**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Five defeats for the Northants Club**

**Five teams from the Northants Basketball Club were in action over the weekend and all five of them suffered defeats.**

**No action for Junior Men**

**Under 18 Boys Midlands 2 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” versus “Ballers” Heaven Warwickshire Warriors**

Having agreed a new tip off time the Coventry outfit went by the tip off time published on the Basketball England website and so failed to arrive at the new tip off time. The game will be re-arranged.

**Under 16 Boys outmuscled in Leicester**

**Under 16 Boys Midlands 1 Conference**

**Leicester Riders Foundation 52 – 43 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 16 Boys slipped to defeat against Leicester Riders Foundation after a very physical encounter at the Morningside Arena.

“Thunder” made a good start to the game with their trapping defence forcing a number of “Riders” turn-overs. They led 14-7 after the first quarter and were ahead in the game 19-13 at half time after a low scoring second quarter.

“Thunder” were having increasing problems keeping the “Riders” players off the offensive boards and the home side made inroads into “Thunder’s” lead taking the third quarter 17-13 to reduce “Thunder’s” lead to 32-30 going into the last ten minutes play.

Despite their best efforts “Thunder” were unable to hold on to their lead “Riders” taking the final quarter 22-11 to clinch the win by 52 points to 43. The “Thunder” players may look back on a situation with just over a minute of the game remaining when trailing by just four points, they had a

2 versus 1 attack only to fail to score and watch “Riders” score at the other end to extend their lead.

In the nine point defeat nine “Thunder” players contributed to the team’s 43 points but not one of them could score in double figures. Angus Slater top scored for “Thunder” with 9 points a total matched by Danielius Jokulis who turned in an excellent all-round performance.

**Under 15 Boys suffer narrow defeat in Birmingham**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Birmingham “Bears” 59 – 56 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 15 Boys travelled to Birmingham for their second YBL game of the season and suffered a three-point defeat despite a very determined effort.

“Thunder” found scoring difficult in the first quarter managing just two baskets in ten minutes. Solid defence kept them in the game but they still trailed 4-14 after the first ten minutes of play. Scoring remained at a premium in the second quarter which “Thunder” edged 9-6 to trail 13-20 at half time.

That deficit was narrowed further in the third quarter which “Thunder” won 18-17 and at 31-37 “Thunder” went into the final stanza sensing that victory was a very real possibility. The Northants boys put in a tremendous effort over the final ten minutes of play and led by nine points from James Kennet-Maughan went in search of the win. They took the quarter 25-22 but still fell tantalisingly short of their target.

Coach Whitney Bain was full of praise of her team, but the group will have to look back on that first quarter which saw them score just four points.

In the disappointing loss Kennet-Maughan and George Clipson led the “Thunder” scoring with 11 points apiece, Henry Brandrick contributed 10 points and rebounded superbly while Alex Bot chipped in with 9 points

**Under 16 Girls suffer their first defeat**

**Under 16 Girls East Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 43 -56 Cambridge “Cats”**

After trailing throughout the game a 10-zero charge inspired by Lucie Caufield, Jennifer Oamen and Karly Osgood midway through the third quarter gave “Lightning” a 36-35 lead and every likelihood of a victory against a gutsy Cambridge team. “Lightning” then went an astonishing ten minutes with just five points from the free throw line to show for their efforts. “Cats” were able to re-group and hold on for a rather flattering but well deserved 13 point win.

An untidy game was punctuated by fouls by “Lightning” will not be happy with the fact that they missed no less than 18 free throws. They were also handicapped by the fact that only four of their players actually scored led by Osgood with 22 points; Oamen and Caulfield contributed 9 and 8 points respectively while Lauren Eighteen rebounded well and was the fourth scorer.

**Much improved Under 14 Girls slip to third defeat.**

**Under 14 Girls North 2 Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 43 – 75 Mansfield “Giants”**

With 13 minutes of this North 2 Conference game remaining the Northants Under 14 girls re-took the lead thanks to two free throws from Campbell Spatcher. Until that event “Lightning” had played their best basketball of the season combining well organised offence with determined defence. They had made a massive effort to stay in touch with “Giants” but over the next 13 minutes fatigue was to play a major part as they were outscored 38 points to seven with “Giants” running in a lot of fast breaks.

The final score was not a true reflection of a game that was very competitive for 37 minutes.

Coach Mark Spatcher expressed himself happy with the efforts his team had made but things don’t get any easier for the team with a trip to top of the table Sheffield “Hatters” this Sunday.

In Saturday’s game Campbell Spatcher scored 17 points with Jennifer Oamen supporting well with 9 points while Karina Kaite enjoyed her best game of the season.

**“Bears” too big for Under 12 Mixed team**

**Under 12 Mixed Region One Conference**

**Northants “Storm” 52 – 87 Birmingham “Bears”**

The Northants “Storm” went into their second Conference game of the season missing several key players for various reasons and fielding two players playing their first ever game of organised basketball. Not surprisingly they suffered a heavy defeat against a “Bears” team containing several skilful, streetwise players and enjoying a distinct height advantage.

“Storm” never recovered from an awful start to the game as they found themselves trailing 4-19 after the first five minutes of play. The “Storm” second unit pulled things round during the second five minutes outscoring “Bears” 9-5 but at 13-25 at the end of the quarter there was a proverbial mountain to climb.

In the second quarter Coach Collins was able to substitute freely and several of his combinations played with confidence on offence but they still struggled to prevent the taller Birmingham players scoring with offensive put backs. “Storm” lost the second quarter 18-20 to bring the scores to 44-31 at half time.

Any hope of a “Storm” revival quickly disappeared in the third quarter with the home team outscored 11-27 to put the game beyond their reach. With “Storm” urged to put in one more effort and “Bears” losing one of their most influential players with five fouls the fourth quarter was a competitive affair which the Birmingham team took 16-10 to close out a comfortable 87 points to 52 win.

Coach Collins was generally pleased with his team’s effort especially Dominykas Jokulis who scored 23 points while Neitas Kurila and Alex Rados contributed nine points apiece, Kurila also putting in a solid defensive shift against one of the stronger “Bears” players.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Because of examination desks in the sports hall there will NOT be any**

**Budding Ballers or Junior Ballers sessions this week.**

**Neither will there be any home games.**

**Saturday 12th November**

Under 18 Boys travel to Leicester “Dynamite”

for a non- Conference game

Under 11 “Storm” and “Storm Too” travel to Coventry “Tornadoes”

**Sunday 13th November**

Under 14 Boys travel to Walsall “Wizards”

Under 14 Girls travel to Sheffield “Hatters”

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