

13th April 2015

It was a busy week of basketball with the club entering two teams in the Listowel Easter Festival of basketball. Our U14 girls were also in action in the AICC in Portlaoise.

Our U14 girls were a revelation in Portlaoise and if certain results had fallen their way, they could have ended up much higher in the rankings. The girls' first game was against a strong Tralee Imperials side. The girls led at the end of the first quarter but found their Kerry opponents to be a little stronger for the rest of the game.

Following their defeat to Tralee, it was important for the girls to get a result in their next game against Kiltimagh Giants to stay in the Division Two competition. This was a cracking game with both teams giving it their all. The lead changed hands a number of times throughout the game before the Mayo girls edged a win on a score line of 32-30.

The girls had to pick themselves up for a game against Phoenix from Northern Ireland immediately after. The girls found it difficult to break down their much taller opponents and found themselves 8 points down going into the final quarter. However there was a never say die attitude with these girls all the way throughout the weekend. Somehow they summoned up enough energy to mount a serious comeback and got to within 1 point with less than a minute to go. Unfortunately, try as they might they could not get that vital winning score, their efforts deserved, with their opponents desperately hanging on for a 38-37 win.

The following morning the girls finally got the win their Trojan efforts deserved when they beat Castlebar Comets 46-21. With Bronagh Dollard completely shutting down their opponent's dangerous point guard, the Mayo girls had no response to our girls who were in no mood to lose out.

The four games that the girls played were probably the best basketball these girls have played all season. They bonded as a team with no squad member letting her side down. This team gave a 110% effort and can be immensely proud of how they represented their club and families over the weekend.

4 players really shone over the weekend with Aoife Morrissey, Bronagh Dollard, Emma McDonnell and Orla Zundel definite stars for the future. They got huge support from the rest of their team mates, Hazel Dinneen, Siofra Gleeson, Caoimhe Hogan, Elaine Murray, Ciara Griffin, Isabelle Meaney and Jana Zundel.

Meanwhile down in Listowel, after the pool games, results conspired so that both Colms teams would meet in the quarter finals of the plate competition. The Scholars proved a little too strong for the Saints and went forward to meet Corrib in the semi finals. Despite missing Bronagh Dollard and Jana Zundel who were away on AICC duty, the girls proved too strong for their Galway opponents to earn a place in the final against Malahide from Dublin. Alas on the day Malahide proved to be the better team winning out by 5 points in a well contested game. This competition was great experience for our Cratloe based girls with Jody O' Halloran, Cliona Murphy, Andrea Murphy-Wright and Fiona Crowe really stepping up their performances as the

tournament progressed. There were also strong performances from the more established players, Abbie, Lucy, Julia, Buki, Nancy, Hannah and Lucia.

Best for the Saints were Grainne McKeogh, Ciara Griffin, Isabelle Meaney and Lucy Earls.

Next Saturday our U12 girls are in top 4 action in Cork with a semi final against either Lee Valley or Skibereen.