**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A weekend which saw the Under 14 Boys maintaining their unbeaten record, two Under 11 teams competing in Coventry but another defeat for the Under 14 Girls**

**Junior Men beaten by Dynamite**

**Under 18 Boys Non – Conference game**

**Leicester “Dynamite” 75 - 69 Northants “Thunder”**

Without a Conference game the Northants Junior Men made the short trip to Leicester for a friendly game against Leicester “Dynamite”. The game gave Coach Darjius Maldutis an opportunity to try some different playing combinations and to welcome Jordan Gbanja back to the team.

“Thunder” trailed 34-42 at half time and midway through the third quarter fell behind by as many as 16 points. To their credit they battled back well but eventually lost by 69 points to 75.

In the six point defeat Benas Maldutis top scored with 16 points while on his return Gbanja contributed 12 points and Fareed Issifu 12

**Under 14 Boys maintain their 100% record**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Walsall “Wizards 48 – 62 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys picked up their fourth win of the season thanks to a hard-fought win over Walsall “Wizards”. “Thunder” had a distinct height advantage over “Wizards” but the lone referee seemed to hold this against the Northants boys and in a one-sided first quarter which “Thunder” won 22-6 the influential Logan Tanner and Wilson Carr had both picked up a brace of fouls.

After cruising through that first quarter “Thunder” seemed to be distracted by the heavy foul count against them in the second quarter and their play became disjointed. “Wizards” won the second quarter 14-7 to close the deficit to 20-29 by half time.

“Thunder” regained their composure in the third quarter and some excellent defence enabled them to launch a number of fast breaks with Robert Cerniavsjij making a number of excellent assists. “Thunder” won that third quarter 21-15 to extend their lead to 50-35 but with “Wizards” employing a two man Pick & Roll offence in the final quarter “Thunder” struggled once more. Thanks to eight points from Cameron Ivienagbor and a good defensive effort from Oliwer Andrzejczak “Thunder” only lost the fourth quarter by a single point to close out the 62-48 win in difficult circumstances during which Coach Brad Hughes felt his team had been penalised simply for being physically bigger.

In the fourteen-point victory Tanner top scored with 19 points, Ivienagbor supporting well with 14 points while Elijah Badero and Wilson Carr both chipped in with eight points apiece.

**Another tough day at the office for Under 14 Girls slip to third defeat.**

**Under 14 Girls North 2 Conference**

**Sheffield “Hatters” 95 – 49 Northants “Lightning”**

Having suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of “Hatters” just three weeks ago the Northants “Lightning travelled to Sheffield knowing they were in for another tough game and so it proved. It was a tough ‘ask’ of the team to play one of the best teams in the country twice in the opening weeks of the season but Coach Mark Spatcher felt that his team had showed massive improvement despite suffering another heavy defeat.

After the long journey “Lightning” made an excellent start to the game and were competitive for the first eight minutes of the game but lost the first quarter 16-29. “Hatters” extended their lead to 45-25 by half time but if the home side expected the Northants to ‘throw in the towel’ in the second half they were wrong and despite a poor third quarter “Lightning” battled hard until the final hooter.

For “Lightning”, Campbell Spatcher scored 21 points and Jennifer Oamen 16, while Faith Oyesiku made a useful contribution with six points.

**Excellent day in Coventry for Under 11 Mixed teams**

**Under 11 Mixed YBL Group A**

**Northants “Storm” 62 – 40 Northants “Storm Too”**

**Northants “Storm” 47-36 Coventry “Tornadoes” Blue**

**Northants “Storm Too” 56-31 Coventry “Tornadoes” White**

**Northants “Storm” 88-38 Coventry Tornadoes” White**

**Northants “Storm Too” 50-38 Coventry “Tornadoes” Blue**

With a team withdrawing from Group A of the YBL Under 11 Mixed League both the Northants and Coventry clubs decided to enter two teams in this season’s competition.

In last Saturday’s first tournament the two “Storm” teams beat both the Coventry teams with the Northants first string team winning the clash between the two “Storm” teams. Both teams took a little time to settle down but eventually played some excellent basketball to the delight of coaches Emma Salisbury and John Collins and the large contingent of parents.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 19th November**

**9-15am to 10-15am** Budding “Ballers” session

**10-15am to 11-30am** Junior “Ballers” session

**12-00 noon** Under 14 Girls versus Nottingham “Wildcats”

**2-15pm** Under 14 Boys versus Coventry “Tornadoes”

**4-30pm** Under 16 Boys versus Leicester “Warriors”

**Sunday 20th November**

**11-00am** Under 13 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix”

**12-00pm** Kettering “Phoenix” versus Arden “Griffins”

**1-00pm** Under 13 Girls versus Arden “Griffins”

Under 12 Mixed team travels to Northamptonshire “Titans”

(This game to be played at Northampton School for Boys)

All the 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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