

9th January 2017

Our U14 girls were back in Cork league action away to Mallow after the Christmas break. Following the shock closure of CBS gym prior to Christmas, the girls only had one training session over the holiday period. There was therefore definite signs of ring rustiness in their play.

The girls, while not playing particularly well, always held a slender lead in the first half and went in at the interval 24-18 ahead. With the strong starting five on court for the third quarter, it was felt that our girls would push on in the game and extend their lead. Instead it was Mallow who came out fired up for the third quarter and imposed themselves on the game. Heading towards the end of the quarter, Mallow had edged into 30-28 lead and a huge shock looked on the cards.

A time out was called by coach Dorothy Kavanagh and this worked wonders. The girls defence had been quite poor up to then. There was no intensity in their defence and our girls had been allowing Mallow cheap and uncontested baskets. There was a much steelier focus to our girls' play after the time out. They quickly scored 3 baskets to end the quarter 34-30 ahead. They continued with their high intensity game in the final quarter and began to play with much more purpose. The pace of the game began to take its toll on the Mallow girls as they tired markedly in the final quarter. Gaps began appearing in their defence which our girls soon began to exploit. The girls outscored Mallow 18-4 in the final quarter to win out a tough game on a scoreline of 52-34.

Jana Zundel had an excellent game scoring 12 points, with Bronagh Dollard back from injury, top scoring on 16 points.

The girls have a busy schedule next weekend. They play Skibbereen in the quarter finals of the Cork championship, followed by a Cork league game against Blue Demons and a North Munster league game against Morning Star.

Our U11, U12 and U13 girls are also in action against Morning Star while our senior Scholars may have a North Munster league game during the week.

The club wish to express their gratitude to the wider basketball community in Limerick for all their support following the shock and sudden closure of CBS gym, our home venue for the past 15 years. We would especially like to thank Limerick Lions Basketball Club who have given us tremendous support over the past few weeks and St Vincents Centre, Lisnagry for the use of their gym facilities at such short notice.

16th January 2017

It was a hectic week on the court with a number of our teams in action.

Both our ladies teams were back in North Munster League action after the holiday period.

Our Saints were first in action against Springfield. There was definitely a lack of sharpness to the Saints play which can be attributed to the long break from competitive action. They played in fits and starts but occasionally showed glimpses of what this team can achieve when on song. The Saints defence was rock solid and this laid the foundation for a 42-20 win.

The Saints welcomed Lynsey Purcell back after been away for the first half of the season and she top scored on 8 points beside Sharon Griffin, followed by Joanne DeLoughrey and Siobhan Keane on 6 points apiece.

Our Scholars also recorded a win but their game against Tipperary Talons was a much tighter affair. The first half was cagey with defences for both teams on top. Scores were hard to come by as reflected by a score line of 12-12 at the interval. The game opened up in the second half with Talons edging into a 6 point lead. However there is a wealth of experience in the Scholars side and soon they erased the deficit and edged ahead by a basket going into the final quarter. Both sides matched each other score for score in the final quarter, but crucially the Scholars always held the lead and closed out the match on a score line of 34-30.

Top Scorers for Scholars were Nuala O' Flaherty 11, Orla Blake 8 and Eimear O' Malley 4

Our U14 girls continued their rich vein of form by defeating Skibbereen in the quarter finals of the Cork Championship. The girls went about their business right from the tip off scoring the first 7 points without reply. Both sides matched each other scoring wise for the rest of the first half with our girls holding a 22-12 interval lead. Our girls played to a different level in the second half. Their defence was incredible and only allowed their shell shocked opponents a solitary basket in all of the second half. They were efficient on the offensive boards tagging on 12 points in both the third and fourth quarters to ease to a 46-14 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 14, Sophie Moore 12 and Abbie Pigott 10 with solid defensive performances by Lucia McGill and Allannah O' Connell.

The girls were back on the court the following day in North Munster League action against Morning Star. Morning Star were just unfortunate to come up against a side that is currently playing with a very high level of confidence. The girls were just too strong for their game opponents and ruthlessly put this game to bed in the first quarter. They went in at the end of the quarter 27-3 ahead before easing to an easy 76-12 win.

There was a good spread of scoring throughout the team with eight players scoring 4 or more points in the game. Lucy Liston had by far her best game of the season scoring 9 points. Aoife O' Neill continues to go about her job quietly and efficiently and scored her usual 6 points.

Our U13 Development squad played Morning Star U14 girls in a challenge game as they prepare for next season. The girls had a shaky start and end to their game but played some excellent basketball in the middle 2 quarters. If they could be more consistent throughout their games they will soon be winning matches.

Best for the girls were Susannah Holland, Megan Cunningham, and Amy Minihan

Our U12 girls were again much changed for their league outing with Morning Star. While a lot of players are getting valuable court time experience, the lack of continuity in team selections is

probably costing the team victories in the short run. The U12s on the day just fell short in a 18-21 defeat despite some good play by Kate Barry, Elisha Noonan, Nofeesaf Muniru and Julina Ryan.

Our U11 girls with a number of U10 girls on the team won their game against Morning Star on a score line of 23-16. Our girls second and fourth quarter performances proved decisive in this game. Best for the girls on the day were Melissa Do, Grace Liston and Daria Radonovic.

Next week is unusually quiet with Our Senior Scholars playing Kingfisher in the North Munster League while our U10 and U12 girls are away to Glen Cruisers.

23rd January 2017

Our senior Scholars team came unstuck against Kingfisher in their North Munster league encounter. They started brightly and went into an early 9-2 lead with some good outside shooting by Noreen Campbell and Nuala O' Flaherty. However in the next 15 minutes they could only muster 1 free throw as their scoring touch deserted them. They dominated possession in this period but just had one of those nights. Shots rimmed in and out and nothing dropped for them as Kingfisher opened up a 24-10 lead. The Scholars upped the pace in the second half but again could not convert their efforts into scores. Kingfisher on the other hand were converting a high percentage of their shots from limited possession and duly won out on a score line of 41-32.

Top scorers for Scholars were Michelle Walsh 8, Emily Kavanagh 5 and Eimear O' Malley 4.

Our U10 and U12 girls were away to Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League. The U10 game was an entertaining affair with both teams matching each other score for score until Grace Liston scored a succession of baskets for our girls. The girls showed a huge improvement in their defence and will be delighted with another solid outing. Girls to shine on the day were Isobel, Jade, Sarah and Molly.

Our U12 girls team on the day was mainly made up of U11 players and debutantes. Both Giselle Keogh and Gabriella Szymacha made their debuts for the club and both played very well. Our girls dominated proceedings in the first half and opened up a 15-0 interval lead. Glen Cruisers played a number of their taller players in the second half and this paid dividends as they brought the score back to 15-9. However a late basket by Melissa Do sealed a hard earned but well deserved 17-9 win.

Best for Colms on the day were Giselle Keogh, Melissa Do, Natasha O' Neill and Nofeesaf Muniru.

Our U14 girls, unusually for them, had a weekend off from competitive action. They took the opportunity to play Limerick Lions U14 Boys in a challenge game. This was a high quality game with both sets of players determined to get the win. In the end it was the boys who prevailed by 4 points.

Next week is another quiet week before a very hectic period for the club.

Our U14 girls are away to Carrigaline in the Cork League while our senior Saints are in North Munster league action against Shannon.