

Phoenix get first win of 2012.

Perth Phoenix Basketball Club was back in action in the Scottish National League this weekend with another two away games for the young Phoenix teams.

On Saturday the Junior Men travelled to Edinburgh to take on Boroughmuir Blaze. Phoenix went into the game on the back of a poor defeat the previous week, and needed to regroup to find some consistency in their performance. They started the game well as they played some excellent half court defence forcing Boroughmuir to shoot a number of low percentage shots, from which Phoenix capitalised by executing well in offence. Phoenix took the first quarter 18-8. Phoenix started the second quarter in a similar manner, looking as though they would be comfortable as the game progressed, however, Blaze managed to put together a sequence of consecutive stops, while finding their scoring touch and it was they that dominated the second quarter outscoring Phoenix by 21-11. The teams entered half time level, and a similar pattern was developing to the previous week. Indeed into the second half, Blaze took the lead as Phoenix struggled to find their rhythm. Phoenix took a timeout at this point and made changes to their attacking system, and slowly began to take control of the game again, eventually winning the quarter by 2 points at 19-17. The fourth quarter proved a tense affair as Phoenix found themselves in foul trouble early in the quarter. However, Phoenix started to show a battling spirit that had been missing the previous week as a number of decisions went against them, including a fifth foul for starting point guard, Scott Thomas, who was having the best game of his season so far. Coach Kesson called a timeout and asked forward and team Captain, Jake Warrington to shoulder the ball handling responsibilities, while changing the team defence, which helped phoenix win the quarter by five points and deservedly the game by 7 at 73-66. Top performers for Phoenix were Jack Nicholson with 20 points and a massive 21 rebounds. He was supported by Scott Thomas with 19 points, with an impressive 9 out of 10 from the free throw line, and Jake Warrington who contributed 15 points and 10 rebounds. Special mention should go to Cadet player, Patryk Wyr who scored 8 points in the final 3 minutes of the game at a crucial point for Phoenix.

The Cadet Men travelled to Aberdeen on Sunday to take on the Grampian Flyers. Having overcome the Flyers in Perth earlier in the season, the young Phoenix team were full of confidence heading into this fixture and got off to a great start as they raced into a 15-6 lead by the end of the first quarter with some excellent defence and some well executed offence. Flyers dug in more in the second quarter as they began to find their own scoring touch and reduced the gap to 4 points at the half time interval. More was to follow in the third period as the home team managed to draw level in the match in a low scoring third quarter. Phoenix Center, Patryk Wyr found himself in foul trouble and found it difficult to attack the basket with his usual vigour, and Phoenix struggled to create a lot in attack without him. Grampian made the most of this in the final quarter and restricted Phoenix to just 8 points, allowing them to go on to win the game by 8 points at 55-47. Phoenix were bitterly disappointed with their performance and will need to look within their group for answers on their scoring problems and to enable them to make more out of their season. Top scorer for Phoenix was Patryk Wyr, supported by Adam Legge, who was the stand out performer for Phoenix, with 10 points. Harry Mellor contributed 8 points.

This weekend all action has been postponed due to officiating issues within the basketball association. This will result in a two week lay off for Phoenix as the following weekend is Cup Finals weekend with neither team in action.