

26th September 2011

The new basketball season got underway with our under 18 girls travelling to Little Island in Cork last weekend, for the qualifying rounds of the U18 National Cup. The girls were drawn against Waterford Wildcats and Killester from Dublin in a very tough pool.

The girls had been training very well over the past month and went into their first game against Wildcats in confident mood. The girls started strong and were well on top in the first quarter establishing an early 12-4 first quarter lead. The girls continued to play well and maintained a comfortable lead at the interval 28-19. Two early baskets in the second half stretched the lead out to 13 and a comfortable win looked on the cards.

The girls though got very careless with the ball in the next few minutes, gifting Wildcats some easy turnovers and scores. All of a sudden the deficit was down to 5. Wildcats sensed the panic in our girls play and took full advantage to tie the game 38 apiece heading into the final quarter. Our girls did compose themselves in the final quarter but the momentum had definitely swung Wildcats way. Little separated the sides, but Wildcats did just enough to stage a remarkable comeback to win out 46-44 in a pulsating game.

The girls now knew that a win against Killester was essential if they were to qualify. Killester were the fresher team going into this game, as it was their first game of the day, while our girls had a short turnaround before their second game. The game was competitive for the first quarter with the Dublin side leading 13-11. However the efforts of the first game were already beginning to show with our girls. The girls tired noticeably towards the end of the second quarter. Killester slowly began to pull away and eventually won out on a score line of 52-26.

The girls can take a lot of positives from their performances, and confirms that they are not out of place at the top tier of underage basketball in Ireland.

The players that represented St Colms were Laura Sheahan, Orlaith Woods. Niamh Hannan, Emma O' Rourke, Aoife O' Connell. Sarah Woods. Lorna Boland, Sarah Collery, Caoimhe Gleeson, Ciara O' Halloran and Lynsey Purcell.

The girls have an early opportunity to avenge their defeat to Wildcats when they travel to Waterford next Sunday for the opening game of the Cork League. Our U16 girls will also be in action against Wildcats.