

1st November 2011

Three of our teams travelled to Ennistymon for their opening games of the new North Munster League season, with all recording good wins.

Our u18 girls were first up against a much improved Clare Cascaders who had already beaten last season's league winners UL, the previous week. The first half was a close affair with Colms edging it 23-20. Colms slowly began to get the upper hand in the third quarter with Sarah Woods controlling matters from the point guard position. Suddenly there was daylight between the 2 teams before our girls eased to a 53-37 win.

Orlaith Woods was again the outstanding player on show with a game high 20 points. Danielle McNamara and Niamh Hannan contributed 8 points each.

Our U14 Scholars, after a nervy opening few minutes, put in an excellent performance in their win over Clare Cascaders. The girls conceded a significant height advantage but more than made up for this, by a powerful defensive display. They out hustled their opponents for the entire game and were well worth their win in the end on a scoreline of 46-26. Jessica O' Brien had a superb game top scoring on 15 points. Others to shine were Chloe Dineen on 12 and Fiona O' Connell on 8. Naomi Keogh had an excellent debut.

Our U16 Scholars went into their game minus two of their more influential players, Aoife O' Connell and Lorna Boland who are both out with ankle injuries. Their absence was not missed however, as the rest of the panel stepped up to the plate and put this game to bed very early. An excellent first quarter saw our girls lead by 18-2. Our girls were able to cruise through the rest of the game easing to a 46-33 win. Caoimhe Gleeson top scored for the Scholars on 12 with Ciara O' Halloran and Hayley Quinn scoring 10 and 8 points respectively.

The performances against Clare Cascaders were in sharp contrast to the U15 girls display a few days earlier against Brunell in the Cork League. Our girls never got going allowing Brunell to dominate from start to finish, winning out 49-23. Best for Colms on a disappointing night were Lynsey Purcell, Becky Cleary and Aileen O' Connor.

Our U18 girls travelled to Cork with only 6 players, with 2 players out with injuries and others unavailable because of the mid term break. Even with a depleted squad, the girls were more than a match for Brunell with the game tied at 17 apiece at half time. However, disaster struck early in the third quarter when two of our players were fouled out. The other 4 girls worked tirelessly for the rest of the game but were eventually overrun in the final quarter losing out 53-30. Sarah O' Dea had an excellent debut with Hayley Loughran and Danielle McNamara others to play well on the night.

There is no let up for our girls next weekend. Both our U15 and U18 girls have a double header in the Cork League. They host Glanmire followed by a trip to Waterford to play Wildcats. Our senior ladies are back in action in the North Munster League after a week's break. Our Saints host UL with our Scholars playing MICE.

Finally our U12 Saints will get much needed match practice with a home game in the North Munster U12B league against Limerick Lakers.

7th November 2011

St Colms U16 and U18 teams were in Cork league action last weekend with a double header of fixtures. Unfortunately both teams came away empty handed.

Last Thursday, both teams squared up against Glanmire with the U16s first in action. The girls welcomed Lynsey Purcell back to the team. The girls were very slowly out of the blocks and allowed Glanmire an early 14 point start. The girls eventually settled into the game, and were more than a match for their Cork counterparts thereafter. Their tardy start however defined the outcome of this game with Glanmire winning out on a 42-23 scoreline.

Lynsey Purcell top scored for the girls on 8 followed by Becky Cleary and Ciara O' Halloran on 4 apiece.

Our U18 girls must still be wondering how they managed to lose their game with Glanmire. The girls dominated this game for long stretches and lead by 5 at the interval. Glanmire rallied briefly in the third quarter with some good outside shooting, but our girls still maintained control. The girls though were not converting their superiority on the court into scores. They spurned numerous opportunities in the final quarter to close out the game. Failure to do so cost them dearly, with Glanmire stealing the game in the end on a scoreline of 40-34.

Orlaith Woods was the game's top scorer on 22 points with good performances by Niamh Hannan and Sarah Collery.

Both teams were back down in Cork again on Saturday. Our U18s were first in action with a game against Skibbereen. The girls like their U16 counterparts on Thursday, had a shocking opening quarter and trailed by 24-5 at the end of the first quarter. The girls took a long hard look at themselves and were a different team in the second quarter. The girls reduced the deficit to 19-29 at the interval, and were clearly now the team with momentum. This momentum was cruelly halted very early in the second half with Orlaith Woods been fouled out. To their credit, the other players stepped up but could never really cut into the deficit thereafter, before losing out on a scoreline of 53-37.

Aoife O' Connell looked much more comfortable in the two spot position and top scored on 10 points followed by Niamh Hannan on 9 and Sarah Woods on 6.

Our U16 girls travelled to Cork minus 4 of their squad for the return fixture against Brunell. The girls put in their best performance of the season and only trailed by 3 points going into the final quarter. However their reduced playing panel was always going to be a factor with fatigue setting in the last quarter. Brunell simply overran our girls in this final quarter and were flattered by their 53-30 win.

Caoimhe Gleeson 11 and Lynsey Purcell 10 top scored for the girls with other notable performances by Chloe Dineen and Becky Cleary.

