

Welcome to the first "Dribbling Balls" for 1979. We're still missing a number of team reports - reporters, where are you? Reports should be left in the Basketball Club pigeonhole at the desk in the Beaurepaire Centre.

Four Uni teams played in the annual Easter tournament at Sale, with mixed success. If a few tight games had swung the other way, it would have been much better. It was good to see that the Mens 1sts seem to have recovered from the slump that followed their I.V. success last year, but they are still suffering from appalling lapses in concentration.

Sale Mens A Reserve

Hopes of a first round pushover faltered when Y.M.C.A. Lakers lined up with a new recruit - 1st division star Mike Slusher. Les Walker did a great job minding him, and a close game resulted - so close that extra time had to be played, with Lakers finally taking out the game 44-42. Lakers finished the tournament undefeated, winning the A Reserve grand final. Top scorers were Haggis 21, Drew 10.

Our second game was against lowly-rated Flemington. This turned out to be a percentage booster, the final scores being 68-20. Neville, 16, Haggis 14, Coops 12.

The game against Chelsea saw Uni holding a slight edge for most of the game. However, with eight minutes to go coach Ian Bett departed (to play for F.I.T. in A grade) and standards crashed. Several outside shots were missed without contesting rebounds, the team declined to play a controlled offence and decided to have a bit of a bludge in defence. In no time flat a 3 point lead turned into a 6 point deficit, Chelsea finally winning 43-38.

The final game against Dandenong was more encouraging. Betty emphasized the need for controlled offence and continued defensive effort from all players which the team gave. Neville played a superb offensive game and rebounded strongly, well supported by Les and Drew. Final scores 46-43. Neville 12, Haggis 9, J.C. 7.

Womens B grade - No report received, but I do have the scores:

Yella Terrors 22 - Uni 20, Sale U18 15 - Uni 22, Norwall 10 - Uni 20, Coburg U18 33 - Uni 21.

The Mens B grade team was a little unlucky, the two losses being by the narrowest of margins. Graham Bennie made a good comeback after breaking an ankle early in the year, and scored strongly. Simon B-G was in fine touch, sinking many long jumpshots. The first game saw us go down to a fast Emmanuel team, due mainly to poor shooting. Emmanuel 29 - Uni 26 (B-G 9, G. Bennie 6). The next game was quite enjoyable, and very good fast break practice. Bayside 32 - Uni 70 (Rabbit 18, SB-G 17, Davo 14). In the final game we met the undefeated Heyfield, and were unlucky to lose, 36-34. Rabbit 9, B-G, Davo 8.

The Womens C grade won 2 and lost 2. South Australian recruit Kate Bland starred under the boards, and Jackie also scored well. (1)

Mercy 11 - Uni 29 (Kate 10, Jenny, Woody 6)

Spectrum 18 - Uni 28 (Kate 14, Jackie 10)

Frankston 38 - Uni 8

Rebels 33 - Uni 24 (Kate 9, Jackie 5)

Overall, it was a most enjoyable tournament. We have the following awards, courtesy of Woody.

Lumberjack award -

Neville Brayley, for woodchopping the Easter bunny

CRB white log award -

Neville, Pual and Andy

RSPCA non-award -

Simon Fish-Greaves, for his novel method of returning fish to the Sale lake.

Australian Home Beautiful award for the Honeymoon home of the year -

Jacqui Marshall and Henry Cooper.

The Sale brown paper bag award -

Doris, for her "high-spirited" display against rebels.

Don Burns "touch" parking award -

Gary Pendlebury ("I may have just bumped you")

V.A.B.A. Div 2.

11/4/79 Uni 53 defeated Latrobe 52.

After losses to apparently weaker teams in the opening two rounds of the Winter Championship season we finally cracked it for a win against our old rivals LaTrobe. The game was a basket for basket affair most of the time although a one stage we held a good lead. Our defence was slack for most of the game with easy baskets being scored inside, and whilst our offense lacked discipline, it was an improvement on previous games. Skippy was brilliant at times but far too erratic, and no-one could hit consistently from outside either. J.C. hit 4 straight foul shots in the last 30 seconds and a narrow victory was ours in a game we could have won by a lot more.

Skippy 15, Betty, Haggis, J.C. 8, Lards 7.

18/4/79 Nunawading 53 d Uni 55.

We jumped the opposition from the start and built up an early lead. We also collected 10 fouls in the first 3 minutes and 18 for the first half. Despite this we lead by 35*24 at half-time. The second half was an abomination, and probably the least said about it the better, as we blew a 16 point lead to go down by 3.

Skippy 13, Betty, J.C., Haggis 8.

V.W.A.B.A. B grade (Womens 2nds)

11/4/79 Malleys 30 d Uni 22.

All good things must come to an end, as it did with our first loss in two dozen games. We were 1 point down at half-time when Malleys put on a person-to-person (!) defence and a lack of brain-power and a puny Collingwood 3'6" ref. contributed to our loss.

Top scorer - Lynda Bonning 6.

V.B.H.B.A. Mens Thursday night.

C grade 12/4/79 ANZ 32 - Uni 29.

The opening round of the winter season saw the C grade side go down narrowly in a fast-moving game. Poor shooting against an aggressive defence ruined what was otherwise a good team performance, with Steve Cortese and Andrew Mounas dominating the boards.

Scott 7, Andy, Mark, Rob 6.

19/4/79 Uni 30 d WSH 22.

Despite starting with only 4 players and finishing with 3 ("Animal" Cortese does it again!) we had a comfortable win against opponents who lacked a little fitness.

If it were not for slack defence and too many dribblers in offence the margin would have been much greater.

Rob 12, Andy, Steve 9.

D grade 12/4/79 Uni d Bon Aerosal.

With a few new players in the team Uni played well to control this game. Alex was kept quiet after quickly running up four fouls. Fast breaks by Tony and amazing accuracy by Matthew from outside provided most of our score power.

*NOTES:

(1) Congratulations to Carol Dillon and Neville Brayley, who announced their engagement recently. Carol has been a regular for the past 4 years, the last three of which she has been in the firsts, whilst Neville has been on many tournaments with us and last year obtained a ~~clearance to~~ play with the first in regular competition.

(2) Following the A.G.M., Henry Cooper is the new club president. Other Committee members are: Anne Compton (V.P.), Helen Ryan (Treasurer), John Campbell (Sec), Gary Pendlebury (Assis. Sec), Andrew Bett and Jean Prior (Social Sec's), and Graham Howie and Jackie Marshall (General Reps). If anyone has any queries or suggestions about the club or the committee, don't hesitate to accost a committee member, that's what they're there for!

(3) I'm still minus reports from Mens seconds, Monday night teams, Sunday Collingwood teams, and I don't know how many Womens teams. If your team doesn't have a reporter, elect one, and then make sure they get the reports written.

STOP PRESS:

VWABA Wednesday night games:

18/479 B grade Melbourne Uni 18 d. M G's 17.

Total disaster hit the court in the second half when our passes were far from target and we lost our 10 pt. lead. A game we would rather forget.

Robyn 6, Jean 5.

C grade Avis 37 d Uni 9.

Absolutely no reflection on our new coach - Ms. K. Lewis - that we haven't been doing too well. Strong opposition have definitely caused our defeats (1), but we're a team with potential and soon we'll be "romping it in"!

P.S. Congratulations to Rob. O'Laughlin on her engagement!