

INTERVARSITY '77

SUNDAY

We arrived in Wollongong after a lengthy trip only to be faced by Ian Bett telling us that we were staying in tin huts. This turned out to be a presidential hoax as the Fairy Meadow Migrant Hostel consisted of modern apartment style accommodation and was, in fact, a great place to stay for the price. The evening was spent quietly with some team meetings and perhaps the most notable event of the day was the "birth" of the Bionic Bum.

MONDAY

MEN: Adelaide 48 d Melbourne 41.

In the first game of the tournament we jumped last year's champions and went to an early lead. We were quickly pegged back and the game developed into a close tussle. With Peter doing a good job on the 6'8" centre we were right in the game until some slack defense near the end cost us the game.

Ray 12, Skippy 11, Les, Peter 6, Andy 4, John 2.

WOMEN: Adelaide 24 d Melbourne 19.

We began well against Adelaide and some strong defense and good rebounding took us to a 13-6 lead at half time. However, the first ten minutes of the second half was a different story, as we failed to score while they went to an eight point lead. We fought back to two down but couldn't sustain the run and went down in a game we should have won.

Jan 8, Marg 6, Terri 5.

MEN: Melbourne 71 d Queensland 41.

We blasted Queensland off the court as Skippy went mad in the first half scoring baskets every time we went down the court. From then on it was just a formality and everyone had a good run in the second half.

Skippy 33, Peter 12, Ray, Les 8, Simon, Andy 4, Steve 2.

WOMEN: Melbourne 44 d Flinders 32.

Flinders applied a full court press for the whole game and we slipped from 14 all to 14-21 at the change due to three fast breaks in the last minute. We changed tactics in the second half, using Terri to "muscle" the ball down the court as a guard. Some sharp passing enabled us to break the press and allowed Jan to play some dynamic offense, well aided by Marg and Di. We hit the front and were never headed in a great comeback.

Jan 20, Marg 10, Sue, Di, Terri 4, Mary 2.

Monday evening saw the first social event of the week, the welcome dance and boat races. Elimination sculls were held and Jan, Mary, Woody and Terri were selected for the women and B.B., Haggis, Peter and Henry for the men. We all looked the part in the "UpU" singlets, and both teams cruised through the first two rounds with notable wins, including the women over Monash and the men over LaTrobe. With strong spectator support the women won their semi final easily, and the men had little trouble in disposing of ANU. (Later we refused ANU's offer for a boat race of jug sculling!). The women lined up against N.S.W. in the grand final and took an early lead in the race, but the N.S.W. anchor person was too fast and we went down by a drop.

In an all - Vic. grand final the men faced Monash. It was a close race all the way and coming to the final pot Monash may have held the lead by the smallest of margins. Despite a great effort by Coops, who ended up with beer down his shirt, up his nose, and in his eyes Monash won in a real photo-finish. Despite numerous calls for a rerun the judges decision stood. So we were double runners up, but should go better next year with some training and improvement of technique.

TUESDAY

MEN: Monash 65 d Melbourne 49.

We began fairly well against Monash and it was a close game at half-time. In the second half their big man strength was too much for us as our offence faltered against their tight man to man. Skippy dominated at one end of the court again, but Monash showed the value of a balanced side.

Skippy 30, Les 8, Andy, Steve 4, Ray 2, Peter 1.

MEN: N.S.W. 56 d Melbourne 38.

The powerful N.S.W. side always had control of the game and we never looked like worrying them. Bright spots for us were the good ball control of Ray and Andy, excellent rebounding by Les and Simon's basket.

Skippy 16, Les 10, Ray 6, John, Peter, Simon 2.

WOMEN: Wollongong 32 d Melbourne 18.

It seemed as though the previous nights activities had slowed a few people down as the host team eclipsed us completely. We looked very flat and nothing we tried came off. We had trouble finding the basket in offense and our defense lacked bite. To our credit though, we never gave up trying, and this was probably a game best forgotten.

Jan, Terri 7, Sue 2, Woody, Di 1.

Tuesday night was dirty movie night for those who weren't involved in other exciting adventures like going to the post office. The first film was exceedingly dull and the bar was only open for an hour, however the pace quickened rapidly after that. In fact, whilst the first film lowered many an eyebrow, the second certainly raised a few.

WEDNESDAY

WOMEN: Melbourne 30 d Queensland 25

We approached this game looking for an easier game than the previous ones, but knowing we had to win. We broke away to an early lead and maintained an 8 to 10 until the 35 minute mark. Jan and Terri, who had ruled the boards at both ends of the court, were resting for the two games later in the day and Queensland got a run on and cut our lead to 3. Some panic substitutions were made, then with less than a minute to play, amid calls of "use some time" Marg put up a left hand jump shot from the side - which went in and clinched a 5 point win for us. Talk about the crowd being pleasantly surprised.

Terri, Jan 10, Marg 8, Mary 2.

MEN: Melbourne 63 d U.N.E. 32.

This was another easy win for us as we overpowered the smaller U.N.E. team. Ray's long court passing was a treat to watch as Skippy lead the fast break brigade. Steve showed some good skills in offense while Norm and Simon took the chance to show everyone that they should have had more court time during the tournament.

