

4th March 2013

St Colms Basketball Club had a good weekend on the playing front, with our U18 girls retaining their North Munster U18 league title and our U15 girls progressing to the semi finals of the Cork Championship.

Our U18 girls faced up to their nearest challengers Celtics in the final league game of the season. Colms had won by 3 points away earlier in the season, so another close game was anticipated in front of a sizable crowd. However, in truth the game proved a little one sided. Colms controlled this game from the off to open up a 15-10 first quarter lead. They extended this lead to 32-18 by the interval and were never troubled thereafter easing to a 58-40 win.

Caoimhe Gleeson and Ciara O' Halloran had excellent games for Colms and combined for 35 points between them.

Our U15 girls are improving with each game and were rewarded with a gutsy 43-34 win in their quarter final tie with Ballincollig in the Cork championships. The girls have exceeded all expectations by reaching the semi finals and can be rightly proud of how their season has so far progressed. The girls win was again based on a solid defensive performance. They led by 6 points at the break before Ballincollig put in a strong third quarter performance to draw level going into the final quarter. However Roisin Gleeson who had a quiet game up to then, took over and scored 12 points alone in the final quarter, to help her team claim a deserved win.

Others to play well for Colms were Muireann Scanlon and Naomi Keogh.

Our U12 Scholars put in a terrific performance in their North Munster league game against league leaders Celtics. The girls had been well beaten in the reverse fixture. However the girls have been playing and training well in recent weeks to provide optimism ahead of the game. Celtics opened the brighter to lead 6-0 before our girls settled to draw level at the end of the first quarter. Celtics were again quick out of the blocks in the second quarter hitting 3 unanswered baskets before our girls narrowed the deficit to 3 by the interval. The deficit was down to 1 going into the final quarter, with the game right in the balance until the final whistle. Celtics just did enough to win a cracking game on a scoreline of 29-25.

Orla Zundel top scored for Colms on 8 followed by Bronagh Dollard on 6.

The girls would like to wish Emma McDonnell a speedy recovery from her recent operation.

Our U14 girls had mixed results against the two Celtics teams. A scoreline of 44-26 to Celtics A is certainly misleading. If you take out the score from the second quarter, these sides were evenly matched. 5 of our U12 girls played the second quarter and simply could not compete under the boards against the physically bigger Celtics 5. Although the girls worked their socks off they were outscored 24-3 in this quarter. For the rest of the game, the girls probably held the upperhand and will also rue only scoring 10 free throws from 31 attempts.

Laura O' Shea top scored on 11 followed by Ruth Butler on 7.

The girls gained a deserved win on the day with 35-24 win over Celtics B. The girls opened up a 14-0 first quarter lead and led 22-10 at the break. However 6 of the team

were playing their third game of the day and fatigue suddenly crept into their game. Celtics reduced the deficit to 5 before the girls summoned up enough energy in the final quarter to win out the game in the end.

Ruth Dollard top scored on 7 points with Caoimhe Hogan, Lauren Walsh and Megan Haugh also playing their part in the win.

Our U10 girls fell short in their challenge game against Celtics U12B team losing out 25-14 despite good performances by Bronagh Dollard and Julia Cunneen.

The only disappointing performance on the day was by our U16 girls. The girls put in a lot of effort in the game but their decision making was very poor. This resulted in a lot of turnovers from which Celtics picked up too many cheap scores in their 52-24 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Jessica O' Brien 9 and Eimear Dollard 5.

There was a great atmosphere at the UL Arena where our U8 girls played a challenge game against UL Huskies. There were great performances by all the girls with Robyn Tobin and Elisha Noonan leading the scoring stakes.

Our senior scholars away game against Celtics was called off at the 11th hour due to the unavailability of a gym. Our Senior Saints did play however against Thurles. The girls suffered a blow on the eve of the game with illness ruling out Eimear O' Malley. The saints took an age to get going in this game and fell 4-16 behind in the first quarter. However they soon settled into the game and trailed by only 31-37 going into the final quarter. Just when they had Thurles on the back foot, silly errors crept into their game. This allowed Thurles to weather the fightback and compose themselves to win out in the end 49-35.

Top Scorers for Colms were Joanne DeLoughrey 11 and Laurie Brosnan 7.

Next week our Senior Scholars are away to Nenagh while our Senior Saints host Shannon in the North Munster League. Our U15 girls host Glanmire in the Cork League. Our U12 girls are away to Celtics in the North Munster Cup and also away to Rockets in the North Munster League.

11th March 2013

It was a relatively quiet week on the playing front with only two teams in action. Our U12 girls semi final game against Limerick Celtics was deferred for a week while our Senior Scholars received a walkover against Nenagh in the North Munster League.

Our Senior Saints did see action but came up short in their clash with Phoenix Shannon. The game was an exciting and close affair with Shannon holding a slight advantage at the break 29-25. Saints suffered a double blow in the second half with both post players Anna Keyes and Siobhain Keane fouled out. This gave Shannon a significant advantage inside from which they capitalised. The Saints kept competitive but found it difficult to cope with the inside play of their opponents, eventually losing out on a scoreline of 44-59.

Top scorers for Saints were Joanne Deloughery 15 and Noreen Campbell 10.

Our u15 girls were in action against Glanmire in the Cork League. For some reason the girls never got going in this game. They were always second to the ball to a far more determined Glanmire team and could never control their defensive boards. This meant the girls were always on the back foot and struggled throughout losing out 19-40 in the end.

