




The Lightning Zone

Dorset Storm Basketball Club



General notes...

Welcome to the March edition of the Lightning Zone. The reasons for its delay in publication was simply to tie in with the end of the National league season.

We are pleased to report that this has been the clubs most successful season ever with all three National League teams finishing in their respective top four. The Under 15s made the play-offs for the third consecutive season, the Under 16s finished fourth in their league and the Under 18s in a very strong Western Conference finished joint fourth alongside Torbay.

There have been some memorable individual performances but two team highlights stand out. Firstly the Under 16s handing league leaders Taunton their first defeat of the

season which then saw the Somerset based side collapse and have a poor finish to the season. The Under 18s thrilling one point victory over National Cup quarter finalists Bristol is another. A huge team effort against a very physical and experienced side allowed the team to score the winning basket with less than a second remaining!

It has been a really impressive season for all our National League teams who have displayed their ability on the court along with good conduct on and off the court. Further details of their successes can be found later on in the Newsletter.

The season is now well underway for our local league teams, although some teams seem to have played more games than

others... it will even itself out over the next couple of months. We are in the fantastic position of being able to declare our Under 12s as league (west) champions having completed their season unbeaten! Their work is not done yet though as they have booked their place in finals day on 17th May.

We now have a month or two to prepare for Dorset Storms Big Summer 08. Further details are enclosed in this newsletter and available on our website (www.dorsetstorm.co.uk). If you are intending to play in either the Summer League or attending Summer Camp please make sure that you get your deposits in ASAP, as every year we have to turn people away—don't let it be you... have been warned!

100% Training attendance

Congratulations to the following players who have 100% attendance record for January and February:

- Jack Abrahams
- Jonathon Baker
- Rhys Barton
- Ryan Burton
- Seb Darby
- Kieran Docherty

- Tom Eads
- Sam Elliot
- Tom Green
- Lewis Hawkins
- Oliver Heath
- Michael Hester
- Nathan Kellaway
- Matt Lawson
- Liam Madden
- Max Palmer-Malt

- Oliver Robinson
- Ashton Thomson
- Eleri Williams
- George Williams
- Jordan Willsher
- Harmony Wong

Ask any coach and they will say the key to success is training! Well done to all the players listed.

March 2008

Inside this issue:

National League Reviews

Big Summer 08 Preview

Local League Review

Deng Receives Award

Special points of interest:

- *Reserve your place on the Summer Camp 2008 with a £25.00 deposit—see Jill ASAP as places are going fast.*
- *Summer league and Presentation evening dates are confirmed see Newsletter for details..*
- *Local League finals day is 17th May 2008.*



NBL Passerelle Boys
South West Conference

| | Played | Points |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Torbay Tigers | 10 | 24 |
| 2 Plymouth Raiders | 10 | 16 |
| 3 Team Gloster | 10 | 15 |
| 4 Dorset Storm | 10 | 12 |
| - Cornwall Cougars | 10 | 12 |
| 6 ABC Gwent | 10 | 4 |
| 7 Swindon Sonics | 10 | 0 |

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so
much."*

~ Helen Keller

NBL Cadet Boys
South West Conference

| | Played | Points |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Abingdon Eagles | 18 | 44 |
| 2 Plymouth Raiders | 18 | 42 |
| - Taunton Tigers | 18 | 42 |
| 4 Dorset Storm | 18 | 38 |
| 5 Severn Sharks | 18 | 32 |
| 6 Bristol Academy | 18 | 26 |
| 7 Bath Titans | 18 | 21 |
| 8 Plymouth Cannons | 18 | 18 |
| 9 Wessex Warriors | 18 | 15 |

The Big Summer 08... the plan

We are now in a position to confirm the dates for Dorset Storms Big Summer 08. The summer season will kick off with the trails for our National League teams on Sunday 18th May.

Following on from this will be the Awards Presentation Evening on Saturday 14th June. This is two weeks early so that we can fit in the clubs second Summer League.

This year the Summer League will kick off on Saturday 21st June, at

which point in time the weekend training sessions will switch to Sunday's for the remainder of the year. Why? So our Summer League can be bigger and better than last year! We will be running an Under 12s competition, Under 14s competition, Under 18s competition and this year will see the introduction of a Senior League. It will give the chance for our former players who are returning from University to meet up again and get it on.

Camp... it's back for year number seven! It runs from Monday 11th to Friday 15th August between 9.00am - 6.00pm. It is opened to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18. Please see Jill to reserve your place with a non-refundable £25.00 deposit as places are going fast. Brochures and posters are available for you to give to interested friends and family, please just ask your coach.

Oops, almost forgot to mention the Summer



Saturday 12 April - Semi Finals Day
Sunday 13 April - Finals Day
EIS - Sheffield



12 TEAMS
9 GAMES
TWO DAYS

For ticket info see englandbasketball.co.uk now!

Under 16s NBL review

Lead coach Adam Cran can now look back at his first season and reflect on what has been an unbelievably positive season. At the trials some 10 months ago he took a risk on a whole host of players who had never played National League Basketball before. After a long pre-season period, it wasn't until a 100 -

41 opening day victory over long established Bath Titans that the pressure finally eased.

There have been some ups - handing league champions Taunton their only defeat of the season, and some downs - being blown away by Plymouth just before Christmas.

Inconsistency continued to hamper the team in the second half of the season with some disappointing results. The team continued play well though with wins against Tamar, Bristol and Severn in the latter half of the season ensuring their merited fourth place finish.