Skippy 28, Steve 16, Peter 9, Simon 4, Les, Ray, Norm 2.

WOMEN: U.N.E. 27 d Melbourne 26.

This was another game we badly wanted to win, but we were off to a shaky start. Losing possession too often against the U.N.E. one to one. After slipping 10 down we took a time out to settle down and decided to run the Auburn Shuffle in offense. Things immediately picked up and those 0.00 a.m. trainings paid off as we scored well from the weak side option. We gradually cut back the deficit then put on the pressure with our own one to one.

U.N.E. d Melbourne (Cont).

Full court pressing gave us a number of opportunities and we got back to 3 down, and with one second left Jan made a basket, was fouled and had a chance to tie the game with a foul shot, but missed it and we went down. In fact all through the game the foul shooting was atrocious and definitely cost us the win.

Terri 12, Sue 8, Jan 4, Woody, Marg 1.

WOMEN: Monash 40 d Melbourne 15.

Playing our third game for the day against a team with as much depth as Monash was definitely bad news. Their first five created an unbeatable lead by half time as we failed to cope with their press. In the second half we managed to stay with them but still had a lot of trouble in offense. One pleasing feature of the game was the excellent vocal support from the crowd right to the bitter end.

Terri 6, Sue, Jan 3, Di 2, Mary 1.

Wednesday nights turn was another dance at the union and was similar to Monday night without boat races. The band was the same but there was more movement this time - as a tall American, some suntanned Queenslanders and others moved in, while Steve, Browny and Pfigliano moved out.

THURSDAY

MEN: Wollongong 54 d Melbourne 51.

We took on the third team of group A in our play off and were right behind the eightball as we ran into immediate foul trouble. The home town refereeing was bad and Skippy fouled out four minutes before half time. Our offense was reorganized in the second half with Ray and Les leading the way and it worked well. We continued to rack up the fouls and Steve and Peter fouled out, but our biggest mistake was playing the 1:3:1 defense for 14 minutes. Wollongong cut the base to ribbons and stole a winning break and by the time we changed we couldn't catch up. This cost us the game, but the final foul count:- Melbourne 29 - Wollongong 14 didn't help.

Ray 15, Skippy 12, Les 8, Norm 6, Andy 4, Peter 3, Steve 3.

WOMEN: Melbourne 35 d Sydney 28.

We moved into the play off round against Sydney looking for a good win. It turned out to be a tight game all the way and though we were always in front there were a few anxious moments. Our defense was a little ragged in places but with Jan finding the basket again and Terri controlling the boards we ran out comfortable winners.

Jan 17, Terri 10, Sue, Di 4.

There was no official function planned for Thursday evening so we all trotted off to the Collegians Rugby Leagues Club for a night of drinking, dancing and poker machines. President Bett seemed to be the only significant winner on the pokies, but a good night was had by all, especially those who didn't wipe themselves out completely.

FRIDAY

WOMEN: LaTrobe 28 d Melbourne 27.

We faced old rivals, LaTrobe, in the playoff for 9th and 10th positions and despite being fired up by coach B.B. (who surprised many people, including himself, by showing up) we were off to a slow start again, trailing 13 - 10 at half time. Jan injured her foot and was benched at the start of the second half, but then Terri collected her fourth foul and a swap was made. Mary was doing well on the boards but we slipped to 12 down with less than 10 minutes to play. In desperation we switched to a one to one and came alive. Terri played brilliantly to cut out the top Trober and offense clicked as Marg hit two left handers. We got back to level the scores, but a fast break put us two down.

Latrobe d Melbourne (Cont).

Marg was fouled on the last shot of the game and had 3 for 2 to tie up the game but could only make the second and we went down by one after a really gutsy comeback.

Jan, Marg 7, Terri, Di 5, Sue 3.

MEN: Monash 56 d Melbourne 51.

In a replay of last year's 7th and 8th place playoff we faced Monash again. Coach Bett made his best move for the week when he lined Ray up for the jump at the start of the game against Neville Beer from Monash. Ray won and we were really fired up as the first four baskets of the game were ours and we lead 8-0 after 2 minutes. Monash recovered from the initial shock and the game developed into a basket for basket struggle. Our offense looked good as Les recieved the ball for the first time on the tournament and showed just what he can do with it. As the game came down to the last minutes we looked like causing an upset and it took four 20 footers from Steve Connolly to give Monash the win and us 8th place - a disappointing finish considering the calibre of the team we took away.

Skippy 23, Les 14, Peter, Ray, Andy 4, Steve 2.

In the women's grand final Macquarie beat N.S.W. and in the men's grand final Latrobe beat N.S.W.

On Friday night the Presentation Dinner Dance was held at the Uni. of Wollongong Union. As usual this was a fairly noisy affair and the Trobers are to be commended on still being able to stand up when presented as winning team, unlike Adelaide last year. The highlight of the night for us was the selection of Ray Watson in the All-Australian I.V. side for 1977, an honour well deserved and well awarded. Way to go Zeke. After the dance we retired to await the now traditional 4.32. About 12 of us lasted the distance, but for those who didn't the "Dawn Patrol" was soon abroad to wake them up, at least they were until one member was hit by a bucket of cold water, talk about the crowd roaring. A fitting end to the '77 I.V.