

3rd December

Wednesday saw our U16s take to the court against Limerick Celtics in the North Munster League. This was a fiercely contested contest with both teams contributing to a great game of basketball. As always this St Colms team were a credit to the club with all members of the squad doing their bit in a fine performance. As always Bronagh Dollard controlled the offensive calls. Jana Zundel put in a fantastic defensive performance and Sophie Moore kept the score board ticking over with some amazing scores. The coaches were thrilled to see Áine Tierney play her first game at this level and she can be proud of her contribution on the night. Special mention also to Nano McCarthy, Lucy Liston and Buki Adogomehin who all played their part in a great team performance that just came up short on the night with Celtics coming out on top by 5 points.

Our U14 girls had a tough schedule last weekend with two away games in the Cork League on consecutive days. Our large squad was stretched to the limit with a number of players unavailable due to minor injuries and squad rotation. As a result, there were late call ups for two of our U12 squad Grace Liston and Grainne Culbert who stepped in for the weekend games.

First up the girls travelled to Mallow on Saturday to face the current unbeaten league leaders. Right from the start of this game, it was obvious that the girls were very focused. They played great defence, hustling and harrying their opponents throughout the game. The girls' excellent performance was rewarded as they edged the first quarter 8-6. Our second quarter unit followed the example of their first quarter counterparts maintaining the 2 point lead at the interval.

Sensing a huge upset, our girls continued to play great basketball in the third quarter and opened up a 7 point lead going into the final quarter. Mallow had no answer in the final quarter with our girls stretching the lead to 11 points, winning out 37-26 after a fantastic performance. Ciara Downey had a storming game in defence, while top scoring honours were shared out between Amy Buckley, Kate Barry and Aisling Downey.

The following day, the girls were on the road again, this time away to Ballincollig.

The coaching team rotated the squad with Aimee Rossiter, Anna Linehan and Aoife Brown all coming into the match day squad.

After a fantastic performance the previous day, there was the danger the girls could struggle to reach those heights again and so it proved.

The girls were very wasteful in the first quarter allowing Ballincollig to open up an 8-0 first quarter lead. Luckily the second quarter unit stepped up and pulled the team back into the game and at the interval, the sides were all square at 10-10. The girls really had to dig deep in the second half to grind out a narrow 4 point win. They say winning when not at your best is a sign of a good team and it was a credit to the girls, that despite not being at their best, they still got the valuable win.

Top scoring honours on the day were shared between Amy Buckley, Grainne Culbert and Nofeesat Muniru.

The U14s have another busy week ahead facing Morning Star in the North Munster League and

Ballincollig again in the Cork Championship, while the U18s face off against Glanmire in the Cork Championship.

10 DECEMBER 2018

First on the court this week were our U14 girls who continued their excellent run of form with two more victories making it 4 wins in 8 days for this ever improving squad.

The girls hosted Morning Star in the North Munster League on Tuesday, with two of our newer player, Alannah Hanley and Katie Ford Downes stepping in to freshen up the squad. With a number of new players on show, it took a while for the girls to settle into the game. Nevertheless the girls were well in control throughout this game and were easy winners on a score line of 26-14 in Barry Pigott's debut game as coach. Top scoring honours were shared between Kate Barry, Alana Moran, Aoife Brown and Amy Buckley.

The girls were back on the road on Sunday, travelling to Cork for a championship encounter with Ballincollig. The team showed six changes from the game against Morning Star ensuring all squad members are getting plenty of court time. Most of the U14 players stayed at home for this encounter, so it was left to the U13 contingent to step up and battle for the win. This was a very entertaining game and a real end to end battle with the sides level at 12 points a piece at the interval.

Both teams were very strong in defence, working hard to make sure scores were had to be earned in the first half. This young St Colms squad is full of talent and the introduction of Gráinne Ni Cholbaird and Natasha O' Neill in the third quarter proved decisive. Gráinne started to unlock the Ballincollig defence with some lovely passing with Natasha on hand to add the points. The girls worked hard to earn some breathing space moving in to the final quarter opening up a 28-20 lead. Ballincollig kept their first five players on the court in the final quarter as they threw everything at our girls. They worked some excellent scores to draw level at 31 points apiece with 30 seconds remaining on the clock. However the Colms girls held their nerve and the ever reliable Aisling Downey hit the winning basket to give our girls a hard fought 33-31 win.

This was a great experience for this young team, who showed great maturity in closing out the win. Top scoring honours were shared between Nofeesat Muniru, Natasha O' Neill, Hannah Hehir and Katie Hehir.

The girls busy schedule continues this week with a home game against Midleton in the Cork League followed by a challenge game away to Springfield.

