

# **NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Northants Under 14 Girls claim runners up spot in Final Four Tournament**

#### **Lightning see off “Hawks” but fall to “Angels”**

##### **Basketball England Under 14 Girls Final Fours**

##### **Semi Final**

**Hounslow “Hawks”**

**45 – 61**

**Northants “Lightning”**

A stunning performance from Holly Winterburn and a useful fourth quarter contribution from Hannah Davy saw the Northants Under 14 Girls battle through to the Final of the Final Fours at the England Institute of Sport in Sheffield last Saturday. Winterburn scored 29 points and pulled down 15 rebounds as Lightning defeated a determined Hounslow Hawks team by 61 points to 45 while Davy chipped in with 12 points.

Lightning made the better start to the game and caused the Hounslow girls a lot of problems with their full court pressure. Lightning took the first period of play 18-12 but they were made aware of the danger coming from Hawk’s Lara Hassan who scored all her teams first quarter points.

Lightning seized the initiative in the second quarter thanks to a 12-zero run at the start of the period and with a 37-20 half time lead looked firm favourites to reach the Final. The Hounslow coaching staff had other ideas however and their team emerged for the second half in determined mood. Winterburn had scored 20 of Lightning’s 37 first half points so not surprisingly they paid a great deal of attention to the young Northants player. The tactics of putting two players on Winterburn supported by three players sagging off under the basket may not have been strictly legal but it was certainly effective. Lightning went scoreless for over five minutes and with Hawks taking the third quarter 17-12 they were back in the game at 49-37.

Hassan was still causing Lightning defensive problems as was their 6 feet 2 inch centre Shanice Flitton who was beginning to score freely close to basket. Both teams started the final period of play in tentative mood before Flitton fouled out of the game with five minutes of the game remaining. Lightning were also able to exploit the gaps which occurred with the attention paid to Winterburn and Davy was able to take advantage with 8 late points which saw her team to victory and a place in the Final against GCA Haringey Angels. For the record Hassan scored 30 of her team’s points Flitton scoring 10.

##### **Basketball England Under 14 Girls Final Fours**

##### **Final**

**GCA Haringey “Angels”**

**39 – 76**

**Northants “Lightning”**

Against a talented and well drilled Angels team Lightning were second best for most of the game but could be proud of keeping the score so close at 24-34 at half time. In the final two periods of play the Northants were visibly tired after their efforts against Hounslow and throughout the second half struggled to cope with the athleticism of their opponents. Lightning lost the second half 42-15 but never gave up and came out of the game with a great deal of credit.

One of the keys to Haringey’s success was their ability to contain Lightning’s main scoring threat Holly Winterburn and unlike Hounslow earlier in the day, they did this by legal means. Despite the close attention paid to her Winterburn still emerged as Lightning’s leading scorer with 11 points, she also pulled down 17 rebounds and blocked six shots. With Winterburn effectively shackled Lightning needed other players to step up as a scoring threat but the only person to do this was determined guard Bahira Barakat who scored 10 points including a perfect six of six from the free throw line.

With the game over as a contest midway through the fourth period of play both coaches gave their bench players court time and the talent displayed by the Angels youngsters indicated they will continue to be a force to contend with in the immediate future.

Throughout the game Angels played with a speed and intensity that Lightning found it difficult to match and in Teresa Da Silva they have a star of the future. The dynamic guard scored 25 points with a mixture of powerful drives to basket and impressive perimeter shooting.

So second place for the Northants girls in a season which saw them defeated just once in 18 games, that in the Final against Haringey Angels; this represents a tremendous achievement for Coach Stacey Shakespeare and her squad.

Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls Squad: Chloe Amena, Lucy Amena, Bahira Barakat, Poppy Barnett, Topia Bruce, Akilah Chambers, Hannah Davy, Katie Dinnell, Tia Dunrad-Allen, Dina Kosnikovska, Ruby Mabbutt, Amber Martin, Odera Onwumechilli, Ony Onwumechilli, Alicia Treleaven, Selina Tropy, and Holly Winterburn

Coach: Stacey Shakespeare

Assistant Coach: Karen Goodrich

Team Manager: Emma Sailsbury



**The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls team with their silver medals.**

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