**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE & NEWSLETTER**

**Last weekend saw the Northants Under 13 Boys advance in YBL Play Offs while the End of Season Presentation Event attracted a big turn out**

**Big turn out for Presentation Evening**

Almost four hundred players, their parents, carers siblings and friends assembled at The Town Centre Hotel last Sunday for the Northants Basketball Club’s annual Presentation Evening.’

Coaches of the club’s sixteen competitive teams presented awards for *Players Player, Most Improved Player* and *Most Valuable Player*. There were also several special awards the President’s Award going to **Benas Maldutis** who has been involved with the Club since the age of four as a player, Young Leader, table official and latterly as a referee.

Angelina Browne was a former player with the Club and the award carrying her name went to **Macie Latimer** following an outstanding season with both Club’s Under 14 Girls teams while special mention was made of **Amelia Wesley-Maryan**. Andre Arissol is another former Northants player who has gone on to achieve a great deal in the senior game. This season Andre was due to play with Milton Keynes “Breakers” but suffered a serious knee injury early in the season. An award for an outstanding male player has been named after Andre and the first ever award went to **Fran Geui** of the” Thunder” Under 16 team while **Logan Ormshaw** was given a very special mention.

Penny Westwood holds a very special place in the history of the Basketball Club. As head teacher at Northampton School for Girls she was one of the people responsible for the funding of the double court venue at the school which as the Northnats Basketball Centre is the home of the Northants Basketball Club. This season’s “Fair Play” Award named after Penny being one of the went to **Emma Salisbury**. Emma is coach of the Under 11 team, she served as a member of the Club’s Management Committee and regularly table officiates games.

The Club also acknowledged the contributions of players who are leaving the Club to go to university, college or employment. This year there were only two players receiving a *Long Service Awards,* they were **Benas Maldutis** and **Rapolas Radavicius**

**Ormshaw and Geui see off Under 15’s**

**Under 15 Boys Challenge Game**

**Northants “Thunder” Under 15’s 51 – 63 Northants “Thunder” Under 16’s**

Twenty-two points from Logan Tanner couldn’t prevent the Northants “Thunder” Under 15’s slipping to defeat against the Northants Under 16’s in a game aimed to give the Under 15’s preparation for this weekend’s YBL Prmis Play Off Game.

The older team wedged the first three quarters of the game with Logan Ormshaw scoring freely while Fran Geui dominated the rebounding at both ends of the floor. Throughout those three opening quarters the younger team struggled to cope their opponents full court zone defence turning the ball over on numerous occasions.

The Under 15’s edged the fourth quarter13-12 but it was too little too late.

**Under 13’s advance t YBL Play Offs after win over “Riders”**

**YBL Play Off 1st Round**

**Northants “Thunder” 86 – 57 Leicester “Riders”**

The Northants Under 13’s cruised into the 2nd Round of the YBL Play Offs after a convincing win over Leicester “Riders”. The two teams had met on two occasions during the regular season but on this occasion “Riders” fielded some new players giving the “Thunder” coaching staff something to think about.

After a bright start “Thunder” were guilty of some over enthusiastic defence conceding easy scores for “Riders” and the home side were only 18-12 up after the first quarter.

The two teams traded baskets in the second quarter but two three-pointers from Sam Dominici and Dominykas Jokulis at end of the quarter gave “Thunder” a 43-30 half time advantage.

During the first half the “Riders” Ryan-Mead had caused “Thunder” some problems and this continued at the start of the third quarter. A defensive switch which saw ‘rookie’ Kyjah Adams given the job of marking the “Riders” guard and immediately his productivity dried up. “Thunder” edged the third quarter 18-17 but the intensity of their defence paid dividends in the fourth quarter as they poured in 25 points to “Riders” seven, Ryan-Mead restricted to just four points.

For “Thunder” Kaiyin Dada came into his own scoring freely around the basket as “Thunder” cruised to an 86 to 54 victory.

In the 32 point win Dominici top scored with 23 points, Dada added 16 points all scored in the second half while Adams scored 14 points as well as turning in a defensive master class.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 4th May**

**10-30am** Under 15 Boys versus Birmingham “Bears”

**(YBL Primis Play Off game)**

**12-30pm** Under 13 Girls versus Leicester “Riders

(**YBL Play OFF game)**

**Both games will take place at the Basketball Centre which is based at**

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

**Sunday 5th May**

Under 14 Girls travel to Uxbridge to play in the Conference Champions Tournament

against London Greenhouse”, Southend “Scorpions” and York “Eagles”

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