**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A full house for the Northants Basketball Club.**

Teams from the Northants Basketball Club played five games last weekend and picked up five wins including a nail-biting victory for the Under 16 Boys against the “Titans” second team.

**Junior Men cruise past Coventry “Tornadoes”**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 78 – 48 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

“Tornadoes” arrived at the Northants Basketball Centre with just six players. Like so many clubs they had struggled to register players on Basketball England’s Membership Portal.

Despite being short-handed the Coventry boys gave a good account of themselves especially in the third quarter which they won 16-13, this after losing the first quarter 26-14. Not surprisingly the visitors ‘ran out of gas’ in the second half which “Thunder” took 39-18 to run out winners by 78 points to 48.

In the thirty point win “Thunder” had five players scoring in double figures led by Benas Maldutis with 14, Jack Lemon had 13 points with Tom Greenfield, Ellis Phillips and Rapolas Radavicius also making major contributions

**Under 16 Boys hold on for a win against “Titans II”**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northamptonshire “Titans II” 56 – 58 Northants “Thunder”**

With seconds left of this local derby and “Thunder” holding a two point lead Angus Slater was called for a blocking foul. After a lengthy debate between the game officials two free throws were awarded to “Titans” rather than the basket they were hoping for. Those two free throws were both missed, “Thunder” secured the defensive rebound and were able to celebrate the hard-fought win.

“Thunder” had narrowly won the first three quarters of the game and went into the final ten minutes of play leading by 47 points to 35. Needing a massive offensive effort “Titans” got it from England international Ephrahim Ntumba who scored eight points in the fourth quarter while team mate Goodliffe contributed seven as the home side went in search of a win over their local rivals.

Ntumba ended the game with an impressive 25 points while Goodliffe contributed 13. “Thunder’s” offensive effort was more balanced with seven payers contributing to their 58 point total led by Logan Ormshaw with 17 points.

“Thunder” coach, Brad Hughes felt the win achieved in a raucous atmosphere at Northampton School for Boys, would boost his sides’ confidence and he was full of praise for the defensive efforts of Jake Muxlow who was given the unenviable job of marking Ntumba a task he stuck to with admirable determination.

**Under 15 Boys too strong for Nuneaton**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Northants “Thunder” 62 – 45 Nuneaton “Predators”**

A solid team performance saw the new look Under 15 Boys record a 17 point win over Nuneaton “Predators” with no less than ten players contributing to the team’s 62 point total.

“Thunder” put together a solid first half and by half time had established a 37 to 20 half time lead. The team were guilty of relaxing their efforts in the third quarter which “Predators” took 15-10 and this resulted in some stern words from Coach Whitney Bain. Her players responded well and “Thunder” won the final quarter by the same 15-10 margin to run out comfortable winners.

Coach Bain was delighted with the win and was pleased with the way her team had tried to implement everything they had worked on in practice.

**Under 13 Girls make a winning start**

**YBL Under 13 Girls League**

**Northants “Lightning” 28 – 20 Leicester “Riders”**

Kettering “Phoenix” 4 – 44 Leicester “Riders”

**Northants “Lightning” 45 – 6 Kettering “Phoenix”**

For many of the girls playing in this inaugural YBL Tournament it was their first introduction to organised competitive basketball.

Against Leicester “Riders”, “Lightning” looked impressive with their aggressive defence forcing a number of turn-overs but they were guilty of missing numerous easy scoring opportunities in the first half and despite dominating the game only led 14-12 at half time.Their dominance continued in the second half which they won 14-8 to take the game by 28 points to 20.

Against an inexperienced Kettering “Phoenix” team Coach Karen Goodrich was able to give all her players a lot of court time and they had no problem in comfortably defeating their local rivals.

Over the two games several “Lightning” players made significant contributions with Brooke Foster, Urta Maldutyte and Amelia-Mae Wesley-Maryan looking particularly impressive.

So a winning start for the young “Lightning” team but the real winner was basketball with no less than 34 girls playing in the three games

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 8th October**

9.15am-10.15am Budding Ballers Session

10.15am-11.30am Junior Ballers Session

12.00pm U14 Boys versus Birmingham “Bears”

2.15pm U14 Girls versus Sheffield “Hatters”

Under 18 Boys travel to Oxford “Hoops”

**Sunday 9th October**

11.00am U12 “Storm” versus Walsall “Wizards”

All home games will take place at The Basketball Centre which is based at

Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

**Spectators are welcome**

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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