

6th February 2012

Our younger age groups took centre stage this week with our U10, U12 and U14 girls all in action.

The club hosted an U10 blitz for our U10 girls with invited teams from UL, Morning Star and Springfield also participating. There was a large turnout to witness some stars for the future. These mini tournaments are great experience for these young girls, as it allows them the opportunity to play basketball in a non competitive environment. Some of our young players that shone on the day were Aoife Murray, Aoife Morrissey, Aoibhainn Smyth and Alex Fitzpatrick.

Our U14 girls continue to show improvement as the season progresses. The girls hosted Newport in the North Munster League hoping to continue their recent winning streak. The girls just about managed to beat Newport by 6 points in their opening game of the season back in October. However, this time there was no doubt who the winners would be. Our girls took control right from the start to open up a 29-6 interval lead, before easing to a 49-20 win.

The game gave an opportunity for the club to give two more of our U12 players namely Ruth Dollard and Anna Sheahan, an opportunity to play up a level. Both acquitted themselves well in the game.

There was a nice spread of scoring on the team with 10 of the panel getting on the scoresheet. Top scorers were Julia Skalska 8, Jane Clohessy 8 and Caoimhe Lee 7.

Our U12 girls despite losing to Newport by 22 to 13 in their league encounter, are also developing nicely as a team. These young girls really put it up to their older and taller opponents with a gutsy and skilful display. The girls were hampered by their lack of physicality as Newport controlled the boards. However, in all other aspects of the game, our girls outplayed their opponents. If our girls had been a little bit more clinical with their finishing, they could have easily won this game.

Players to shine on the day were Hazel Dineen, Zara Haugh, Orla Zundel and Caoimhe Hogan.

Our Senior Scholars will have to wait on the outcome of other results to determine whether they will play in the top 5 of the North Munster league after falling to defeat to Celtics.

The club would like this opportunity to congratulate both UL superleague teams on winning the National Cup and especially former players Jason Killeen, Diarmuid O' Donovan and Rachel Clancy who started their basketball careers with St Colms.

Both our senior ladies teams are in action in the North Munster Cup which starts up next week. Our Saints host Nenagh, while our Scholars are away to Newport.

Our U18 girls are back in Cork League action with an away game to Fr Mathews. In the North Munster underage leagues, our U16 Saints host UL, while our U12, U14 and U18 teams are in action against Springfield.

13th February 2012

It was a disappointing week on the playing front with 4 of our teams falling to narrow defeats. In truth, all defeats were self inflicted and therefore there can be no complaints. Our Senior Scholars and Under 18 girls recorded deserved wins to alleviate some of the disappointments in the week.

Our senior Saints bowed out of the North Munster Cup at the first hurdle losing to Nenagh by 9 points. The Saints let this game slip away from them in the first quarter. Although they worked hard in the second and third quarter, they were guilty of switching off in defense at the end of both these quarters. This allowed Nenagh score 2 “3” pointers at the end of each quarter to always keep them 7 to 9 points ahead. Aisling Stapleton and Emily Kavanagh were best for Saints.

There was better news with the Senior Scholars advancing in the cup with a great away win to Newport. This game was tight in the first half with Scholars leading 25-17. However the second half was all one way traffic with the Scholars easing to a comfortable 49-25 win.

Top scorers for Scholars were Joanne Deloughrey 16 (including 4 “3” pointers), Niamh Barton 10 and Siobhain Keane 6.

Our U16 Saints did their best to lose their U16 North Munster League game with UL, and succeeded falling to a 41-39 defeat. The girls were on top for long stretches of this game, but were never able to convert that superiority onto the scoreboard. This allowed UL to always hang in there. At the business end of the game, our girls began to panic and rush offenses, giving up the ball cheaply and allowing UL to sneak the win.

Top scorers for Saints were Eimear Dollard 12, Fiona O’ Connell 11 and Jane Clohessy 10.

Our U18 girls travelled to Cork to play Fr Mathews in the Cork league and came away with a well deserved win on a scoreline of 55-38. This win was achieved on the back of a scintillating 4th quarter performance in which the girls scored 23 points. The win came at a cost with point guard Aoife O’ Connell going over her ankle after scoring the opening basket of the game after 5 seconds.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 21, Niamh Hannan 16 and Caoimhe Gleeson 13.

The girls capped a good weekend with a very comfortable 62-24 win against Springfield in the North Munster league. The girls were much too strong for their opponents opening up a commanding 24-2 first quarter lead, before running their bench.

There was a debut for U16 player Ciara Stapleton in place of the injured Aoife O’ Connell with good performances also by Sarah Woods, Lorna Boland and Emma O’ Rourke.

Our U12 girls blew a great chance to record a win over Springfield in the North Munster League. The girls were well on top in the first half leading 10-3 in a low scoring affair. However a poor second half performance undid all their good work,

managing to lose out on a scoreline of 12-16. There were good performances by Lauren Walsh, Suzie Smith and Ruth Dollard.

Our U14 girls were a huge disappointment in their defeat to Springfield. The girls had been most impressive in the previous few weeks, and therefore this performance was difficult to accept. The girls never settled, and played at too high a tempo with little or no control to their play. They spurned scoring opportunities one after another especially in the first half. Frustration then crept into their play, as they gave away ball after ball to their opponents, to gift wrap them the game 23-21.

Naomi Keogh, Caoimhe Lee and Muireann Scanlon were really the only players to come out of this game with some credit.

Maybe this performance will be a wake up call for this talented group of players. They face a big test next week in the Johnny Murphy U14 Invitational Tournament in Mallow. They are in a difficult pool with Waterford Wildcats and Ballincollig and will need a big step up in performance if they are to progress.

Our U18 girls have a huge cup game at home to the current National Cup champions Brunell next weekend with our U16 girls hosting Glanmire in the Cork league.

