**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Cadet Boys are too strong for Trailblazers second string**

**Under 16 Boys East Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 78 -42 Derby Trailblazers II**

The Northants Cadet Boys picked up their third win of the season with a dominant performance against the Derby Trailblazers second team.

After exchanging baskets with their opponents Thunder went on a 9-2 charge to take a lead which would have been greater had they not missed a worrying nine free throws. Leading 18-9 after the first period Thunder’s defence in the second put the Derby ball handlers under pressure forcing a number of turn overs which led to easy scores, a 13-2 run and a 37-17 half time lead.

Thunder’s dominance continued in the final two periods and led by 30 points from Ashley Kitchen, Thunder ran out comfortable winners by 78 points to 42. All ten Thunder players contributed to the final total with Tom Greenfield and Kris Dambrauskas both scoring in double figures.

The team will face a much severe challenge this weekend when they entertain unbeaten Leicester Warriros.

**Poor second half costs Under 16 Girls dear against Flyers**

**Under 16 Girls Central Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 40 - 57 Bristol Flyers**

The Parker E-Act Academy in Daventry was the unlikely setting for the under 16 girls Central Conference match between Northants Lightning and Bristol Academy Flyers.  This was Northants’ first game of the season whilst it was Bristol's second outing.

A power cut that affected the whole of the Daventry area delayed play after 5 minutes and threatened to cause an abandonment.  The 20 minute break had no great effect on the game and the height advantage for Bristol helped them to a 12-10 lead after the opening 10 minutes.  Northants influential guards Dina Kosnikovska and Lucy Wilson-Gray were controlling the tempo although the former was forced to take a break with a respiratory ailment.  From 18-14, the teams traded baskets before Flyers ended with an 8-2 run that gave them a decisive 35-26 half time lead.

With just 14 points in the second half, Lightning were never going to get back into contention and they fell to a disappointing 40-57 defeat; Kosnikovska finishing with 16 points and Wilson-Gray 11.

**Under 14 Boys see off Tornadoes in ‘friendly action**

**Under 14 Boys Non-Conference game**

**Northants “Thunder” 87 - 43 Coventry Tornadoes**

With Rutland Thunders unable to raise a team for the scheduled Conference game the Northants Under 14 boys took on a young but enthusiastic Coventry team. Thunder ran out comfortable winners led in scoring by Jack Lemon and Rapolus Radivicius while their was an encouraging debut from Hugo Dutton made who rebounded well and scored 10 points.

**Under 16 Boys Thunder Storm go winless**

**Under 16 Boys Regional Pool 4**

**Northants Thunder Storm 46 -55 Brentwood Leopards**

Southend Scorpions 54 -45 Brentwood Leopards

**Northants Thunder Storm 29 – 49 Southend Scorpions**

The Northants Thunder Storm Under 16 boys played their second tournament of the season last Sunday and are still looking for their first win.

Against Brentwood Leopards the Northants were well in contention going into the fourth period of play trailing by just four points at 34-38. The boys were then guilty of rushing their offence and making some poor decisions as Leopards outscored them 17-12 to take victory by 55 points to 46.

Having played Southend Scorpions in the first tournament Thunder Storm knew they were in for a tough game and so it proved. Scorpions dominated the first two periods to lead 35-16 at half time. Thunder Storm put in a much better performance in the final two periods of play only losing the second half 13-14 but were unable to make any serious inroads into the deficit.

Thunder Storm coach, Darjius Maldutis felt his players had improved from the first tournament but accepted they need to perform the basic skill of the game under pressure.

**Under 12 Boys pick up their first win of the season**

**Under 12 Mixed Regional Pool 3**

**Northants Thunder 29 – 62 City of Birmingham Rockets**

Leicester Riders Red 32 – 59 City of Birmingham Rocakets

**Northants Thunder 43 – 21 Leicester Riders Red**

The Northants Under 12 Boys lost their fifth game of the season and their second against a talented City of Birmingham team. Thunder trailed 13-25 at half time but were still in contact with their opponents but a disastrous third period saw Rockets outscoring Thunder 23-5 to put the final result beyond doubt. In the disappointing loss Lennon Martin top scored for Thunder with 12 points while Caelin Chin contributed nine points.

After a one game break Thunder were able to secure their first win of the season with a 34-21 over a lively Riders red outfit. Thunder’s win was based on a committed defensive performance led by Tafari Pryce and Logan Tanner. Lennon Martin once again led the Thunder scoring with 18 points while Caelin Chin and Pryce chipped in with six points each.

**Great experience for the young Lightning players**

**Under 12 Girls Non-Conference game**

**Northants Lightning versus Leicester Riders**

With no league games yet played, Northants Lightning under 12 girls took the opportunity for playing experience with a friendly game against Leicester Riders.  Leicester had far greater experience as well as physical advantages, and with Northants missing several players due to the half term holidays, this was likely to be a baptism of fire for many of the team.

And so it proved as Riders aggressive defence and quick movement gave them the first 18 points before Northants got their side of the scoreboard moving. But the second quarter would see a remarkable change.  With all players on court aged 9 or younger, Lightning won the quarter by 14 points to one, much to the delight of the spectators.

With Leicester continuing to play their more experienced players, the margin increased but for Northants this was a glimpse of the potential there is in the club.  Eight year old Amelia-May Wesley-Maryan led the scoring with 14 points but this was a day where fun and development was the aim of the hosts.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTION**

**Saturday 9th November**

 **9-30am until10-30am** Budding “Ballers”

 **9-30am unti 11-00am** Junior “Ballers”

 **11-00am until 12-30pm** “Ballers” Academyand Under 12 Girls

 **12-30pm until 2.00pm** Under 12 / Under 13 Girls practice

  **1-00pm** Lightning Under 14 Girls versus N.E.B.C. Titans

 **3-00pm** Lightning Under 16 Girls versus Winchester Royals

 **5-00pm** Lightning Under 18 Girls versus London Warriors

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**

 Thunder Under 14 Boys travel to Leicester Dynamite

 Thunder Storm” Under 16 Boys Regional team travel to Brentwood

 to play Brentwood and Maidstone

**Sunday 10th November**

 **11-00am** Thunder Under 16 Boys versus Leicester Warriors

  **1.00pm** Thunder Under 14 Boys versus Leicester Warriros

These games will be played at the Basketball Centre

 Lightning Under 16 Girls travel to Reading Rockets

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