**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Another very successful weekend for the Northants Basketball Club with just two defeats from the fifteen games played and those two coming when teams from the Club played each other.**

**Benas helps Junior Men to comeback win over “Titans.”**

**Junior Men’s EBL Midlands 2 Conference**

**OEH Northants “Thunder” 76 – 73 Northamptonshire “Titans”**

A stunning 34 point haul from guard Benas Maldutis helped the Northants Junior Men to victory over local rivals Northamptonshire “Titans”. “Thunder” trailed for long periods of the game but were able to stay in touch thanks to some determined defence and survived a late “Titans” charge.

“Thunder” edged a see-saw first quarter 19-17 with Elias James causing “Titans” problems on the offensive boards. The second quarter was a low scoring affair with both teams missing scoring opportunities from the free throw line. “Titans” took the quarter 12-9 to lead 29-28 at half time with the game well and truly in the balance.

Thanks to a clutch of three-pointers from Bates and Goodliffe, “Titans” were able to keep their noses in front for the first half of the third quarter before a flurry of scores from Maldutis and Danielius Jokulus gave the home side the lead at 50-47. “Titans” responded with a 7-zero run at the end of the quarter to go into the final stanza leading by 54 points 50.

The fourth quarter was dominated by Maldutis who scored 17 personal points and this gave “Thunder” a seven point advantage at 75-68 with less than two minutes left to play. In those last two minutes a combination of poor clock management and shot selection saw “Thunder” score just one free throw as “Titans” edged ever closer, but the home side were able to hold on for the narrow win.

In the 76-73 victory Maldutis scored 34 points but no other “Thunder” player was able to score in double figures but the contributions of Jokulus, James and Rapolas Radavicius were of the utmost importance.

**Under 15 Boys too strong from “Riders”**

**Under 15 Boys YBL Primis**

**Northants “Thunder” 73 – 48 Leicester “Riders”**

Champions elect Northants “Thunder” proved to be far too strong for a much improved Leicester “Riders” side last Saturday.

Led by another excellent display from Oliwier Andrzejczak “Thunder” comfortably won the first three quarters of the game establishing a 64-40 lead going into the final ten minutes of play with their alternating defence causing “Riders” a lot of problems. With the game over as a contest “Thunder” were guilty of some sloppy play in the fourth quarter which they edged 9-8 cruising to their eighth YBL win of the season.

In the 25 points victory Andrzejczak scored 24 points and was a dominant rebounding force while good support came from Anton Kelly and J.J. Lothian who were a consistent threat from the perimeter.

**Under 16’s complete the ‘double’ over the Under 15’s**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 79 – 65 Northants “Thunder Too”**

For the second weekend running the Northants Under 16’s and Under 15’s clashed and the Under 16’s duly completed the ‘double’ to retain top spot in the Midlands 1 Conference. “Thunder” have lost two games one more than Warwickshire “Hawks” son the forthcoming fixture between the two teams is one to savour.

A week ago, the game between the two “Thunder” teams went into overtime but on Sunday the Under 16’s got home by dominating the first and third quarters. They also benefitted from important points contributions from Mac Manthata, Logan Ormshaw and Jasper Roache which gave support to the 22 and 20 point hauls from Fran Guei and Harry Dutton. For the “Thunder Too” Oliwier Andrzejczak and Logan Tanner scored 26 and 21 points respectively, but no other player could score in double figures.

“Thunder Too” made a bright start to the game but were then hit by a 13-one charge from the Under 16’s who had opened up a 23-15 lead after the first quarter. A 13 – four charge midway through the second quarter saw the Under 15’s narrow the deficit to 35-42 by winning the quarter by 20 points to 19 but with Guei becoming both provider and scorer the Under 16’s re-imposed themselves in the third quarter which they won 26-19 to establish a 68-54 lead which looked to be unassailable.

This proved to be the case as the two teams traded scores throughout a low scoring 11 all, final quarter the Under 16’s running out victors by 79 points to 65.

**Under 16 Girls clinch fourth win of the season**

**Under 16 Girls EBL Midlands Conference**

 **Kettering “Phoenix” 37 – 71 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants Under 16 girls picked up their third win on the bunce and their fourth of the season with a comfortable victory over a game but inexperienced Kettering “Phoenix” team.

With the exception of the third quarter which was tied nine all, “Lightning” dominated the game with Iviannah Meadows, Jen Oamen and Amelia Wesley-Maryan scoring freely for “Lightning” while their defensive effort was led by Cameron Keuberg and Eman Abaas.

Coach Lee Meadows expressed pleasure with the way his team had stuck to his game plan and played

up-tempo basketball allied to solid defence.

**Under 13 Girls stay undefeated**

**Under 13 Girls YBL All Girls Conference**

**Kettering “Phoenix” 12 - 64 Northants “Lightning”**

 **Northants “Lightning” 20 – 0 Leicester “Riders”**

The venue of this YBL Tournament was switched to Nuneaton from Kettering and it turned out to be a disappointing exercise for the Northants girls. They comfortably beat Kettering “Phoenix” and then discovered that Leicester “Riders” weren’t coming to the event.

