

2nd October 2017

Our U15 and U16 girls travelled to Waterford last Saturday to play Wildcats in the Cork League. There were contrasting results with our U15s winning their game and the U16s losing theirs.

Our U15 girls certainly showed the benefit from their games the previous weekend, as they produced a very professional display. The girls opened up an early 5 point lead and never lost the lead thereafter. The girls mixed up their defence well which caused the home team serious problems. The girls' offence was particularly pleasing and their coaches were delighted how they picked up some lovely uncontested scores under the boards. The practice the girls have put in on their offensive routine over the past year was particular evident in Saturday's game.

The girls were always on top and gradually increased their lead throughout the game. Wildcats had a small purple patch in the third quarter, but our girls upped their game to run out comfortable 68-38 winners.

This was an excellent result on the road with a great spread of scoring. Four of the players were in double figures with Sophie Moore, Bronagh Dollard, Lucy Liston and Jana Zundel sharing the top scoring honours.

Our U16 girls game was their first competitive game of the season and it was evident in their game on Saturday. It took the girls a whole quarter to get to the pace of the game, but by this stage they trailed 22-4. After shaking off the cobwebs, the girls started to play some basketball. They played extremely well in the second and third quarters to narrow the deficit. However they switched off mentally in the final quarter and allowed Wildcats some easy scores.

Final score 67-33 to the home side.

Top scorers for the girls were Aoife Morrissey and Bronagh Dollard.

There were definite signs that this team will be competitive this season. They are slightly behind their U15 counterparts in their offensive routines at this stage of the season and it will be a little time before they adapt to a zone defence. However there were huge positives to be taken from their first game of the season.

Next Saturday, both the U15s and U16s are home to Glanmire in the Cork League.

9th October 2017

The club had three teams in action during the week with all three recording wins.

Our Senior Saints got their North Munster league season off on a winning note recording a narrow 39-38 victory over Springfield. The win was built on excellent defence led by Liona Carroll, Emily and Grace Kavanagh. Elaine Murray played excellent defence and was also on the score board. The Saints controlled their own defensive boards with strong rebounding from our experienced players Olivia DeLoughrey, Siobhan Keane and Eimear O' Malley. Nuala O' Flaherty continued her excellent form from last season controlling the tempo of the game. The team welcomed Joani Hargrow back after a year out and she top scored on 11 points. Good all round team work helped the ladies hold out for a 1 point win.

The Ladies are back in action next week against LIT

Our U15 girls continued their impressive start to the season with a comfortable win over Glanmire in the Cork League. The girls were missing Jana Zundel who was away on a short family break, with Lucy Liston stepping in and doing a great job. The girls were always comfortable in this game racing into a 24-7 first quarter lead and stretching it out to 47-13 at the break. The second half followed a similar vein with all the squad getting plenty of court time, including Sarah Cantillon who stepped up from the U14 squad.

The final score of 79-28 reflected the difference between the two sides.

Sophie Moore and Bronagh Dollard top scored for the girls on 27 and 22 points respectively.

Julia Cunneen finished the game for the girls strongly scoring 10 points in the final quarter.

Our U16 girls bounced back from their defeat in Waterford last week with an emphatic performance in the Cork League against Glanmire. The girls showed the benefit of the tough game last weekend. They played superb basketball in the first 5 minutes at a terrific pace to lead 17-2 against their Cork opponents. The girls were always comfortable thereafter and were 47-18 ahead at the break. All the squad contributed in a very good all round performance in this 69-44 win.

Top Scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey who scored all her 17 points in the first half, Bronagh Dollard 15 and Jody O' Halloran 12. There were other solid all round performances by Izzy Murphy, Amy Higgins and Abbie Pigott.

The U16 girls are in Cork for an invitational tournament. They face Meteors from Dublin, St Marys Castheisland and Carraig na BhFear in their pool games.

