

INTERVARSITY AT HOBART - (AUG. 22-28, 1976)

After a bumpy flight we arrived at Hobart Airport to find a distinct lack of transportation to Hobart. After an hour's wait, we found ourselves whistling down the highway listening to a taxi meter tick over and over, till we found the Russell Hotel, in the suburb of Moonah. That night (Sunday) the women's boat race team - Jan, Barb, Lois, Mary and Woody - fought their way into the semi-finals but were narrowly beaten. The men - Peter, John, Henry and Laurie - finished in the top four with Monash taking the title.

Not too impressed with the prospect of walking to games, the girls hired a car on Monday morning - you'd be surprised how many basketballers can fit into a Valiant Sedan!

Monday: saw the start of the tournament :-

Men's: Monash 51 defeated Melbourne 35 - the shuffle worked well, we won on the boards, led 19 - 18 at half time, but were finally beaten by a full court press. Haggis 16, John 8, Les 4, Skippy 5 and Laurie 2.

Women's: Adelaide 23 defeated Melbourne 22 - what a game! A bad first half saw us trailing 3 - 10 at the break. With a good press and a lot of aggression, Uni. held the opposition and Ann laid-up with 10 secs. to go to draw the match. After 5 mins. extra, we went down by 1 point in an exciting finish. Barb 11, Ann 7 and Jan 4.

The following game was a RUGGED affair!

Women: Macquarie 37 defeated Melbourne 16 - they were much better stronger and were destined for the grand final. Barb 6, Jan 6, Woody (an incredible bomb!) 2, and Mary 2.

Men: Adelaide 52 defeated Melb. 33 - killed by their big men (1x6'5", 2x6'6") and tricky guards, down 31 - 21 at half time. They were destined for bigger things. John 10, Haggis 7, Skippy 7, Les 6 and Laurie 3.

After a hard day on the courts, we trotted off to Tassie Uni. for the Basketball Ball of the year - a great little turn. (Henry looked the part in his crepe-paper tie).

Tuesday: Tuesday's games forced us to find our sea-legs - to Clarence Stadium across the Derwent.

Men: Melbourne 65 defeated Macquarie 37 - playing against a zone, the 1 - 4 killed 'em. Les, Laurie rolled well and Haggis bombed. Haggis 24, Laurie 15, John 12, Skippy 10, Les 4.

The following game was a beauty, for the male spectators, (Some of the Newcastle girls - talk about 9½ out of 10!).

Women: Melb. 59 defeated Newcastle 21.

A good press and fast breaks saw us 33 - 2 at half time. Under coach Marion's orders, the team worked their offense for practice in the 2nd half. Barb 31 (after a 10 min. rest on the bench!), Jan 18. ^{and}

That afternoon the men went driving - very pleasant, especially for Henry and Les who both flaked! - whilst the girls psyched themselves up for eventual grand finalists Monash. No wonder since their first five was 4 championship players and 1 'A' Grade player for Geelong!

Women: Monash 33 defeated Melb. 11. Monash, playing a zone, replaced their first five early but ~~promot~~ ^{promot} them back on when our offense played so well - we were winning up to the last 39 mins.

That night was the ferry cruise down the Derwent (aptly fitted the booze cruise). This featured copious drinking (beer only girls not impressed!) - an icy wind off the port bow (just ask Henry how cold it was) - a few sick-looking ~~pepp~~ ^{pepp} next morning Haggis and Laurie (to name but a few).

Wednesday: saw the girls off to Port Arthur with a second hired car - an enjoyable trip so I'm told. As for the men two more games.

Men: Latrobe 62 defeated Melb. 38.

- too many individualists, shuffle not given a chance (but they know it better than us, anyway!). Haggis 14, Jamie 12, Les 6 and John 6.

Men: Melb. 59 defeated Tasmania 47 - fast moving game, Skippy cut air defense up with great lay-ups, once again shuffle was piss-weak. Jamie 29, Haggis 20, John 2, Les 2, Laurie 2, Peter 2 and Henry 2.

