

1st February 2016

The North Munster Senior league was back up and running after a prolonged break, over the Christmas/New Year period.

Our senior Saints and Scholars faced up to each other in the first game of the New Year. Both teams started off tenuously which was reflected on the scoresheet, 6 points apiece at the end of the first quarter. The standard of play improved markedly in the second quarter and the game became more open. This suited the Scholars who opened up a 23-18 interval lead. The Scholars maintained this lead for the remainder of the game to win out 37-29.

Top Scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 11 and Lynsey Purcell 9

Top scorers for Saints were Sharon Griffin 6, Niamh Barton 4 and Eimear O' Malley 4.

Our U16 girls travelled to Kanturk with a young squad with 5 of the players on duty, under 14 years of age. The girls put in a very good performance playing at a high intensity throughout. The game was evenly poised with the lead been exchanged a number of times throughout. An injury to Isabelle Meaney resulted in a loss of focus by our girls for a few moments. Kanturk took full advantage and went on a 7-0 run which sealed a win on a scoreline of 41-30.

Top Scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey 8 and Orla Zundel 6.

The club had 3 teams in action against Rockets. Our u13s faced Rockets U14s in a challenge game and put in a very disjointed performance. Our girls were second best throughout to a more determined Rockets squad and can have no complaints with the scoreline of 36-12.

Our U12s continue with their rotation policy which is throwing up some contrasting results and performances this season. In the game against Rockets, the home side took advantage of our girls inexperience, intercepting a number of wayward passes throughout the game. Most of these intercepts resulted in scores for the Rockets on the way to a 40-14 win.

There were some positives to be taken from the game with Lily O' Halloran, Susannah Holland and Megan Cunningham improving with each game.

Our U14 girls went into their league encounter minus five of their regular squad. This meant a call up for 5 of the U13s.

The first half was a tight affair with defences on top. Rockets were putting in a huge effort and deservedly led 15-10 at the break. Our girls really stepped up in the third quarter and allowed Rockets only 2 points as they established a 26-17 lead going into the final quarter. The girls kept up the pressure and closed out the game 37-25.

The win seals their place in the All Ireland Club Championships in April.

Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 12, Sophie Moore 11 and Jody O' Halloran 6.

There were also improved performances by Mia Quain and Aoife O' Neill.

Last weekend was National Cup weekend and a huge congratulation goes out to Limerick Scorpions on winning the National wheelchair basketball cup final. A big shout out to former junior wheelchair players Seamus, Aisling and Tiernan who made telling contributions in the game.

Congratulations to another former player Jason Killeen who was an integral part of Templeogue's win in the National Cup Final hitting 17 points in the game.

Our junior wheelchair team will be in action in Galway next weekend hoping to emulate the achievements of the Limerick Scorpions. Our U14 girls are in action in Cork in the invitational Johnny

Murphy Tournament. Some of our U14 squad will be lining out for Cratloe in the Clare Community games. Finally both our senior ladies teams are in North Munster league action with the Saints facing Thurles and the Scholars up against Shannon.

8th February 2016

Our U14 girls put in a terrific performance when reaching the semi-finals of the Johnny Murphy Tournament in Cork last Saturday. The girls qualified out of their pool containing Carrigaline and Carraig na BhFear to face Waterford Wildcats in the semi-finals. The Waterford team are arguably the top U14 side in the country on current form, so it was a big ask for our girls. The game was an even affair in the first half with our girls playing superbly to trail by only 16-19 at the interval. Wildcats were clearly rattled and regrouped at half time. They immediately went into a full court press and unfortunately our young team panicked. They conceded 6 quick turnovers in a frantic two minute spell and suddenly the score line was showing 16-31. The girls weathered this storm but the damage was done with Wildcats going on to win out 53-27. Wildcats capped a superb day by going on to win the final itself.

The girls needed this tournament experience ahead of the AICC's in April and will benefit greatly from the three games played.

There were top performances by Aoife Morrissey, Mia Quain, Bronagh Dollard and Julia Cunneen, but in truth they had great support from the rest of their 8 team mates.

Our juvenile wheelchair team travelled to Galway last Sunday to play 4 games. It took two games for this young team to settle and could have no complaints with defeats to the older and more experienced Galway and Cork teams. The team came of age in their third game against Kingdom Trailblazers from Kerry. The boys and girls put in a terrific display of high energy basketball to run out 12 point winners.

