**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Another busy weekend for the Northants Basketball Club with just one defeat in the**

**six games played.**

**Big second half sees Junior Men home against Milton Keynes**

**Junior Men’s Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 61 – 55 Milton Keynes “Breakers II”**

After a sluggish first half which saw the Milton Keynes second string lead “Thunder” by 32 points to 25 a completely different “Thunder” hit the floor for the second half. In the second quarter they outscored their opponents 17-11 to close the gap to 42-43 and they were able to maintain this impetus in the final quarter but a 7-2 “Breakers” charge took them back into the lead at 55-50 with just four minutes of the game remaining. At this stage Benas Maldutis grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck as he poured in nine points and this contribution combined with some outstanding defence helped “Thunder” embark on an 11-zero charge and a 61-55 victory.

For the second week running “Thunder” went into the game short-handed because of registration problems and their cause was further hampered when the influential Rapolas Radavicius picked up an ankle injury in the second minute of the game. With Radavicius sidelined for the rest of the game “Thunder” faced a difficult time against a tall “Breakers” outfit. They were able stay in touch in the first quarter which they lost 13-15 thanks in the main to the efforts of Maldutis who scored seven points. Milton Keynes were able extend their lead in the second quarter thanks to a number of put back scores and things looked bleak for “Thunder” but their half time transformation completely changed the game.

In the six point win Maldutis led all scorers with 25 points but the contributions of Thomas Bates, Danielus Jokulis, Jakob Milencius, and Jake Muxlow were absolutely vital

**Fran and Logan see Cadet Boys home**

**Under 16 Boys Midland Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 77 – 60 West Bromwich Albion**

Massive points hauls from Logan Ormshaw and Fran Guei who scored 28 and 23 points respectively helped the “Thunder” Under 16 Boys home against an athletic and skillful West Bromwich Albion team.

“Thunder” made an excellent start to the game with Ormshaw and Harry Dutton punishing W.B.A. with some excellent perimeter shooting. Leading 22-10 after the first quarter the “Thunder” players seemed to think the game was over and some sloppy defence and ill-disciplined offence allowed the visitors to open the quarter with a

10-zero run.

A “Thunder” time out halted the charge and they mounted an 11-2 run of their own but Albion were still able to take the quarter 16-15 to reduce the deficit to eleven points at half time.

The third quarter saw both teams scoring freely and play little or no defence but a 10-2 spurt at the end of the quarter saw “Thunder” moving ahead by 61 points to 44. The visitors mounted a determined effort over the final ten minutes of the game but some excellent “Thunder” defence saw them maintain the 17 point gap running out winners by 77 points to 60.

In the 17 point win the “Thunder” scoring was dominated by Guei and Ormshaw; Harry Dutton with 10 points being the only other player to score in double figures.

**Coach disqualification costs Under 16 Girls dear**

**Under 16 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Lightning” 0 – 20 Derby “Trailblazers”**

**(32 – 19)**

Leading by 32 points to 19 thanks to 14 and 11 points from Jenny Oamen and Kelis Foster the “Lightning” coach was given a technical foul for dissent. Earlier in the game he had been given a technical foul for a technical error and under the rules had to leave the game. As there wasn’t another coach’s name on the scoresheet the game was abandoned and awarded to “Trailblazers” 20-zero.

**Under 15 Boys blow hot and cold in beating Shrewsbury “Storm”**

**Under 15 Boys YBL Primis**

**Northants “Thunder” 73 – 45 Shrewsbury “Storm”**

The “Thunder” Under 15 Boys combined some sublime basketball with two quarters where they repeatedly turned the ball over and made poor decisions on offence.

“Thunder” started the game looking like a team of strangers and found themselves trailing 11-12 at the end of the first quarter. Stern words from Coach Brad Hughes had the desired effect and his team started the second quarter with a

15-3 charge with their scoring led by J.J. Lothian and Logan Tanner. Leading by 35 points to 23 at half time “Thunder” reverted to their bad habits in the third quarter with their offence based almost entirely on individual efforts. Tanner scored a further ten points but “Thunder” only took the quarter 16-14 and only trailing 37-51 “Storm” still had an outside chance of rescuing the game.

