**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Last weekend was probably the busiest in the history of the Northants Basketball Club with no less nine home games**

**Missed lay ups cost the Junior Men dear.**

**Under 18 Boys EBL Midlands 2 Conference**

**OEH Group Northants “Thunder” 44 – 53 Oxford “Hoops”**

The Northants “Thunder” Junior Men sacrificed their unbeaten record to Oxford “hoops” last Saturday and will look back in horror of the alarming statistic of missing no less than sixteen lay ups and close to the basket put backs, eight of them in the decisive fourth quarter.

Defences dominated throughout the game with both teams struggling to create scoring opportunities all too frequently relying on speculative perimeter shooting. “Hoops” edged the first quarter 12-10 and they extended this lead by a single point during a dire second quarter.

“Thunder” were able to reduce the deficit by one point during the third quarter and at 34-36 going into the final stanza looked set to take the game. Their defence forced a number of “Hoops” turn-overs creating breakaway lay up opportunities but to the horror of the “Thunder” fans they contrived to miss three of these opportunities. They were also guilty of failing to convert a number of put backs and could only manage ten points during the final ten minutes while Oxford managed 17 to take the game by 53 points to 44.

In the disappointing loss 34 of “Thunder’s” points came from just three players Thomas Bates, Benas Maldutis and Rapolas Radavicius and this weekend the team face a difficult looking trip to Shropshire “Warriors”.

**Under 16 Girls overwhelmed by “Slam”**

**Under 16 Girls EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 23 – 70 Wolverhampton “Slam”**

Every sports team has one of those days when absolutely everything goes wrong and the Northants “Lightning” Under 16 Girls had one of those days against a talented Wolverhampton “Slam” team.

Throughout the contest “Lightning” struggled to score but thanks to some determined defence were able to restrict “Slam” to 29 first half points. “Lightning” needed a good third quarter but they were blown away by two 12-2 blitzes to trail 21-54 going into the final ten minutes of play.

By this time several “Lightning” heads had ‘gone down’ and the West Midlanders poured in 16 points while “Lightning” could manage just one basket as they slumped to a heavy defeat.

No “Lightning” player could score in double figures but Coach Lee Meadows singled out Cameron Keuberg for her unrelenting defensive efforts.

**Cadet Boys too strong for “Ballers” Heaven”**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 99 – 70 “Ballers Heaven”**

The Northnats “Thunder” Cadet boys moved to the top of the Midlands 1 Conference following a convincing win over “Ballers Heaven” and were done a big favour when the Club’s Under 15 team beat previous leaders Coventry “Tornadoes”.

“Thunder” started the game in dominant fashion with Harry Dutton scoring from the perimeter and fast break baskets while Fran Guei dominating the close to basket action. This pair scored eighteen points between them to help their team establish a 26-13 lead after the first quarter.

Any hope “Ballers” might have of a second quarter fight back were firmly extinguished with a

17- two “Thunder” charge which saw them leading by 50 points to 25 at half time.

The third quarter saw some impressive play from Logan Ormshaw who 11 personal points as “Thunder” took the quarter 25-17 and at 75-42 the game was as good as over as a contest .

The final quarter saw both teams resorting to a ‘street ball’ style of play and “Thunder” were outscore 24-28 over the final ten minutes of play without the final result ever being in doubt.

In the 29 point win the “Thunder” scoring was led by Guei with 27 points with good support coming from Dutton, Ormshaw and Mac Manthata who all scored in double figures.

**Logan and Oliwier see Under 15 Boys home against “Tornadoes”**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands 1 Conference**

**Northants “Thunder II” 60- 53 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

The Northants Under 15 Boys did their Under 16 team mates a big favour with this win over Conference leaders Coventry “Tornadoes”. Just three weeks ago Tornadoes beat the Thunder Under 16’s in overtime so this puts the two teams on one loss each.

“Tornadoes” were without their influential guard Gilbert who had picked up an ankle injury and this was probably a crucial factor in the way the game went with “Thunder” jumping out to a 11-four lead only for the Coventry outfit responding with a 10-four run of their own. “Thunder” closed the topsy-turvy quarter with nine-zero flourish to lead 22-12 going into the second quarter.

