**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE & NEWSLETTER**

**Under 13 Boys advance to YBL semi-finals**

**“Thunder” Under 13 Boys beat “Tornadoes” in a double overtime nailbiter**

**YBL Under 13 Quarter Final**

**Coventry “Tornadoes” 73 – 75 Northants “Thunder”**

*57 – 57 68 – 68*

Leading by 45 points to 23 at half time it looked as if “Thunder” were going to sail into the semi-final. But the lead had come at a price with many “Thunder” players in foul trouble. This seriously affected the team’s play and “Tornadoes” were able to reduce the deficit by winning the third quarter 10-4 and they were able to maintain their momentum in the fourth quarter through Al Jalabi. His 14 points helped the home team win the quarter 25-eight and tie the game up at 57 all.

The first period of overtime was a cat and mouse affair with “Thunder” grateful for six points from Sam Dominici and a crucial three-pointer from Dominykas Jokulis as both teams managed eleven points.

The second set of overtime had fans from both teams on the edge of their seats but “Thunder” were able to hold their nerve and win it 7points to 5 to take the game by 75 points to 73.

In the first two quarters “Thunder” had been able to punish “Tornadoes” with their running game but in the second half they were guilty of rushing their offence and forcing up shots. It is to be hoped that they will have learnt a valuable lesson about clock management.

In the two point win all eight “Thunder” players contributed to the team’s 75 point total led by Sam Dominici with 23 points while George Rados scored 13 points and Jensen McCaulay scored ten.

In the semi-final “Thunder” will play Solihull “Griffins”

**YBL Semi - Finals and Finals summary**

**Saturday 25th May in Telford**

Under 9 Storm Semi Final versus City of Birmingham Rockets

Under 11 Storm Semi Final versus Rawzone

Under 9 Storm Final (If “Storm” win their semi) versus either Worcester Wolves or Coventry Tornadoes

Under 11 Storm Final (If “Storm” win their semi) versus either Worcester Wolves or Coventry Tornadoes

U11 Lightning Final versus Nuneaton Predators

**Saturday 1st June in Bromsgrove**

U13 Boys Final (If the team beat Solihull “Griffins” in the semi-final)

U13 Lightning Final versus Nuneaton Predators

U17 Lightning Final versus either Bedford Thunder or Abingdon “Eagles”

**Sunday 2nd June in Bromsgrove**

12.15pm U15 Thunder Final versus Leicester Riders

**Northants Club awarded prestigious “Slam Jam” Programme**

Basketball England has launcheda new programme to introduce boys and girls aged seven to eleven to the sport of basketball and the Northants club has been chosen to deliver sessions in Northamptonshire. With so many boys and girls anxious to participate the Club has decided to run two sessions based on school years and each age group programme will comprise six sessions, and the age groups are school years 2 & 3 and 4 & 5.

The sessions will be run by two of the club’s qualified coaches supported by Young Leaders and participants will receive a bundle of “Slam Jam” goodies including a tee shirt, a bag a water bottle and their own basketball.

Anyone wishing to sign their child up for this exciting programme can do so on the Basketball England website.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 18th May**

**9-30am to 10-30am** “Budding Ballers” for Reception and Year 1

**10-30am to 11-30am** “**Slam Jam”** for Years 2 & 3

**11-30am to 12-30pm “Slam Jam”** for Years 4 & 5

**11-30am** “Thunder Under 13’s versus Solihull “Griffins”

**(***YBL Play Off semi-final game)*

**Sunday 19th May**

**10-30am to 11-45am** Community Session for Years 6 & 7

**The Slam Jam and Community sessions will take place at the Basketball Centre which is based at**

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

**The YBL semi-final game will be played at Moulton School, Pound Lane,**

**Moulton, Northampton NN3 7SD**

For further information about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on **+44 7801 533 151**