**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Junior Men maintain their 100% record.**

**Three teams from the Northants Club played their first ever National league games last weekend with two of them winning while the Junior Men maintained their 100% record.**

**Junior Men beat new boys Oxford “Hoops”**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Oxford “Hoops” 54 – 74 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Junior Men travelled to Oxford to take on new boys Oxford” Hoops” and were confronted by a team boasting a clear height advantage. Looking to play up-tempo basketball “Thunder” edged the first quarter 22-16 an advantage they extended to 48-32 by half time despite the introduction into the game of Oxford’s seven-footer Litsko.

It was a very determined “Hoops” team that took to the floor after the half time break and they took the quarter 18-8 thanks to some poor “Thunder” shooting, to reduced the deficit to just six points. Stern words from coach Darjius Maldutis and a spread floor offence in the fourth quarter allied to some determined defence led by Jack Lemon saw the initiative swing back in “Thunder’s” favour. They took the quarter 18-8 to run out winners by 74 points to 54 so maintaining their perfect start to the season.

In the twenty point win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Benas Maldutis and Dylan Dominici with 19 and 16 points respectively while Litsko scored 22 points for Oxford.

**Big final quarter see Under 14 Boys home against “Bears”**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 67 – 53 Birmingham “Bears”**

Two minutes into the fourth quarter “Bears” held six point lead at 51-45 but the Birmingham team were in foul trouble and with only eight players to call on were beginning to look very fatigued. A driving lay up and a short range jump shot from Logan Tanner seemed to spur “Thunder” into life and they embarked on an 20 to zero scoring charge which earned them a 14 point victory.

Until that late charge “Thunder” had struggled against the athletic “Bears” outfit. On a number of occasions, they were guilty of turning down shooting opportunities choosing to penetrate to basket only for shot to be blocked. They were also guilty of failing to box out giving their opponents numerous put back scores. Despite this they were able to keep in touch with their opponents, their late scoring charge proving to be decisive.

Eight players contributed to the “Thunder” total led by Tanner with 22 personal points and he was well supported by Cameron Ivienagbor with 16 who also put in a good defensive shift while Oliwer Andrzejczak rebounded well.

Coaches Brad Hughes and Pete Dewsanp were delighted with the win and recognized how important the game, the teams first in the national league had been.

**“Hatters” too strong for Under 14 Girls**

**Under 14 Girls North 2 Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 36 – 90 Sheffield “Hatters”**

For their first national league game the young Northants Under 14 Girls found themselves up against a tall and talented Sheffield “Hatters” team.

From the outset “Lightning” struggled to penetrate the “Hatters” defence while they were guilty of committing a large number of fouls when they were called upon to defend themselves. Luckily “Hatters” weren’t accurate from the free throw line missing an amazing 20 free throws, but by the end of the first quarter they had established a 29-11 lead.

“Lightning’s” offence was further hampered when the influential Jenny Oamen picked up her fifth foul early in the second quarter and had to leave the game. Campbell Spatcher struggled manfully to lead “Lightning’s” offensive effort but she received very little support from her team mates and after leading 45-22 at half time “Hatters” totally dominated the last two quarters to run out winners by 90 points to 36, Spatcher contributing 17 of “Lightning’s” points, while Michelle Makuna contributed seven.

Coach Mark Spatcher acknowledged his young team had a lot of work to do to be competitive against teams like “Hatters” who are likely to be one of the best in the country and was pleased with the way his team had tried to put into practice things they had worked on in training and had put together some promising spells of play. He was quick to point out the team is a ‘two year project’ and they would be working hard before this weekend’s game against unbeaten Derbyshire “Arrows”.

**Injury hit Under 12’s Beat “Wizards”**

**Under 12 Regional 1 Mixed League**

**Northants “Storm” 61 – 40 Walsall “Wizards"**

Already missing three players the Northants “Storm” Under 12 Mixed team picked up three more injuries in their first National League game against Walsall “Wizards” but held on to record a comfortable victory.

Both teams made a hesitant start to the game, “Storm” looking like what they are, a team short of practice, but they were still able to ease out to 14-8 lead after the first quarter. In the second quarter “Storm’s” pressure defence forced several Walsall turn-overs with Samuel Dominici and Dominikas Jokulis running in a number of lay ups. “Storm” took the quarter 19-5 to establish a 33-13 half time lead.

Under the competition rules “Storm” had to revert to a half court defence as they were leading by over 20 points. Despite this they took the third quarter 16-9 but they were guilty of missing a number of easy scoring opportunities and three players had picked up injuries. The final quarter ended on a low note for “Storm” with “Wizards” led by talented guard Diego Batalla- Panichelli scoring ten unanswered points; “Storm” holding on for the 61 points to 40 victory.

In the 21 point win eight “Storm” players contributed to the final total led by Samuel Dominici with 18 points, Jokulis contributing 12 while Amelia Wesley- ? scored 11 points and rebounded well.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 15th October**

9.15am-10.15am Budding Ballers Session

10.15am-11.30am Junior Ballers Session

12.00pm U16 Girls versus Norfolk “Icenis”

2.15pm U18 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks”

**Sunday 16th October**

11.00am U14 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks”

Under 13 Boys travel to Oxford “Hoops”

Under 14 Girls travel to Derbyshire “Arrows”

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

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

**Spectators are welcome**

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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