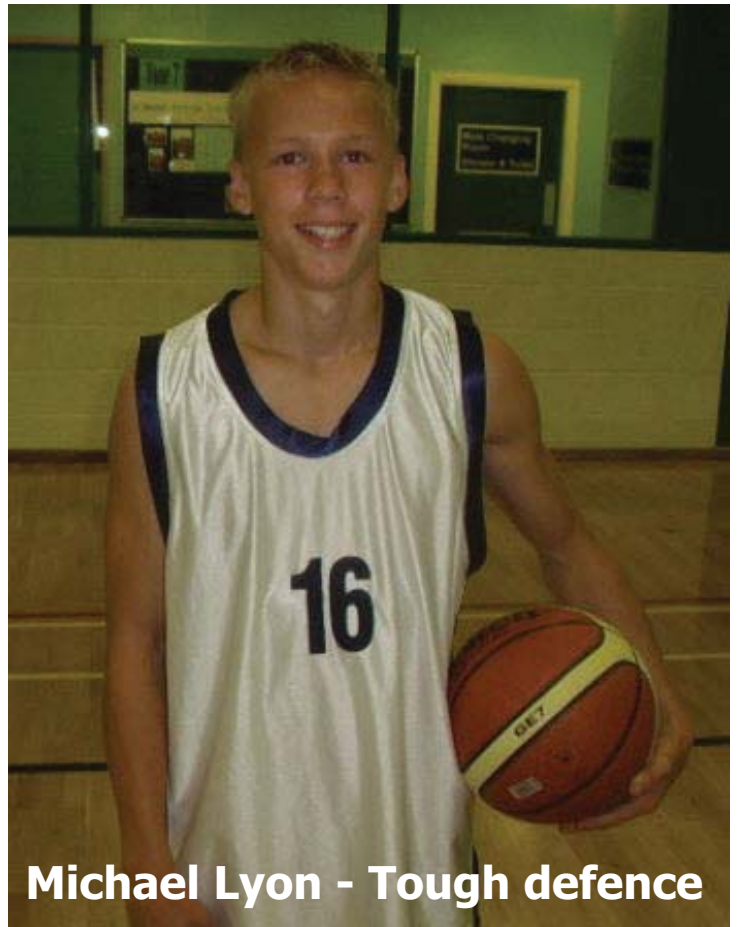


Injury-hit Boteler Team Too Strong For Penketh in 55-33 Victory

With just one win against Penketh in the last four years, we were keen to keep this season's momentum going by building on last week's demolition of Lymm High School. However, problems were mounting with Declan's ankle injury whilst playing for Chester Jets already depriving us of one top scorer and then during the day Ryan (knee) and Jake (flu) had to pull out too. Tom was carrying a slight back injury and Ash Latham picked up a knock in judo during the afternoon



Michael Lyon - Tough defence

but still led the team passionately in his third game as captain.

In many other years this would have been too much to deal with but our strength in depth in basketball this year is such that we could still field eight regular players who have all scored in the league this season. We knew that Penketh would base their game around one player and had a strategy to contain him, a job which Mikey and Ash Latham shared during the match. In spite of their excellent man to man defence he still scored 28 of their points!

We started better this week, with tough marking and rebounding, but several times possession was thrown away by sloppy passing in transition. Our guards were not breaking wide enough and Penketh were quick to intercept even though they lacked the skill to convert possession into points. Tom kept us in the game with more unstoppable drives to the basket and Rocky brought an outside shooting dimension to our offence which was missed during his injury lay off.

Having achieved a 7 point lead at half time we were looking more comfortable. Josh(TJ), David and Connor came on to give Mikey and Ash Haughton a rest whilst Tom and Ash Latham alternated through the third quarter. Surprisingly for a big school, Penketh had

Tom Bate - Top scorer again



only 6 players and as we wore them down with a relentless half court press, their energy levels began to drop towards the end of the match. Time and again our players stole the ball in mid-court and the fast break was on almost very time, although we are still not ruthless enough and should have easily scored another 10-15 points.

Towards the end we were in total control with Rocky, Josh and Ash Haughton, who played practically the whole game, running the offence comfortably. With the game won we began to play some quality

basketball with David , Tom and Ash Latham getting quality passes in scoring positions. Connor also came close and won a number of loose balls which he recycled sensibly. Rocky and Mikey both regularly out jumped Penketh players at both ends to win the ball and block shots. We used up the clock sensibly at the end and Tom finished the game with a three pointer on the buzzer.

We were once again well supported by our resident cheerleaders and a number of other supporters from all years. Dec, Tasha and Tom Davidson handled the scoring table and as usual the match was played in the right sporting spirit by both teams. Our next challenge is away at Great Sankey.

Mr H Chambers