**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

***Five teams from the Northants Basketball Club were ’on the road’ last weekend and three of them returned home with victories***

**“Lightning” Junior Women let lead slip but hold out to beat local rivals “Titans”**

**Under 18 Girls North Conference**

**N.E.B.C. “Titans” 63 - 70 Northants “Lightning”**

Despite a poor third quarter which saw them outscored 25-10 “Lightning” Junior Women held on to win a thrilling battle and earn bragging rights over local rivals NEBC “Titans”. That “Titans” surge saw them battle back from a 27-45 half time deficit and came thanks to some excellent pressure defence and it brought the score back to 55-52 in favour of “Lightning” going into the final ten minutes of play.

During the final quarter “Lighting” re-found their composure and urged on by some enthusiastic support held out for a well deserved seven points win led by 23 points from Fernanda Cia Sances and 21 from Keris Ndubisi.

Earlier, following a tight first quarter which “Lightning” edged 21-17 the contest was broken open in the second which “Lightning” won 24-10 thanks to a switch to a zone defence by Coach Emma Salisbury. Salisbury who was missing a couple of key players was delighted with her team’s performance and was full of praise for the effort of all her players particularly Cia Sances and Ndubisi plus the defensive efforts of Lucie Wlson-Gray

**Excellent second half sees Junior men beat “Trailblazers II”**

**Junior Men’s North Conference**

**Derby “Trailblazers II” 52 – 55 Northants “Thunder”**

An impressive second half defensive display which saw “Trailblazers” limited to just 17 points helped the “Thunder” Junior Men to a hard-fought win over the Derby second string.

Faced by a zone defence which concentrated on denying high percentage shots “Thunder” found themselves trailing 28-35 at half time. During the first two quarters “Thunder” had launched a number of three-point attempts with only limited success. They were also guilty of not contesting for the rebounds which gave the home team a number of fast break opportunities.

Coach Darijus Maldutis’s half time message was simple, pressurise the Derby ball handlers and break quickly to get shots away before “Trailblazers” could set up their zone. His tactics worked perfectly “Thunder” taking the lead early in the fourth quarter and trailing by five points Derby were forced to foul sending Dyaln Dominici to the free throw line. Dominici missed both free throws and Derby launched a fast break reducing ”Thunder’s” winning margin to three points.

Eight players contributed to “Thunder’s” 55 point tally with Dominici the only player to score in double figures and the win represented an excellent comeback after the disappointment of the previous week.

**“Thunder” Under 16 Boys undone by Onyia**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Leicester “Dynamite” 73 – 63 Northants “Thunder”**

Two players dominated this East Midlands Conference game with Dynamite’s ‘giant’ Onyia matching Thunder’s Benas Maldutis with a 30 plus points haul. The game however was won and lost in the fourth quarter which started with “Thunder” holding a slender 53-48 lead only for them to be blitzed 10-25 in the concluding ten minutes of play.

Having lost the first quarter 17-20, “Thunder” played with more composure in the second and third quarters with Ini Alao and Rapolas Radivicius giving Maldutis good support on the scoring front. With victory just ten minutes away “Thunder” was unable to control Onyia who took over the game and led “Dynamite” to a win which was a lot less comfortable than the final score suggested.

**“Royals” too strong for Under 14 Boys**

**Under 14 Boys East Conference**

**East Herts “Royals” 64 – 47 Northants “thunder”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys travelled to Stevenage last Saturday and suffered disappointing 17 points defeat at the hands of East Herts “Royals”.

After a poor stat which saw “Thunder” fall nine points behind Coach David Young’s team rallied to 13-14 after the first quarter. Kane Young had been the supplier in chief in this revival with Ted Osborne scoring some important baskets. The second and third quarters proved to be “Thunder’s” undoing as they were outscored by 33 points to 17 giving “Royals” a decisive 47-30 advantage going into the final ten minutes of play.

During that final quarter Rhys Safo showed good leadership for “Thunder” who were able to equal their opponents 17 points finally going down by 47 points to 64. Their scoring led by Alex Bot with 18 points well supported by Young with 11 points and a number of assists.

Coach Young felt there were a lot of positives to take from the game and as well as a lot to work on before Sunday’s tough looking game against N.E.B.C. “Titans”

**Carr the hero as Under 13 Boys edge past “Eagles”**

**Under 13 Boys Youth Basketball League**

**Abingdon “Eagles” 49 – 50 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 13 Boys played their first YBL game of the season and were involved in an absolute thriller. The game was an absolute see-saw which opened with the home side taking a 21-10 lead after the first quarter. “Thunder” had looked nervous during the first ten minutes of play but looked far more composed in the second quarter and some good team play saw then take the period 18-6 and a narrow 28-27 half time lead.

The home side regained the ascendency in the third quarter and with five minutes of the game remaining led 48-39. “Thunder” then found another gear and went on an amazing 8-zero scoring charge to close to within a single point at 47-48. The two teams exchanged free throws before “Thunder’s” Wilson Carr scored the decisive basket to give his team the lead. Neither team could find the basket during a tense final minute “Thunder” holding on for the single point win.

Coach Steven Matthews was delighted with the eforts of all twelve of his players especially the performance of Logan Tanner who scored 20 points and the outstanding rebounding of Elijah Badero.

**Budding “Ballers” and Junior “Ballers” Programmes go from strength to strength**

This year’s programmes for boys and girls under the age of nine have proved to be extremely successful. The Budding “Ballers” and Junior “Ballers” programmes are supervised by fully qualified coaches supported by Young Leaders who play for club teams and there are currently over 50 boys and girls involved.

The activities used are all fun based but all related to basketball.

Despite the popularity of the two programmes there are still vacancies, and any interested parent should contact the Club on **northantsbasketballclub@hotmail.co.uk**for further information.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 6th November**

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

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

 **11.30am** “Lightning” Under 14 Girls versus Daventry “Swifts”

 “Thunder” Under 13 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks”

  **2.00pm**  “Thunder” Under 15 Boys versus Leodonites

 **4.30pm** “Thunder” Under 18 Boys versus Mansfield “Giants”

 **Sunday 7th November**

 **11.00am** “Thunder Under 14 Boys ‘A’” versus NEBC “Titans”

 **1.30pm** “Thunder” Under 14 Boys ‘B’ versus Braintree

These games will be played at the Northants Basketball Centre at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

**Spectators are welcome but in view of the increased number of Covid cases in local schools 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**