The U18s played their last away game in Cork before the Christmas break and were given the honour of playing on the main court in Parochial Hall v Glanmire.

This was a cracking game of basketball fitting for the main court. Glanmire took an early lead but our girls fought hard to pull back level as both teams went basket for basket for 2 quarters. The Colms girls fought and hustled for every basket until the dying seconds but could not bring the win in what

was a fantastic game of basketball.

Finally our U8s and U10s hosted Clare Panthers on Sunday. Both teams showcased their skills providing great entertainment for the watching audience. Our thanks to Clare Panthers for their visit and to Jana Zundel who was our Ref on the day.

Best of luck to our senior teams who host Newport and UL Huskies in the North Munster Senior League. Saturday sees the U16s host Wildcats before the U14s host Midleton in the Cork League. Sunday finds our U10s, U12s, U14s and U16s in action against Springfield in Dromcollogher.

## 17 DECEMBER 2018

The Seniors headed into the Christmas break with both squads having picked up wins in the North Munster Ladies League. First up the Saints faced Newport in a tough game which went basket for basket for long spells but the young girls played with a maturity beyond their years to pull ahead in quarter 4. The girls then dug in and managed the clock well to hold our for an impressive win.

Next up on Tuesday night were The Scholars who faced UL Huskies. The girls started brightly and built up an early lead. UL fought back and got a few nice scores before the Scholars upped their defence to pull away again. UL rallied in the closing minutes testing our girls further but the girls held on for the win. Thanks to Sharon Griffin, Rossi Whelan, Noreenn Campbell and John Spillane for doing the table on the night.

Our U16 girls continued their unbeaten start to the Cork League on Saturday after a well contested game against Waterford Wildcats. The game marked Meabh Brown's debut game for the club following her return from injury. Wildcats started the better and had their noses in front midway through the first quarter. Our girls after their nervy start began to get to grips with the game and closed out the quarter 16-11 ahead. The girls played great basketball in the second quarter with Jana Zundel playing particularly well. They outscored Wildcats 21-11 in the quarter to hold a handsome 37-22 lead.

Wildcats to their credit kept our girls honest throughout and won the second half with their efforts. The pleasing aspect from the coaching staffs' point of view was that all 10 players were on the scoresheet and that a decent squad is now developing. Top scoring honours were shared between Jana Zundel 14. Abbie Pigott 12 and Bronagh Dollard 10 in the 60-52 win. Others to play well were Aine O' Tiarnaigh, Nano McCarthy and Buki Adejomehin.

On Sunday morning our U10s, U12s, U14s and U15s made the trip to Dromcolligher to play Springfield.

The U10s were first up and continue to make great strides. This young squad have worked hard since the start of the season and are getting better and better and showed their progress with a great performance on Sunday.

The U15s were next up to play a challenge game against the Springfield U15s. This was an intense, entertaining game played at a high pace and these players will have benefited greatly from this run

out with good performances on the day from Lucy Liston, Buki Adogomehin and Áine Tierney. Our U12 girls had a mixed performance in their North Munster League win against Springfield. They opened up an early 8-0 lead and an easy win looked very much on the cards. However a combination of good play by Springfield and a host of missed opportunities by our girls allowed the home team right back into the game. Going into the final quarter the teams were tied at 20 points apiece. Our girls rediscovered their form in the final quarter to win out 32-24. Special thanks to Eabha Downey who stepped up from the U10 squad on the day. Laura Chambers had an excellent game for our girls hitting some crucial baskets when needed most. She shared top scoring honours with Grace Liston and Sarah Jane Murray.

Our U14 girls brought the day to a successful end making it five wins out of five in December with another nail biting win, against a tough Springfield outfit. The girls were missing Ava O' Halloran, Natasha O' Neill and Melissa Do through injuries, while Kate Barry, Amy Buckley and Chloe McDonagh were rested for this game. The girls started brightly and opened up a 12-2 lead in the first quarter. Rotating all 12 players on the day continues to ensure these young players get much needed court experience. However it can disrupt the continuity in their play which proved to be the case in Sunday's game. Springfield with a much smaller panel played their way back into the game and led by 4 points going into the final few minutes. However, it is a credit to our girls, that they continue to battle right to the end in their games. They once again produced the goods scoring 6 unanswered points to win out 32-30 with Alannah Hanley hitting two consecutive outside shots to seal the win. There were big performances by Alana Moran, Treasa Culbert, Alannah Hanley, Nofeesat Muniru and Anna Zundel who were ably supported by the rest of the squad who all played their part in the win. Best of luck to our U18s who finish out what has been a very successful start to the season on Thursday against Fr Mathews in the Cork League.