Best for Colms were Laura O' Shea and Naomi Keogh.

Next week our U12 girls play their deferred cup semi final with Celtics. Our U14 and U16 girls are also in North Munster cup semi final action against Celtics and Newport respectively. Our two senior teams face up to each other for the third and final time this season.

18th March 2013

St Colms are looking forward to hosting their first wheelchair basketball blitz this coming Sunday. The Blitz in association with the Limerick City Sports Partnership will take place in the Delta Sports Dome commencing at 10.30 with teams from around the country participating.

The club are also hosting a family quiz in Clohessys Bar this coming Sunday commencing at 5.30.

On the playing front, our two senior ladies teams faced up to each other for the third and final time this season. Incredibly for the third time this season, the game was decided in overtime with the Saints this time winning out and avenging their two previous losses. Scholars dominated this game in the first half and looked well on the way to a comfortable victory as they led 34-18 at the break. However in the third quarter, the Scholars started to miss baskets they had no trouble converting in the first half. Saints meanwhile kept plugging away and slowly narrowed the gap to a 4 point game going into the final quarter. Scholars steadied the ship somewhat in the final quarter but Saints now had the momentum behind them and forced the game into overtime. Score at the end of normal time 52 each. Saints were not going to allow this win slip away after their great recovery and Siobhain Keane duly hit the winning basket in the final two seconds for a 57-55 win.

Top scorers for Saints were Deirdre Barton 18, Noreen Campbell 13 and Anna Keyes 10, while top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 13, Emily Kavanagh 12 and Lynsey Purcell 10.

The club had three teams in North Munster cup semi final action last weekend. Our U12s and U14s bowed out, but our U16s progressed to next weekends final.

There were high hopes for our U12s in their semi final clash against Celtics as only 4 points separated them in their previous league encounter. However the occasion seemed to get to our girls and they never really performed going down to a superior Celtics team on the day. Best for Colms were Lauren Walsh and Megan Haugh.

Basketball can be a strange game as typified by our U14 girls clash with Celtics the following morning. Five of the U12 panel stepped up to U14 and were unrecognisable from the night before. The girls after a slow start, dominated their opponents every where on the court except where it mattered most, on the scoreboard. The girls played very well but could not convert this good play into scores despite numerous opportunities and as a result lost a game they probably deserved to win, on a scoreline of 23-27.

Top scorers for Colms were Ruth Butler 7, Laura O' Shea 6 and Meagan Haugh 4.

Our U16 girls opened brightly in their semi final clash with Newport and raced into an early 8-0 lead. They moved this lead out to 16-5 by the end of the first quarter and 25-10 by the interval. There was a sharp drop in intensity levels by our girls in the second half. This allowed Newport to stay in the game until the end with our girls closing out the game 43-27.

Top scorers for Colms were Jessica O' Brien 14, Roisin Gleeson 8 and Jane Clohessy 7.

Next week, our Senior Scholars play their final North Munster League game of the current season away to Celtics. Both our U16 and U18 girls are in North Munster Cup final action in UL Arena.

25th March 2013

It was a memorable day last Sunday as St Colms hosted it's very first junior wheelchair basketball blitz. The club at the outset would like to recognise the support played by Limerick City Sports Partnership, Irish Wheelchair Association and Spina Bifida in this venture. The club would also like to thank the parents and players of St Colms who helped out with the catering and the table officiating on the day. We had players from Cork, Dublin, Kerry and Galway participating in what was a great day of competition. In the end St Colms, Fr Mathews from Cork and Killester from Dublin finished the day in a tie for top spot with each team losing only one game all day.

The players that represented St Colms on this historic day were Abraham, Aisling, Amy, Jemma, Khalid, Lauren, Meagan, Seamus, Sean and Xara.

Later on Sunday, the club held a family fun quiz evening in Clohessys Bar, Howleys Quay. The evening turned out to be a resounding success thanks to the quiz master Richard Coyne who ensured it was an enjoyable event for young and old. A big thanks to the Committee who did great work to ensure the evening went well.

It was a big day on the playing front last Saturday, as the North Munster Area Board hosted it's cup finals day in UL Arena. The club was represented by our U16 and U18 girls on the day.

The U16 girls went into their game minus 2 players who were away with their school. The girls put in an excellent performance in their final against Celtics with only a point separating the sides at half time. The third quarter was the defining period in this game as Celtics hit 19 points to stretch their lead to 13 going into the final quarter. The girls settled back into the game in the final quarter but could never bridge the gap losing out to Celtics who were worthy winners 43-32.

The girls can be rightly proud of their day's work.

Top scorers for Colms were Eimear Dollard 10, Jessica O' Brien 8 and Fiona O' Connell 7.

Our U18 girls ensured that the day would end well for the club as they retained the cup from last season. The girls went into the final as slight favourites against Celtics on the back of their two league wins already this season. Everything seemed to be following script as the girls established a 9 point interval lead. However, whether it was a drop in concentration or intensity, it allowed Celtics right back into this game in the third quarter. Entering the final quarter Colms lead was now down to only one point. The girls refused to panic and began to work the ball inside for their scores. This proved the correct route as the girls eventually got the upperhand to win out 49-42.

Top scorers for Colms were Ciara O' Halloran 16, Lynsey Purcell 9 and Becky Cleary 8.

Next weekend our U15 and U18 girls host the top underage girls club in the country Brunell in the Cork League, while the club is well represented on the 3 North Munster teams who will participate in the annual Southern Regional Tournament on Easter Monday.