Against Phoenix, “Lightning” were totally dominant with Coach Karen Goodrich imposing a lot of conditions on her players. In the fifty points plus win all the “Lightning” players contributed to the final total led by Brooke Foster and Freya Tauber-Anderson.

The team has now played twelve YBL and Rose of the Shires fixtures winning all twelve of them.

**Outstanding win in Birmingham for Under 12 Boys**

**Under 12 Mixed EBL Region III**

**City of Birmingham “Rockets” 38 - 48 Northants “Storm”**

Not too many years ago games against teams from Birmingham were looked on with fear and trepidation but this season the nine games against teams from the second city have resulted in eight wins and just one loss. That success rate was continued last Saturday when the undefeated Northants Under 12 team took on City of Birmingham “Rockets”.

Earlier in the season “Storm” had beaten “Rockets by just five points so a tough game was expected and so it proved. “Rockets” had the early momentum in the game, but “Storm” responded well and were soon into their running game and this allied to some excellent defence gave them a 15-10 lead after the first quarter.

This lead was extended in the second quarter won 11-2 by “Storm” who led 26-12 at half time. The expected “Rocket” response duly came in the final two quarters both ‘edged’ by the home side but “Storm” held on for the ten point victory led by 13 points from Max Abraham; but the key to the win was a superb team defensive effort

**Ever improving “Storm Too” pick up win number four**

**Under 12 Mixed EBL Region II**

**Northants “Storm Too” 97 – 48 Derby “Trailblazers”**

The steady improvement made by the Northants second Under 12 team under the guidance of Coach Mark Spatcher was clearly on show last Saturday when they took on a defeated Derby “Trailblazers” by 97 points to 48.

By half time “Storm Too” had built up a 38-25 lead and were gradually getting into their offensive rhythm and in the second half they outscored their opponents 59-23 to close out a convincing and impressive win.

In the 49 point win all eleven Northants players contributed to the final points total led by Deev Patel with 27 points, Edmund Thompson contributing 17 points

**No stopping Under 11 Girls**

**Under 11 YBL All Girls Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 23 -20 Nuneaton “Predators”**

Kettering “Phoenix” 28 – 42 Nuneaton “Predators”

**Northants “Lightning” 46 – 9 Kettering “Phoenix”**

The undefeated Under 11 Girls made it thirteen runs on the bounce with two wins in their latest YBL tournament but they were made to work very hard to get the better of a talented Nuneaton “Predator” team. “Lightning” won the game by 23 points to 20 led by eight points from Sayuri Wood without ever playing to their full potential.

It was a very different matter against Kettering “Phoenix” and based on some excellent defence by Urte Maldutyte were able to launch countless fast breaks many of them finished by Suyuri wood who closed the game with an impressive 24 point haul.

**“Storm move clinch the YBL Group ‘A’ title**

**Under 11 YBL Group A**

**Northants “Storm” 23 - 10 Northants “Storm Too”**

 **Northants “Storm Too” 11 – 38 Northants “Storm”**

To avoid travelling to Oxford to play a team from their own club “Storm” played “Storm Too” in back-to-back games last Sunday. The older “Storm” team were physically too strong for an enthusiastic “Storm Too” and their two wins secured their place in the end of season Play Offs

**Under 9’s unstoppable in Daventry**

**Under 9 Mixed YBL Group B**

**Coventry “Tornadoes” 18 - 46 Northants “Storm”**

**Daventry “Swifts” 22 - 58 Northants “Storm”**

The Northants “Storm” under 9’s turned in another two impressive performances in their latest tournament in Daventry conclusively winning both their games.

“Storm” made a slow start against “Tornadoes” but were able to capitalise on some excellent defence from Kobe Staron which led to several fast break scores for Charlie Lowe and Joe Brunt, “Storm” built on their lead in the third quarter with Everley Burton putting in an excellent defensive shift while at the offensive end Nevaeh Cox and Isaac Marcano kept the scoreboard ticking over as “Storm” ran out comfortable winners.

Daventry had strengthened their team since the last tournament, and they looked impressive in the first quarter of play with “Storm” only able to establish a two point lead.

The second quarter saw “Storm” ‘up’ their defensive play, once again inspired by the efforts of Staron and Burton. On offence “Storm” moved the ball well and this was too much for the “Swift’s” defence and “Storm” eventually closed out the game for their seventh win of the season earning praise from a number of the opposition parents.

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**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**As it is Half Term there will be no “Ballers” activities or home** **games the**

**Basketball Centre this weekend.**

**Saturday 17th February**

 Under 14 Boys travel to Bromsgrove “Bears” (NBL)

**Saturday 18th February**

 Under 18 Boys travel to Bromsgrove “Bears” (NBL)

 Under 17 Girls travel to Bedford “Thunder” (YBL)

 Under 13 Girls play Kettering “Phoenix”

 and Duston “Hawks” (Rose of the Shires)