**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**A Quadruple of wins for Northants Boys**

**Four Northants “Thunder” team were in action last weekend and all four won**

**Big win for Junior Men**

**Under 18 Boys North Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 92 – 24 Chesterfield Flight”**

Northants “Thunder” junior men opened their season with a game against new boys Chesterfield “Flight” and recorded a comfortable 68 points win with no less than six of their players scoring in double figures while defensively they restricted their opponents to single figures in all four quarters.

From the outset “Flight” looked what they are, an inexperienced team in their first season of national league competition. The “Thunder” starting five almost scored at will as the team mounted a number of fast breaks leading to easy scores. Defensively “Thunder” was miserly and by the end of the first quarter they led 25-7.

It was very much the same story in the second quarter with “Thunder” dominating the defensive boards through Dylan Dominici, Fareed Issifu and Rapolus Radavicius which resulted in more fast break points. “Thunder” took the quarter 21-6 to lead 46-13 at half time.

Any possibility of a “Flight” revival in the second half was quickly dispelled by an 18-3 “Thunder” charge at the start of the third quarter as Ellis Phillips came to light with 10 personal points. “Flight’s” play became increasingly ragged and on a number of occasions they showed frustration in their behaviour. “Thunder” won the quarter 28- 5 and at 74-18 it was ‘game over’.

Despite Coach Darjius Maldutis fielding some unusual combinations during the fourth quarter “Thunder” continued to dominate the game despite losing the services of Tom Greenfield with five fouls and took the final quarter 18-6 to run out comfortable winners by 92 points to 24. The “Thunder” scoring was led by Issifu and Benas Maldutis with 18 and 16 points respectively; Ellis, Dominici, Jason Morrison and Bobby Oppenshaw all scored in double figures while Radavicius contributed 8 points and blocked six shots.

 **Under 16 Boys see of “Warriors”**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Leicester “Warriors” 42 – 90 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants under 16 boys made it two wins from two starts after recording a comfortable win over Leicester “Warriors”. “Thunder” had played the “Warriors” ‘B’ team seven days earlier and expected a tougher game against the same club’s first string.

In the event the game was as easy if not easier than the previous encounter as “Thunder” charged into a 29-11 first quarter lead, 15 of those points coming from guard Benas Maldutis. The lead was extended by a further ten points in the second quarter and with a 54-26 half time score line it was going to take a massive effort from the Leicester outfit if they were going to turn the game their way. “Thunder” however, were not in a charitable mood and in the third quarter they restricted “Warriors” to just seven points while adding 21 to their total.

In the final quarter of play with the game won, Coach Brad Hughes was able to use various combinations but insisted on good defensive discipline and once again “Warriors” were restricted to single figures over the ten minutes of play as “Thunder” cruised to 90 points to 42. All eleven “Thunder” players contributed to the total lead by Maldutis and Rapolas Radavicius.

**Excellent ‘road’ win for “Thunder” Under 14’s**

**Under 14 Boys Conference**

**Cambridge “Cats” 63 - 35 Northants “Thunder A”**

For their first Conference game of the season the Northants “Thunder A” team journeyed along the A14 to Cambridge for an 11.30am game against Cambridge “Cats”. On their arrival at the venue they were informed that the tip off time had been changed to 1-30pm but it was later discovered that this information had actually been sent to Northants “Titans”.

After the long wait “Thunder” hit the court in hungry mood and their aggressive defence and high paced offensive play proved to be too much for the home team. “Thunder” raced into a 17-7 first quarter lead led by some excellent guard play from Kane Young ably assisted by Alex Bot

In the second quarter the “Thunder” ‘bigs’ Harry Dutton, George Clipston and Ted Osborne began to dominate scoring with numerous putbacks as “Thunder” outscored “Cats 22-9 to take a 39-16 half time lead.

The Cambridge boys put up a much better performance in the third quarter restricting “Thunder” to 14 points while scoring 11 themselves but at 53-27 there was little chance of a home team comeback. The fourth quarter saw the “Thunder” players doing everything in their power to get a score for Hayden Lewis and when he ‘netted’ his first basket in Conference play the “Thunder” parents almost brought the roof down with their cheering.

“Thunder” edged the fourth quarter 10-8 to close out a convincing 63-35 win with their scoring led by Young and Bot with 19 and 18 points respectively good support coming from Rhys Safo and Ted Osborne the latter also hauling down an impressive 12 rebounds a total exceeded by Hayden Lewis with 14

**“Thunder” Under 12’s too strong for “Titans”**

**Under 12 Mixed League East Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 74 – 37 NEBC “Titans”**

The Northants under 12 Mixed team took to their court for their first game last Saturday with local rivals “Titans” their opponents. “Titans” had a distinct height advantage but at the start of the game they had no answer to “Thunder’s” up tempo offensive play and aggressive defence and the home team had established an 18-6 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

“Titans” were more productive in the second quarter scoring 11 points but they had no answer to “Thunder’s” rapid ball movement which led to 21 points for the home side and a 39-17 half time lead.

If “Thunder’s” defence had been good in the first two quarters of the game it was even better in the third as “Titans” were restricted to just five points. The defensive effort also produced a number of turn overs leading to easy scores as “Thunder” scored 25 points in the quarter to establish an unassailable 64-22 lead.

“Thunder” were guilty of some loose play in the fourth and final quarter and the spirited “Titans” team outscored them 15-10 but the final result was never in doubt “Thunder” taking the game by 74 points to 37 with their scoring led by Samuel Dominici and Luc Garrett with 18 and 11 points respectively. What was most pleasing though was the fact that all ten “Thunder” players scored and the speed of their transition offence.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 16th October**

**There are no activities at The Basketball Centre this weekend**

“Thunder” Under 14 ‘A’ team travel to Essex “Rebels”

 Under 12 Mixed team travel to West Suffolk “Wolves”

 **Sunday 17th October**

 **3.00pm** “Thunder” 18 Boys” versus NEBC “Titans II”

 This game will be played at Northampton School for Boys

 “Lightning” Under 14 Girls travel to Mansfield “Giants”

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