**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

***Last weekend teams from the Club travelled as far north as Leeds and as far south as Hertfordshire, in the east they went to Cambridge and to the west Ledbury plus two Midlands venues. The six teams returned with of five wins.***

**Junior Women too strong for City of Leeds**

**Junior Women’s North Conference**

**City of Leeds 39 -64 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning” Junior Women made the long trip north to Leeds and picked up an impressive win over a young but enthusiastic City of Leeds side.

After the long journey” Lightning” were a little lethargic at the start of the game but thanks to the efforts of Lucie Wilson-Gray and Dina Kosnikovska and some tough defence they edged the first quarter 15-6. “Lightning” continued to struggle in the second quarter but by half time had extended their lead to 30-21.

The game was won and lost in the third quarter with “Lightning” playing with increased intensity and aggression with the Leeds players unable to contain the offensive play of Fernanda Cia Sances. The Northants girls took the quarter by 21 points to eight and were able to go into cruise control for the fourth eventually running out winners by 64 points to 39 and the unenviable task of negotiating the M.1. on a Sunday evening.

In the 25 points win Cia Sances top scored with 19 points; Kosnikovska, Wilson-Gray and Gerda Vilciaskaite all scoring in double figures; bu Coach Emma Salisbury was quick to point out that all eight players had made important contributions to the win.

**Great win for Under 16 Boys over “Hoods”**

**Under 16 Boys East Midands Conference**

**Nottingham “Hoods” 60 – 82 Northants ”Thunder”**

Throughout the previous age group competitions games between “Hoods” and “Thunder” have always been close run, tense affairs so a twenty points plus win is an excellent achievement and came thanks to an excellent all-round team performance topped by some excellent finishing from Benas Maldutis and Rapolas Radavicius.

It was Maldutis who was the ‘star of the show’ in the first quarter the “Thunder” guard scoring 9 points as his team took a 20 to 11 advantage. “Hoods” bounced back in the second quarter which they won 20-15 despite an additional seven points from Maldutis and “Thunder’s” half time lead had been reduced to 35-31.

At the start of the third quarter Coach Brad Hughes employed a trapping zone defence and this forced a number of turn-overs form the Nottingham players. Added to this Radavicius and Jordan Gbana were beginning to dominate in the paint and this helped “Thunder” to outscore their opponents by 28 points to 14 and push their lead out to 63-45. This was extended by a further four points in the final quarter “Thunder” eventually running out winners by 82 points to 60.

In the 22 points win Maldutis and Radavicius led the scoring with 20 and 17 points respectively Ini Aleo capping a fine all-round performance with 12 points.

**It’s revenge time for Under 15 Boys**

**Youth Basketball League Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Leadonites 50 – 59 Northants “Thunder”**

Seven days after narrowly losing to Leadonites the Northants “Thunder” were able to head to Ledbury in search of revenge. They achieved that revenge thanks to 20 points from Jake Muxlow, 14 from Angus Slater and some great rebounding by Thomas Bates. These scorers were backed up by an excellent team effort inspired by the defensive efforts of Fabian Campau.

The first two quarters were close run affairs with the home side holding a 24-22 half time advantage.

“Thunder” came out for the second half in determined mood and three significant soring bursts saw the take the third quarter 23-9 to take a 12 point lead into the final ten minutes of play. The home side battled hard in the fourth quarter and a 7-zero run made it a nervous time for “Thunder”, but key scores from Muxlow and Bates kept “Thunder in front to the end and the satisfaction of reversing the pervious week’s defeat.

**Under 14 Boys second best to Cambridge “Cats”**

**Under 14 Boys East Conference**

**Cambridge “Cats” 75 – 41 Northants “Thunder A”**

A short-handed “thunder” Under 14 team travelled to Cambridge to take on the “Cats” and suffered another heavy loss.

With the exception of the third which “Cats” took 14-13 the home side dominated play with “Thunder” unable to establish any kind of rhythm on offence while defensively they struggled to contain the Cambridge offensive play.

“Thunder” faces another tough game this coming weekend when they take on Milton Keynes

**Under 13 Boys stay unbeaten with an impressive win in Birmingham**

**Under 13 Boys Youth Basketball League**

**Bournville “Bears” 68 – 75 Northants “Thunder”**

Games in the second city are never easy so this win over Bournville their third consecutive victory was no mean feat.

“Thunder” made a confident start to the game and led by nine points from Logan Tanner won the first quarter of lay 19-15. “Thunder” were then able to ‘turn up the heat’ in the second quarter which they took 26-seven to establish a 45-22 half time lead.

“Bears” came in determined mood for the third quarter and despite six points from Alfie Serbyn they reduced the “Thunder” lead by five points to 61-43. The gap was reduced even further to just two points as the “Thunder” scoring machine dried up but vital scores from Elijah Badero saw “Thunder” home.

In the narrow win Tanner top scored with 25 personal points but nine other “Thunder” players contributed to the 75 points total and Coach Steven Matthews was full of praise for the defensive efforts of Oliwier Audrzejczak and the outstanding shift put in by Cameron Iviengibor

**Impressive win for Under 12 Mixed team**

**Under 12 Mixed League East Conference**

**North Herts “Knights” 39 – 74 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 12 Mixed team picked up their second win of the season with a convincing victory over a physical North Herts “Knights” team.

The win came as a result of an excellent all-round team performance led by 18 points and some great hustle from Anton Kelly while Joel Steite - French worked extremely hard at both ends of the court.

Against the big “Knights” team, “Thunder” made a slow start but as their confidence grew, they took the initiative to edge the first quarter 18-14. The second quarter saw the Northants team seizing the initiative pouring in 26 points to “Knights” nine. Leading 44-23 at half time “Thunder” were guilty of easing off in the third quarter both teams scoring 10 points but it was business as usual in the fourth which “Thunder” won convincingly by 20 points to six to run out winners 74-39.

In the thirty plus points win Kelly top scored with Luca Garnett, Jerome Maroodza and Campbell Spatcher all scoring in double figures

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 13th November**

**9-30 am to 10-30am** “Budding “Ballers”

**9-30am to 11-00am** “Junior Ballers”

**11-30am** Under 14 Boys ‘A’ versus Milton Keynes

**2-00pm** Under 16 Boys versus Daventry “Swifts”

**4-30pm** Junior Men versus Leicester “Dynamite”

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 is in accordance with Basketball England advice**

Under 11 Mixed team travels to Coventry for a Youth Basketball League CVL Tournament

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