

07 January 2019

St Colms Basketball Club would like to wish a happy new year to all our players, coaches and parents.

It was a successful start to the year for the club with our under 14s and under 16s in action and both teams recording impressive wins in the Cork League.

The U16s were the busier of the teams with two games over the weekend.

The girls were in Ballincollig on Saturday shaking off the Christmas cobwebs to record their first win of 2019 in impressive style.

The girls then traveled back down to Cork on Sunday for a visit to Fr Matthews. The girls would have been forgiven for being a bit leggy after their Saturday game but in truth this game was never in doubt with the girls winning comfortably to make it two for two in 2019.

The girls will hope to continue their good form when they visit Carrigaline on Thursday for their Cork Championship game before our U16s and U18s host Cobh on Saturday in the Cork League. Our U14 girls were back in league action after the Christmas break with an away game against Fr Mathews in the Cork League. The girls definitely showed signs of ring rustiness in this game as they produced a mixed performance. They started the game brightly and raced into an early lead through scores from Amy Buckley, Alana Moran and Katie Hehir. Fr Mathews came more in to the game in the second quarter as they began to pick holes in the girls' defence. However they were too far behind after the first quarter to really trouble our girls. The second half was all about our girls keeping focused which they did, to run out comfortable winners on a score line of 51-21 making it 7 wins on the trot for this ever improving squad

Top scoring honours were shared between Amy Buckley 18, Nofeesat Muniru 8, and Alana Moran 7, with 6 other players on the scoresheet. There was a welcome return for Melissa Do after six weeks out with injury.

The girls have a little break before their next game against Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League

14 JANUARY 2019

Our U16 girls were busy last week with two games. On Thursday they travelled to Cork to play Carrigaline in the quarter finals of the Cork Championship and came away with a comfortable victory. On Saturday they hosted Cobh in the Cork league and maintained their 100% record with a win. This game was competitive in the first quarter with our girls edging it on a score of 14-10. The game was effectively decided in a devastating second quarter performance highlighted by three "3" pointers by Sophie Moore. Our girls outscored Cobh 21-2 to open up a commanding 35-12 interval lead. The second half was played at a sedate pace as our girls comfortably won out on a score line of 50-15. Top scorers were Sophie Moore 22, Jana Zundel 10 and Abbie Pigott 8.

A number of the U16 girls played up with their U18 counterparts in their Cork League game against Cobh. The girls went into the game without Orla Zundel who will sadly miss the rest of the season with an injury and Izzy Murphy who was away at the Young Scientist week. The girls started the game a little ragged and allowed Cobh to establish an early 9-1 lead. The girls settled and cut the deficit to

10-14 by the end of the first quarter. A change in defence led to Bronagh Dollard marking Cobh's Lena Frost who did considerable damage in the first quarter scoring 13 of Cobh's 14 points. Bronagh did a superb job restricting her opponent to only 5 points for the remainder of the game. With Bronagh on top in her personal battle, the girls were able to dominate the second quarter and opened up a 26-18 interval lead. The girls were very comfortable in the second half and looked to be on course for a routine win as they led by 9 going into the final 2 minutes of the game. Cobh hit a "3" pointer to give themselves hope. A silly turnover by our girls gifted Cobh the ball and they punished our girls with a second "3" pointer. Cobh now had their tails up and astonishingly hit a third "3" pointer to tie the game at 40-40. With 3 seconds to go Cobh were awarded two free throws to win the game. Fortunately for our girls, both were missed so an extra period of 3 minutes was needed. Cobh edged two points ahead before Sophie Moore tied up the game necessitating a second period of overtime. Jana Zundel came to the fore in this period and was faultless hitting 4 free throws under intense pressure. Amy Higgins scored a further basket for our girls to win out 48-42 for a much deserved win. Jana Zundel had a superb game throughout and was the stand out player scoring 15 points. She was followed on the scoring stakes by Bronagh Dollard, Sophie Moore, Jody O' Halloran and Isabelle Meaney.

The club would like to congratulate Laurel Hill on reaching the All Ireland School Finals at U16 and U19 level in their first year in these competitions and wish them the best of luck in their finals later this month. Our club is strongly represented on both teams with Amy, Jody, Isabelle, Izzy, Orla and Jana on the U19 team and Jana, Lily and Sarah on the U16 team.

Our younger squads are in action next weekend with the U10s, U12s and U14s in action against Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League.

