

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012

Both our senior ladies teams were in North Munster League action last week, with both recording comfortable wins. The two games, followed similar patterns with both our teams struggling early on to find scores before asserting in the second half to win their games.

Our Saints travelled to Askeaton for an away game against Foynes Flyers. The Saints were missing both Roisin Dempsey and Simone Bourke due to work and also Caoimhe Gleeson due to illness. After a forgettable first half where the Saints led 12-7, the performance increased markedly in the second half. The Saints began to use their running game to telling effect, especially in the third quarter, and all of a sudden had opened up a 20 point gap. Saints sealed a win on a 45-15 scoreline.

There was a good spread of scoring with Lisa Ann Dempsey hitting 10 points, followed by Emily Kavanagh, Marta Toplielecka and Aoife O' Connell on 8 each.

The Scholars game away to Kingfisher bore a marked resemblance to the Saints game. The Scholars struggled for scores in the first quarter and led only by 7-6. However once they found their shooting range, there was always going to be one winner as the ladies eased to a 57-27 win despite missing Anna Keyes, Joanne De Loughrey, Nuala O' Flaherty and Eimear O' Malley.

Top scorers for Scholars were Ciara Meaney 23 and Deirdre Barton 9.

Our U15 girls had a double header over the weekend in the Cork League. They played Mallow at home followed by an away trip in Cork against Glanmire. Despite losing both games, the team are showing definite signs of now being able to compete at this higher level. The girls inexperience probably cost them victory in both games as they gave away turnovers at crucial stages in both games.

The game against Mallow was a case in point. The girls trailed by 15 points mid way through the second quarter. Once they shed their nerves, they came strongly back into the game to lead by 2 points going into the final few minutes. However their inexperience told against them as they could not close out the game, before losing out 46-38.

It was a similar story in Cork the following day. When the girls were patient in offence, they were able to create good scoring opportunities. However there were too many times, where the girls panicked a little and chose the wrong options. In the end, the difference was that Glanmire took their chances when they were presented, while our girls did not. A final scoreline of 33-20 to Glanmire certainly flattered the hosts, as this game was much tighter than the scoreline suggests.

Jane Clohessy and Roisin Gleeson top scored for Colms in both games.

Next week is another busy one on the playing front. Our Senior Scholars host UL while our Senior Saints host Shannon in the North Munster league.

Our U12, U14, U16 and U18 girls are also in North Munster league action away to UL.

10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

St Colms had 4 underage teams in action away to UL and came away with 4 victories. Our U12 Saints were first up in a challenge game against the home team and recorded a deserved win by 2 points after an exciting game that went into overtime. This was a great boost for the team with 8 of the 12 players in action all under 10 years of age. There were fine performances by Amber Gleeson, Lucy Liston and Julia Cunneen.

Our U14 girls produced a marvellous comeback in their North Munster league game against UL. They seemed to be dead and buried as they trailed by 11 points at the interval. However the girls put in a huge second half performance restricting the home side to only 4 points to win an epic encounter by 2 points. This was a great win for this young side with 4 of the squad playing up from U12 level, which should give them great confidence going forward. Best for Colms on the day were Laura O' Shea, Muireaan Scanlon and Ruth Butler.

Our U16 girls were way too strong for a very inexperienced UL side and ran out comfortable winners. Top scorers for Colms were Jane Clohessy 19, Jessica O' Brien 16, Eimear Dollard 14 and Roisin Gleeson 12 in a win which moves them up to second spot in the league.

Our U18 girls went into their game minus the injured Lynsey Purcell but still had too much firepower to win out their game and consolidate their top of the league position. UL put it up to our girls in the first quarter to trail by only 6-13. However the introduction of Aileen O' Connor and Aoife O' Connell off the bench in the second quarter had a telling effect on this game as our girls opened up a 32-14 interval lead. The girls were comfortably able to maintain a lead of 18 to 20 points for the rest of the game before easing to a 58-39 win.

Top scorers for Colms were Ciara O' Halloran 18, Aileen O' Connor 14 and Caoimhe Gleeson 12.

Both our senior ladies teams went into their North Munster league games with depleted squads and paid the price with damaging defeats. Our Scholars went into their game against UL minus Roisin Dempsey, Aoife O' Connell and Lynsey Purcell. The absence of these 3 guard players meant that the team were very unbalanced leading to both Simone Bourke and Caoimhe Gleeson playing in unfamiliar roles. The team also missed the scoring threat of their 3 absentees as they fell to a 31-48 defeat. Best for Scholars were Emily Kavanagh, Karen Hartigan and Lisa Ann Demsey.

Our Saints were still without the injured Nuala O' Flaherty, who is now not expected to return to play until the New Year, for their game against Shannon. The team were not helped by the early loss of Deirdre Barton to foul trouble as they failed to spark on the night losing out by 31-48, the same score as the earlier Scholars game.

Best for Saints on the night were Laurie Brosnan and Noreen Cambell.

Next week the two senior teams play their final games before the Christmas break. The Scholars will host Shannon while the Saints host Foynes. Both teams cannot afford many more slip ups if they are to play in the top division, when the two pools split in January.

Our U15 girls are in Cork league action away to Mallow, while both our U12 squads are away to Morning Star in North Munster action.

17<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Our younger squads took centre stage last weekend, as both our U11 and U12 teams recorded good wins away to Morning Star.

Our U12 Scholars were first in action in their North Munster U12A league encounter. The girls put in a devastating first quarter display with 4 players Lauren Walsh, Orla Zundel, Caoimhe Hogan and Bronagh Dollard sharing 18 points between them as they raced to a 18-2 first quarter lead. To their credit, Morning Star stayed competitive for the rest of the game but were always chasing the game. Scholars kept the scoreboard ticking over to eventually win out on a scoreline of 40-14.

Top scorers for Colms were Lauren Walsh 14 followed by Megan Haugh and Caoimhe Hogan on 6 apiece.

Our U11 Saints buoyed by their win over UL Huskies the previous week, followed up with an excellent display in their challenge game against Morning Star. The girls played with plenty of confidence and were not phased playing against a physically bigger team. The girls led 8-2 at the interval based on excellent defence by April Hartnett, Aoife Murray and Sinead Moynihan. The girls were always in control in the second half and were worthy winners on a 20-11 scoreline.

Top scorers for Colms were Bronagh Dollard 6, Sarah O' Brien, Abbie Pigott and Jana Zundel on 4 points apiece.

Both our senior teams were in action in the North Munster league and had mixed results.

The Scholars were first in action against Pool leaders Shannon. The Scholars got off to a very slow start and quickly found themselves 10-0 down. A few adjustments were made to their defensive set up which slowed down the opposition's scoring. At the other end of the court, the Scholars were showing more patience in offence and were rewarded with well worked scores. The scholars slowly got themselves back into the game and trailed by only a single basket with two minutes remaining. However 2 quick turnovers proved costly. The Scholars were eventually to lose out 31-39.

Top scorers for Scholars were Aoife O' Connell 8, Martha Topielecka and Karen Hartigan on 6 points each.

The senior Saints fared much better in their encounter with Foynes. They were always in control of this game and recorded a comfortable win. The game marked Ciara Meaney's last game of the season before she embarks on a 6 month work experience programme.

Top scorers for Saints were Eimear O' Malley 13 followed by Deirdre Barton, Laurie Brosnan, Anna Keyes and Siobhain Keane all on 8 each.

The club will be taking a small break from competitive action over the Christmas period. We would like to wish all our players, parents, coaches, committee members and supporters a happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone again in the New Year.