

Arrows came out for the third quarter in determined mood and with Thunder were finding it difficult to score so it was imperative they prevented Arrows from closing the gap. Led by some fearsome defence from Ainsley Reynolds they were able to hold firm. Thunder edged the low scoring quarter 11-10 so extending their lead to seven points at 45-38 but in truth the margin should have been greater so Arrows were still in with a chance of taking the game.

Once again Arrows came out in determined mood for the final period of play looking for the big charge to give them the win. Thunder needed someone to control matters and Ed Taylan proved to be that person and his calm play and points scoring kept the initiative in the home teams favour. The Arrows' resolve had been broken and Thunder were able to take the fourth quarter 20-14 to record a very creditable 65-52 win.

Taylan led the Thunder scoring with 18 personal points while Zak Kitchen with 14 points and Josh Lloyd with 10 gave valuable support but this was a game won by solid team defence and the efforts of the rest of the team who hustled superbly were the key to the victory. The team is lacking in 'standing height' but if they can maintain this level of defensive effort they will be a difficult team to beat.

Big 'comeback win for Under 14 Girls

Under 14 Girls East Midland Conference

Oaklands "Wolves" 55 - 63 Northants "Lightning"

With an 8-30 score line early in the second period of play things were looking pretty bleak for the Northants under 14 girls. Coach Stacey Shakespeare called a time out and whatever she said she needs to bottle for a later date, as her team went on a 17-zero run to close the score to 25-30 at half time.

The change had come from a more determined defensive play with every player accepting their responsibilities. Shakespeare asked for more of the same in the second half and her players responded superbly. Led by the efforts of Ruby Mabbutt who pulled off a number of steals leading to fast break scores Lightning were able to outscore their opponents 38-25 over the third and fourth quarters to pull off a remarkable comeback victory.

The Lightning scoring was led by Ony Onwumchili with 29 points while rookie Dina Kosnikovska and Katie Dinnell supported well with 19 and 10 points respectively

No joy for Under 14 Boys in the Second City

Under 14 Boys Midlands Development League

City of Birmingham II 59 - 56 Northants "Thunder"

The Northants under 14 boys travelled to Birmingham to take on the C.O.B. second string and ended up on the wrong end of a 59-56 score line although there was some dispute about the authenticity of the 59 point total with Thunder parents thinking it should have been 58.

The game ended in disappointing fashion for the Northants team. With C.O.B. leading with 27 seconds remaining Thunder coach Darijus Maldutis instructed his players to play good defence and not to foul then go for the game tying basket. To his horror the referees allowed the Birmingham team a 27 second offence and then discovered that his team had been trailing by three not two points.

Thunder made a good start to the game and established a 6-1 lead which would have been greater had it not been for some poor finishing and a number of unforced turnovers. This allowed the home team to seize the initiative 13-12 at the end of the first period of play. Neither team was able to gain control in the second quarter with both teams managing 13 points each so trailing 25-26 at half time Thunder were still in with an excellent chance of winning the game.

Once again Thunder took control of proceedings in the third quarter but as in the first period they failed to convert easy scoring opportunities. This gave C.O.B. confidence and they were able to take the quarter 14-12 to extend their lead to three points at 40-37. Thunder was still in contention but it would need the whole team to step up but during the final ten minutes of play only Jude Carmichael was able to raise his game sufficiently. Thunder managed 19 points in the final quarter the same total as their opponents with Carmichael scoring 13 of those 19. The came the disappointing ending and a three point loss for Thunder but they travelled home knowing this was a game they could easily have won.

In the three point defeat Carmichael totalled an impressive 26 points with Matteo Baja and Ashley Kitchen supporting well with 10 and 8 points respectively.

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 24th October

11-45pm **No** Junior "Ballers" session
Under 14 Girls versus County Upper
Under 14 Boys versus Notts Nova
1-45pm Under 16 Girls versus Barrow "Thorns"
Junior Men versus Nottingham "Hoods"

These games will be played at the **Northants Basketball Centre** which is situated at
Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are welcome and admission is **FREE**

Senior Men travel to Brunel

Sunday 25th October

Under 16 Boys travel to Sporting Club Albion
(National Cup game)

For further information contact John Collins on 07801 53315