

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

Both our U16 and U18 teams opened their Cork League campaign last Sunday with a trip to Waterford to play Wildcats.

Our U18 girls were first in action and were hoping to avenge their defeat in the National Cup the previous weekend. The girls went into the game minus Sarah Woods and Sarah Collery, but were in confident mood that they could exact revenge.

A rotation policy was employed in the game with the plan to keep the team fresh when it came to the business end of the game. Both Emma O'Rourke and Lorna Boland who had been used sparingly the previous weekend worked tirelessly in defence and can be satisfied with their performances.

Aoife O'Connell who started off quietly, came more in to the game and scored some decisive baskets when needed most.

The game was a tight affair right throughout with never more than 5 points separating the teams at any given time. However this week, it was our girls who finished the stronger. The game was tied with just over a minute to go before 2 free throws each by Lynsey Purcell and Niamh Hannan toughed out the win on a scoreline of 43-39.

Orlaith Woods was the game's top scorer on 22 points followed by Aoife O'Connell on 7.

Our U16 girls started in blistering fashion in their game against Wildcats and led 9-0 early in the game led by Chloe Dineen and Caoimhe Gleeson. Wildcats slowly started to settle and helped by some great outside shooting, had brought the half time deficit down to a single point. The third quarter continued to be close before Wildcats exerted a little bit of control in the final quarter to win an entertaining game on a scoreline of 45-38. The girls should be pleased with their performance, in their first game of the season. Wildcats had a few games under their belt already this season and this probably was the difference in the end, between the two teams. There were signs of significant improvement in some of our players, most notably Megan Greene and Aileen O'Connor.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 16 and Ciara O'Halloran 15 who are already showing the benefits of training with the U18 squad this season.

The club have no games next weekend, as the weekend has been set aside for bag packing to aid the club's fund raising.

17<sup>th</sup> October 2011

The new season of the senior Ladies North Munster league started up last week. Our scholars began their campaign away to Foynes Flyers with a solid win on a scoreline of 71 to 32. The game was a great exercise for our much changed scholars team, as it allowed the players to familiarise themselves with new combinations and positions. The team employed a high intensity in defense which was the cornerstone of the victory. Their defense put constant pressure on the Foynes offence resulting in quick turnovers and fast break opportunities. It was only when our girls moved back into zone did it allow Foynes some respite. All in all the team has a much better balanced look to it, and this was evident with a decent spread in the scoring stakes. Ciara Meaney on 18 points was the game's top scorer with Niamh Barton 15 and Anna Keyes 12 next on the list. Niamh Ni Cheallachoir was the catalyst however for the team's good work.

The scholars host Nenagh next week with our Saints starting their campaign with an away game against UL.

Our U16 girls travelled to Cork last Saturday to compete in an open tournament. The tournament was a welcome opportunity for the girls to get much needed games and also to work on a new offense. The girls started the day with a loss to Tralee Imperials and a win over Kanturk in their pool to set up a quarter final clash with Brunell. The pool games afforded all the players some decent court time with Sarah Murray making her debut for the team.

The girls were taking some time getting used to their new offence and found Brunell in no mood to allow them experiment. They stormed into an early 17 point lead and things certainly looked bleak. There were signs however that the new tactics were beginning to work and slowly the girls worked themselves back into contention. The passing and movement on offense was getting much slicker and the girls began to get inside the Brunell defense. The deficit was down to 12 by half time and down to 6 at the end of the third quarter. Mid way through the final quarter, only two points separated the teams before two late turnovers proved costly resulting in Brunell escaping with a 38 33 win. The girls that participated on the day were Lynsey Purcell, Chloe Dineen, Grace Kavanagh, Sarah Murray, Roisin Duggan, Ciara Stapleton, Megan Greene, Becky Cleary, Caoimhe Gleeson and Ciara O' Halloran, and all can be pleased with their day's work.

The girls have an early opportunity to exact revenge when the sides meet again next Saturday in the Cork league. Our U18 girls also host Brunell in an eagerly anticipated game. Both these teams travel to Ennistymon with their U16 Saints counterparts the following Sunday for North Munster league games against Clare Cascaders.

The U16 Saints and U12 girls also play Newport on Saturday in the North Munster league.

24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

A number of our juvenile teams opened their North Munster league campaigns last weekend. Our U12 and U16 were the first teams in action with away games against Newport. A number of our U12 girls were making their competitive debuts after coming up from the U10 team last season. It took a little time for the girls to settle, but once they did, put up an excellent display. They showed definite signs of improvement as the game progressed. Even though they were on the wrong side of a 14-19 scoreline, the game will have done them a lot of good. Ruth Dollard and Muireann Scanlon top scored for the girls, with Alva O' Brien doing great work in defence.

