**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

Logo

Description automatically generated

**PRESS RELEASE**

**A wonderful weekend for the Northants Basketball Club with the “Thunder” Under 13 Boys advancing to the YBL Play Off semi-finals after beating Redditch Basketball, two wins for the young “Lightning” teams and a successful End of Season Presentation Evening.**

**Super Under 13 Boys to strong for Redditch**

**YBl Under 13 Boys Play Offs Quarter Final**

**Northants “Thunder” 85 – 33 Redditch Basketball Club**

The “Thunder” Under 13 Boys advanced to the semi-finals of the YBL Play Offs after a convincing win over Redditch Basketball Club. Against a team with a clear height advantage “Thunder” triumphed thanks to an outstanding defensive play allied to some sparkling offensive basketball.

“Thunder” opened the game like an express train scoring 12 unanswered points but the threat of the West Midlands team was clear as they created scoring opportunities only to miss open lay ups. They were also guilty of missing ten free throws which allowed “Thunder” to take a 16-8 lead after the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the two teams trade baskets as “Thunder” battled hard to contain the Redditch ‘big men’. Thanks to the efforts of Luca Garrett, Anton Kelly and Jowell Skiete-French the Redditch ‘bigs’ were contained, and “Thunder” mounted a decisive 24-4 charge to put them firmly in command of the game. The quarter was highlighted by a number of dazzling fastbreaks orchestrated by Jerome Maroodza and often finished by Samuel Dominici and Kelly showing skills beyond their tender years.

Leading 46-18 at half time “Thunder” were forced to take off their full court press but even in the half court they were able to contain the Redditch offensive effort restricting their opponents to just 15 points in the second half while scoring 39 themselves despite losing the services of Skiete-Franch with five fouls. The only possible downside for a delighted Coach Pete Dewsnap was watching his team miss no fewer then ten free throws in the concluding quarter.

In the 50 plus points win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Kelly and Garrett with 20 and 18 points respectively while Dominici and Maroodza both scored in double figures, but this was truly a victory based on a total team effort and earns them semi final against Worcester “Wolves” this Saturday.

**Under 11 and Under 13 Girls both beat Derby**

**Under 13 Girls Challenge game**

**Northants “Lightning” 61 - 39 Derby “Trailblazers”**

Led by Amelia May Wesley-Maryan the “Lightning” Under 13 Girls recorded a comfortable win over a Derby “Trailblazers” team containing several players with national league experience.

Both teams made a slow start to the game but then “Lightning” mounted and 8-2 charge and this lead was extended to 14-4 before Derby rallied to close the gap to 14-13 at the end of the first quarter.

“Lightning” made an excellent start to the second quarter mounting a 14-zero charge inspired by Wesley-Maryan and they led 42-23 at the end of the second quarter.

Both teams struggled to score in the final two quarters of the game as defences dominated “Lightning” holding on for the 22 point win.

Coach Karen Goodrich has a tall team but with the exception of Wesley-Maryan they need to play with more speed and aggression.

**Under 11 Friendly Challenge game**

**Northants “Lightning” 66 -23 Derby “Trailblazers”**

No less than fifteen girls ‘kitted up for this challenge game and after a nervous start they ran out convincing winners against a much bigger Derby team. Led by the experienced Elizabeth Cooke and Urte Malddutyte the “Lightning” girls were able to display the skills they’ve been working so hard on over the past few weeks.

Coach Shane Rowland coaching his first game with the Club was delighted with his team’s performance.

**PRESENTATION EVENTS**

Last weekend Presentation events were staged for all sections of the Northants Basketball Club.

On Saturday awards were made to players from the “Ballers”, “Junior “Ballers” and Casual Sessions and the award winners were:

“Budding Ballers”

Dominic, Teddy, Ethan and Abigail

Junior “Ballers”

Leon, Harley, Marcell and Aarian

Under 12 Community Group

Blake Bain – Campbell, Edward Walker and Lucas Saltones

Under 14 Community Group

Oliver Hill, Hayden England and FrankyMoore

The next day over 300 players, parents and relatives assembled at the Park Inn Hotel, Northampton for the presentations for all the club’s league teams. Team coaches made Most Valuable Player awards and there were also Players Player awards as well as several other awards.

The award winners were:

Under 9 Girls Special Coach’s Award

Neveah Cox

Under 11 Girls

MVP - Elizabeth Cooke

Players Player - Orla Griffiths

Under 11 “Storm Too”

MVP - Alex Rodriguez

Players Player - Ernie Harris

Under 11 “Storm”

MVP - Kyjah Adams

Players Player - George Rados

Under 12 Girls

MVP - Urte Maldutyte

Players Player - Freya Tauber Anderson

Under 12 Mixed

MVP - Dominykas Jokulis

Players Player - Samuel Dominici

Under 13 Girls

MVP - Amelia May Wesley - Maryan

Players Player - Eve Burgess

Under 13 Boys

MVP - Luca Garrett

Players Player - Anton Kelly

Under 14 Girls

MVP - Campbell Spatcher

Players Player - Queendy Yeboah

Under 14 Boys

MVP - Logan Tanner

Players Player - Cameron Iviengabor

Under 15 Boys

MVP - James Kennet-Maughan

Players Player - Fran Guel

Under 16 Girls

MVP - Lucie Caulfield

Players Player - Cameron Keuberg

Under 16 Boys

MVP - Logan Ormshaw

Players Player - Angus Slater

Under 18 Boys

MVP - Dylan Dominici

Players Player - Fareed Issifu

During the course of the season no less than fourteen Young Leaders have helped out at the various sessions many of them going on to take formal qualifications. During the two Presentation events these young people were presented with a certificate and a personalised whistle. The Young Leaders were:

Tom Greenfield Benas Maldutis Alannah Major Kyle Haynes

Danielas Jokulis Angus Slater Sonny Lawrence Jasper Roahe

Alex Bot Robert Cerniavskij Lauren Eighteen Akshaya Guhanesan

Faith Oyesika Isla Berry

Long Service Awards

Dylan Dominici, Tom Greenfield, Kyle Haynes, Fareed Issifu, Ellis Phillips,

Bobby Openshaw, and Lucie Wilson-Gray

Penny Westwood ‘Fair Play’ Award

Coach Brad Hughes

Angelina Browne Award

Jenny Oamen

President’s Award

The Dominici family

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 29th April**

11-00am Under 11 “Storm” versus West Bromwich

Under 11 “Storm Too” versus Worcester “Wolves”

**(YBL Semi Final Play Offs)**

1-00pm “Lightning” Under 13 Girls versus Northamptonshire “Titans”

**(Friendly Challenge game)**

3-00pm “Thunder” Under 13 Boys versus Worcester “Wolves”

**(YBL Play Off Semi Final)**

5-00pm “Thunder” Under 13 Boys versus Abingdon “Eagles” **(YBL Play Off Semi Final)**

All these games will be played at The Northants Basketball Centre.

Spectators are welcome and admission is FREE and refreshments will be available

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