**NORTHANTS BASKETBALL CLUB**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**SPONSORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Northants Basketball Club, an elite and grassroots basketball club based in Northampton is thrilled to announce a significant sponsorship agreement that promises to elevate the team's prospects and impact on the local community. OEH Group, a leading Property Development company, has joined hands with the Northants Club to support their mission of promoting youth basketball and fostering athletic talent in Northamptonshire.

OEH Group is a leading Property Development company with a deep commitment to corporate social responsibility. They are dedicated to supporting local communities and empowering young individuals to achieve their goals. Through this sponsorship agreement with Northants Basketball Club, the OEH Group aims to make a lasting impact on the lives of young athletes in Northampton.

Under the terms of this exciting sponsorship deal, OEH Group will become the official title sponsor of the “Thunder” Junior Men’s team of the Northants Club for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. This partnership reflects both organizations' commitment to community engagement, youth development, and the growth of basketball at all levels in the UK.

As part of this sponsorship agreement, OEH Group will actively participate in various community events, youth basketball clinics, and fundraising activities organized by Northants Basketball Club. This collaborative effort will help engage local youth and families, fostering a love for basketball and encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle.

Ermir Sefolli, the Director of the OEH Group shared their excitement about the partnership, saying, *"At the OEH Group, we believe in the power of sports to inspire and unite communities. We are proud to partner with Northants Basketball Club in their efforts to promote basketball at all levels. This partnership is not just about sports; it's about making a positive impact on the lives of young athletes and their families. We here at OEH Group have great ambitions in relation to community outreach and we are extremely excited to be able to start this with the Thunder! We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship together with many exciting things to come.”*

John Collins the President of the Northants Basketball Club commented, *“As a club we are most grateful to the OEH Group for their generous sponsorship of our Junior Men’s team. We are also delighted that OEH see their involvement as being of a wider nature than just the team. We look forward to the team taking to the court in their new kit*

*displaying the OEH logo.”*

**No home games for the Northants Basketball Club last weekend but seven games**

**were played resulting in five wins**

**Brave Under 16 Girls go down to “Riders”**

**Under 16 Girls Midlands Conference**

**Leicester “Riders” 44 – 56 Northants “Lightning”**

Despite a battling defensive effort the Northants “Lightning” Under 16 girls slipped to a 12 point defeat against Leicester “Riders”, the third quarter proving to be decisive.

Both teams struggled to score in the first quarter of the game “Lightning” managing just six points but keeping “Riders” to ten to stay in the game. The second quarter was a to-and-fro affair with both teams managing 11 points apiece and trailing 17-21 at half time the “Lightning” girls felt that victory was within their grasp because during that first half several good shots just hadn’t dropped’.

Their optimism came to nothing in the third quarter when they were outscored 21-six leaving themselves with the preverbal mountain to climb. In the final quarter, Lauren Eighteen, Iviannah Meadows and Jennifer Oamen put in a massive effort for their team. They helped “Lightning” take the quarter 21–14 but the 19 point gap proved to be too much for them.

For some inexplicable reason the Leicester scorers didn’t record the scorers number on the scoresheet so it is impossible to acknowledge individual points contributions.

“Lightning” coach Lee Meadows was full of praise for the efforts of his team, particularly their efforts in the final ten minute of the game.

**Under 15 Boys lose to “Hawks in a physical battle**

**Under 16 Boys EBL Midlands Conference**

**Warwickshire “Hawks” 53 – 32 Northants “Thunder” Under 15’s**

“Thunder coach, Brad Hughes labelled this Under 16 National League game a ‘dog fight’ and felt that a lot of the “Hawks” defence was as players were held as they attempted to cut through the keyway. Playing a year young in the National League Hughes’ his team would face a physical challenge, but it is wrong when physicality is allowed to totally dominate skill.

Prevented from getting the ball into the keyway by the “Hawks” tactics the “Thunder” players were forced to rely on a perimeter game and stayed in contention for the first two quarters of the game only trailing 22-26 at half time. In the second half their perimeter game failed them and with little chance of second shot success they could only manage ten points in the twenty minutes of play, finally succumbing to 21-point defeat.

No “Thunder” player was able to score in double figures Oliwier Andrzejczak and Logan Tanner leading the way for “Thunder” with seven points apiece. Despite the heavy defeat Coach Hughes was full of praise for the efforts of his players and commented, “It will be interesting to see how “Hawks cope when referees are a little stricter on their defensive play.”

**Under 15 Boys bounce back to beat “Riders”**

**YBL Under 15 Boys Primis**

**Leicester “Riders” 39 – 59 Northants “Thunder”**

Battered and bruised from their National League game against Warwickshire “Hawks” the previous day the Northants “Thunder” Under 15 Boys took to the floor for a YBL Primis fixture against Leicester “Riders”.

