**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A quiet weekend for teams from the Northants Basketball Club because of Half Term but a disappointing loss for the Junior Men in contrast to four convincing wins.**

**Ill-discipline costs Junior Men dear.**

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

**Bromsgrove “Bears” 72 – 69 OEH Northants “Thunder”**

Leading by 39 points to 28 at half time of this Midlands 2 Conference game the Northants “Thunder” Junior Men looked well set to avenge their loss to Bromsgrove “Bears” earlier in the season. In the first twenty minutes of play “Thunder” had combined good defence with some controlled offensive basketball. With Elias James and Rapolas Radavicius controlling the defensive boards “Thunder” were able to score freely from fast break.

The controlshown by “Thunder” in the first half disappeared after half time when confronted by some more aggressive “Bears” defence and they were guilty of turning the ball over allowing “Bears” to eat into the “Thunder” lead. The Bromsgrove team won the third quarter 22-13 to close the gap to just two points and they took the lead midway through the fourth quarter eventually extending this lead to nine points.

Coach Darjius Maldutis did his best to restore control amongst his players and eventually they took on board his advice and with just six seconds of the game remaining the “Bears” lead was down to just three points. With the opportunity to tie the game with a three-pointer, “Thunder” once again turned the ball over and the chance was lost “Bears” completing the ‘double’ over “Thunder”.

In the narrow defeat which had seen a massive points turnaround James and Danielius Jokulus top scored for “Thunder” with 15 points apiece, good support coming from Radavicius and Benas Maldutis with 14 and 12 points apiece.

**Under 17 Girls clinch YBL Conference title**

**Under 17 Girls YBL All Girls Bedford “Thunder” Conference**

**Bedford “Thunder” 22 – 100 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants Under 17 Girls turned on a scintillating performance against a Bedford “Thunder” team to clinch the YBL “All Girls” Conference title with an unbeaten record.

“Lightning” dominated all four quarters combining unselfish offence with excellent defence inspired by Cameron Keuberg and Rya Barnes while on offence no fewer than six “Lightning players, Alannah Major, Iviannah Meadows Jen Oamen, Peace Okun and Amelia Wesley-Maryan all scored in double figures.

Coach Lee Meadows was particularly pleased with the disciplined way his team tried execute things they had worked on in practice. His team now await to see who they will face in the forthcoming Play Offs

**Under 14 Boys breeze past Bromsgrove “Bears”**

**Under 14 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**Bromsgrove “Bears” 26 – 94 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 14 Boys proved to be far too strong for a young Bromsgrove “Bears” team and keep alive their hope of the Conference title. “Thunder” has lost just two games this season with Coventry “Tornadoes” losing three. The two teams clash in Coventry this Sunday but “Thunder” will be without the services of a number of key players because of a school trip.

The game against “Bears” last Saturday was as good as over as a contest before the end of the first quarter with the Bromsgrove players unable to cope with “Thunder’s” pressure defence. “Thunder” won the first quarter 32-2 and this lead was extended to 56- 13 by half time.

Coach Brad Hughes imposed a lot of restrictions on his team in the second half and was even able to practice a newly learnt offence in the final stanza but his team still comfortably outscored their opponents final running out winners by 94 points to 26.

In the one sided contest all eleven “Thunder” players got on the scoresheet led by Jowell Skiete-Franch with 21 points, while Anton Kelly, Al Mustafa Yinusa and Oliver Casey all scored in double figures

**Under 13 Girls dominate in latest Rose of the Shires tournament**

**Under 13 Girls YBL All Girls Conference**

**Duston “Hawks” 16 – 39 Northants “Lightning”**

**Kettering “Phoenix” 8 – 38 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning Under 13 Girls continue to be unstoppable in the Rose of the Shires League comfortably winning their latest games against Duston “Hawks” and Kettering “Phoenix” to retain their unbeaten record.

“Lightning” made a slow start against “Hawks” but with Brooke Foster and Freya Tauber-Anderson scoring freely they soon took control of the game. Stand in coach Shane Rowland was pleased with the way his team shared the ball allowing Elizabeht Cook to make a points scoring contribution.

Against “Phoenix, Urte Maldutyte did her usual outstanding defensive job against Kettering’s ‘star’ player and once again by sharing the ball “Lightning” were able to dominate the game Orla Griffiths and Rosheedat Kamordeen looking effective on offence while Beau McLean enjoyed her best game of the season scoring 12 points.

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

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

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

**Basketball Centre this weekend.**

**Saturday 24th February**

Under 18 Boys travel to Oxford “Hoops” (NBL)

Under 16 Girls travel to Wolverhampton “Slam” (NBL)

**Saturday 25th February**

Under 15 Boys travel to Coventry “Tornadoes” (U16 NBL)

Under 14 Girls travel to City of Birmingham “Rockets” (NBL)

Under 14 Boys travel to Coventry “Tornadoes” (NBL)

For further information about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on: **+44 7801 533 151**