**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Junior Women get back to winning ways with an emphatic victory over Haringey**

**Under 18 Girls National Conference**

**Northants Lightning 68 – 39 G.C.A. Haringey Angels**

Northants Lightning junior women got back to winning ways with a comfortable win over an athletic Haringey Angles team. Haringey were once a major force in girls basketball but are no longer the force they were but Coach Emma Salisbury pronounced herself proud of her team’s efforts after some recent disappointing performances.

Lightning opened the game in dominant fashion on offence and defence rushing out to a 24-9 first period lead with no fewer than eight players contributing to the scoring. Lightning maintained their efforts in the second period of play and were helped byAngels missing no less than twelve free throws in the period. Lightning outscored their opponents 24-10 to take a comfortable 48-19 lead into the locker room at half time.

Lightning were guilty of a great deal of undisciplined play at the start of the third period going scoreless for almost five minutes. Three baskets from Chloe Stevens got them back on track and the period was tied at ten points apiece.

Once again Lightning made a lethargic start to the final period, this time going almost four minutes without troubling the scorer but a 17-zero charge at the end of the game saw them to a comfortable

68 to 39 win with all ten Lightning players contributing to the final total. Top scorer for Lightning was Stevens with excellent support coming from Poppy Barnett, Niamh Saysell and Lucie Wilson-Gray.

**Under 16 Girls battle hard but go down to impressive Exeter Spartans**

**Under 16 Girls Central Conference**

**Northants Lightning 43 - 74 Exeter Spartans**

A depleted Northants Lightning under 16 girls team faced the daunting task of playing joint league leaders Exeter Spartans on their home court at Northampton School for Girls.  With a number of players missing, Northants had 13 year old’s Brooke Leo and Mia Gajaga in their line-up, the latter making her debut at this age level.

Lightning came out with great determination and with Fiona Arthur finding her way to the basket, they found themselves trailing by just one point after eight minutes.  Without any let-up in intensity, the home side found themselves behind by just 17-13 at the end of the opening quarter.  However, the second period saw Exeter stamp their authority on proceedings, scoring 18 points and restricting Lightning to just five to lead 35-18 at the half time interval.

The third stanza was no more successful for the Midland side as the game looked like turning into a rout.  Indeed, it was only the long-range shooting of Lucie Wilson-Gray keeping the margin below 40 and with one quarter to play, it was 56-26.

The final 10 minutes showed how Northants have developed great resolve.  Arthur and Wilson-Gray continued to find ways through Spartans very aggressive defence and with Ellouise Gregory and young Gajaga rebounding with huge determination, Lightning maintained their focus against opponents who train and play together every day.

Wilson-Gray with 18 points and Arthur with 13 led the scoring on a day when the whole squad gave maximum effort against a very good team.

**Under 14 Girls make it twelve on the bounce by beating Titans**

**Under 14 Girls South Conference**

**N.E.B.C. Titans 60 – 90 Northants Lightning**

Northants Lightning Under 14 girls were back in action against N.E.B.C Titans last Saturday and extended their winning run to twelve with a 30 points victory at Northampton School for Boys.

The win came on the back of a dominant first half performance which saw Lightning charge into a

57 points to 12 half time lead. During the four five minute segments Lighting played some superb pressure defence forcing Titans to take shots under pressure. When these shots missed Mia Gajaga, Keris Ndubisi and Aishia King were able to gather in rebounds and launch countless fast breaks.

With the game as good as over as a contest and Lightning forced by the rules to play half-court defence Titans were able to mount a sterner challenge in the final two periods of play. The Lightning coaching staff will not be pleased that their charges lost the second half 35-48 without the final result ever seriously coming into question. For Lightning Leo Brooke, Gajaga, Ndubisi and Athena Thompson led the scoring the former connecting with some impressive perimeter shots.

Lightning stay second in the Conference because Harris Foundation have played more games but the Croydon based outfit have lost more games. The girls are back in action this Saturday when they will entertain mid-table Southend Rockets

**Blank weekend for Under 16 Boys**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Northants Thunder versus Leicester Riders II**

With Riders coach unavailable for this fixture the game has been re-arranged for Saturday 21st March but it means Thunder will go into this weekend’s big clash against Nottingham Hoods not having played for three weeks

**Great effort by Under 14 Boys Regional League team**

**Under 14 Boys Regional League**

**(Pool 4)**

**Kings Lynn 35 – 48 Northants Thunder Too**

**Northants Thunder Too 20 – 0 West Herts Warriors II**

After a long journey of over two hours to King's Lynn last Saturday the Northants Thunder under 14 boys put on a real team display to beat the home side despite missing two key players due to injuries.

During the first period of play, Thunder showed excellent defence forcing King's Lynn into a number of turnovers and they took an early 8-zero. They were then guilty of losing concentration and they allowed King's Lynn to capitalise and connect with two three-point shots. The message at the end of the quarter was clear, control the rebounds and launch fast break attacks and the team responded admirably as they dominated the second period with an 18 to 5 run.

Having established a lead Thunder were able to keep their noses in front and with their scoring led by Jake Muxlow and a great team based defensive effort they were able to record a 48 points to 35 win.

These two wins, the second by default moved the Northants Thunder Under 14 boys second team into second place in Pool 4 and the team are back in action in a fortnight’s time.

**Impressive Under 12 Boys beat Milton Keynes Scorpions**

**Under 12 Boys Challenge game**

**Northants Thunder 83 – 39 Milton Keynes Scorpions**

A relentless defensive effort laid the foundation of a fine team performance by Northants Thunder Under 12 Boys in their friendly match against Milton Keynes Scorpions. Thunder comfortably won the game, and it was their backcourt squad of Caelin Chin, Lennon Martin, Tafari Pryce and Keiran White who led the way. Their continual pressure on the visitors converted defense into offense as they gathered 56 points between themselves. Logan Tanner and Peter Oluwoyin were dominant on the defensive boards leading to many fast break scores for Thunder.

Thunder’s scoring was led by Martin with Chin, Pryce, and White all supporting well; whilst Thunder's bench contributed an impressive 27 pts.  For the opposition, Matthew Harmon top scored for Scorpions with 25points.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 29th February**

 9.30am until 10.30am Budding Ballers

 9.30am until 11.00am Junior Ballers

 11.00am until 12.30pm Boys Ballers Academy (Boys & Girls)

 1.00pm Under 14 Girls versus Southend Rockets

 3.00pm Under 16 Girls versus Reading Rockets

All these activities and games will take place at The Basketball Centre which is situated at

Northampton School for Girls, Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are most welcome, and admission is FREE

 Under 13 Girls travel to Braintree to play Braintree and Cambridge

 Under 14 Boys travel to Leicester Warriors

**Sunday 1st March**

Under 16 Boys travel to Nottingham Hoods

Under 12 Girls travel to Norwich to play Norwich and Brentwood

**For further information contact John Collins on 07801 533 151**