**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

***Three teams back in action this weekend***

After two blank weekends three Northants Basketball Club teams return to action this coming weekend with two of them involved in important Play Off games.

Basketball’s governing body decided not to run play offs for their **Under 12 competition** so two London clubs offered to run an unofficial competition. The top two teams from all seven Conferences agreed to participate including the **Northants “Thunder” Mixed team** who finished second to Milton Keynes Basketball in the East 1 Conference.

On Saturday “Thunder” will take on the under 11 team of Baltic “Stars” who like “Thunder” lost just two games during the regular season in the East 2 Conference.

“Thunder” coach Mark Spatcher is expecting a tough encounter but is looking forward to the challenge.

The **“Thunder” Under 16 Boys** lost just one game, to Leicester “Dynamite” during the regular season but won the return game by more than the deficit to claim the East Midlands Conference title. As Conference champions earned a place in the Promotion Play Offs which pitted Conference champions with lower clubs in the Premier League.

In the 1st Round “Thunder” were due to play Cheshire “Phoenix” but the northern team were unable to field a team so “Thunder” were awarded the game. On Saturday “Thunder” will take on Merseyside “Mavericks” who narrowly defeated Sheffield “Sharks” Blue in the first Round. Both these teams went through the regular season undefeated so “Thunder” coach, Brad Hughes is expecting a very difficult game and is concerned that three weeks without a game may prove to be detrimental to his team.

This season the Northants Club has entered teams in the Youth Basketball league and the third game this Saturday sees the **“Thunder” Under 15 Boys** take on Warwickshire “Hawks”. “Thunder” are still in contention for a Primis Play Off place and currently lie second in the league table so this is a vital game for the team.

Saturday’s action will ‘kick off’ with an **Under 12 Tournament** and it is hoped that teams from Northamptonshire “Titans” and North Leake “Globetrotters” will lock horns with a team from the Northants “Storm” squad. Coach John Collins will be looking to field a team of boys and girls who haven’t had the opportunity to play in this season’s YBL Triangular Tournaments.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

 **Saturday 23rd March**

 **9-30pm** Under 11 Tournament

 **12-00pm** Under 12 Mixed versus Baltic “stars” Under 11’s

 **2-00pm** Under 16 Boys versus Merseyside “Mavericks”

 **4-00pm** Under 15 Boys versus Warwickshire “Hawks”

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**

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