The team showed no ill effects from the defeat against “Hawks” and thanks to some excellent defence established a 30 points to 12 lead by half time. “Riders” looked a lot better team in the second half but “Thunder” were able to extend their lead taking the third quarter 17-12. “Thunder” were guilty of relaxing a little too much in the final stanza which “Riders” edged 14-12 but the final result was never in doubt.

For the second time in the weekend “Riders” produced an illegible scoresheet but the “Thunder” statistician was able to confirm that Logan Tanner top scored for “Thunder” with a 16 point haul good support coming from Oliwier Andrzejczak with 12 points.

**Under 14 Boys hold on to beat “Hawks”**

**Under 14 Boys Midlands Conference**

**Warwickshire “Hawks” 55 – 60 Northants “Thunder”**

The Northants “Thunder” Under 14 boys maintained their unbeaten record with a five points win over Warwickshire “Hawks” last Saturday but made life very difficult or themselves by losing the final quarter by 12 points to 22. Going into the final stanza “Thunder” were holding a 48-33 lead thanks to stunning third quarter which they won 16-4, but during the last ten minutes of the game they were guilty of poor clock management and bad shot selection.

The “Thunder” boys had recovered from a poor start to the game which saw them miss numerous easy scoring opportunities and allowing their opponents to edge the first quarter 11-10. Seven players contributed to the scoring in the second quarter which “Thunder” took 22-18 to establish a 32-29 half time lead. Then came the superb third quarter defensive effort and a 12-zero run to give them the decisive 15 point lead but Coach Brad Hughes wasn’t pleased with the way his team relaxed in that fourth quarter. He commented, “My team presses well but when we have established a lead and are forced by the rules to defend in the half court we are much less effective.

In the five point victory nine “Thunder” players scored only Al Mustafa Yin getting to double figures with 10 points but the defensive efforts of Freddie Schryver with 11 steals worthy of mention.

**Second big win for “Lightning Too”**

**Under 14 Girls East Regional League**

**Norfolk “Inceni” 39 – 85 Northants “Lightning Too”**

The Northants “Lightning” second team travelled to Norwich expecting to play two games but for the second week running Southend “Scorpions” failed to field a team, leaving the Northants girls with just one game against Norfolk Iceni.

Playing up-tempo basketball “Lightning” dominated the game with the home team only competitive in the third quarter. “Lightning” shared the ball well throughout the game and as a result nine of Adam Latimer’s ten players contributed to the scoring led by Macie Latimer with a 22 point haul.

Coach Latimer expressed his pleasure at the way his team had gelled as a group and is optimistic about a successful season in the new East Regional League

**Under 13 Girls reign supreme in Daventry**

**Under 13 Girls YBL**

**Northants “Lightning” 56 - 25 Nuneaton “Predators”**

**Daventry “Swifts” 4 -41 Northants “Lightning”**

The Northants “Lightning” Under 13 Girls team made the short trip to Daventry for their second YBL tournament of the season and picked up two comfortable wins.

Arriving early at the venue Northants coach Shane Rowland was able watch “Predators” play the hosts and he was able to identify that the Nuneaton outfit had two useful players so allocated capable defenders to ‘mark’ them when the two teams met.

With limited warm up time the “Lightning” girls made a slow start against “Predators” and were guilty of missing a number of easy shots which seemed to affect their confidence. However despite only scoring 17 points they were able to limit their opponents to eight after the first quarter.

“Lightning’s” tenacious defence continued in the second quarter with “Predators” managing just four points to “Lightning’s” 14 and with a 31-12 half time score Nuneaton had a lot to do in the final two quarters of play. In the event they managed just another 13 points as “Lightning” ran out comfortable 55 to 25 winners.

Having seen Daventry heavily beaten by Nuneaton the biggest danger for “Lightning” was complacency. Coach Rowland made sure there was never any danger of this, and “Lightning” strolled to a comfortable win against a gutsy but very inexperienced “Swifts” team.

**THIS WEEKEND’S ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday 28th October**

**There are NO “Ballers” sessions or home games this weekend.**

Under 18 Boys travel to Worcester “Wolves”

Under 16 Boys travel to Northamptonshire “Titans II”

Under 12 Boys travel to Birmingham “Bears”

**Sunday 29th October**

Under 17 Girls travel to Abingdon “Eagles”

Under 14 Boys travel to West Bromwich

Under 11 Girls ‘A’ and ‘B’ teams play in a Rose of the Shires Tournament at UoN

For further information on this Press Release contact:

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