20th February 2012

St Colms welcomed current U18 National Cup Champions Brunell to Limerick last Saturday for a Cork championship game. A sizable crowd was in attendance to watch the best U18 team in Ireland in action against our girls.

They were not disappointed, as they witnessed an absorbing match that was competitive to the end. It was the little things that eventually proved the difference between the two teams. Brunell were just that little bit more clinical with their finishing compared to our girls. They also had fewer turnovers in a game, where most errors were punished by both teams. This paved the way for the Cork team to end up victorious on a scoreline of 61-49.

The girls put up a great performance but were just beaten by the better team.

Orlaith Woods continued her excellent season with a game high 26 points, with other good performances by Aoife O' Connell and Sarah Woods.

Our u16 girls were in Cork League action against Glanmire prior to the U18 game. A number of the U16/U18 crossover players were used sparingly in the U16 game to keep them fresh for the cup game. Some of the younger players such as Ruth Dollard were making their debut in the Cork League and naturally needed time to adjust to the higher pace and standard of these games.

In the end Glanmire proved much too strong winning out 55-14 against an experimental home side.

Best for Colms were Chloe Dineen and Ciara Stapleton.

Our U14 girls travelled to Mallow for the Johnny Murphy tournament and reached the quarter finals losing out to top Cork side Carraig na Bhfear. This was a great experience for the girls playing against some of the top teams in the country. Players that shone on the day were Jane Clohessy, Laura O' Shea and Ruth Butler.

Our U16 girls have a big week ahead. They have a cup semi final clash against Brunell. This game will be extra difficult as the girls will be missing Caoimhe Gleeson due to exam commitments. They are in Cork again for a league game against Ballincollig followed by a home game in the North Munster league against Clare Cascaders.

Our U18 girls are also away to Ballincollig in the Cork league, while our U16 saints are in action too against Clare Cascaders.

Our Senior Scholars host UL in the North Munster Senior league.

27th February 2012

St Colms Basketball Club are entering a few busy weeks as we get to the business end of the season. Our U16 girls were certainly kept very busy with three games in the space of 4 days last week, which included two trips to Cork.

The girls first game of the week was a Cork cup game against Brunell. The girls went into the game without the influential Caoimhe Gleeson due to exam commitments. As a result, they found scores hard to come by .but good defense kept them competitive. They stayed with Brunell until the start of the 4th quarter, at which time they only trailed by 10. However, it was apparent that Colms just did not have the firepower on the night to close this gap. With two important games on the horizon, Coach Slattery played his bench for the final quarter, before Brunell eased to a 45-12 win.

Best for Colms were Chloe Dineen and Aileen O' Connor.

The girls were back in Cork two nights later for a Cork league game against Ballincollig. The girls travelled with a full panel. The girls controlled this game from the start and opened up an 18-4 interval lead. The girls did drop their defensive intensity in the second half but were never seriously troubled before winning out 38-19.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 10, Ciara O' Halloran 8 and Lynsey Purcell 8.

The following morning these same girls played their 3rd game on the bounce with an important home game against Clare Cascaders in the North Munster league. Colms started the brighter and opened up a 6 point lead early in the game. This gap never really deviated for the rest of the first half with Colms holding a slender 20-16 interval lead. Colms did extend the gap to 7 by the end of the third quarter but Cascaders hit 2 quick early baskets in the 4th quarter to reduce the deficit to 3. A quick time out was called by Colms to focus some minds. The girls came back from the time out in more determined mood. They outscored their opponents 16 -4 in the final 5 minutes to secure a vital 47-32 win.

Top scorers on the day were Ciara O' Halloran 19, Lynsey Purcell 12 and Meagan Greene 4.

Our U16 Saints also hosted Clare Cascaders on the day in the North Munster League.

The Saints started very brightly and opened up an early 8 point lead. However slowly but surely Cascaders began to get on top against their younger opponents and by half time the Saints lead was down to 3, 18-15. A strong third quarter performance by the Clare side settled the outcome of this game. The Saints did rally again in the final quarter, but Cascaders always held the edge to win an entertaining game 43-31.

Best for Saints were Eimear Dollard 11, Jessica O' Brien 6 and Sarah Murray 4.

Our U18 girls were in Cork league action away to Ballincollig, looking for a win to keep their top 4 aspirations alive. The girls defense in the first half was quite poor allowing Ballincollig uncontested outside shots. Three different zone defenses were deployed in the first half with little improvement in defense forthcoming. Despite this, the girls managed to lead at the interval 25-17 on the back of some good inside plays by Niamh Hannan and Ciara O' Halloran.

In the second half, Colms switched to man to man defence. This worked the oracle as the Ballincollig offence was completely shut down and incredibly, were kept scoreless for the entire second half. At the other end of the court, the girls were picking off their scores to win out 47-17.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 18, Ciara O' Halloran 11 and Lynsey Purcell 5.

Our Senior Scholars continued their recent winning form in the North Munster League with a hard earned 35-33 win over UL. The Scholars endured a frustrating night on the offensive boards, with very little going right for them. To their credit, they stayed patient throughout, with Ciara Meaney scoring the winning basket at the death.

Top scorers for Scholars were Deirdre Barton 12 and Joanne DeLoughrey 10 with Eimear O' Malley doing trojan work on both defensive and offensive boards.

Next week our U16 girls have three more games starting with a home game against St Anthony's in the Cork League followed by North Munster league games against Celtics and Newport. Our U12 Girls and U16 Saints also play Celtics in the North Munster league.

Our U18 girls will also be busy with a home Cork League game against Carraig na BhFear followed by a home North Munster League game against Clare Cascaders.

Our Senior Saints host Newport while our Senior Scholars travel to Nenagh for North Munster League games.