriors”

Under 14 Girls travel to Nottingham “Wildcats”

**\*\*** (Subject to “Wildcats” finding a court for the game)

Under 13 Boys will play in a “Hoopsterz” tournament at N.S.B.

**Sunday 16th February**

10-00am Under 12 Mixed versus Milton Keynes “Breakers”

Under 11 Girls Intra Group Challenge game.

Under 14 Boys travel to Tamworth ”Tigers”

Under 15 Boys travel to Abingdon Eagles”

All 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.

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