That chance was still alive midway through the final quarter but “Thunder” then decided to play as a team once more and they outscored “Storm” by 20 points to four to record what on paper looked to be an easy victory. It is to be hoped that the team recognizes how good they could be if they play as a team rather than a group of individuals.

In the 28 point win Logan Tanner led the “Thunder” scoring with 26 points, Alfie Serbyn and J.J. Lothian supporting well with 14 and 12 points respectively.

**Another big win for Under 14 Boys**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Thunder” 89 – 49 Worcester “Wolves”**

A dominant first half performance was a major factor in the “Thunder’s” comfortable win over Worcester “Wolves”. They totally overwhelmed “Wolves” in the first quarter outscoring their opponents 24-10 thanks to their aggressive pressing defence forcing a number of “Wolves” turn overs. Forced under the rules to take off their ‘press’ in the second quarter “Thunder” resorted to their ‘running’ game and with Jerome Maroodza and Ollie Wilson stepping up as providers they outscored their opponents 29-17 to lead by 53 points to 27 at half time.

With the game as good as won “Thunder” were guilty of some sloppy play in the second half which they won 36-32 to run out comfortable winners by 89 points to 49.

In the 40 point win Luca Garratt led the “Thunder” scoring with 17 personal points excellent support coming from Jasper Boswell, Maroodza, and Jowell Stiete- French.

**Under 12 Boys open their season with a big win**

**Under 12 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Northants “Storm” 89 – 23 Stourport “Spartans”**

The “Thunder” Under 12 Boys based on last season’s Under 11 YBL Championship team opened their National League campaign with an overwhelming win over a game but inexperienced Stourport “Spartans” team.

The game was as good as over by half time by which time “Storm” had established a 48-9 lead thanks to some excellent fast break basketball combined with some uncompromising defence. “Storm” continued to dominate proceedings in the second half eventually running out winners by 89 points 23. All ten “Storm” players scored led by Kyjah Adams with 18 points, Max Abraham, Jude Constable, Arlo Dominici and George Rados all scoring in double figures.

This was Coach George Adeseko’s first National League game and he was well pleased with the way his players performed as a team unit.

**New League**

This weekend sees the launch of the new **East Regional League**. The league has been set up by Norwich coach Doreen McCormick and is for Under 14 Girls not quite good enough to play National League and girls who play National League but don’t get very much time. The “Lightning Too” team playing in the new league will be coached by Adam Latimer who joined the Club during the summer.

*All Girls* Ambassador, Karen Goodrich commented, “This is a wonderful idea and means that some inexperienced female players will still be able to stay involved in the game at a competitive level.”

**Sponsorship**

Next week the Northants Basketball Club will be announcing an exciting new sponsorship for their Junior Men’s team.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 14th October**

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

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

**12-15pm** “Storm” Under 12 Boys versus Bromsgrove “Bears”

“Storm”Under 13 Boys versus Leicester “Riders”

**2-30pm** “Thunder” Under 16 Boys versus West Brom”

**4-45pm** “Thunder” Junior Men versus Shrewsbury “Storm”

“Storm II” Under 12 Boys travel to Leicester “Dynamite”

“Thunder” Under 14 Boys travel to Walsall “Wizards”

**Sunday 15th October**

**10-15am** “Lightning” Under 11 Girls versus Kettering “Phoenix” (Friendly)”

“Lightning Too” Under 14 Girls versus Oakland “Wolves”

**11-30am** “Lightning Too” versus Kettering “Phoenix” (Friendly)

Oaklands “Wolves” versus Southend “scorpions”

**12-45pm** “Lightning” Under 11 Girls versus “Lightning Too” Under 11 Girls (Friendly)

“Lightning Too” Under 14 Girls versus Southend “Scorpions)

**2-30pm** “Thunder” Under 16 Boys versus Coventry “Elite”

“Thunder” Under 15 Boys travel to Tamworth “Tigers”

“Lightning” Under 17 Girls travel to Nottingham “Oaks”

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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