**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Another weekend without home games for the Northants Basketball Club last weekend**

**but a busy programme of ‘away’ games.**

**Rain saves Junior Men from defeat**

**Under 18 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**“Worcester “Wolves” (75 – 60) OEH Group Northants “Thunder”**

***Game abandoned***

‘Rain stopped play’ isn’t an expression usually associated with basketball but that’s exactly what happened last Saturday when rain leaked through the roof of the sports hall forcing the referees to abandon the game. In many ways this saved the unbeaten record of the Northants Junior Men who at that stage were trailing by fifteen points and were staring defeat in the face.

Basketball England will decide what happens next with their options being to let the score stand, replay the game from zero / zero or from the score as it stands but with the last two options only the players on the scoresheet would be allowed to participate.

It was a shorthanded team that travelled to Worcester with two under 15 players drafted in to cover missing players and it was clear from the start of the game that it was going to be a ‘tough day at the office’. “Wolves” took the first quarter 23-19 with “Thunder” only staying in touch thanks to 11 points from Benas Maldutis.

“Wolves” extended their lead by seven points in the second quarter with “Thunder” further hindered when Thomas Bates picked up an injury and was unable to take any further part in the game. Trailing 37-48 at half time “Thunder” needed a big effort in the third quarter but it was the home side who continued to dominate the contest as they took the quarter 18-12 to extend their lead to 64-59 going into the final stanza.

By now “Thunder” had lost the services of their Coach and a player each with two technical fouls and the final quarter was tied at 11 all when ‘the rains came’.

When the game was called off Maldutis had scored 15 points Jake Muxlow supporting well with ten points.

**Under 17 Girls too strong for “Eagles”**

**Under 17 Girls YBL**

**Abingdon “Eagles” 39 – 61 Northants “Lightning”**

The “Lightning” Under 17 Girls picked up their second YBL win of the season when they proved to be too strong for Abingdon “Eagles”. “Lightning” dominated the first two quarters of play and by half time had established 38 points to 11 lead.

Coach Lee Meadows imposed a lot of restrictions on his players in the final two quarters and to their credit “Eagles” won the second half 28-23 but the final result was never really in doubt.

The “Lightning” scoring was dominated by Jennifer Oamen who totalled 32 points but Coach Meadows was delighted by his team’s defensive efforts which were lead by Peace Okun and Eman Abaas.

**Cadet Boys overwhelm “Titans” second team**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northamptonshire “Titans II” 14 -125 Northants “Thunder”**

With the Northants Under 15 team beating the “Titans” second string this always looked as if it was going to be a one-sided game and so it proved. “Thunder” totally dominated all four quarters and in the fourth quarter “Titans” actually failed to score.

The win maintains “Thunder’s” unbeaten record and the game saw eleven of “Thunder’s” twelve players contributing to the final. Their scoring was led by Logan Ormshaw but Harry Dutton, Mac Monthata, Jasper Roache, Gee Singh and Rio Stephenson all scored in double figures

**Under 14 Boys lose their unbeaten record against West Brom**

**Under 14 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**West Bromwich 63 – 57 Northants “Thunder”**

Last season’s YBL Under 13 Final was between these two teams so the Northants coaching staff knew that they were in for a tough game when they travelled to West Bromwich last Sunday and so it proved. In front of a raucous crowd “Thunder” made a nervous start and seemed to be missing their injured players. They lost the first quarter 14-17 and West Bromwich were able to extend their lead to 32 – 26 by half time.

“Thunder” were playing below their best and their coaching staff were rather confused at the heavy foul count against their team. Despite this they were able to edge the third quarter 17-15 and trailing by just four points at 43-47 they were still well and truly in the game.

In the event West Bromwich were able to ‘keep their noses in front’ during the final quarter despite the efforts of Osagie Efosa who poured in eight points; the home side running out deserved winners by 63 points to 57.

In the six point loss nine “Thunder” players contributed to their total led by Efosa with 14 personal.

The team will be looking to get back to winning ways but face a tough challenge when they make another trip to the West Midlands to take on City of Birmingham “Rockets.”

**Under 12 Boys tame the “Bears”**

**Under 12 Boys NBL Midlands Conference**

**Birmingham “Bears” 22 – 93 Northants “Storm”**

Games against teams from the ‘Second City’ are never easy so this comfortable win for the “Thunder” Under 12 Boys was particularly impressive. Coach George Adeseko’s team kept their opponents below double figures in all four quarters while scoring in excess of twenty points in all but the second quarter.

“Thunder” were able to set the tone for the game from the off restricting their opponents to just one basket in the first quarter while scoring 27 points themselves. By half time the lead had been extended to 40 points to seven and the game was over as a contest and 12 personal points from Ernie Windrum in the third quarter merely underlined this fact.

In the comfortable win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Max Abraham; Jude Constable, Daniel Kovalevski, Liam Mclihaney, and Windrum all scoring in double figures.

Coach Adeseko expressed pleasure with the way his team has gelled as a unit but realizes there is still a lot of hard work to do if the team is to continue to be successful.

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**“Lightning I” rule in Kettering**

**Under 11 Girls ‘Rose of the Shires’ League**

**Bedford “Thunder” 2 – 48 Northants “Lightning”**

**Northants “Lightning” 22 – 8 Northants “Lightning Too”**

Under the stewardship of Coaches Goodrich and Rowlands the Northants Under 11 girls squad have been working very hard and the benefits are beginning to show.

In the first ‘Rose of the Shires’ Under 11 tournament the “Lightning” first string totally dominated Bedford “Thunder” who managed just one score in the whole game while “Lightning Too” put up a brave fight against their own senior team and the hope is they will be able to perform well in forthcoming tournaments.

Basketball England *All Girls Ambassador*, Karen Goodrich commented, “This initiative is an ideal way of introducing girls to basketball. Hannah (Valentine-Rice) and Paul (Rice) should be very proud of what they’ve set up.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 4th November**

**9.30am until 10.30m** Budding Ballers

**10-30am until 11-15am** Junior Ballers

**12-15pm** Under 12 Boys versus City of Birmingham “Rockets”

**2-30pm** Under 16 Girls versus Leicester “Warriors”

**4-45pm** Under 16 Boys versus Coventry “Tornadoes**”**

Under 14 Boys travel to City of Birmingham “Rockets”

Under 15 Boys travel to City of Birmingham “Rockets II”

**Sunday 5th November**

**10-30am** Under 17 Girls versus Bedford “Thunder”

**12-30pm** Under 15 Boys versus Leicester “Dynamite”

Under 11 “Storm” & “Storm Too” travel to Frankley to play Frankley “Falcons and Oxford “Hoops”

**The “Ballers” activities and home games will take place at The Basketball Centre which is based**

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

**Spectators are welcome at the games; refreshments will be available, and admission is FREE**

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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