

9th January 2012

The club would like to congratulate Ciara O' Halloran on been selected to the Irish U16 team that will compete in the European Championships later in the year. Ciara had originally made the final cut of 27 players prior to Christmas. These 27 players were then invited to an extensive 2 day work camp, after which the final 12 players were selected. She now joins a select band of St Colms players who have received international recognition over the years. Ciara joined the club as a 9 year old and has played basketball ever since. She played on two of the club's, three in a row All Ireland U14B winning teams, and has represented North Munster in recent area board competitions. Ciara currently plays on both the club's U16 and U18 squads.

Her selection is just reward for her dedication and work over the years, and is a credit to her family who have been very supportive.

Ciara teamed up with her U16 Scholars team mates as they hosted Newport in a re-arranged North Munster league game last Sunday. The scholars went into the game with more injury woes with Chloe Dineen and Megan Greene joining Lynsey Purcell and Aoife Keegan on the sidelines.

Nevertheless the players on duty proved much too strong for their opponents easing to a comfortable 70-12 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 21, Ciara O' Halloran 19 and Ciara Stapleton 11, with good performances by Aileen O' Connor, Grace Kavanagh and Becky Cleary.

Next week our Senior Saints host Foynes in the senior North Munster league, while our underage teams are home to UL.

16th January 2012

Most of the club's teams were back in action after the Christmas break.

Our U16 Scholars had two wins over the weekend to maintain their unbeaten record this season. The girls welcomed back Chloe Dineen and Lynsey Purcell for both these games. The girls were also boosted by the news that Aoife Keegan took part in some light training, after over 3 months on the sidelines.

The girls' first opponents were UL. The first quarter was a close affair with UL up by a point 12-11. In the second quarter, our girls simply upped the tempo of their game, led by the impressive Ciara Stapleton. Ciara has worked very hard in training, and has improved out of all recognition in the past few games. The girls demonstrated a ruthless streak in the second quarter, outscoring their opponents 30-2 to all but close out the game. The second half was all about maintaining a comfortable lead and resting players ahead of their second game that day.

In the end the girls won out on a scoreline of 65-33.

Top scorers were Caoimhe Gleeson 22, Lynsey Purcell 12, Ciara Stapleton 11, Ciara O' Halloran 10,

The Scholars then faced up to the younger Saints in their second game. The Scholars always held the upperhand in this game. However, the Saints can take a lot of positives from their display, as they kept the Scholars honest throughout. The experience of the Scholars was the difference in the end as they won out 43-31.

Top scorers for Scholars were Caoimhe Gleeson 17, Lynsey Purcell 9 and Aileen O' Connor 6.

Top scorers for Saints were Eimear Dollard 10, Jessica O' Brien 6 and Karen Lee 4.

Our U18 girls survived a major scare against UL to hold on to their unbeaten record. The girls had not played in over 5 weeks and it showed in a very ring rusty performance. The girls' defence was very porous, with the hungrier and more determined UL taking advantage of every scoring opportunity. Just as it seemed that the game was slipping away, the girls just about managed to compose themselves to sneak a lucky win on a scoreline of 55-53.

Perhaps this was the wake up call the girls needed for future games ahead.

Orlaith Woods was the difference in the end between the two teams. There were also some solid performances by Niamh Hannan and Caoimhe Gleeson.

Our U14 girls continue to show improved performances as the season progresses. They proved much too strong for a spirited UL side, outscoring their opponents in each quarter on their way to an impressive 48-22 win.

Roisin Gleeson and Jane Clohessy top scored on 13 points apiece, with notable performances by Laura O' Shea, Naomi Keogh and Ruth Butler.

Our U12 girls put in another good performance and were unlucky to lose out in their game to UL on a scoreline of 12-15. 13 players saw court time last Sunday, in the belief that this continued policy will reap future dividends. The girls are showing

excellent skill levels, but are hampered in their games by lack of physicality. Most of these girls will be underage again next season which has always been their main target.

Players that shone on Sunday were Orla Zundel, Caoimhe Hogan, Emma McDonnell and Ruth Dollard.

Our Senior Saints lost out in their North Munster league encounter with Foynes on a scoreline of 57-46. The Saints always trailed in this game and could never bridge the gap throughout.

Best for Saints were Emily Kavanagh 17, Laura Sheahan 11 and Casey Dawson 6.

