**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**“Storm” Under 11’s go Two and One**

**YBL Under Runners-Up Tournament**

The Northants “Storm” Under 11’s travelled to the Nechells Well Being Centre in Birmingham for their final tournament of the season and returned having won two of their games before going down to Worcester “Wolves”.

On arrival at the newly re-furbished venue, the “Storm” coaching staff were disappointed to discover that this prestigious final tournament was going to be played on a court marked by badminton court and netball line, without a three second keyway and into unstable portable baskets with low rings.

**Northants “Storm” 46 – 35 Swadlincote “Lasers”**

**Northants “Storm” 52 – 38 Wolverhampton “Slam”**

In their opening game against Swadlincote it took the “Storm” players some time to adjust to the unusual playing conditions but some adjustments at half time and an excellent defensive shift from Kyjah Adams gave “Storm” the initiative and a comfortable advantage. Under the tournament rules “Storm” had to take off their pressing defence once they were ten points ahead which affected their rhythm; but despite a sloppy final two minutes they cruised to a comfortable win.

Against an athletic Wolverhampton team, “Storm” produced an excellent performance combining aggressive defence with some easy on the eye offence with the ball being shared effectively. A number of players stood out in the win particularly Dominykas Jokulis on offence and Arlo Dominici’s hustle on defence.

**Northants “Storm” 27 – 39 Worcester “Wolves”**

When these two teams met last month “Wolves” squeezed home by a single point, so another close encounter was expected. Indeed, it was close early on in the fourth quarter with “Storm” holding a narrow lead and feeling optimistic because they had coped superbly with the “Wolves” height advantage in the third quarter. Under the tournament rules their tallest players had played their allotted two quarters but early in the final quarter a “Wolves” player was injured, and the Worcester coach replaced him with their tallest players. “Storm” had played their tallest players in the third quarter and their small second unit just couldn’t cope with the ”Wolves” convenient ‘substitute’.

The ”Storm players battled hard but had no answer to Worcester’s height superiority and they slipped to a 12 point loss with the final score bearing no resemblance to the competitiveness of the game.

“Storm” coach John Collins was full of praise for his players and paid a special tribute to Jotham Ampofa-Anim and Kaiyin Dada who had battled superbly against opponents much taller than them. He also expressed great pleasure in the fact that 22 boys and girls had played in the five YBL tournaments this season and another ten in friendly tournaments.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 21st May**

**9-30am** Budding “Ballers”

**10-30am** Junior “Ballers”

**11-30am** “Lightning” Girls Development Group

**Sunday 22nd May**

**9-30am** “Storm” Boys Under 13 Development Group

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