Our U16 Saints were very sluggish in the first half of their game against Newport and found themselves 3 points down at the interval. After a stern talk from their coach, they stepped up in the second half, to take control and win the game on a scoreline of 31-15. Fiona O' Connell top scored on 9 points with Eimear Dollard next on 6.

Our U16 Scholars, U18 and U16 Saints travelled to Ennistymon the following day for further North Munster games. Our U16 Scholars just about held the upperhand in their game to win out on a scoreline of 42-37. Cascaders have definitely improved from last season and were a serious threat with their outside shooting. However Chloe Dineen had her best game for some time for Scholars and ran the show in the absence of the injured Lynsey Purcell. She scored 11 points and was at the heart of everything positive in the game.. Caoimhe Gleeson and Ciara O' Halloran dominated the boards at both ends and combined for 23 points.

Our U18 girls started the defence of their title with a comfortable win on a scoreline of 58-13. In truth the girls were much too strong, showing the benefits of competing in the ultra competitive Cork League. They could afford to leave their starting five on the bench for long stretches of this game, and allow the rest of the panel plenty of playing time.

Top scorers were Orlaith Woods 20, Niamh Hannan 14 and Ciara O' Halloran 11.

Our u16 Saints were a revelation on the day and were completely unrecognisable from the team in Newport the previous day. In a rip roaring game that went to overtime, the girls just fell short on a scoreline of 39-42. Very little separated the teams throughout as the Saints played at a strong tempo to keep tabs with their opponents. A significant gap opened up with just over 3 minutes remaining with Cascaders leading by 9. However the Saints displayed a never say die attitude with a stunning comeback to tie the game 37 apiece at the end of normal time, helped by two huge "3" pointers from Jane Clohessy. With both teams in foul trouble, Cascaders did just enough in the overtime period to escape with the slender win.

Jane Clohessy and Jessica O' Brien top scored on 13 and 12 points respectively.

However this was a true team performance, with all the players worthy of mention.

Both our U16 and U18 teams were at a home to Brunell in the Cork league. Both teams' preparations were disrupted by the news that Lynsey Purcell would miss both games due to injury.

The U16s minus long term injury victim Aoife Keegan and now Lynsey never got going and were a pale imitation of the team the previous week. Brunell were allowed

to dominate from start to finish and eased to a comfortable 57-27 win. Best for Colms on the night were Caoimhe Gleeson 10 and Sarah Murray 6.

Our U18s can lay their defeat down squarely to an awful second quarter performance where they continuously gave the ball away. Brunell outscored our girls 24-6 in this quarter alone. The girls did rally in the second half, but never really got close to a very strong Brunell team losing out on a scoreline of 44-60. Orlaith Woods had a game high 28 points for Colms.

Both our senior teams were in action during the week, with both coming out on the wrong side of narrow defeats.

The Scholars never really got going in offence against Nenagh, as the new players continue to bed in. Their offences were rushed with the wrong options often been taken.

There are signs that when this team does click, they will be a formidable outfit. Deirdre Barton was best for Scholars top scoring on 10 points, together with her sister Niamh. Sadly it was not enough to avoid a 38-35 defeat.

The Saints are also getting used to a new set up and players. Nevertheless they put up a very encouraging performance losing out 36-46 in their game against UL. A dip in concentration in the third quarter proved their undoing. Emily Kavanagh top scored on 11 points followed closely by Ashling Stapleton and Nuala O' Flaherty.

Both our senior teams are in action again next week with our Scholars away to Shannon and our Saints in Nenagh.

31<sup>st</sup> October 2011

Our two senior teams were the only teams in action, on what was a quiet week, playing wise, for the club.

Our scholars travelled to Shannon to play the host club. Shannon were much the better team in the first half and opened up a healthy 26-13 interval lead. The scholars took some time to familiarise themselves with their new set up, but still did not help themselves in the first half with some rushed offences. This played into their opponents hands. The scholars improved somewhat in the second half, and upped their defense considerably. However their failings continued at the other end of the court as they found scores hard to come by. It was only in the final quarter, that things began to click. They began to make serious inroads into the deficit, but just ran out of time falling to a 39-33 defeat.

Niamh Barton was the game's top scorer on 17 points with notable contributions by Niamh Ni Cheilleachair on 6 and Noreen Campbell on 5.

Our Saints travelled to Nenagh and were on the wrong end of a comprehensive 43-11 defeat. The Saints had a complete off night where nothing went right, and hopefully this can be put down to a one off experience.

The mid term break means a curtailed playing programme next week. Our U16 and U18 girls will be the only teams in action as they each make two trips to Cork. Our U16 girls have two very difficult assignments against the top 2 teams in Cork in Brunell and Glanmire. The U18s assignments are equally as tough, playing Glanmire and Skibereen.