The team continued to play this high energy game against the unbeaten South East Swifts in their final game, and can consider themselves unlucky to lose out 6-12.

There were superb performances by Cian Horgan, Kate Delaney and Aoife Horgan and were ably supported by Mark and Aoife Leyden.

Next week is a quiet week with only our U10 girls in action. There will be a report on how they got on next week together with a report on how our two senior teams fared in the North Munster League.

15th February 2016

Our two senior teams were the only teams in action during the week with both falling to defeats.

Our Scholars were first to take to the court against Thurles Knights. The Scholars put up in a disappointing first quarter performance and found themselves 9-18 down. Their defence improved a little bit in the second quarter but they were misfiring badly in offence and found themselves 18-32 behind at the interval. Thurles were always comfortable in the second half and were easily able to close out the win on a 53-35 score line.

Top scorers for Scholars were Eimear Dollard 11, Fiona O' Connell 9 and Aoife O' Connell 8.

Our Senior Saints were much more competitive in their game against Shannon and in truth should have won this game. For a large part of this game the Saints held the upper hand and led 20-14 at the interval. They still led going into the final quarter and had enough opportunities especially from the free throw line to close out this game. Unfortunately with the winning line in sight, they allowed Shannon back into the game. Shannon finished the stronger scoring the final 3 baskets of the game to win out 42-37.

Top scorers for Saints were Deirdre Barton 8, Aisling Stapleton and Noreen Campbell on 6 points apiece.

Next week both our senior teams will face each other in the quarter finals of the North Munster Cup. Our U16 girls are in North Munster League action against UL Huskies.

Finally, we will be welcoming a number of teams from around the country to our Junior Wheelchair Basketball Blitz which will be held in St Clements College on Sunday 21st.

22nd February 2016

There was a large turnout in St Clements Gym as we hosted the February leg of the IWA Junior wheelchair basketball blitz. St Colms played 4 games over the day recording two wins. The first game was against Rebel Wheelers from Cork. Colms started well and scored the first two baskets. However the experience of the Rebel Wheelers showed as they reeled off 5 baskets in a row to lead at the interval 10-4. Colms came out strong in the second half and drew level 12-12 with two minutes remaining. However Rebels added two late baskets to win out 16-12.

The next game was against a strong Carlow-Galway selection who had two senior players in their ranks. Our lads played terrific basketball to lead 8-6 at the break. They continued to dominate this game to win out 14-8 in the end.

The third game was against Kingdom Wheelblazers from Kerry. Our lads had too much pace and power for the inexperienced Kerry team and ran out comfortable 20-2 winners.

The final game was against a very strong Athlone-Dublin selection who dominated the first half to lead 10-2. Our lads showed a terrific attitude right throughout the day and came back strongly in the second half before losing out 10-14.

Top scorers for St Colms on the day were Aoife Horgan, Mark Leyden and Cian Horgan. The rest of the panel, Kate Delaney, Sean Byrnes, Molly Delaney and Aoife Leyden chipped in with some great scores and performances over the 4 games.

A big thanks to Limerick Lions Basketball Club for giving up their Sunday training slots to allow us host the Blitz in St Clements. A huge debt of gratitude goes to the parents, Deirdre, Michelle, Sharon, Fiona, Brenda and Sarah who kept an army of players and volunteers fed and watered throughout the day.

Our U16 girls joined their U14 counterparts by qualifying for the All Ireland Club Championships by just about getting the better of UL Huskies in their North Munster League encounter. Our girls played in fits and starts throughout this game and were mightily relieved to come out on the right side of a 33-32 score line. The girls were asleep in the first quarter and trailed 5-12. There was a huge improvement in the second quarter as they outscored UL 15-3 to lead 18-15 at the break. The girls stretched the lead out to 9 points and one would have believed they would have kicked on for victory at this stage. Instead the girls seemed to lose focus and allowed UL stay in the game with silly and needless turnovers. UL clawed back the deficit to a point at the death.

Top scorers for St Colms were Aoife Morrissey 13 and Hazel Dineen 8. There were also decent performances by Siofra Gleeson, Jody O' Halloran and Amy Higgins in defence.