The second and third quarters saw “Tornadoes” making steady inroads into “Thunder’s” lead and in the closing minute of the third quarter they took the lead at 43-42. This lead was extended by another four points early in the fourth quarter with “Thunder’s” attacking options limited by a wrist injury to Wilson Carr.

At 44-49 it looked as if “Thunder’s” dream of pulling off a shock result had disappeared but enter Oliwier Andrzejczak and Logan Tanner who in the remaining seven minutes of the game scored a stunning sixteen points between them while “Tornadoes” could manage just four. This gave “Thunder” victory by 60 points to 53to the delight of their supporters.

In the battling seven point win Andrzejczak scored 23 points and Tanner 21.

**Huge win for Under 14 Girls over City of Birmingham**

**Under 14 Girls NBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 71 – 51 City of Birmingham “Rockets”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls toppled Conference leaders City of Birmingham “Rockets” at the Basketball Centre last Saturday.

The game was a scrappy affair throughout and was probably settled by “Lightning’s” superb opening to the game which saw them lead 24-nine after the first quarter. “Rockets” were more of an offensive threat in the second quarter which they took 19-16 to reduce “Lightning’s” lead to 40-28 at half time.

The big C.O.B. push continued in the third quarter which they won 14-nine with “Lightning” thankful for seven points from Queendy Yeboah. Trailing 37-54 going into last stanza “Rockets” felt they could still take the game but the “Lightning” players showed a great deal of resilience and a further six point from Yeboah helped her team to take the quarter 17-14 and clinch an emphatic 71 points to 51 win.

For “Lightning”, Michelle Makuna top scored with 20 points, Yeboah and Karina Katie supporting well with 14 and 11 points respectively.

This coming weekend the team face another tricky game when they travel to Mansfield “Giants”

**Under 14 Girls just edged out by “Mystics|”**

**Non-Conference ‘Friendly’ game**

**Northants “Lightning” 48 -56 Manchester “Mystics”**

The day after their stunning victory over City of Birmingham “Rockets” the “lightning” team

re-assembled for a friendly game against lasts season’s Under 14 finalists. The Northants girls were looking for their sixth straight win and were keen to test themselves against one of the best teams in the country.

The game was closely contested throughout with “Mystics” establishing a 26-21 lead by half time. “Lightning” put in a superb third quarter shift and with six players scoring they took it 15-12 to reduce the deficit to 36-38 and set up an exciting final quarter.

“Lightning” continued their ‘push’ and with just over three minutes of the game remaining the scores were tied at 48 all but the Manchester girls were able to close the game out with eight unanswered points to win by 56 points to 48.

In the eight-point defeat Macy Latimer top scored for “Lightning” with 12 points Campbell Spatcher and Queendy Yeboah and Amelia Wesley -Maryan all making significant point scoring contributions.

Coach Mark Spatcher was full of praise for the efforts of his team following the back-to-back games with his team showing they are capable of being competitive with the best teams in the country.

**“Lightning Too” Under 14 Girls pick up two more wins**

**East of England Central Venue League**

**Norfolk “Inceni” 12 – 74 Northants “Lightning Too”**

**Braintree “Blue Devils” 20 – 34 Northants “Lightning Too”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 14 Girls second travelled to Braintree for their second East of England Central Venue tournament.

Facing Norfolk “Inceni” for the second successive tournament, “Lightning Too” were confronted by an even more inexperienced team and despite Coach Adam Latimer imposing several restrictions on his team they ran out comfortable winner by 74 points to 12 with ten of his twelve players contributing to the final 74 points total.

The second game against hosts Braintree “Blue Devils” and for the first time “Lightning Too” had to come back from a deficit. Initially Braintree were able to contain the Northants fast break and their pass and cut offensive tactics caused the “Lightning Too” defence a lot of problems.

