

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 6. No. 8

19/6/1978

V.A.B.A. Div. 2 (Wed. 31st)

Preston 37 d Uni 34

For the second week in succession we blew a half-time lead and went down by a small margin. We started slowly in the first half but soon took control of the game with some good defence. The guards controlled the ball well and the offense was run well resulting in a few good baskets. Steady play enabled us to take a 21 - 17 half-time lead. After the break Preston applied a zone press and we systematically fell to pieces. People forgot what was drilled on Monday night and we dropped to 4 points down almost immediately. By the time we had regained enough composure to get the ball down the court the forwards had managed to find new ways to dispose of it, getting stuffed seeming to be the most popular. The forwards were reluctant to make themselves threats, especially Andrew who continually dominates at training but is failing to do this in the games. Skippy scored well but no one else could provide the assistance needed to notch a winning score. Once again we received a bum deal from the ref's with a 19 - 9 foul count. It was hard to believe that Preston only had 3 fouls in the second half, but there you go. Tip for coaches: Preston have discovered a new way to beat a full court man-to-man press. You use six players. Believe it or not they did this with 20 seconds remaining and got away with it. They threw the ball in court after a time out then the guy Ray was guarding walked off the court. Despite polite protests from Ray and others to the ref's they got away with it - amazing, and illegal. Skippy 19.

V.A.B.A. Div. 2 (Wed. 7th)

Uni 58 d Caulfield 46

We wormed our way back into the winning list with an almost convincing win against ex-Div 1 Caulfield side. After starting poorly we trailed by 9 points 10 minutes into the game with our zone being cut to ribbons and our defensive rebounding almost non-existent. A good bit of G & D, led largely by Betty who began at half-time. We continued the good work in the second half, the switching defence seeing the guards pick up many steals and interceptions as the forwards hit buckets of baskets. Andrew went completely troppo (for Andrew) and hit 10 points in the second half as we piled on 36 points in the twenty minutes. This win should rocket us back into fourth spot on the ladder.

Haggis, Skippy 14, Graeme B. 12, Andrew 10.

C.E.B.A. B Grade (Mon. 12th)

Uni won.

Steve to Roger controlling the boards combined with good outside shooting from Leigh and Simon had Uni in front for the whole game. Paul showed good form for his first game in the seconds. Roger and Leigh show a goodly amount of potential and both should look forward to playing at a higher level if they work on improving their game for the next year or two.

C.E.B.A. C Grade (Mon. 12th)

Uni lost.

This team has the potential to win a lot of games - with a bit more concentration from all players when they are on the court. Peter Burns, John Whelan and John Bates showed good form as did Len Conway except for a small part of the first half.

V.A.B.A. Div. 2 (Wed. 14th)  
Numawading 45 d Uni 33

In a game where fourth position on the ladder was the winner's prize, we managed to produce our worst performance for the season. Showing our usual total inability to compete against Numawading they rattled on 16 points before we scored. From there on we were never in the game. Little more can be said as our offence was almost totally ineffective and defence was badly beaten from outside and torn apart from inside. Nobody played a good game. Graeme B. 11, Skippy. 9.

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### PORTLAND

Perhaps the best feature of the Portland tournament was that over 35 people went away with the club, probably a record number. Most of the 5 teams went away with hopes of making finals and money and most were disappointed. The men's A grade side was very talented but played very poorly and without endeavour at times to lose their first two games by 2 and 3 points to the two teams who played off in the grand final. A 20 point rout of Monash in their last game saved a bit of face.

The men's B graders suffered from lack of guards with only Henry and Davo to handle the ball. Once they tired our 3 centres and Brownie had less chance of scoring. Strangely enough the Women's B grade side had the same problem, only worse. Helen Harley had to do most of the guard work with some help from Carol. Cathy and Sharon fitted into the side quite well and Marion showed what rural basketball can do for you. The experienced play of Debbie and Kerry (no "old" or "fat" jokes) was always good. Highlight of the weekend for this team was a one point win after a referee with a head band (too tight?) threatened to eject all 30 of us for cheering etc., then told coach B.B. that he'd make the team forfeit if they didn't start taking it seriously. They didn't, but we still won.

Men's C grade showed us some players with bundles of talent and they should have made the finals, but for a surprise loss when coach Cooper couldn't make the game. (NO truth to the rumour that there was a collection taken up to buy Tim Fitzpatrick a new pair of shorts).

Women's C graders did exceptionally well to make the grand-final. They won their semi by 1 point on two foul shots by Helen Ryan with only seconds left. It was the first time in the game that they led. The final was a tough game with the opposition pulling ahead just before half-time. We struck foul trouble and couldn't catch-up despite some inspiring play from Dynamite Doris. We lost but weren't disgraced and the I.V. eligibles had a good workout. Julie and Helen both went well in patches as did Robyn, but Woody was clearly the team's best player over the weekend with an excellent display of ball-handling under pressure.

Quote of the weekend: "Are Mr. & Mrs. Bett still there?"

Situations vacant: Due to a sudden retirement, we need a new Club stud. Send applications, stating experience, to the Fiction Sub-committee or directly to G.C.