**NORTHANT BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

***A quiet weekend for the Northants Basketball Club, with the Junior Men completing the double over Mansfield while the Junior Women slipped to a heavy defeat against C.O.B. “Rockets and two games were postponed.***

**Junior men complete the double over “Giants”**

**Under 18 Boys North 2 Conference**

**Mansfield “Giants” 53 – 76 Northants “Thunder”**

Earlier in the season “Thunder” had comfortably beaten a short-handed Mansfield team but with “Giants” at full strength and playing into tricky backboards the Northants boys were expecting a much tougher game and so it proved.

The game started in spectacular fashion for “Thunder” with Dylan Dominici slamming home a two-handed dunk to open the scoring. However as the quarter progressed it was the home side that held the ascendancy and as the end of the quarter approached they were holding a 17-13 lead before an Ellis Phillips three-pointer cut the lead to 17-16.

This last second score and some stern word from Coach Darijius Maldutis seemed to inspire “Thunder” and it was a much more determined outfit that took the floor for the second quarter. This determination was duly rewarded and some excellent defence restricted “Giants” to just seven points in the quarter while “Thunder” managed 20 to take a 36-24 half time lead.

“Giants” started the third quarter the better of the two teams forcing Coach Maldutis to call a time out. “Thunder” responded positively, and they proceeded to extend their lead to 58-38 going into the final ten minutes of play.

During the last quarter Benas Maldutis ‘manged’ the clock superbly as “Giants” mounted a last effort. “Thunder” took the quarter 18-15 to run out winners by 76 points to 53 their scoring led by Fareed Issifu with 15 points and Dominic with 13 good support coming from Phillips and Bobby Openshaw who both scored in double figures

**Under 14 Boys (East Conference)**

**West Suffolk “Wolves” *Postponed*  Northants “Thunder”**

For the second week running the Northants Under 14 Boys had their game postponed, on this occasion because “Wolves” didn’t have a court to play on. The game will now be played at a later date

**Under 14 Girls (Midlands Conference)**

**Daventry “Swifts” *Postponed* Northants “Lightning”**

This game was postponed because the “Lightning” coach and two players had contracted Covid.

It is hoped the game will be played this Saturday.

**Physical “Rockets” too strong for Junior Women**

**Under 18 Girls North Conference**

**City of Birmingham “Rockets” 74 – 43 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants Junior Women found the undefeated “Rockets” to be a very tough and physical opponent at the Nechells Well Being centre last Saturday and thanks to a particularly poor second quarter slipped to a heavy defeat,

“Lightning” started the game well edged out to an 11-4 lead thanks to the efforts of Gerda Vienskaite and Fernando Loberto. At this stage the Birmingham outfit found ‘another gear’ to open up a 25 to 16 lead after the first quarter. “Rockets” were playing a very physical style of basketball picking up a number of fouls and this physicality seriously affected the “Lightning” players who could manage just five points in the second quarter to trail 21-51 at half time,

Things were slightly better for the Northants girls in the third quarter which they lost 24-11 but at 32-75 the game was as good as over as a contest. In the fourth quarter thanks to a sterling defensive shift from Karly Osgood, “Lightning” were able to keep in touch with the conference leaders finally going down by 43 points to 94. In the heavy defeat the “Lightning” scoring was led by Dina Kosnikovska with 14 points support coming from Vienskaite and Loberto with 11 and 10 points respectively.

Coach Emma Salisbury was philosophical in defeat, “We have to remember this is a very young team; the experience they will have taken from this game will be invaluable going forward.

Next weekend the team are ‘on the road’ with a long trip to Durham “Palatinates” where they will be hoping to get back to winning ways.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 19th February**

There will not be a “Budding “Ballers” or “Junior Ballers” Programme this weekend.

**There are no home games at the Basketball Centre this weekend**

Junior Women travel to Durham “Palatinates”

Under 14 Girls may travel to Daventry “Swifts”

**Saturday 20th February**

Under 12 Mixed team travel to Norfolk “Incini”

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