**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**For the Northants Junior Men the end of season Play Offs concluded this weekend for with defeat against True Vision Elite Surrey but the Under 13 Boys claimed a ‘friendly’**

**win against “Titans”**

**Junior Men’s season ends with Play Off defeat in Guildford.**

**Promotional Play Offs 2nd Round**

**True Vision Elite Surrey 72 – 49 Northants “Thunder”**

“Thunder’s” successful season ended with a disappointing performance against True Vision Elite Surrey culminating in a 23-point defeat.

At the start of the game “Thunder” looked a nervous outfit against an athletic True Vision team. They struggled to score and were guilty of committing a large number of travelling violations as the home side charged into a 26-11 first quarter lead which they were to retain for the rest of the game.

Playing with more confidence in the second quarter and helped by a trio of three-pointers, “Thunder” edged the quarter 14-10 to close the gap to just 11 points at 25-36 and giving themselves a hope of snatching victory.

This season has witnessed excellent third quarter performances but, on this occasion, it wasn’t to be. Confronted by a passive zone defence “Thunder” were presented with a number of ‘open looks’ but on their usually reliable perimeter game let them down and poor transition defence allowed True Vision to capitalise with a number of fast breaks to take the quarter by 24 points to eight and at 33-60 the game was as good as over as a contest.

With only pride to play for “Thunder” edged the final quarter 16-12 but it was a case of too little too late as they slipped to 49 points to 72 defeat.

No “Thunder” player was able to score in double figures their scoring being led by Gabriel Akande and Jack Lemon with nine points apiece, Benas Maldutis contributed eight and Tom Greenfield and Ellis Phillips (playing their last game for the club) scoring six points each.

**Under 13 Boys blow hot and cold in defeating “Titans”**

**Friendly Challenge game**

**Northamptonshire “Titans” 44 – 60 Northants “Thunder”**

Following a blank couple of weeks with their YBL season finished and their practice court unavailable “Thunder” Under 13 Boys took on local rivals “Titans” at Northampton School for Boys last Saturday in ‘friendly’ game. “Thunder” won the game by a comfortable margin, but such are the high standards set for the group that Coach Peter Dewsnap described his team’s performance as, “Discouraging” with his team displaying all their strengths and weaknesses.

“Thunder” went off like an express train in the first quarter, their aggressive defence allied to some excellent fast break basketball orchestrated by Jerome Maroodza and converted by Anton Kelly and Luca Garrett saw “Thunder” take the lead by 20 points to seven.

After that stunning first quarter “Thunder” rather ‘went off the boil’ in the second quarter struggling with their half-court offence; “Titans” responding with some effective fast breaks of their own. “Thunder” took the quarter 17-16 to lead 37-23 at half time and their lead was extended to 20 points plus as they won the third quarter 16-seven.

With the game as good as wound up at 53-30, “Thunder” were guilty of straying away from their usually disciplined half-court offence relying instead on a lot of one versus five ‘grandstanding’. This tactic proved to be unsuccessful allowing the gutsy “Titans” outfit to win the final quarter 14-seven without ever looking like closing the deficit. Despite the comfortable margin of their victory Coach Dewsnap was able to identify several areas which need attention before the team take on Redditch in the YBL Quarter Final Play off on Saturday.

In Saturday’s 16 point win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Luca Garrett with 13 points, Jerome Maroodza and Jowell Skiete-Franch both scoring 12 points while Anton Kelly had nine points in an excellent all-round performance.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

Try Outs for the Summer Programme squads commenced this week any boyor girl not already involved with the Club who would like to try out for one of the club’s twelve teams should contact the club on **northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk**

**Saturday 22nd April**

1-30pm until 3-00pm “Ballers” and Community Groups End of Season Presentations

4-00pm Under 13 Boys versus Redditch Basketball Club

**(YBL Quarter Final Play Off)**

**Sunday 23rd April**

10-30am “Lightning” Under 11 and Under 13 Girls versus Derby “Trailblazers” 5-00pm End of Season Presentations for all league teams

**(Park Inn, Northampton)**

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