

1<sup>st</sup> October 2012

St Colms Basketball Club are delighted to announce the start up of a Juvenile Wheelchair section within the club. Junior Wheelchair Basketball sessions take place every Wednesday from 6:30pm-8pm at CBS Gym, Sexton Street, Limerick. Wheelchair users play the same fast-paced, tactical game but in sports chairs. Players learn ball-handling skills and techniques to maneuver quickly on court. IWA-Sport and Limerick Sports Partnerships in association with St Colms encourage boys and girls up to 16 years of age to come and try the sport in their chair. Siblings, friends are also most welcome to try out this exciting sport. National league competitions are played against the big basketball teams- Killester, Galway Titans and Fr Matthews of Cork, amongst others. Beginners especially welcome. Contact LSP Sports Inclusion Disability Officer Rosemary at 061-333600 on how to join.

Both our U15 and U18 girls started their Cork league campaign with defeats away to Fr Mathews. Both teams went into the game minus some key players with the U15 squad especially severely depleted. The girls received a baptism of fire in their game going down to a heavy 76 – 14 defeat. Nevertheless they will have learned a great deal from the defeat and now know what to expect for the remainder of the season. Best for Colms on the day were Naomi Keogh and Julia Skalska.

The U18 girls went into their game minus Chloe Dineen and Ciara O' Halloran who were nursing injuries. They also were hindered by the fact that Caoimhe Gleeson was under the weather which curtailed her court time. This game was competitive up to the interval with Fr Mathews ahead by 30-26. However our girls faded in the second half allowing the home side pull away in the end to win out 63-42. Top scorers for Colms were Lynsey Purcell on 17, Caoimhe Gleeson 14 and Grace Kavanagh 4.

Some of our senior ladies are in action in a pre season tournament next weekend.

8<sup>th</sup> October 2012

The North Munster Ladies senior league for the season 2012-2013 starts up this week. The club once again have two teams entered and welcome some new players to both squads. The Scholars open their league campaign with a home fixture against Foynes Flyers while the Saints start off with a home game against league newcomers Kingfisher from Clare.

In preparation for the start of the league campaign, the club entered a mixed team in the preseason tournament hosted by Newport. This was an ideal opportunity for our players to get some match practice. 13 players were used on the day, and while some results went against us, it was ideal preparation ahead of the start of the league campaign.

Our club once again want to remind everyone, that they have started a juvenile wheelchair basketball section. Training sessions take place every Wednesday in CBS Sexton Street from 6.30 to 8.00 and new members are especially welcome.

The North Munster juvenile league has started up for the new season. It will be a few more weeks before our teams start up their campaign. This season, the club have teams entered at U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 level as well as an U15 and U18 team entered in the Cork League.

14<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Both our senior ladies teams opened their North Munster League campaign for the current season with games against Foynes and Kingfisher respectively.

Our Scholars team, which is much changed from last season, easily accounted for a gallant Foynes team. The team had two debutantes for the club in Esti Sanz and Martha Topielecka and also welcomed back Lisa Ann Demsey who had been playing in Dublin for the last few years. The team was also boosted by the promotion of three of the Under 18 panel, Lynsey Purcell, Caoimhe Gleeson and Aoife O' Connell to the senior ranks. The Scholars were always in control in this game and opened up a 17-2 first quarter lead. The team played at a very high tempo throughout the game with all 10 players getting plenty of court time. After establishing early dominance, Scholars were never troubled thereafter and eased to a 69-23 win.

Top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 13, Caoimhe Gleeson 12 and Emily Kavanagh 11.

Our Saints team also proved much too strong for league newcomers Kingfisher. The Saints have a much more settled squad with Nuala O' Flaherty transferring from the Scholars and Laurie Brosnan back after a year's absence, been the two new additions to the team. The Saints took a little time to settle. As a result, the first quarter was an evenly contested affair, with the Saints establishing a first quarter lead of 13-6. Once the Saints settled into the game, they took control and were much the better team for the remainder of the game winning out 66-31.

Top scorers for Saints were Ciara Meaney 16, Deirdre Barton 13 and Joanne DeLoughrey 10.

Both teams face much sterner tests next week with the Saints away to Shannon and the Scholars away to UL.

Our U18 girls are back in Cork league action as they host Fr Mathews.

Our Juvenile wheelchair sessions continue to prove very popular. If you are interested in joining, please contact Rosemary Ryan who is the LSP Sports Inclusion Disability Officer at 061 333600 who will provide you with details.

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012.

Both our senior ladies teams had away games in the North Munster League.

Our Saints were first in action away to Shannon. The Saints started their game in determined fashion and opened up a healthy first quarter lead of 17-8 led by Eimear O' Malley and Deirdre Barton. There was a noticeable drop in the scoring rate in the second quarter, with both teams only scoring 6 points apiece. With the game seemingly safe for the Saints at half time, there was a noticeable drop in intensity in the third quarter. This allowed Shannon to get to within one point before the Saints settled and extended their lead back out to 5. Shannon came right back into the game in the final quarter courtesy of poor handling errors by the Saints, and finished narrow victors on a scoreline of 37-34.

The Saints have only themselves to blame for allowing this game to slip from their grasp. Best for Saints were Noreen Campbell 9, Joanne De Loughrey 6 and Anna Keyes 4.

Our Scholars were next in action away to UL. Scholars always held the upperhand in this game narrowly winning all 4 quarters. However they had to be on their toes for the whole game as they were never really able to shrug off the persistent challenge of the home team. It was the younger members of the Scholars who really stood up to the mark and were ably assisted by Esti Sanz, Lisa Ann Dempsey and Emily Kavanagh.

Top Scorers for Scholars were Lynsey Purcell 10, Caoimhe Gleeson 9 and Aoife O' Connell 8.

The Saints are away to Foynes next in the League while the Scholars have a free week.

28<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Our Under 18 girls were in Cork League action at home to Fr Mathews hoping to avenge an earlier away defeat in the season.

The game took a while to settle with both teams missing some early scoring opportunities. Once the game settled down, the large crowd in attendance were treated to a rip roaring game between two very evenly matched sides. There was a first start for Eimear Dollard in place of the injured Ciara O' Halloran and vindicated her selection with an excellent display. Little separated the sides with Fr Mathews up by a point at the end of the first quarter, up by two points at the interval and up by 4 going into the final quarter. Caoimhe Gleeson had a barnstorming game for the girls as she scored a staggering 16 consecutive points to bring Colms back to within a basket with less than two minutes to go. It was ironic that she was to miss a crucial basket to tie up the game. Instead Fr Mathews turned defence into a fast break that yielded the crucial score to stretch out the lead to 4.

Colms had a chance to draw level late in the game but fumbled the ball and possession and allow Fr Mathews to win out 47-44.

Top Scorers for Colms were Caoimhe Gleeson 22, Eimear Dollard 8 and Lynsey Purcell 7.

The girls can now look forward to a trip of a lifetime as they head to Florida for a 10 day trip, where they will play 5 games.

Both our U12 girls and U15 girls played the boys from Limerick Lions in two challenge games. These games were excellent workouts for both our teams ahead of their league campaigns and a big thank you goes to the Limerick Lions Club for facilitating these games.