

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

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Due to an unprecedented demand, Dribbling Balls returns once again to give an account of current going-ons in the club and information on the busy summer party/tournament season.

V.W.B.A. B GRADE

The women's seconds finished the current season with quite a substantial loss in the last game. Looking at the team over the last year it seems to have developed into a happy combination, despite the lack of success. A couple of players won promotion to the firsts, and all team members have improved the standard of their play. It is to be hoped that the team can be kept together next year and that the ability of the players can be translated into a few more wins.

V.W.B.A. A RESERVE

The firsts move into the finals series this week after a good season under the guidance of coach Haggis. The team's performance has been augmented by the return of Helen Harley and the addition of Sue Gravenall to the squad, and with Jan Langdon postponing her Queensland trip we have a good chance of doing well in the finals.

V.A.B.A. DIVISION 2

Quite a deal of action has been seen in the realm of the men's firsts in the past two weeks, and just as much of it off the court as on it. Two games ago we were in fourth place on the ladder and fighting for a place in the top two when Sam made his first appearance for the season. He hadn't been to a game or training session for over seven weeks but took the coaching reins as we went down by 32 points against Sth. Melbourne (9th on ladder). For a comment on the game one need go no further than that of a certain ex-olympian..." This was the worst game I've ever played in." Last weeks game saw an improvement with a comfortable win against Melbourne U. Haggis played well, shooting 24 points and Graeme Clarke made a welcome return. After the game Sam gave a speech to some of the team saying that he was not interested in coaching us next year, citing the lack of dedication of the team as one of his main reasons for this, an interesting comment from someone as unreliable as Sam. He also served up some personal insults but they are beside the point. To sum up, Sam has just saved the committee from implementing a decision it had already adopted.

V.A.B.A. DIVISION 3

The men's seconds are showing a little inconsistency this season having won 4 and lost 4 games. Unlike the firsts there are no coaching problems with Henry having everything under control. Easy is providing the experience of his vast number of years, which is helping the dynamic Norm, the free scoring Brownie(?) and big men Peter and Steve. We are anticipating big things from the last three games of the season.

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With the passing of exams this last weekend saw quite a lot of social activity. The committee dinner was held and this was an excellent evening out, with a good gossip had by all. Sunday brought around the barbeque at Jan's Somers beach house. This was an entertaining little function with quite a bit of time being spent playing beach games during the afternoon.

Also, independent sources tell me that Haggis and Woody went for some beach games of their own about dinner time, but that goes without social comment. Monday night was the Recovery Ball, an enjoyable night which could have been even better if the bands were at all reasonable.

The next party on the list is on December 3 (Saturday) at Neville Brayley's 73 Cornwall St., Pascoe Vale. BYOG and all are welcome.

The Swan Hill entries have been finalised with 2 men's and 2 women's teams entered. Dates of play are Dec. 30 to 31 & Jan. 1. So if you're interested in going to Victoria's top country tournament let John Campbell or Henry Cooper know.

Warrnambool is also hosting a tournament on Jan. 28, 29 & 30 which we have entered. Keep these dates free for some fun in the Seaside '78 Carnival.

One last word on the coaching situation (for this week anyway) is that one Division One American player has applied for the job next year of men's head coach and the situation could become very interesting, especially when one considers Betty's little list.

#### STOP PRESS

The women's firsts won their semi-final last night by 2 points in a thrilling game against Mordialloc. Full report next week.