**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE & NEWSLETTER**

**Four more teams from the Northants Basketball Club were in YBL Finals action last weekend with two of them winning titles.**

**Super “Thunder” Under 15 Boys demolish “Riders”**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis Final**

**Leicester “Riders” 40 – 69 Northants “Thunder”**

Winning a Play Off title is always an achievement but convincingly beating a team attached to a BBL Club makes it even sweeter and this is exactly what the Northants “Thunder” Under 15 Boys did at Bromsgrove School last Sunday.

The game opened up with “Riders” playing a match-up zone defence which caused “Thunder” all sorts of problems. They were playing excellent defence themselves forcing numerous missed shots from “Riders” but they seemed reluctant to run the ball back allowing the Leicester players to set up their zone defence. All this led to an attritional ten minutes of play with “Riders” edging the first quarter by eight points to ten.

The second quarter was won 16-10 by “Thunder” thanks to a couple of fast break scores from Will Carr, a brace of close rang jumpers from Logan Tanner and two put back scores from Oliwier Andrzejczak; but at 22-18 in favour of “Thunder” it looked as if this Final was going all the way to the wire.

The third quarter of this game was totally different from the first two. “Riders” became obsessed with their Pick & Roll game which was countered by “Thunder” switching tactics and change up defences but the most decisive change in the game was “Thunder’s” willingness to run the ball back. This allowed Tanner to score 12 personal points and despite a nasty cut to Luca Garratt’s eye brow, “Thunder” were able to win the quarter 27-10 to take a 49 to 28 lead going into the final stanza.

A big “Riders” push was expected but it only came in the form of individual rather than team effort and this was easily contained by the “Thunder” defence and to the delight of their vociferous supporters “Thunder” won the fourth quarter 20-12 and the second half 47-22 to take the title by 69 points to 40.

In the convincing win Tanner top scored with 24 points, Andrzejczak once again playing a game well above his height contributing 18 points but this was truly a triumph for the whole team and the astute coaching of Brad Hughes.

**Eagles no match for “Lightning Under 17 Girls**

**YBL All Girls Under 17 Final**

**Abingdon “Eagles” 26 – 54 Northants “Lightning”**

Having previously beaten “Eagles” on two occasions already this season the “Lightning” Under 17 Girls went into this YBL “All Girls” as hot favourites but the game had to be won and Finals can do funny things to the form book.

In the first quarter the occasion seemed to have got to both teams and scoring was at a premium. “Lightning” were playing some excellent defence and restricted “Eagles” to just one basket in the quarter and with Jenny Oamen and Tolani Akanmu combining for ten points “Lightning” won the quarter 16-2.

“Eagles” found scoring much easier in the second quarter which was edged 16-14 by “Lightning” who went into half time leading by 32 points to 16.

“Eagles” came out for the third quarter in determined mood and their spirited defence restricted “Lightning” to just eight points not helped by a hatful of missed free throws; but the Northants girls were in miserly mood themselves restricting Abingdon to just two baskets.

Leading by 40 points to 20 going into the final stanza the game was as good as won for “Lightning” and they closed out the game by winning the fourth quarter 14-six to record a convincing 54 points to 26 win to completed an unbeaten season and the YBL title for Lee Meadow’s team.

For “Lightning”, Akanmu, Oamen and Pece Okun all scored ten points Kelis Foster chipping in with eight points

**“Lightning” Under 13 Girls snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.**

**YBL All Girls Under 13 Final**

**Northants “Lightning” 54 - 56 Nuneaton “Predators”**

When Brook Foster scored back-to-back baskets and converted a free throw to give her team a 54-53 lead it looked as if the “Lightning” Under 13 Girls had done enough to win this YBL “All Girls” Final, despite being well below their best form. In the event they contrived to in bound the ball straight to a Nuneaton player who duly scored. “Lightning failed to score with their next offence and were forced to foul Nuneaton’s top scorer Ward making just one of the resulting free throws to give her team a two-point lead. “Lightning” mounted one last desperate offence but couldn’t find the basket.

Despite the drama of the last few minutes of the game “Lightning” probably lost the game in the second quarter. They went into that quarter leading by 10 points to six but contrived to miss a hatful of lay ups many of them unopposed. “Predators” won the second quarter 19-13 and at 23 points apiece at half time began to believe that they could win the game. “Lightning” edged the third quarter 17-14 but their offence was relying too much on Foster and Freya Tauber-Anderson.

In the decisive fourth quarter “Predators” were able to limit this pair to just ten points and no other “Lightning” player to step up to fill the point scoring gap and that was to prove disappointing.

In the heartbreaking defeat Andrson-Tauber and Foster top scored for “Lightning” with 18 and 17 points apiece.

**“Thunder “Under 13’s well beaten by talented West Bromwich**

**YBL Under 13 Mixed Final**

**Northants “Storm” 54 - 95 West Bromwich Basketball**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 13’s were well beaten by a talented West Bromwich Basketball team in their YBL Final. Against a team that was physically superior “Thunder” needed to be at their very best and regrettably they weren’t and the west Midlanders won all four quarters thanks to some excellent defence and efficient fast break basketball and when their initial offence failed to produce a score their height advantage resulted in numerous put back.

The “Thunder” cause wasn’t helped when their influential captain Sam Dominic fouled out of the game and Dominykas Jokulis picked up an ankle injury. Kaiyin Dada battled hard for “Thunder” and top scored with 12 points while Alex Rados never gave up against taller opponents and scored 10 points. Coach John Collins was particularly pleased with the way two of his youngest players, Kyjah Adams and Arlo Dominici stuck to their task.

Assistant coach Danielas Jokulis was very positive after the game observing, “This was a team put together at the last-minute last September just to reach a Final is a tremendous achievement.”

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 8th June**

**9.30am-10.30am Budding Ballers Session**

**10.30am-11.30am Slam Jam Session for Years 2 & 3**

**11.30am-12.30pm Slam Jam Session for Years 4 & 5**

**Sunday 9th June**

**10.30am-11.45am Year 6 & 7 Community Session**

**All these 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 about this Press Release contact **John Collins** on **+44 7801 533 151**