**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Junior Women second best in Bury**

**Under 18 Girls North Conference**

**Lancashire “Spinners” 71 – 57 Northants “Lightning”**

The new look “Lightning” junior women travelled to Bury last Sunday for a North Conference game against Lancashire “Spinners” and ended up on the wrong end of a 57-71 score line.

After the long journey north, “Lightning made a good start to the game, but an 11-zero surge towards the end of the quarter by the hosts gave them an 18-12 advantage at the end of the first ten minutes of play.

The two teams traded baskets in the second quarter with “Spinners”, Taylor proving to be a handful for the Lightning defenders. Both teams managed 20 points apiece in that second quarter so at 32-38 “Lightning” were still in contention at half time.

“Lightning” needed a big effort in the third quarter but the despite the best efforts of the Northants girls led by Fernanad Cia Sances; “Spinners” were able to extend their lead to 60-47 thanks to the scoring of Taylor.

The fourth quarter saw both teams suffering from fatigue and struggling to score. “Lightning” were able to match their opponents 10 points but there was never any real danger of them closing the 14 point deficit but there were several positive signs for the team who will reflect on missing no less than ten free throws.

For “Lightning”, Gerda Vilciaskaite top scored with 16 points well supported by Lucie Wilson-Gray, Dina Kosnikovska and Cia Sances who all scored in double figures, Keris Ndubisi Jegede battled hard for her eight points; while Taylor netted 36 points for “Spinners”. Coach Emma Salisbury will be hoping for more contributions from her younger players once they have gained more confidence at playing in a higher age group.

**“Thunder” Under 16 Boys too strong for “Warriors” second string**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 87 – 32 Leicester “Warriors II”**

The Northants cadet boys opened their East Midlands Conference campaign with a convincing win over the Leicester “Warriors” second team.

The first minutes of the game saw both team struggling to find any kind of rhythm and poor shot selection by “Thunder” allowed the bigger “Warriors” team the opportunity to secure defensive rebounds and mount fast break offences. The visitors jumped out toa 7-4 lead but a 12-4 surge at the end of the quarter gave the home team a 16-12 advantage.

The second quarter saw “Thunder” guard Benas Maldutis take control of the game with 14 personal points as his team outscored “Warriors” by 27 points to 10 to take a 43-22 half time lead.

“Warriors” were never a threat in the second half scoring just 10 points despite “Thunder” coach, Brad Hughes experimenting with different on-court variations. “Thunder” scored 44 points in the second half to run out winners by 87 points to 32, Maldutis top scoring with 24 points while Ini Alao and Rapolas Radivicius both scored in double figures.

“Thunder” will face a much stiffer challenge this coming weekend when they face the “Warriors” first string.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 9th October**

 **9.30 am – 10.30am** “Budding “Ballers”

 **9.30am – 11.00am** “Junior Ballers”

 **11-30am** “Thunder” Under 12 Boys versus N.E.B.C. “TITANS”

 Under 16 Boys travel to Leicester “Warriors”

 Under 14 Boys travel to Cambridge “Cats II”

 **Sunday 10th October**

 **11.00am** “Thunder 18 Boys” versus Chesterfield “Flight”

The home games will be played at the Northants Basketball Centre at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 7DG

**Spectators are welcome but we respectfully request that they wear a face covering**

**and respect social distancing.**

**This advice has been given to the Club from the highest authority.**

For further information about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on **+44 7801 533151**