Under 18s start with a mixed bag

Dorset Storm Under 18s completed their successful season with a good set of results in February. They suffered a close defeat at the hands of Conference champions Abingdon, losing by only seven points.

They also faced National Cup Quarter Finalists Bristol Academy. In a thrilling game in front of a hostile visiting crowd Storm managed to execute well down the final stretch including scoring the game winning shot with less than two seconds to go. This

meant that they had amazingly upset the form book to win by one point.

The team then faced two tough trips to Torbay and Bristol. Both teams would be a hard prospect for Storm on their home court and Storm appeared ready for the challenge. First up was Torbay, but Storm appeared to have left their games at Exeter services as they conceded 45 points in the opening 14 minutes. Despite only conceding 25 pints in the final 25 minutes the deficit was too great as the

team slipped to a disappointing result. In the final match of the season the team faced Bristol. It was a close fought affair from the off against a very big and athletic Bristol team. Coming down the final stretch it was Bristol who had the most energy and sneaked the win.

A joint fourth place finish represents a huge achievement for this cohort of players who have improved in each of the last four National League seasons.

Under 15s review...

It has been an up and down season for the Under 15s. A good start to the season with a big win at home to Cornwall looked like setting the tone for the rest of the season. Unfortunately several defeats followed and as Gwent and Swindon dropped out of the league, it left a host of strong looking teams.

In the New Year a good performance against Gloster at home was followed by a disastrous performance at home. In the last match of the season an under strength team travelled to Torbay. Despite the loss it was a good performance against unbeaten opposition with outstanding performances from the three

senior players - Tom Eads, Ryan Goddard and Greg Message.

Despite some indifferent performances the team made it to the play-offs. The team travelled to Spelthorne for the second time in three years and with three big players missing could not progress to the next round.

Deng places 10th in FIBA Europe award

The final placings of the *FIBA Europe Player of the Year Award* have been announced and whilst Britain's Luol Deng did not take home the award, his 10th placed finish is something to be celebrated.

The award winner was Andrei Kirilenko, which is no surprise considering he

also took home the MVP award after he led Russia to the Eurobasket 2007 title.

As the only finalist who did not take part in the Eurobasket 2007 tournament, Deng was always a long shot to win the award. He was placed 8th in the public vote (above Tony Parker of France, who finished in 4th

place overall), but his 11th placed finish in the expert vote, ensured he finished in 10th overall.

Dirk Nowitzki (Germany) and Jose Calderon (Spain) finished in 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Junior Men

Western Conference

| | Played | Points |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| 1 Abingdon Eagles | 16 | 40 |
| 2 Team Gloster Jets | 16 | 38 |
| 3 Bristol Academy | 16 | 32 |
| 4 Torbay Tigers | 16 | 28 |
| - Dorset Storm | 16 | 28 |
| 6 Bath Titans | 16 | 23 |
| 7 Bristol Storm | 16 | 20 |
| 8 Barry Huskies | 16 | 17 |
| 9 Wessex Warriors | 16 | 10 |
| 10 ABC Gwent | 16 | 0 |

"Many of us are more capable than some of us... but none of us is as capable as all of us!"

~ Tom Wilson



Above: Luol Deng in action for Chicago Bulls



**Providing Basketball
Opportunities for All**

Dorset Storm Basketball
Club

80 Dewlands Way
Verwood
Dorset
BH31 6JN

Phone: 01202 825068
E-mail: info@dorsetstorm.co.uk

WE'RE ON THE WEB

WWW.DORSETSTORM.CO.UK



"Since 1999 Dorset Storm Basketball Club has provided opportunities for both boys and girls aged between 8 and 18 to play basketball at whatever level they want. From beginners through to those with dreams of representing England, Dorset Storm can cater for you. The club also has a strong link with the biggest men's team in the Southern region, providing opportunities for players of all standards to play competitively. Coaching and officiating courses are also run in conjunction with the club. For further details on anything concerning basketball please do not hesitate to contact us using the details opposite."

"That's what learning is, after all; not whether we lose the game, but how we lose and how we've changed because of it and what we take away from it that we never had before, to apply to other games. Losing, in a curious way, is winning."

~ Richard David Bach

Solent League is up and running

Storms teams have made a really impressive start to the local league season with numerous good performances across a range of age groups.

The Under 12s currently lie undefeated in their league. More importantly than that though, they showed considerable improvement from tournament one to tournament three. Their performances have been really solid team performances and the future looks bright. We hope that we will be able to play a Under 12s friendly match next month to give some of our members who have not

yet got an outing a chance to play. Watch out for more details on our website and at training sessions.

The two Under 14s teams have also played well in their first few tournaments. Both teams have learnt an awful lot very quickly and have constantly improved both during individual matches and since the New Year.

The Under 16s had it all their own way in their first tournament of the year as both teams I and II blew away their opponents. In the battle between the clubs two teams, 20 points from Rhys Barton, including 12 in the last quarter, lead team II to

victory over team I as the two teams sit first and second in the table. In the last tournament, it saw the Under 16s take on Trailblazers as both Salisbury and Portsmouth dropped out on the morning of the tournament. Despite such strong opposition the players came out hard and battled to the end—their efforts were not quite enough as the experienced Trailblazer side came out on top. The tournaments start to come thick and fast for the Under 16s as we head into the final two months of the season.

Well done to all the players involved so far... keep up the good work!