Next week our Senior Scholars and Saints face each other in a North Munster league tie. Our U12, U14 and U16 Saints travel to Hospital to play Morning Star in the North Munster League. Finally our U16 girls host St Anthonys and our U18s host Donoughmore in the Cork League.

23rd January 2012

The club had 3 teams in action, away to Morning Star in the North Munster underage leagues last Sunday.

Our U12 girls were first in action hoping to avenge a home defeat to the same opposition prior to Christmas. The girls have been improving steadily with each passing game, and put in a very polished performance on Sunday. The girls completely dominated the game and kept their opponents scoreless for the first 3 quarters as they raced into a 22-0 lead. The girls were excellent in defence and ran a very slick fast break. They did lose a little bit of concentration in the final quarter but were worthy winners on a score line of 24-7. Players to shine were Shiofra Gleeson Caoimhe Hogan and Sarah Barry, with 10 year old Lauren Walsh on 10 points been the game's top scorer.

The U12 girls played a Morning star selection in a challenge game later in the day and emerged 27-18 winners, with Orla Zundel, Anna Sheahan, Alva O' Brien and Megan Crowley best for Colms. Coach Colm Barry was able to utilise 15 players over the two games as they continue to get valuable court experience and game time.

Our U14 girls put in a very professional performance and were much too strong for Morning Star. The girls went into the game without Julia Skalska due to illness but U12 player Muireaan Scanlon did an excellent job as her replacement. This game was over as a contest by the end of the first quarter as Colms raced into a 26-0 lead, before easing to a solid 64-15 win. The pleasing aspect of the performance was that 9 players scored 4 points or more in a good team performance where all players got equal court time. Top scorers for Colms were Jane Clohessy 12, Roisin Gleeson 10, Naomi Keogh 10 and Ruth Butler 8.

Our u16 Saints were a little bit disappointing in their game against Morning Star. They failed to fire in the first half as they were physically out muscled by their older opponents. They trailed 11-31 at the break after a very flat performance. The girls did raise their game in the second half. They closed the gap to 12 points at one stage but were still guilty of wasting numerous scoring opportunities. These misses proved costly as Morning Star finished the stronger winning out 43-23. Eimear Dollard and Jessica O' Brien did best for Colms.

Our U18 girls were back in action in the Cork League when they hosted Donoughmore in a deferred league game. Colms went into the game without their U16 contingent who were playing for their schools in play off games. Colms raced into an early 17-6 win led by Aoife O' Connell. However, Donoughmore came right back into the game in the second quarter courtesy of some excellent outside shooting and a slick fast break to only trail 26-30 at the interval. The sides were evenly matched in the second half as they traded score for score. However Colms always held the lead. They were able to maintain it, right to the final whistle, to win out 57-54 in a very open and entertaining game.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 28, Niamh Hannan 14 and Laura Sheahan 7.

Next week there will be a report on how the game between our Senior Scholars and Saints went.

30th January 2012

It was a particularly quiet week on the playing front, with just our two senior ladies teams in action.

Our senior Scholars and senior Saints faced up to each other with Scholars needing the win to ensure their place in the top 5 of the league. They achieved the win based on a solid first half performance. Niamh Barton and Joanne DeLoughrey combined for the Scholars first 14 points as they established early dominance, despite the best efforts of Simone Bourke for the Saints. By half time Scholars led by 30 to 11. Both teams opened up the play in the third quarter as Saints went about chasing the game led by Emily Kavanagh and Karen Hartigan. This only played into the hands of the Scholars who were able to pick off cheap scores on the fast break. The game fizzled out a bit in the final quarter with the Scholars well in control to win out 53-38.

Top scorers for Scholars were Niamh Barton 16, Joanne Deloughrey 10 and Noreen Campbell 7.

Best for Saints were Nuala O' Flaherty 15 and Karen Hartigan 5.

The senior Saints finished up the first half of their league campaign with another defeat, this time to Shannon. The Saints always had a tough task ahead of them against their much taller counterparts. Nevertheless they put in a spirited performance and kept the game competitive for long periods before falling to a 51-31 defeat.

Casey Dawson had a solid game for the Saints scoring 9 points followed by Emily Kavanagh on 7 and Karen Hartigan on 6.

The spotlight falls on our younger teams this weekend. The club host an U10 blitz, while our U12 and U14 girls host Newport in the North Munster Leagues. Our senior Scholars also face league leaders Celtics away in a deferred North Munster league game.