**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***A busy weekend for the Northants Basketball Club with the Under 13 Boys retaining their unbeaten record but the Under 12 Mixed team losing theirs while the Under 16 Boys complete a double over Nottingham “Hoods”***

**Defensive effort earns Under 16 Boys a win over “Hoods”**

**Under 16 Boys East Midands Conference**

**Northants ”Thunder” 58 - 41 Nottingham “Hoods”**

The Northants Under 16 Boys completed the double over Nottingham “Hoods” thanks to a gutsy defensive display which was needed as their offensive efforts stuttered.

“Thunder” made an impressive start to the game racing into a 13-zero lead before “Hoods” closed the gap to 19-7 by the end of the first quarter. The second quarter was a torrid attritional affair which “Hoods” took 8-7 as both teams struggled to score.

“Hoods” made a good start to the third quarter outscoring “Thunder” 7-zero but “Thunder” recovered and the quarter was tied 13 points each. Holding a narrow 39-28 lead “Thunder” needed someone to ‘step up’ and they found that person in Rapolas Radavicius who scored ten personal points in the last ten minutes of play. “Thunder” took the final quarter to win the game by 58 points to 41 and a 17 point win in a low scoring game is quite significant.

For “Thunder”, Radavicius top scored with 22 points, Benas Maldutis supporting well with 11 points but Coach Brad Hughes was full of praise for all twelve of his players for their defensive efforts.

**“Scorpions” edge out Under 14 Boys**

**Under 14 Boys East Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 64 – 78 Southend “Scorpions”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys slipped to defeat against Southend “Scorpions” despite a spirited fight back in the second quarter after falling behind by 19 points to 39. At this stage “Thunder” mounted an, 11-zero charge to close the gap to 30-41 at half time, this after “Scorpions” had taken the first quarter 19-14.

“Thunder” put in a massive effort in the third quarter and actually edged the scoring 16-15 to close the gap to ten points at 56-46 going into the final ten minutes of play. When James Kennet-Maughan scored in the third minute of the fourth quarter to close the gap to just three points a shock comeback win looked to be on the cards, but the Southend boys were able to re-group and outscored “Thunder” 22-11 to close out the

14 points win.

In the disappointing defeat the “Thunder” scoring was led by Alex Bot and Kane Young with Kennet-Maughan making a useful contribution and the Northants boys will be left to rue the fact that they badly lost the rebounding battle which in the end proved to be conclusive. There is also a concern that some players lose confidence very easily and the team becomes over-reliant on Bot and Young

**“Thunder Too” beaten in low scoring local derby**

**Under 14 Boys East Regional League**

**Northants “Thunder Too” 30 – 38 Northamptonshire “Titans II”**

With scoring at a premium throughout this Regional League fixture both teams went through barren periods but the decisive one came in the final four minutes of the game when “Thunder Too” could manage just a single point. During these four minutes the Northants boys missed innumerable scoring opportunities but from 30 all “Titans II” scored eight points to earn local bragging rights.

Earlier “Thunder Too” looked to be on course for a win as they established a ten-point lead at 21-11 midway through the second quarter. In the next twenty-four minutes they could manage only 9 more points as their confidence just faded away and it was only down to some determined defence that kept them in the game .

**Under 14 Girls well beaten by “Riders”**

**Under 14 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 23 – 82 Leicester “Riders”**

An understrength Under 14 Girls team were well beaten by a talented Leicester “Riders” team in their latest Midlands Conference fixture. Throughout the game “Lightning” struggled at both ends of the court and lost all four quarters of the game by wide margins but despite this the “Lightning” players never gave up and battled to the end of the game

**Under 13 Boys too strong for “Defenders”**

**Under 13 Boys Youth Basketball league**

**Northants “Thunder” 65 – 25 Yardley “Defenders”**

The Northants Under 13 Boys maintained their unbeaten record with a conclusive win over a keen but inexperienced Yardley “Defenders” team and on the back of a 30 plus points haul for Logan Tanner.

“Thunder” dominated all four quarters as Coach Steven Matthews was able to give all twelve of his players ample playing time. His team were also forced to take off their press defence once they had established a twenty point lead but the Birmingham team found scoring the congested half court extremely difficult

**Under 12 Mixed team loses unbeaten record**

**Under 12 League East Conference 1**

**Milton Keynes Basketball 65 - 43 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 12 Mixed team slipped to their first defeat of the season when they were well beaten by Milton Keynes. The Northants players were guilty of committing far too many errors many of them unforced giving Milton Keynes innumerable easy scoring opportunities.

Anton Kelly and Campbell Spatcher led the “Thunder” scoring and team coach Mark Spatcher remains convinced that a full strength team can eliminated the crucial errors and beat M.K. when the two team meet in the return fixture next year.

**Junior Men’s game postponed**

The scheduled Under 18 Boys fixture between “Thunder” and Leicester “Warriors” was postponed because of injuries and illness in the Leicester team.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 11th December**

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

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

 **11-30am** Under 14 Boys ‘A’ versus West Suffolk “Wolves”

  **2-00pm** Junior Women versus Liverpool

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 are respectfully reminded that in view of the increased number of Covid cases in local schools the wearing of a face covering is mandatory.

This is in accordance with Government and Basketball England advice

 Under 15 Boys travel to Bournville

 Under 12 Mixed team travel to “Titans”

 (Game to be played at N.S.B.)

 Under 11 Mixed travels to Abingdon for a CVL Tournament

 **Sunday 12th December**

 Under 14 Girls travel to “Titans”

 (Game to be played at NSB)

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