Our U18 girls can look forward to a break next weekend, after a very tough run of fixtures in the Cork League. Our U16 girls will be in action in the North Munster league with a clash against Morning Star. Our U14 girls have a double header in the North Munster league with an away game against Newport followed by a home game against Morning Star. Our u16 Saints also have a home game against Newport.

Both our senior teams are in action with the Saints hosting Hoops and our Scholars away to UL.

Our club cater for girls from 6 years of age to adults. For more information on our club please visit our website at www.stcolmsbasketballclub.ie.

14th November 2011

After an indifferent few weeks, results wise, St Colms Basketball Club got back to winning ways last week. The club recorded 6 wins from 6 games in a good week for the club.

Our senior Saints set the ball rolling with a nervy 2 point win over Northside Hoops in the North Munster League. The Saints played excellent basketball in the first quarter to lead by 12 points led by Aisling Stapleton and Casey Dawson. They comfortably maintained this lead to the interval and were well in control. However an ankle injury forced the experienced Nuala O' Flaherty out of the game early in the third quarter. The injury upset the team for a while, with Hoops gradually taking control. The Saints seemed to run out of ideas and with a minute left in the contest the sides were level. Casey Dawson who had an excellent match popped up in the last few seconds with a tough basket to seal a 2 point win.

Top scorers were Casey Dawson 13 and Nuala O' Flaherty 10.

Our Senior Scholars were away to UL and edged a low scoring affair 31-27. Baskets were hard to come by for both sides in the first half with defences well on top. This was evident by a scoreline of 11-9 to UL at the interval. The Scholars finally began to find gaps in the UL defence in the third quarter to outscore their opponents by 13 points. This quarter was the difference as the Scholars held off a late UL rally to win by 4.

Top scorers were Aisling O' Neill 13, Niamh Ni Cheilleachair 4 and Eimear O' Malley 4.

Our U14 girls opened up their North Munster League campaign way to Newport. The late start to the league campaign was evident in a very rusty and error strewn performance. Nevertheless the girls had enough about them to win out on a scoreline of 22-14. There was a debut performance by Emma Cunningham with a number of the u12 players getting some court time experience at the higher age group.

Top scorers for Colms were Jane Clohessy 8, Julia Skalska 4 and Laura O' Shea 4.

The U14 girls showed the benefit of their game with Newport when they hosted Morning Star the following day. The girls were much sharper and focused in the game and ran out comfortable winners on a scoreline of 49-9.

Top Scorers for Colms were Naomi Keogh 10, Roisin Gleeson 9, Julia Skalska 8, Chloe Tobin 8 and Caoimhe Lee 6.

Our U16 Scholars were much too strong for their Morning Star counterparts. The girls showed the experience they are garnering from competing in the Cork League to comprehensively outclass their game opponents. The girls opened up an early 21-6 first quarter lead, and were out of sight by half time. The girls eventually strolled to a 79-18 win.

Top Scorers for Scholars were Ciara O' Halloran 20, Lynsey Purcell 16, Caoimhe Gleeson 16 and Meagan Greene 11.

Our U16 Saints capped a good week for the club with a solid 44-22 win at home to Newport. The girls put this game to bed early with a great start to the game to lead 14-2 at the end of the first quarter. Despite a slight wobble or two in the game, the girls

always held the upper hand led by a barnstorming performance by Eimear Dollard on a game high 24 points. Others to shine were Karen Lee and Jessica O' Brien.

The club face into another busy week with both our senior teams at home in the North Munster league against Tipperary and Shannon respectively. Our U16 Saints have away games against UL and Celtics in the North Munster League. Our U16 girls host Kanturk in the Cork League while our U18s host Fr Mathews. A number of our teams are also in action against Celtics in the North Munster league.

21st November 2011

St Colms basketball club had a very busy week on the playing front. The club were involved in 10 games in total with 5 wins and 5 losses recorded.

Our Senior Scholars were first in action, at home to Tipperary in the North Munster League. The Scholars were completely off the pace in the first quarter and managed only a solitary basket by Aisling O' Neill as they trailed 2-13. The introduction of Ciara Meaney early in the second quarter provided some firepower to the home attack. However they were still 15-23 down at the break. The Scholars were showing great patience on a frustrating night for them, and this patience was slowly beginning to pay dividends. Shots that refused to drop early in the game, were now beginning to find their target. The Scholars edged in front, close to the end of the game to emerge 44-43 victors.

Top Scorers: Ciara Meaney 11, Niamh Barton 10, Aisling O' Neill 6.

Our U16 Saints had a tough day last Saturday having to play back to back away games. They were away to UL in the first game, and really only came alive in the final quarter losing out 30-41.

Top Scorers: Jane Clohessy 7, Fiona O' Connell 6 and Sarah Murray 4.

The girls ran out of steam very early in their second game away to Celtics and were soundly beaten on a scoreline of 63-12 with Eimear Dollard, Roisin Duggan and Karen Lee best for Saints.