21 JANUARY 2019

Our U14 girls continued their winning ways with a good win over Glen Cruisers in the North Munster League. The girls started well and opened the game with some well worked scores. Treasa Ni Cholbaird had to leave the game through illness midway through the quarter, resulting in the girls playing out the quarter with 4 players. Glen Cruisers used their extra player to good advantage to lead 14-13 at the end of the quarter. With the girls back to their full compliment at the start of the second quarter, they soon took control. The girls won the quarter 11-0 to open up a sizable advantage. The girls completely dominated the second half as the visitors visibly tired, running out 50-18 winners. Top scorers for St Colms were Kate Barry 14, Amy Buckley 12, Alana Moran 8 and Melissa Do 7 with Ciara Downey and Anna Linehan others to play well.

Our U12 girls rotated 17 players in their North Munster League game against Glen Cruisers, who obliged us by playing an extra quarter. Our girls led by U11 contingent Alice Cunneen, Jade O' Neill, Caoimhe Sweeney and Laura Chambers got the girls off to a flyer opening up a 10 point first quarter lead. Thereafter the game was quite competitive with little separating two well matched teams. Our girls showed a little bit more experience throughout to win out 29-10.

Others to play well for St Colms were Maxime, Sarah Jane and Tito.

Our U10 girls go from strenght to strength and were most impressive in their non competitive game with Glen Cruisers. The pleasing aspect of this game was the number of players on the scoresheet with Kayla, Eabha, Laura, Robyn, Tiegan and Niamh all scoring baskets. There were pleasing debuts for Clíodhna and Blainaid, with Samantha, Kate C and Kate O' B all making telling contributions.

Next week our U14 and U18 girls are on the road with away games against Carrigaline in the Cork League. The following day our U10s, U12s, U14s and U16s are in North Munster league action at home to Springfield.

Our U18 girls are away to UL Huskies in the North Munster League while our Senior Scholars are away to Springfield in the North Munster Cup.

Finally, best of luck to all our girls representing Laurel Hill in the U16 and U19 All Ireland School Finals in the National Basketball Arena

28th January

Our U14 girls continued their rich vein of form with another win away to Carrigaline in the Cork League. The win moves them up to a three way tie at the top of the table. The girls were on top throughout this game and were very comfortable winners. Amy Buckley was again the top scorer for the girls on 22 points followed by Ava O' Halloran 8, Nofeesat Muniru 8 and Aisling Downey 6.

Our U18 girls were also in Cork league action away to Carrigaline and this game was a much more competitive affair. The girls played extremely well, particularly in defence in this game and will look back and wonder how they ever lost this game. The girls had a very poor day on the free throw line converting only 3 of their 14 free throws and missing too many open lay ups. If they managed to convert even half of their opportunities, they could easily have won this game instead of losing out 34-48. On the positive side was the fact that the girls created numerous scoring opportunities but they must start converting to win these close contested games. Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 9, Sophie Moore 9 and Jody O' Halloran 8.

The following day, the club hosted Springfield in the younger age groups.

The Under 10s were first up, playing an entertaining game with all players getting plenty of game time. This group of girls continue to impress and the improvement in all players is clear to see.

Our 14 girls got a bit of a scare in their challenge game before prevailing on a score line of 35-30.

This was a close contest which our girls desperately needed ahead of some tough upcoming games. Little separated the sides with just a basket or two separating the teams throughout. Springfield went on a 7 point run to open up a 4 point lead entering the final few minutes. However a late rally by our girls helped them take the spoils. Alana Moran and Amy Buckley top scored on 10 points each followed by Aoife Brown, Melissa Do and Kate Barry.

Our U16 girls also had a challenge game against Springfield. The U16 girls that were involved in the previous day's U18 game v Carrigaline were rested for this game. This allowed some of the younger U15 players get some game time. The girls always had their noses in front throughout this game before closing out a 34-28 win. Best for St Colms were Aoife O' Neill, Abbie Pigott, Susannah Holland and Aine Tierney with Sarah Cantillon and Azeezat Muniru having solid games.

Our U12 girls hosted Springfield in a North Munster league game. Springfield started on fire and were well worth their 11-6 first quarter lead. However a big effort from our girls in defence swung the momentum back in their favour. Springfield could only manage a further 3 points for the rest of the game. Our girls kept chipping away on the scoreboard to win out 26-14 in an entertaining game. Best for the girls were Maxime, Claire, Grainne and Ava.

Next week is a very busy week for our U18 girls. They play Wildcats, Brunell and Glanmire in the Cork League and Limerick Celtics in the North Munster Cup, thankfully all in Limerick. The U16 girls also have two Cork league games at home to Glanmire and Brunell, while our U14 girls also have two home games against Mallow and Midleton respectively. Our U11 girls also play in an U11 Invitational tournament hosted by UL Huskies.