**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***Three teams from the Northants Club were in action last weekend resulting in two wins and the Under 12 Mixed team retaining their unbeaten record.***

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

**Under 16 Boys East Midands Conference**

**Leicester “Warriors II” 27 – 106 Northants ”Thunder”**

After the disappointment of the previous week’s fiasco when Daventry “Swifts” refused to play, the Northants “Thunder” Cadets travelled to Leicester to take on “Warriors” second team in determined mood. Having already beaten “Warriors II”, “Thunder” were in confident mood against enthusiastic but young opposition and the game was over as a contest after the first quarter with “Thunder” establishing a convincing 27-7 lead

on the back of 14 points from Jordan Gbanja.

“Warriors” were more competitive in the second quarter but “Thunder” were still able to increase their lead by a further 12 points to head their opponents 49-17 at half time.

For the second half “Thunder” coach, Brad Hughes switched to a half-court defence with one player pressurising the ball and this proved to be very effective and forced a number of turn-overs and easy scores for “Thunder”. With all the Northants players enjoying lots of playing time “Thunder” topped the ton with Fiifi Boakye, Jack Lemon and Rapalos Radavicius joining Gbanja by scoring in double figures.

“Thunder” faces a tougher challenge this weekend when they take on Nottingham “Hoods"

**West Brom too physical for “Thunder” Under 15’s**

**Youth Basketball League**

**Under 15 Primis**

**West Bromwich Albion 72 – 43 Northants “Thunder”**

Played in the shadow of The Hawthorns football stadium a short-handed Northants “Thunder” Under 15 team came out second best against a big and athletic West Bromwich Albion team and despite the best efforts of Angus Slater.

In a physical first quarter “Thunder” found scoring difficult but good defence kept WBA in check and after the first ten minutes of play they only trailed 10-16. Again, in the second quarter points were at a premium as the home side extended their advantage to 29-17 by half time.

That lead was extended by a further four points in the third quarter with “Thunder” handicapped by an injury to Danielius Jokulas. Trailing 32-48 going into the final quarter a big effort was needed from “Thunder” if they were to close the gap but by this time the Northants boys were physically exhausted and were outscored 11-24 in the final ten minutes of play to go down by 43 points to 72.

For “Thunder” only Slater with a 16 point haul scored in double figures but the Northants boys returned home in the belief that in the return fixture with stricter refereeing, they will be able to get closer to the West Midlanders.

**Under 12 Mixed team remain unbeaten**

**Under 12 League East Conference 1**

**Cambridge “Cats” 24 – 83 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 12 Mixed team maintained their 100% record last Saturday with a convincing away win over Cambridge “Cats”.

The win was based on some intensive defensive pressure from the “Thunder” players which caused the “Cats” a lot of problems. By the end of the first quarter “Thunder” had built up a convincing lead which was extended to 57-6 by half time. Under less pressure in the second half “Cats” were far more competitive but the final result was never in doubt “Thunder” eventually winning by 60 points with all players making important contributions.

On the points scoring front Sam Dominici, Paul Steite-French and Jerome Maroodza all scored in double figures but Coach Mark Spatcher was full of praise for Sam Eakins, Joshua Johnson-Moss and Ellen De Banke who were all making their debuts with the team.

“Thunder” will face a much tougher test this coming weekend when they travel to Milton Keynes who, like them are unbeaten so far this season.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 4th December**

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

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

 **11-30am** Under 14 Boys ‘A’ versus Southend “Scorpions”

 Under 14 Girls versus Leicester “Riders”

  **2-00pm** Under 16 Boys versus Nottingham “Hoods”

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

 Under 12 Mixed Team travels to Milton Keynes

 **Sunday 5th December**

 **10.00am** Under 14 Boys ‘B’ versus Northamptonshire “Titans II”

 **12-30pm** Under 13 Boys versus Yardley “Defenders”

The six home 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 Government and Basketball England advice

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