**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

**PRESS RELEASE**

***A quiet weekend for the Northants but two excellent wins for the Junior Women and Under 12 Mixed teams.***

**Super Karly inspires Junior Women to win against Durham**

**Junior Women’s (North Conference)**

**Durham “Palatines” 39 – 61 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants Junior Women made the long journey to Durham last Saturday without the services of Covid-struck Dina Kosnikovska and the influential Fiona Arthur. Coach Emma Salisbury asked the rest of the team to make up for the contributions usually made by the missing players. No one responded to this appeal better than Karly Osgood who turned on an inspired performance on both offence and defence and helped “Lightning” to a convincing victory.

After a journey which saw high winds, rain and snow a slow start might have been expected from “Lightning” but not a bit of it and led by Osgood and Gerda Vienskaite they jumped out to an 18-10 lead after the first quarter. This advantage was extended to 39-23 at half time with seven “Lightning” players contributing to the second quarter points tally.

Scoring was at a premium in the third and fourth quarters but excellent defence kept the home side to just 16 as “Lightning” controlled the game and held on for the win which keeps them in good shape to challenge for the Conference runners up spot. The win delighted Salisbury who once again paid tribute to the under-aged players in the team for their commitment and contributions.

In the 22 points win Osgood led the “Lightning” scoring with 18 points with Vienskaite and Fernanda Loberto supporting well with 17 and 14 points respectively while newcome Mary Tillett impressed with some decisive rebounding.

Club President, John Collins commented, “It says a great deal about the character of the eight young ladies who made the journey to Durham in appalling weather conditions and without their leading points scorer. A great deal of credit should also go to Coach Salisbury and the mini bus driver Graham Osgood. They all did the Club proud.”

This weekend the two teams meet again at the Basketball Centre at Northampton School for Girls.

**Under 12 Mixed team keep up the winning habit**

**Under 12 Mixed League East Conference**

**Norfolk Iceni “Angels” 27 – 62 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants Under 12 Mixed team were another team from the club facing a long journey this weekend, on this occasion east to Norwich to take on Norfolk Iceni “Angels”. A “Thunder” team which included a number of less experienced players were confronted by a very enthusiastic and highly motivated opponent but they stamped their authority on the game in the first quarter which they won by 20 points to 5.

The second quarter was a much closer affair which “Thunder” edged 15-12 to take a 35-17 lead into the locker room at half time. The second half saw “Thunder’s” depth being a major factor with Iceni limited to just 10 points while “Thunder” added 27 to run out comfortable winners by 62 points to 27.

The win keeps “Thunder” in second place in the East Conference with the return fixture against Milton Keynes the only team to have beaten them this season, set to be the ‘decider’.

In Sunday’s comfortable win, Luca Garrett top scored for “Thunder” with 16 points he also put in an excellent defensive shift and good support came from Sam Dominici and Jerome Maroodza with 13 and 9 points respectively.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 26th February**

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

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

 **11-30am** Under 12 Mixed versus Cambridge “Cats”

  **2-00pm** Under 18 Girls versus Durham “Palatines”

  **4-30pm** Under 13 Boys versus Bromsgrove “Bears

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 and admission is **FREE**

Covid restrictions have now been eased but spectators are respectfully requested to respect other people’s health by abiding to social spacing and sanitising whenever possible

 Under 14 Boys ‘A’ team travel to Milton Keynes

 Junior Men travel to Leicester “Dynamite”

 **Sunday 27th February**

Under 16 Boys travel to Daventry “Swifts”

 Under 14 Girls travel to Leicester “Riders”

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