

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB

PRESS RELEASE

Short handed “Lightning” well beaten by “Hatters”

Senior Women’s National League Division 2

(North Conference)

Sheffield “Hatters II”

56 – 90

Northants “Lightning”

A combination of injuries and unavailability meant that the Northants senior women had to travel to Sheffield to take on the Hatters second string with just seven players. Against a young team playing up-tempo basketball it wasn’t surprising that Lightning wilted on occasions but Coach Karen Goodrich was full of praise for the efforts of her team, “We could only field two true seniors and the younger players battled to the end. I’m sure the experience they have gained will help them when they return to their own age groups.”

Hatters won all four periods of play but to their credit Lightning battled hard in the fourth quarter only losing it by five points.

In the 34 point defeat Stephanie Ogden top scored with 15 points while fellow junior Lauren Brookes contributed 11 and all seven of the Lightning players contributed to their 56 point total

Cadet Men cruise to a win in points fest

Under 16 Boys Midland Conference

Shropshire “Warriors”

76 – 117

Northants “Thunder”

The Northants Under 16 boys team secured the win that secures runners up spot for them in the Midland Conference. On paper the win looks comfortable but was well and truly based on a second half performance which saw them outscore “Warriors” by 68 points to 34. This after they had held a narrow 47-42 lead at half time.

Thunder travelled to Telford missing the services of ‘big’ men Emmanuel Arimora and Robert Clarke and their cause wasn’t helped when Julian Abeam picked up three quick fouls in the first quarter and Justin Triory had to sit down feeling sick. This meant that Coach John Collins was forced to use influential guard Jacob Round as a ‘big’ man. This disrupted Thunder’s offensive threat but the main concern was the Northants boys’ failure to match up against the Warriors perimeter shooters, Harrison and Gethings.

Collins’s message to his team at half time was simple, match up to perimeter shooters, defend with more intensity and don’t commit any silly fouls. Led by Round who scored 20 points in the third quarter, Thunder responded well and outscored their opponents 36-18.

The free scoring continued in the final period of play with Gethings netting 13 points for the home side but by now they were turning the ball over on a regular basis as Lightning took the quarter 32-16 and record an emphatic 40 plus points victory. Thunder have two more games to play one of them away against Leicester “Warriors” because the original game was abandoned after Reece Zupal’s unfortunate accident, but they now know they have secured second place in the Conference.

In last Sunday’s win Round was once again in outstanding form scoring 54 points and terrorising the Warriors ball carriers. Ayo Oluyede put in a serious shift scoring 22 points and pulling down countless rebounds while Abeam and David Nieva both made double figure contributions.

“Warriors” no match for Under 14 Girls

Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference

Leicester “Warriors” 37 - 90 Northants “Lightning”

Looking to complete their Conference season unbeaten the Northants under 14 girls know that tough defence is the key and against Leicester “Warriors” they put on a superb defensive display. They restricted their opponents to a miserly 21 points in the first three periods of play while pouring in 60 themselves many of them from fast breaks following steals from their aggressive defence. Lightning were guilty of easing off in the final period of play allowing Warriors to score 16 points while adding another 24 points themselves.

In the 50 plus points win Coach Stacey Shakespeare was delighted with the defensive efforts from all ten of her players especially the defence played on Warriors top scorer Lois Taylor who was restricted to just eight personal points. On the scoring side, Holly Winterburn was in fine form scoring 47 points with excellent support coming from Lucy Amena, Bahira Barakat and Tia Dunrad-Allen who all scored in double figures.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES

Saturday 14th March

9.30 am until 11.00 am “Ballers” Academy
10.00 am until 11.00 am Junior Ballers

11-30 am Junior Women versus Reading “Rockets”
1-30 pm Senior Women versus Sheffield “Hatters II”

Both these games will be played at the Northants Basketball Centre which is based at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton.

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE

Senior Men travel to Hackney “White Heat”
Cadet Boys travel to Ilkeston “Outlaws”
Under 14 Boys travel to Mansfield “Giants”
Under 11's play in the Hoopsterz CVL at Northampton School for Boys

Sunday 15th March

11-45 am Senior Women versus Loughborough “Riders II”
1-45 pm Senior Men versus Cardiff “Archers”

Both games at the Basketball Centre

Under 14 Girls versus N.E.B.C. “Titans”

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