23rd October 2017

The schools BIPP competitions took centre stage this weekend which curtailed club games. St Colms had 4 girls representing the South West Schools in a competition where the top underage players in the country displayed their talents. All 4 girls, Abbie Pigott, Sophie Moore, Jana Zundel and Bronagh Dollard played their part in a superb display of basketball over a long weekend.

The club had only one team in action during the week with our Senior Division one team recording a hard earned win over Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League. This was a good competitive game with our girls only getting the upper hand late in the game. The ladies gave a debut to Aoife Donovan who transferred from Thurles Knights during the season and also under 18 players Siofra Gleeson and Ruth Dollard. As this was their first game of the season, it took a little time for the ladies to get a handle on this game. A little bit more work will be needed on defence during the season, as at times the ladies were a bit out of sync with their defensive formation. As the game progressed, we started to control the game with Lynsey Purcell and Aisling Stapleton dictating from the point guard position. Aoife O' Connell, Aoife Donovan and Ruth Dollard began to get the upper hand on the defensive boards. Siofra Gleeson and Laurie Brosnan got a few telling steals while Deirdre Barton and Joanne Deloughrey hit some nice outside shots.

This was a good team performance with 8 players on the scoresheet in a 50-32 win. Top scoring honours were shared by Lynsey Purcell and Deirdre Barton.

Next week our U15, U16 and U18 girls are away in the Cork League against Brunell, while our Division two ladies team are in North Munster League action against MICE.

30th October 2017

The club had three teams in Cork league action way to Brunell last weekend. Unfortunately all three teams came up short in their encounters.

The U16s were first in action in a high quality encounter. Our girls started brightly and opened up an early lead only to be pegged back 10-10 at the end of the first quarter. Brunell edged ahead in the second and third quarter to lead by 10. The girls got this deficit back down to 5 points with just over two minutes to go. However with the girls chasing the game, they left themselves exposed at the back which Brunell exploited to win out an exciting game 45-34.

The girls proved they are more than a match for the top sides in Cork. The lessons learned from this game is to reduce turnovers and improve their free throws shooting percentage.

Isabelle Meaney, Amy Higgins and Caoimhe O' Neill did some good work in defence. Jody O' Halloran and Aoife Morrissey did well offensively while Izzy Murphy continues to settle in to the squad and had her best game so far this season.

The u15 girls who were sparingly used also put in some good work when called into action.

The U18s were next in action. They also started well with early baskets by Clara Terren-Hogan and Ruth Dollard settling them into the game. It was difficult for the U18 coach Joanne Deloughrey to get a good balance on court with only 2 U16 players allowed to play at any given time. Brunell got to grips with the game early to open up a healthy 10-11 point lead. To their credit, the girls never let this lead stretch out and at times got the deficit down to 5-6 points. However they could never get any closer with Brunell running out deserving winners. This was the U18 girls first league game of the season and will improve with more games under their belt. There was good work from Siofra Gleeson and Caoimhe Hogan in defence while Orla Zundel and Elaine Murray had solid offensive games. The girls have a double header of games next weekend away to Donoughmore and Bantry respectively. Hopefully they will get the win next week, their efforts merited this week.

The U15s had a very good first half but will be disappointed with their second half performance. The girls were excellent especially in the first quarter. They ran their offensive plays superbly and were rewarded with some lovely scores. The only negative was three early personal fouls picked up by Jana Zundel which restricted her court time in the second half. Only 5 points separated the sides at the interval, but things went downhill thereafter. Concentration levels dropped off in defence, baskets that were falling in the first half, stopped falling in the second half and their game quickly unravelled. A late injury picked up by Abbie Pigott more or less summed up their game in the second half.

The girls have a couple of weeks to reflect and improve. They need to focus on their first half performance and take out the many positives from their display and bin their second half performance to history. There were excellent performances by Bronagh Dollard and Abbie Pigott. Both these players were well supported by Aoife O' Neill, Buki, Lucy and Sophie.