

6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The new basketball season got underway with both our U12 and U15 girls in Cork League action away to Ballincollig.

There were mixed results with the U12s recording a win while the U15s fell to a defeat.

The U12 girls took some time to get going in their game spurning a lot of scoring opportunities early on, to leave the score 4-2 in favour of Colms at the end of the first quarter. With the 5 players rotation rule in place at U12 level, the game would be decided by the strength of the two teams' second quarter units. Colms proved much too strong in this quarter outscoring their opponents 14-0. Ballincollig came back strongly in the third quarter to only trail 12- 20 going into the final quarter. However with Colms strong second quarter five players back on court to play the final quarter, the result was quickly put to bed with our girls recording a morale boosting 30-12 win.

There was a decent spread of scoring amongst the girls with three players scoring 6 points apiece, Jana Zundel, Sarah o' Brien and Abbie Pigott. There were also strong defensive performances by Sarah Moloney, Sinead Moynihan and Hannah Barry.

Our 14 girls playing up at U15 level in Cork found the going tough. The girls will play a five on five rotation for a number of these games to garner court experience and build a decent playing squad. This policy will suffer many teething problems early in the season, as the right rotation balance is sought.

After a slow and nervous start to the game, the girls eventually settled down to the task in hand. The five on five off rotation left the girls well in arrears in the first half. They did improve significantly and were more than a match for their opponents in the second half. Ballincollig had a significant advantage with their 6' 2" centre who towered over our girls and inflicted serious damage on the offensive boards. She top scored in Ballincollig's 53-15 win.

Best for Colms on the day were Orla Zundel, Emma McDonnell and Aoife Morrissey. There was also a welcome return for Zara Haugh after more than a year away from the game.

Our senior ladies teams start their campaigns this week with games against Newport and UL Huskies respectively.

13<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Our two senior ladies teams kicked off the new basketball season in style, with each team recording a win.

The Saints started off their season with a home game against an under strength Newport team. This game was settled very early with the Saints storming into an early 12-0 lead which they never relinquished. Newport came a little back into the game but still found themselves 10-28 in arrears at half time. The second half followed a similar pattern to the first half with the Saints dominating the early stages to put clear daylight between the two teams. Newport rallied in the final quarter, but Colms always held the upper hand to record a well deserved 54-29 win.

All eleven players saw plenty of court time with 10 of the players on the score sheet.

Top scorers for Saints were Emma Cleary 14, Noreen Campbell and Ciara Meaney on 8 apiece followed by Deirdre Barton on 7.

The Scholars went into their game against UL Huskies minus a few key players. They soon found themselves 2-6 in arrears as they struggled initially with the height of their opponents. It took the girls really until the second quarter to get going and they soon opened up a significant 7 point lead. They comfortably maintained a lead of between 5 and 9 points for the rest of the game before closing out for a 33-26 win, in a low scoring affair.

The girls will certainly need to up their offensive game in the future.

Top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 12, Joani Hargrow 6, Emily Kavanagh 5 and Fiona O' Connell 4.

Both teams are again in action next week with the Saints away to Thurles and the Scholars hosting LIT.

20<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Our Senior ladies teams had contrasting fortunes in their North Munster League Campaign. The Saints fell to an away defeat against Thurles while the Scholars were much too strong against a very weak LIT team.

The Saints must be kicking themselves after their loss to Thurles. It took them an age to get going and found themselves 0-12 in arrears early in the game. Slowly the ladies dragged themselves back into the game and going into the final quarter only trailed 26-33 with the impetus now definitely with the away side. However, just when clinical finishing was required on the offensive boards, the ladies fell short. Despite getting into excellent scoring positions, they spurned golden opportunities. This allowed Thurles to regroup and win out on a final scoreline of 46-33.

There were enough positives for the Saints to take from this game. A little more composure under the Boards is required for this team to get back to winning ways.

Top scorers for Colms on the night were Joanne Deloughrey and Deirdre Barton on 8 points apiece.

The Scholars despite missing a number of key players were much too strong against LIT who were completely outplayed on the night. The Scholars scored at will in the first half to lead 43-9 at the interval. With the game won, the Scholars eased off somewhat in the second half to record a facile 69-22 win.

Top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 15, Fiona O' Connell 13 and Emily Kavanagh 12.

Next week both the ladies teams are again in action. The Saints host Tipperary while the Scholars travel to Ennis for an away game against Kingfisher.

Our U15s are in Cork league action with an away game in Killarney against TK Killarney Cougars.

28<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Our Senior Saints team got back to winning ways with the narrowest win over Tipperary in the North Munster League.

The Ladies started reasonably well and opened up a first quarter lead of 15-9 courtesy of two “3” pointers by Laurie Brosnan and Noreen Campbell respectively.

Emma Cleary came off the bench in the second quarter to score 6 points and stretch the lead out to 23-16. However it was evident that the Saints were revisiting old problems by not converting opportunities into scores.

Confidence began to dip and frustration grew as scoring chances were spurned. Tipperary sensed the uneasiness in the Saints play and began to chip away at the lead and edged into a slender lead entering the dying moments of the game.

Emma Cleary won the game for the Saints however, by hitting three late free throws to leave the final score 40-39.

Top scorers for Saints were Emma Cleary 12, Noreen Campbell 9 and Siobhan Keane 4.

The Saints are away to Celtics next week while our Senior Scholars are away to Nenagh.

Our U15 girls put in a nervous and ragged performance away to Killarney Cougars in the Cork League. The girls were always second best to a more eager home side and can have no complaints with the final score.

If these young girls could shed some of their nerves that are presently afflicting them, they should start playing to their potential.

Best for Colms on the day were Hazel Dineen, Emma McDonnell and Zara Haugh.

Our U11, U12 U14 and U16 girls host Springfield in the North Munster league while our U13 Cratloe girls will be making their North Munster League debut in the U14 League, also against Springfield.