Our two Senior teams faced off against each other in the quarter finals of the North Munster Cup with the Scholars confirming their league superiority with a win only after a might scare by a fired up Saints team. The Saints were on fire in the first quarter led by Deirdre Barton and should have been further ahead than 15-10 at the end of the first quarter. The Saints this season always seem to have a quiet quarter and once again it proved to be the case. This time, a poor offensive second quarter where they scored only 6 points proved their undoing. The Scholars scored 14 points in this quarter to lead 24-21 at the interval. The Saints raised their game in the third quarter to trail by only a point. However the Scholars hit a rich vein of form in the final quarter as they hit 25 points to win out 59-45.

Top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 26 and Lynsey Purcell 14.

Top scorers for Saints were Noreen Campbell 12, Deirdre Barton 9 and Aisling Stapleton and Michelle Morrissey on 6 points apiece.

Next week both our senior teams are back in North Munster league action with the Scholars facing Celtics and the Saints in action against UL Huskies.

Our U13 girls are away to Fr Mathews in the Cork League while our U12s, U14s and U16s are in North Munster league action against Morning Star.

Finally our U10s are playing in a blitz hosted by Glen Cruisers in Newport.

29th February 2016

Our club hosted Morning Star in 5 games last Sunday and came out on top in each.

Our U11s got the day off to a flyer with an excellent display. The teams were evenly matched in the first quarter with our girls leading 12-6. However our girls upped their performance at both ends of the court to run out easy 44-8 winners.

Top scorers for the girls were Julina Ryan 12, Melissa Do 12 and Kate Barry 10.

Our u12s were hoping to atone for a defeat earlier in the season to Morning Star and did so in style. The girls were right on top from the start and opened up a commanding 18-2 first quarter lead. Morning Star to their credit rallied in the second quarter to trail 24-6 at the break. Our third quarter five followed up their first quarter performance by outscoring their opponents by 8 and laid the foundation for a comprehensive 40-14 win.

Top scorers for St Colms were Abbie Pigott 18, Julia Cunneen 10 and Susannah Holland 6.

Our U13 girls warmed up for their Cork Championship semi-final with an easy win over Morning Star U14s in a challenge game. The girls were much too strong in recording a 59-3 win.

Abbie Pigott capped a fine days' work top scoring on 25 points followed on the scoring by Julia Cunneen, Lucy Liston and Jana Zundel.

Our U14 girls were also way too strong for a committed Morning Star in their North Munster league encounter. The girls play at a much higher level than their opponents and even with a five on five off rotation throughout the game ran out easy 61-4 winners.

Top scorers for Colms were Aoife Morrissey, Bronagh Dollard, Sophie Moore, Amy Higgins and Jodie O' Halloran.

Morning Star were unable to field an U16 team for their North Munster league encounter, so it was agreed to play a challenge game against their U17 girls. This game was put to bed by our young starting five of Aoife Morrissey, Orla Zundel, Siofra Gleeson, Jodie O' Halloran and Amy Higgins who established a 14-2 lead before making way for some of the older players. The girls were always in control in this game and ran out 44-28 winners.

Top scorers for Colms were Ruth Butler 11, Orla Zundel 8 and Hazel Dineen, Amy Higgins and Caoimhe Lee on 4 each.

Our U10 girls were in Newport to play in a blitz hosted by Clen Cruisers. The girls played 4 games over the morning and came off the court tired but happy after 4 excellent performances. Both coaches Karen and Colm were delighted with the skill levels displayed by their young charges.

Our senior Saints came up short in their North Munster league encounter with UL Huskies. This was a tough low scoring affair with defences on top for both sides. UL opened up a five point lead in the first quarter and this proved to be key for the rest of the game. UL always had their noses in front and won out 28-25 in the end.

Top scorers for Colms were Deirdre Barton 5 and Orla Madden 4.

Next week, our U14 girls host Rockets in the semi-finals of the North Munster Cup while our U13 girls travel to Cork to face Glanmire in the semi-finals of the Cork Championship.

Our U16 girls play their final two away games in the Cork League against Donoughmore and Carraig na BhFear respectively.

Our two senior ladies teams are in North Munster action with the Saints facing Thurles and the Scholars facing Shannon.