The great non-event of the journey was the party at the Russell on Wed. night - practically nobody fronted! A great representation from Melb. and Adelaide but then they lived in the place. Anyway, lots of cards were played along with darts, pool and intrigue. Later on the girls got a thrill from the "Night Visitor" - Mark (from Adelaide) who wanted to know why they were asleep.

Thursday: morning saw the last games of the round before the finals.

Men: Melb. 79 defeated Newcastle 21 - a powerful first half display from our first five saw the scores 49 - 12. The second half was a good team effort from the others. (who all got a run). Jamie 18, Haggis 14, Laurie 11, John 10, Peter 9, Les 6, Andy 4, Henry 4, and Geoff 3. Melb. (Men) finished 4th out of 7 in pool one.

Women: Latrobe 33 defeated Melb. 28. The girls, indignant upon hearing that Trobers assumed they'd win, played hard. Barb was fouled off, and their full court press worked. Jan 14, Barb 9, Ann 5. Melb. (Non-Men) finished 5th out of 6.

Men: A.N.U. 49 defeated Melb. 48. A.N.U., who finished 3rd in pool 2, won in last second - fair dinkum! We were 1 point down until Skippy lay-upped successfully 5 secs. to go then they scored. Jamie 26, Haggis 10, Laurie 6, Les 4, Andy 2.

Thursday night was Casino night, and what a night for Barb, Jan and Woody - coming out \$7 ahead. You should have seen the assortment of jackets won by our men - Jan's cord jacket, Mary's coat, the Russell owner's son's jacket - since this rule was strictly enforced! Annie from Adelaide won \$46 after given \$10 starting money from Russell's owner (who incidentally won \$1,500 that night at two-up!).

After Casino, pizzas were the order of the night especially those little fire breathing "satans". Woody was heard to exercise her vocal chords back at the hotel, to wind up an impromptu party convened by Mark (Adelaide).

Friday: saw a very busy schedule for the girls, with two games in the morning at 10.00a.m., 12 noon.

Women: Melb. 9 defeated Sydney 8. - that's right, 9 - 8! the half time scores were 8 - 4 but at least we won.

Men: Melb. 63 defeated Monash 54 - this was a great finish to the tournament with a win over arch-rivals Monash. Les dominated the boards and Skippy controlled the ball well. Jamie 22, John 16, Les 14, Laurie 6, Haggis 5.

Women: Melb. 32 defeated New England 27. Playing against a man-to-man, we caught up an early deficit of 2 - 12. Coach says they even learnt a new "17" play. Barb 18, Jan 7 and Ann 5. Friday afternoon was finals.

Women: Monash 42 defeated Macquarie 33 - Monash won easily, rowdy barracking from Monash animals in the audience.

Men: Adelaide 66 defeated Latrobe 64 - great game by Melvyn Need (Adel.) and Chris "spider" Lane (Adel.). Overcame the constant jeering of being called a turkey to play reasonably well.

Final Placings:

Women: 1. Monash, 2. Macquarie, with Melbourne 9th out of 13 Universities.

Men: 1. Adelaide, 2. Latrobe, with Melbourne 7th, Monash 8th out of 14 sides.

Friday night was the dinner and selection of Australian University representative side. One Melb. player was selected - LES WALKER. Congratulations Les on a well earned place in the team

- he was one of the few in-form centres throughout the competition.
- there was good food, music and lots of friendly rivalry between Universities. The songs and chants were interrupted by repetitions of "He's a piker" at the Melbourne table.

After a further party at Sandy Bay, everyone retired to the card school back at the Russell. A motion was moved and carried to wake up Haggis and 4.32 a.m. arrived before the rest hit the sack.

P.S. - Who was caught in his birthday suit at 4.00 a.m. Saturday morning locked out in the hall of the Russell? I do believe it was the same semi-clad body that got a champagne shampoo from the Adelaidians some hours before.

On behalf of everyone, thanks to Marion and Lois for their organising and handling of arrangements for the week.