**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Three losses for Northants teams**

**After the euphoria of four wins the previous weekend the Northants Club were reminded of the quirkiness of sport with three losses last wekend**

**Junior Men well beaten by local rivals**

**Under 18 Boys North Conference**

**NEBC “Titans” 80 – 54 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Junior Men will be asking themselves one simple question after this 26 point loss to local rivals “Titans”. That question is how can we possibly expect to win a game if we go scoreless for the first nine minutes of the game, turn the ball over almost 40 times and miss in excess of 20 free throws? Those are the hard facts which the team will need to put right if they are to win games against the better teams in the North Conference.

At the start of the game “Thunder” contrived to miss numerous opportunities to score against an aggressive “Titans” team. In the absence of point guard Benas Maldutis, they were also guilty of turning the ball over on a number of occasions and resorting to hurried three-point shots. All this contrived to see them score just one basket in the ten minutes of play to trail 3-18 at the end of the first quarter.

“Thunder” were far more competitive in the second quarter thanks in the main to “Titans” missing numerous easy scoring opportunities. Against the home teams ‘press’ defence, “Thunder” were guilty of trying to dribble rather than pass their way out of trouble and they missed out on a number of fast break opportunities based on good rebounding by Fareed Issifu. “Thunder” lost the second quarter 14-15 to trail 17-33 at the interval and needing a good start to the second half if they were to get back into the game.

“Thunder” made a decent start to the third quarter without ever looking comfortable against the home team’s pressure and a five minute spell without a score didn’t help. “Titans” took the third quarter 17-18 to extend their lead to 51-34 and despite three back-to-back three-pointers from Ellis Phillips, “Titans” held on to take the final stanza 22-16 and run out winners by 80 points to 54.

In the 26 point loss Phillips led the “Thunder” scoring with 20 points but no other player was able get into double figures.

**“Thunder” Under 14 Boys lose out to physical “Rebels”**

**Under 14 Boys East Conference**

**Essex “Rebels” 48 – 38 Northants “Thunder”**

After making an encouraging start to this East Conference game against Essex “Rebels” the Northants “Thunder” Under 14 Boys succumbed to some physical play eventually losing by 10 points. On the back of some good play from Alex Bot, Harry Dutton and Kane Young, “Thunder” won the first quarter 16-8 but struggled to find the basket for the rest of the game.

This was possibly down to the fact that the game became every physical and the double-teaming tactics employed by “Rebels” against the “Thunder” guards Bot and Young. Despite problems scoring “Thunder” were still able to keep the scores close thanks to their spirited defensive efforts and midway through the final quarter were still well in contention but a number of missed scoring opportunities cost them dear and they finally lost 48-38 in a low scoring affair.

For “Thunder” Alex Bot top scored with 12 points, Harry Dutton and Joe Safo both contributing 6 points.

**“Lightning” Under 14 Girls are second best in Mansfield**

**Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Mansfield “Giants” 56 – 39 Northants “Lightning”**

A spirited third quarter which they won 16-10 saw the Northants “Lightning” Under 14 girls battle their way back into contention in this physical Midlands Conference clash. That charge took the score to 37-35 in favour of the home team but midway through the final quarter “Lightning” lost the services of their coach Lee Meadows who was expelled from the game with two technical fouls given for protesting about the over-physicality of the game. Without their coach “Lightning” lost the final quarter 4-19 to give the final score line a rather unrealistic look.

Earlier in the game “Lightning” had battled hard defensively but found scoring difficult and found themselves trailing 19-27 at half time. That excellent third quarter gave them hope of victory but in the end it all came to nothing.

In the 17 point loss Jennifer Oaman and Iviannah Meadows top scored for “Lightning” with 10 points apiece while Campbell Spatcher contributed 9 points.

**Blank weekend for Under 12 Mixed team**

With the West Suffolk Club unable to find a coach to look after their team this game was postponed and will be rearranged at another date

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 23rd October**

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

**9.30am – 11.00am** “Junior Ballers”

Junior Men travel to Sheffield Elite II

Under 15 Boys travel to Warwickshire “Hawks”

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