Our U16s hosted Kanturk in the Cork League. Despite missing Ciara O' Halloran, Aileen O' Connor and long term absentee Aoife Keegan, there was no excuse for a very poor display by the girls. They managed to score only 10 points in an error strewn first half. There was a slight improvement in their play in the second half. However it would have been an injustice if Kanturk had lost this match, as they put in a much more honest effort and were deserving winners 37-34.

Top Scorers were Caoimhe Gleeson on 13, Megan Greene 7 and Chloe Dineen 7.

Our U18s hosted Fr Mathews in the Cork League and recorded a solid win. The girls had an excellent first half as they stormed to a 38-18 interval lead. They comfortably held this lead for the remainder of the game to close out 61-40 winners.

Top Scorers were Orlaith Woods 25, Niamh Hannan 12, Aoife O' Connell 11 and Sarah Collery 7.

Our U12 girls and U14 girls were away to Celtics in the North Munster league with two games each. This year's U12 squad are quite young with most of the squad underage again next year. With this in mind, the club are giving all these players plenty of court time to garner the necessary experience. The first group of girls had a hard lesson against a very good U12 Celtics team. They were completely outplayed in the first quarter. However it was great credit to the girls, that they stuck at it and never led their heads drop. Once they overcame their stage fright, they came more into the game and can be rightly proud of their performance despite losing out 11-36. Lauren Walsh, Orla Zundel and Emma McDonnell did best for Colms.

The second group of girls had a little bit more experience in their ranks, and this showed in their win over a younger Celtics team.

Our U14 girls late start to the league campaign was always a concern before their game against Celtics. This concern was well founded as the Celtics girls with much more games under their belt, were too strong on the day winning out 53-24. Colms were well served by Chloe Tobin and Laura O' Shea.

The girls enjoyed a good competitive game against Celtics second team before stretching clear towards the end of the game to win out by 11. Some of the U12 girls played in both U14 games and acquitted themselves well.

A long week ended with our U18 girls proving too strong for Celtics. Despite not hitting one outside shot in the game, the girls still won out on a scoreline of 37-17 with good performances by Sarah Woods, Laura Sheahan and Niamh Hannan.

Both our senior teams are in action next week in the North Munster league. Our Scholars host Hoops while our Saints are away to Newport.

Both our U16 and U18 teams host Waterford Wildcats in the Cork League.

28th November 2011

The club would like to offer it's congratulations to Ciara O' Halloran of our U16 and U18 squads .Ciara has made the final cut of 27 players to the Irish U16 squad and hopefully will make the final team in next year's European Championships.

On the playing front, the club had 4 teams in action with mixed results. Our senior Scholars continued their recent good run with a hard earned win over Northside Hoops. The scholars once again had to get this win the hard way. Hoops started the better and opened up an early 10-2 lead. The Scholars upped their defensive work and kept their opponents scoreless for the next 12 minutes. However their offense was struggling as evidenced by a very low first half score of 11-10 in favour of the Scholars. The game did open up in the second half which suited our players. However it was only in the last quarter that the Scholars really began to exert control to win out 39-26.

Noreen Campbell and Niamh Barton top scored for Scholars with 10 points each.

The senior Saints put in a much improved effort against Newport but let a winning position slip from their grasp. The Saints started brightly. However a one point interval lead was scant reward for their first half endeavours. There were ominous signs when the girls could only manage 1 "3" pointer by Nuala O' Flaherty in the third quarter. Despite a last quarter rally, the girls could not peg Newport back ending up on the wrong end of a 31-26 scoreline.

Aisling Stapleton continues to play well for the Saints top scoring on 9 points with Nuala O' Flaherty and Simone Morris chipping in with 5 points apiece. Two of the underage squad Laura Sheahan and Niamh McCarthy made their senior debuts.

Our U16 girls continue to have an injury interrupted season, with both Lynsey Purcell and Aoife Keegan ruled out of their game against Waterford Wildcats. The girls put up a much improved performance this week, but found their opponents a little too strong for them and fell to a 47-23 defeat.

Caoimhe Gleeson as usual worked extremely hard for Colms and top scored on 8 points. Others to play well were Becky Cleary and Ciara Stapleton.

Our U18 girls escaped with a win over Wildcats despite a sloppy performance. The girls turned over the ball too many times in an error riddled performance and found themselves 2-10 down early in the game. The turnovers were particularly disappointing, as a lot of work has gone in to the training sessions to eliminate them. The girls were lucky that Niamh Hannan had an excellent game, and it was she that hauled the girls back into the game to lead by 2 points at half time. The girls finally composed themselves in the third quarter to open up an 8 point lead. Despite a few late scares, the girls had enough in reserve to win out 54-46.

Top Scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 21, Niamh Hannan 17 and Emma O' Rourke 4.

The club have another reasonable busy week on the playing front in which to look forward. Our senior Saints face a very tough assignment away to Celtics as they will be short a number of players for the game. Our U16 girls travel to Kanturk for a Cork

League game, hoping to exact revenge for their reversal two weeks ago, while our U18s are at home to Donoughmore.
Our U12 teams and U16 Saints host Morning Star in the North Munster League, while our U10s travel to Dromcollogher for a mini blitz.