**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Under 16 Girls win local derby**

**Under 16 Girls Central Conference**

**N.E.B.C. Titans 58 – 61 Northants Lightning**

Northants Lightning under 16 girls made the short trip to Wellingborough looking to build on the two victories in their most recent games, to meet Northamptonshire Titans who sat in 2nd place in the division, with three wins from their four games played.

A low-scoring start saw Lightning lead just 6-5 after five minutes as both teams struggled from the foul line.  Titans' Imogene Williams was the dominant factor for her team whilst Lucie Wilson-Gray paced her team as the sides were level at 13 at the end of the opening quarter.  There was still nothing in it in the second period as Titans recovered from five points down to trail by just 26-25 at half time, Williams with 14 points and Wilson-Gray 15.

The third quarter saw Lightning play their best basketball of the season so far as Wilson-Gray and captain Dina Kosnikovska dominated proceedings.  After seven minutes, Lightning’s margin had increased to 43-30 before the home side, or Williams at least, made an 8-2 run that reduced the deficit to 45-38 with 10 minutes to play.  Titans maintained their momentum and a 12-4 spell took them ahead at 50-49, but Kosnikovska and Fiona Arthur took over the offensive duties, sharing the next eight points to get their team in front.  Ellouise Gregory was outstanding on the defensive end as Lightning held on for an excellent 61-58 win.

Every Lightning player made a positive contribution with Kosnikovska and Wilson-Gray with 23 points each and Arthur with 10.

**Another big win for Under 14 Girls**

**Under 14 Girls South Conference**

**Northants Lightning 83 – 46 Bristol Flyers**

Northants Lightning Under 14 girls chalked up their fourth consecutive win to move top of the South Conference. Their latest victims were Bristol Flyers arrived in Northampton with just eight players.

Lightning raced into a 9-2 lead and their pressure defence never allowed their opponents to settle as they built up a 19-7 lead by the end of the first period of play. The second period saw the home team take total control of the game and thanks to ten points from Athena Thompson and a massive defensive performance from Keris Ndubisi, they raced out to a 48 to 19 lead by half time.

With the game as good as over as a competition, Lightning were guilty of relaxing their efforts in the third period which they just edged 15-14 but they were back to their dominant best in the fourth as they cruised to a 37 points victory. All ten Lightning players contributed to the final total with Thompson and Brooke Leo leading their scoring with 14 and 16 points respectively. Loraine Zgurean contributed 12 points the same total as Mia Gajaga who had a fine all-round game.

The team are understandably on a high at the moment, but they face a potentially tough challenge this Saturday when they take on Harris Federation Knights at the Basketball Centre

**Lightning Under 13 Girls beaten by short-handed Braintree**

**Under 14 Girls Regional League**

**Northants Lightning Storm 27 – 53 Braintree Blue Devils**

Northants Lightning Storm under 13 girls had their latest outing in the Regional League when they met undefeated Braintree Blue Devils.  Unfortunately the visitors did not appreciate the requirement for ten players in this competition as they turned up with just seven Year 9 players, whereas Lightning had the required number including primary school pupils.  The essence of this division is to encourage participation and development but perhaps not for all teams.

Lightning struggled against their bigger opponents even though Blue Devils were called for many fouls.  With one of their players fouling out within eight minutes, they ran the risk of losing a number of players however, the match officials became much more lenient, allowing all the visitors players to remain in the game.

The Lightning youngsters battled bravely and a 53-27 loss is nothing to be deterred by, but this will not promote girls basketball and needs to be looked at by the games' Governing Body.

**Cadet Boys succumb to Hoods**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Northants Thunder 58 – 95 Nottingham Hoods**

For the second time this season Thunder Under 16 boys faced a physically intimidating team this time in the form of Nottingham Hoods who eventually recorded a comfortable victory over the Northants boys. There is little doubt that Hoods are good enough to play Premier Division basketball and it was to Thunder’s credit that midway through the third period they were still in touch at 37-46. They were then hit by a 15-3 blitz and it was game over.

Physically Thunder had given of their all in the first three periods of play and in the fourth they just fell apart with Hoods mounting two 10-zero charges to give the final score line a rather unrealistic look.

Several of the Northants boys struggled physically and hopefully will realise that in these situations good technique has to be the answer.

In the heavy defeat Ashley Kitchen showed his class with 21 points while Luke Desborough and Kris Dambrauskas both battled hard for their ten-point hauls.

**Thunder Storm Under 14 Boys split games in latest tournament**

**Under 14 Boys Regional League**

**Northants Thunder Storm 42 - 93 Braintree Blue Devils**

**Northants Thunder Storm 61 – 20 Brentwood Leopards**

It was a nervous Thunder Storm took the court against Braintree Blue Devils and were unable to contain the visitor’s, Wright. Blue Devils had established a 67-15 half time lead but the Northants boys were able to perform a great deal better in the second half before slipping to a 50 plus points defeat.

After a one game break it was a totally different team turned up against Brentwood and inspired by the defensive energy of Angus Slater, Thunder Storm were able to establish an early advantage which they maintained through some excellent fast break basketball with Jonas Hefford catching the eye.

Thunder Storm will be looking to produce this sort of basketball the next time they meet Braintree.

**Under 12 Boys go one and one in their latest Tournament**

**Under 12 Mixed Regional League**

**Derby Trailblazers 22 – 46 Northants Thunder**

**Leicester Riders Black 47 – 23 Northants Thunder**

The Northants Under 12 Boys travelled to the Morningside Arena in Leicester last Saturday for their latest tournament. They opened proceedings with a 46-22 win against a limited Derby side with Reggie Majwega and Lennon Martin helping themselves to 17 and 15 points respectively. Despite the comfortable win the score line glossed over weaknesses in Thunder’s play and their game was dismantled in their second match by an efficient and skillful Leicester Riders team. Riders’ 47-23 win reflected the difference in skills and teamwork between the two sides. Seth Wilborn top scored for Thunder with 6 points.

The Northants boys may now reflect that ten individuals playing as a team will always beat a team playing as individuals.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 30th November**

**9-30am until 10-30am** Budding Ballers

**9-30am until 11-00am** Ballers

**11-00am – 12-30pm** Ballers Academy

**12-30pm until 2-00pm** Under 12 and Under 13 Girls Practice

**1-00pm** Under 14 Girls versus Harris Knights Croydon

These activities and the game will take place at the Northants Basketball Centre

which is based at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton

Under 14 and Under 16 Boys travel to Ilkeston Outlaws

**Sunday 1st December**

**11-00am** Under 16 Girls versus NEBC Titans

Under 14 Boys versus Mansfield Giants

These games will be played at the Basketball Centre

For more information on this Press Release contact: **John Collins** on **07801 533 151**