

5<sup>th</sup> December 2011

It was a difficult week for the club. A number of our teams had to field depleted squads due to the flu sweeping through the club.

Our senior Saints task against league leaders Celtics was always going to be tough, but was made more difficult with the absence of some players. As it was Celtics took early control of this game and ran out comfortable winners on a scoreline of 66-32.

Top scorers for Saints were Nuala O' Flaherty 9, Simone Morris 8 and Emily Kavanagh 7

Our U16 girls travelled to Kanturk for a Cork league game minus 3 of their squad. Lynsey Purcell was only used sparingly as she recovers from an ankle injury, while Ciara O' Halloran was in early foul trouble and sat out a lot of the game. Despite all this, the girls had a slender lead at half time. However 22 unforced turnovers in the game was always going to tell against the girls. These errors especially late in the game allowed Kanturk easy baskets and allowed them run out 59-44 winners on the night. Caoimhe Gleeson and Ciara Stapleton were best for Colms.

Our U18 girls home game against Donoughmore was postponed due to a bereavement in the Cork camp.

Our U12 squad were missing 8 players for their games against Morning Star resulting in a win and defeat in their two games. The girls are still showing a lot of inexperience in their games. This was very evident in their first game. Their opponents were always that little bit sharper and were deserving winners on a scoreline of 16-8.

The girls were unrecognisable in their second game as they were much more tuned in. Opportunities that they let slip in their first game, were now been converted into scores. In the end they ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 36-5. Girls to play well for Colms were Megan Haugh, Sarah Barry, Suzie Smith, Orla Zundel and Muireann Scanlon.

Our U16 saints got back to winning ways with a solid win over Morning Star. It did take a while for the girls to get the measure of their opponents. They trailed by 9-12 at the end of the first quarter but began to get on top of their opponents gradually. The girls were completely dominant in the last quarter winning out 42-24.

Top scorers for Saints were Jane Clohessy 19 and Eimear Dollard 12.

Finally our stars of the future were in action in an U10 Blitz hosted by Springfield Basketball Club. These one day events are ideal for giving these young girls game experience, without the pressure of competition. A big thanks to Springfield who were great hosts. Players to look out for in the future were 7 year olds Amber and Julia , 8 year olds Aoibhainn, Lisa, Bronagh, Lucy, Aoife, Jana, Lisa and 9 year olds Aoife, Mary and Faye.

The club have a number of teams in action next week. Our senior Scholars start the ball rolling with an away game against Newport in the North Munster league. Our U16

girls host St Anthony's in the Cork League. Finally our U12, U14 and U18 girls are away to Springfield in the North Munster league.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2011

The club had 4 teams in action in the North Munster League.

Our senior Scholars travelled to Newport hoping to build on their recent good form. Once again the Scholars were slow into the game and allowed their opponents an early 12-4 first quarter lead. Newport increased their lead to 22-11 by the break, as nothing would drop for the Scholars on a frustrating night for them. Both sides were also hampered by a slippery floor surface which did not allow for a flowing game. There was nothing wrong with the Scholars' defence as they restricted Newport to only 9 points in the second half. However the Scholars were unable to convert their good work into scores. They could never get their noses in front and fell to a 28-31 defeat.

Top scorers for Colms were Joanne DeLoghrey 8, Niamh Barton 6 and Niamh Ni Cheilleachair 6.

The club had 3 underage teams in action away to Springfield.

Our U18 team started proceedings with a comfortable 50 -16 win over the home team. The girls were never in trouble in this game, with coach Seamus Woods able to give all squad players plenty of court time.

Top scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 13, Niamh Hannan 12 and Lynsey Purcell 8.

Our U14 girls certainly made life very difficult for themselves and were extremely fortunate to come away with a win. After an even first quarter, Colms led 12-8. Colms then completely dominated the second quarter to open up an interval lead of 28-10. To their credit, Springfield fought back in the third quarter, as our girls simply fell asleep in an error riddled performance. Our girls did not score a single point in the third quarter, and were still scoreless in the early part of the final quarter as Springfield came to within a basket 28-26. However the girls did rouse themselves in the final few minutes to escape with a 36-30 win.

There was a good spread of scoring with Laura O' Shea, Roisin Gleeson and Jane Clohessy top scoring on 6 points each.