“Lightning Too” had to rely on good defence and more patient offence and thanks to some good decision making they were able to take control of the game finally running out winners by 34 points to 20, Freya Tauber-Anderson top scoring with 11 points.

**Heartbreak loss for Under 14 Boys is followed by great “Tornadoes” gesture.**

**Under 14 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 55 – 56 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

There is sometimes a time when a generous gesture becomes more important than the result of a game. This was certainly the situation at the end of this Midlands Conference game. Both teams had given of their ‘all’ with “Tornadoes” getting home by the narrowest of margins in front of raucous support for both teams. After thanking the game officials and their opponents the whole “Tornadoes” team gave the front row of “Thunder” supporters a ‘fist pump’ to thank them for their part in a wonderful occasion. A generous gesture much appreciated by the Northants Club.

The game itself was dominated by defences with both teams struggling to create scoring opportunities. “Tornadoes” edged the first quarter 11-10nand a 15-six run at the end of the second quarter saw them establish a 29-25 halftime lead.

The two teams exchanged scores in the third quarter with both teams managing just 13 points apiece, so going into the final ten minutes of play “Thunder” felt they were well and truly in with a chance of winning the game despite trailing by 38 points to 42. Encouraged by drums, hooters, and horns the “Thunder” players gave their ‘all’ and back-to- back scores got the Northants boys to within a single point of their opponents but they were unable to score in the final minute of the game and “Tornadoes” were able to hold on for the narrow win.

In the disappointing loss the “Thunder” scoring was led by Al Mustafa Yinusu and Luca Garrett with 11 and 10 points respectively, but the real winner was the game of basketball.

**Under 13 Boys produce three quarters of ‘magic’**

**Under 13 Boys YBL**

**Northants “Thunder” 69 – 27 Coventry “Tornadoes”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 13’s made two wins from two starts after a comfortable victory over Coventry “Tornadoes”. In the 40plus points win “Thunder” produced three quarters of high quality basketball combined excellent defence with some eye-catching running basketball during which they outscored their opponents 62-16. Unfortunately “Thunder” were very sloppy in the final quarter which “Tornadoes” won by 11 points to seven.

The ”Thunder” scoring was led by Sam Dominici and Kaiyin Dada with 21 and 17 points respectively but Coach John Collins singled out Jensen McCaulay and Isaac Yankey for their defensive efforts.

**Under 12 Boys breeze past “Hawks” to go five and zero**

**Under 12 Mixed EBL Region III Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 74 – 43 Warwickshire “Hawks”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 12’s made it five wins from five starts after a comfortable win over a very capable Warwickshire “Hawks” team.

“Thunder” opened the game like an express train pouring in 28 points while restricting “Hawks” to 12. The second quarter was much more competitive “Thunder” winning it 16-11 to take a 44-23 half time lead.

“Hawks” needed a big third quarter if they were to get back into the game but “Thunder” totally dominated proceedings outscoring their opponents by 18 points to three to virtually end the game a s a contest, although there was slight disappointment for “Thunder” as they allowed “Hawks to edge the final quarter 15-17.

In the 31 point win, eight of “Thunder’s” nine players contributed to the final total led by Jude Constable with 19 points while Daniel Kovalevskij and Jadan Dallas both scored ten points.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 25th November**

**9-30am to 10-30am** Budding “Ballers”

**10-30am to 11-45am** Junior “Ballers”

**There are no home games at the Basketball Centre this weekend.**

Under 11 Girls travel to Nuneaton to play Nuneaton “Predators” and Kettering “Phoenix”

Under 12 Boys II travel to Mansfield “Giants”

Under 14 Girls travel to Mansfield “Giants”

Under 14 Boys travel to Birmingham “Bears”

EOS Group Junior Men travel to Shropshire “Warriors”

**Sunday 26thth November**

Under 16 Boys travel to “Ballers Heaven”

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

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

For further information on this Press Release contact:

**John Collins** on 07801 533 151

**Away Games on Sunday 26th November**

**Under 16 Thunder v Ballers Heaven @ 12.45pm tip (NBL U16)**