

DRIBBLING BALLS

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1978 INTERVARSITY PREVIEW

This year's men's I.V. team is the best to be sent away for a long time, but are they good enough to win I.V.? The simple answer to this is yes, Of course, whether they win or not is an entirely different matter. Factors such as injuries, form on the day and the composition of their group will all play a part in the final result.

The toughest opposition for the men will probably come from last year's runners-up, New South Wales. With players such as guard Ian Andrews and centre Phil Stains (who lines up for I.V. number 13) NSW will start pre-tournament favourites and will be tough for any team to beat. We would have to play at our very best to beat this fast, physical team. Monash have already shown that they will be a much improved team this year. Gary Voss and Neville Beer are both playing in Division one and will be expected to provide most of the drive and scorepower for the team. Their biggest problem will be lack of depth and this will probably stop them cold if they make finals in Canberra. Adelaide always have a strong team, and will be looking to repeat their 1976 victory. Mike Miers and 6'8" Pat O'Keefe will lead the team, but they will have to have improved a lot as a team on last year's effort to go well. Of the other teams, A.N.U. will probably be the best, but the surprise of their full-court zone press has just about worn off. The 'Trobers always seem to go well at I.V. and were champions last year, but the loss of Gary Fox will end their chances this year, while Wollongong don't have too much of a hope away from home.

Our own chances rest mainly on the fact that six players from the first's side are going with the five best players from the rest of the club. Skippy will be expected to do a lot of scoring as he has in the past. His work as a team player has improved greatly this year and this could be his best I.V. yet. Haggis returns to the squad this year and will add about 15 points per game to our scoring potential. Graeme Bennie can also hit well and will be valuable. Ray and John will control the ball down the court while Andrew Bett will be given the job of playing defence on the opposition's big guns and will probably be the most telling factor in our performances. Ian Harrison, Peter Byer and Steve Nolan will be asked to provide a lot of muscle on the boards while Andrew Fithall will help out a lot in the guard department. He's training well and putting the pressure on the other guards to keep performing.

To sum up, we may never get a better chance to win I.V. or at the very least make the grand final.

The women's team will have tough competition this year, and will need to produce some exceptional form to reach the finals.

Last year's winners, Macquarie, led by Australian training squad member, Mitzi Green, will no doubt be to the fore again. They shoot well and hustle a lot in defence and seem likely finalists at this stage. New South Wales will be looking to go one better than last year when they were just beaten in the final. They are a tall team and if they have picked up a player or two since last year they could succeed. Monash have been making a lot of noise about winning this year, and they might almost do it. Jenny Gay is hitting lots of baskets and experienced players like Karen Moore are performing well, and with some luck they could make the final. Adelaide will probably be the best of the rest, but you can always look for a few surprise teams in this sort of competition.

Our team will be looking for Jan to put together a couple of 20 point games, and if this happens anything is possible as far as the team goes.

Sue will be required to control the ball a lot and much of our chances will depend on how well she does this. Woody, Julie and Ann are all very capable guards and will be responsible for the safe passage of the ball under pressure in the backcourt. All three can hit baskets and are experienced I.V. players and should be able to give good leadership on court. The loss of Helen Ryan dealt the team a bit of a body blow and throws a lot more responsibility on to the other tall players. Cathy Dillon, Cathy McNeill and Jean Prior are all good rebounders and should be able to control the boards, but will have to work hard in offence to give drive at that end of the court. Forwards Lynda and Robyn are both capable of hitting baskets and coach Bett will be looking to them to give the team sharp-shooters the support needed to win games.

So it seems that the women's chances of doing well aren't as good as the men's, but they're training three times a week and should finish well in the top half of the list if they can produce top form and get a lucky break or two.

Now, a Dribbling Balls exclusive:-

HOW TO SURVIVE AT I.V.

- 1/ As soon as you arrive and settle into your accommodation, locate the following:-
 - (i) the nearest pub,
 - (ii) the nearest toilet,
 - (iii) the nearest bucket.
 (probably in that order)
- 2/ Try and make it to every breakfast, and even try to eat some of them (especially in the first half of the week). Despite what some coaches may say, Weetbix and beer is not the ideal way to start the day.
- 3/ Avoid Ray Watson if he finds out he's become an expectant father again.
- 4/ Beware of exoteric, existential events such as the boat races.
- 5/ If you must play the whale, don't do it in the back seat of Betty's Car.
- 6/ If you ignore point 4, don't accept challenges of jug sculls.
- 7/ (a) Don't get talked into early morning streaks. It almost gets as cold in Canberra as it does in Hobart and irreparable shrinkage can occur.
 - (b) Beware of Bionic Burns.
- 8/ For men - avoid West Australian widows or bring a polo-neck jumper.
- 9/ For women - avoid Queenslanders, smooth talking Americans and men in overalls.
- 10/ Pay no attention whatsoever to this document.

Now, another Dribbling Balls exclusive, even worse than the last one:-

THE I.V. ACCOMMODATION PREVIEW

A special correspondent has sent the following summary of our luxurious lodgings of the famous Burton and Garran Halls.

"Well, things here are a little cramped. I wouldn't say the rooms are small, but if you walk into one quickly the chain hits you in the face. Not only that, if you open the door quickly in the morning, the doorknob gets into bed with you". In fact they're so small the mice have round shoulders. Actually, I went to see the building supervisor and said that I wasn't happy about all the mice in my room and he told me to just pick out the ones I liked and he'd get rid of the rest. Then I asked him about the roof. He said "what about it?"

I said, "I'd like one". To which he replied, "Don't worry, the people in the room above you don't walk around much. They'll just drop in from time to time".

Well, that's it for this years I.V. preview. If you have any comments or criticisms, please keep them to yourself.