

NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB



PRESS RELEASE

Great defensive display gives Cadet Boys first win of the season

Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference

Leicester "Riders II" 50 – 66 Northants "Thunder"

Played in the strange atmosphere of a virtually deserted Morningside Arena, "Thunder" Cadet Boys recorded their first win of the season thanks to an excellent defensive performance which restricted the Leicester "Riders" second string to just 50 points.

By half time "Thunder" had established a 37-22 lead thanks to some tenacious defence which forced a number of turn-overs leading to easy scores. "Riders" were shooting poorly and new boys Luke Desborough and Nathan Pluck were able to secure defensive rebounds and launch "Thunder" fast breaks. Had the finishing been more clinical "Thunder's" lead would have been in excess of twenty points so there was still everything to play for in the second half of the game.

The third period of play was "Thunder's" worst as they contrived to give the ball away in every possible way. "Riders" took the period 18-15 to reduce the deficit to 12 points at 40-52. Coach John Collins stressed the need for better discipline over the final ten minutes of play and his team resounded well to take the game by 16 points.

Kris Dambrauskas and Ashley Kitchen led the scoring for "Thunder" with good support coming from Tom Greenfield and Benas Maldutis

Convincing win for Under 14 Girls

Under 14 Girls South Conference

Norwich "Demons" 27 – 82 Northants "Lightning"

The "Lightning" under 14 girls recovered from their disappointing loss against Bracknell "Cobras" with a convincing win over an inexperienced Norwich "Demons" team. The victory was all the more impressive because it came after a nightmare journey which lasted well over four hours.

Despite the travel difficulties "Lightning" made an excellent start to the game jumping out to a 12-2 lead which was extended throughout the first period of play. "Lightning" were causing the home team problems with their pressure defence and the hustle of Lorraine Zgurean and Karly Osgood was impressive.

"Lightning" lost their discipline at the start of the second period to frequently being guilty of poor shot selection but a time out from Coach Kim Thompson restored order and her team was able to close out a comfortable victory.

The "Lightning" scoring was led by Zgurean, Aisha King, and Athena Thompson but the win came as a result of a good all-round team performance.

Under 14 Boys storm past “Riders II”

	<u>Midlands East Conference</u>	
Leicester “Riders II”	45 – 88	Northants “Thunder”

The Northants “Thunder” Under 14 Boys proved to be far too strong for the “Riders” second team as they stormed their way to a 43 points win.

The game was as good as over by the end of the first period of play with “Thunder” leading 38-9. “Riders” struggled to cope with “Thunder’s” pressure defence and turned the ball over on numerous occasions giving “Thunder” easy scores. Under the rules of the competition “Thunder” had to take off their press and “Riders” looked far more comfortable running their offences in the half court.

Leading 53-23 at half time “Thunder” put on a defensive master class in the third period restricting their opponents to just one basket and two free throws. “Thunder” took the period 17-4 but to their credit “Riders” finished strong with their centre McMahon causing the Thunder” defence some problems as his team tied the fourth period 18 all.

In the convincing win all nine “Thunder” players scored showing their strength in depth with the scoring led by Benas Maldutis and Leo Smarrt while Jack Lemon had an excellent all-round game.

Regional Tournament ends in farce

This season the Northants Basketball Club is running development teams alongside their Conference based teams with these teams playing as “Thunderstorm” in regional and county competitions. The Under 14 group were looking forward to their first tournament against the first and second strings of Hertfordshire “Warriors” but in the event the tournament was marred because “Warriors” had several players who weren’t correctly licensed and were looking to field players in both teams. Eventually friendly games were played with “Thunderstorm” losing 18-77 against the “Warriors” first string who are far too strong for the Regional League; and 32-48 against “Warriors II”.

“Thunderstorm” coach, Brad Hughes was pleased with the way his team had performed in the second game and felt fatigue was largely responsible for the loss. He made particular mention of Lennon Martin for his excellent all-round play and the spirit of Jonas Hefford who kept team morale high when the going got tough

The matter of the unlicensed players has been placed in the hands of the sport’s governing body.

Big learning experience for Under 12 Boys

	<u>Under 12 Boys Regional League</u>	
Leicester “Riders”	40 – 25	Northants “Thunder”
Leicester Dynamite	43 – 40	Northants “Thunder”

The Northants “Thunder” under 12 Boys travelled to Leicester for their first Regional tournament of the season and for some of the players it was their first experience of organized basketball.

Against “Riders”, the Northants boys were initially shocked by the speed and intensity of the game and found themselves trailing 11-25 at half time. Inspired by the efforts of Lennon Martin, “Thunder” were far more competitive in the second half but had problems containing the bigger “Riders” players in the rebounding department and slipped to a 25-40 defeat.

The game against “Dynamite” was far more competitive with Martin getting good support from Reggie Majwega and Kenai Hall as “Thunder” were able to launch their fast break offence, but once again their opponents were able to score freely from offensive rebounds.

Coach Peter Dewsnap was pleased with the spirit shown by his players and felt they had made an encouraging start to their Regional league campaign with this tournament being a massive learning experience

THIS WEEKEND'S ACTION

Saturday 12th October

9-30am to 10-30am

Budding "Ballers"

9-30am to 11-00am

Junior "Ballers"

11-00am to 12-30pm

"Ballers" Academy

12-30pm to 2-00pm

Under 12 and Under 13 Girls

1-00pm

Under 14 Girls versus Winchester

3-00pm

Under 14 Boys versus Leicester "Warriors II"

5-00pm

Under 16 Boys versus Leicester "Warriors II"

The "Ballers" sessions and the three games will be staged at the Basketball Centre which is situated at Northampton School for Girls in Spinney Hill Road, Northampton NN3 6DG

Spectators are welcome and admission is **FREE**

There are no away games this weekend

For more information on this Press Release contact: **John Collins** on **07801 533 151**