Our U12 girls were missing a host of players through illness, and can count themselves unlucky to fall to a 11-9 defeat. The girls dominated large stretches of this game but failed to convert their many opportunities. They also will need to toughen up a little bit, as Springfield won too many 50 50 balls.

Nevertheless there is some nice talent coming through with Muireaan Scanlon and Emma McDonnell best for Colms on the day.

For the second week in a row. A Cork league game had to be cancelled due to a bereavement in the Cork camp. Our U16 game against St Anthonys will now go ahead in the New Year.

There is one more week of action before the Christmas break. Our Senior Saints host Tipperary, our U12, U14, U16 Scholars and U18 teams are away to UL, with our U16 Scholars also away to Celtics.

19<sup>th</sup> December 2011

St Colms Basketball Club ended 2011 with 5 out of 5 wins at underage level in the North Munster League. All the hard work undertaken by the coaches and players are now beginning to pay dividends. Without doubt, the highlight of the weekend was our U16 Scholars back to back away wins over UL and Celtics which puts them firmly on top of the North Munster League at the half way stage.

A great deal of credit goes to the coaches of the U16 team, Emily Kavanagh and Ray Slattery who have shown great faith and belief in this team.

The girl's first game of the weekend was against their old adversaries UL. Our girls showed the benefit of competing at a higher level and proved much too strong against an inexperienced UL side winning out 63-14. The girls did use the game to work on some offensive plays for tougher games ahead.

Top scorers for Scholars were Ciara O' Halloran 28, Caoimhe Gleeson and Lynsey Purcell on 12 apiece. There were good performances also by Grace Kavanagh, Megan Greene and Aileen O' Connor.

The girl's second game was away to Celtics in a game that would decide which team would enter the Christmas break, on top of the league. The girls went into this game well prepared, relaxed and focused. However they were dealt a hammer blow when star point guard Lynsey Purcell was forced out of the game after only 4 minutes with an ankle injury. Chloe Dineen came off the bench and proceeded to play a superb game. The girls put in an awesome defensive performance led by Caoimhe Gleeson and Ciara Stapleton, strangling the life out of the Celtics offence. In a low scoring first half, Colms led 13-6. The second half followed suit and it was obvious a long way from the finish, that there was only going to be one winner. Colms continued to grow in confidence before closing out the game 27-16.

Caoimhe Gleeson top scored for Colms on 10 points followed closely by Ciara O' Halloran and Becky Cleary.

Our U18 girls continued their unbeaten run with another comfortable win away to UL and are well on course to defend their U18 North Munster title. The girls played in fits and starts and were not helped by a minor knee injury picked up by Niamh Hannan. However they were never seriously tested by a much improved UL team and ran out cosy winners on a scoreline of 60-32.

Orlaith Woods was the star of the show scoring a whopping 32 points followed by Lynsey Purcell on 9.

Our U14 girls are showing definite signs of improvement. They were made to work hard in their win over a very determined UL team. It was only in the second half that our girls got on top winning out on a scoreline of 36-12.

Top Scorers for Colms were Roisin Gleeson 11, Jane Clohessy 8 and Julia Slalska 5.

A lot of work has been put in by the U12 coaches Colm Barry, Aisling O' Neill and Jean Ryan in the continued development of our young U12 team. Many of the U11

players are getting valuable court experience this year, and will be much the better for it next season. It was great to see these young girls showing a lot of skill before edging their game 15-10 in a tight contest with UL.

Players to definitely look out for in the future are Ruth Dollard, Muireaan Scanlon, Suzie Smith, Lauren Walsh, Caoimhe Hogan and Shiofra Gleeson amongst others.

Our Senior Saints went into their game against Tipperary minus Casey Dawson due to exam commitments. The Saints never got going in the first quarter trailing 4-18. The girls did improve throughout the rest of the game and narrowed the deficit to 2 points with 2 minutes to go in what was turning out to be a very exciting game. However 2 late "3" pointers by Tipperary ensured that they would hold on to victory 48-38.

Top scorers for Saints were Emily Kavanagh 10, Karen Hartigan 9 and Nuala O'Flaherty 7.

The club held a fun day for it's younger players before the Christmas break, with a large turnout, despite the icy conditions.

The club are taking a small break for the Christmas although there will be some teams training over the festive period. The club wishes all its players, coaches, committee members, parents and supporters a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.