

Well we've had a veritable plethora of contributions for this edition (well 2 or 3 at least) including the long awaited return of "Foul Shots" and a marathon Sale report. Keep those match reports rolling in to fill those empty spaces.

VBA Div. 2 (Wed. 14/4)

Nunawading 82 d. Uni. 54

Well we certainly started the Championship season in fine style. We had leads of 6 points during the first 16 minutes of the first half and that was the end of the fine start. Nunawading's zone press (and Robert Barton's 16 first half points) saw us go from 32-30 up to 32-42 down at half time. The second half was a total procession as we finished up 28 points down. Les played an excellent game at both ends of the court and the Captain also played quite well. Now commeth the winter of our discontent.

Les 16, SBG 12.

Collingwood Men's A Grade (Sun. 18/4)

If you thought, breathless readers that the Sunday night A team was going to let down the MUBC tradition of glorious losses then think again. Playing a team of 4 midgets this full complement of 7 would-be basketballers succeeded in going down by 2 points after some amazing offence and increasingly stirring defence. Some excuses may be that the team had not played together before and the coaching was less than inspiring, however improvement must be forthcoming. Perhaps the inclusion of supercoach H.C. next week may help. The good points were that Matt shot some excellent baskets and Glenn got through his first game well.

Matt 12, Glenn, Gary 6.

VBA Div. 2 (Wed, 21/4)

Box Hill 55 d. Uni. 51

At first glance this would seem to be an improvement over our last effort, but trained observers know better. Handy leads were established in the first half, built on excellent offence from Les, a few bombs from J.C. and sound defence, but (yawn) we threw these away to lead 26-25 at half time. At one stage we led 37-31 before trailing 37-42 (yawn). We waited 'til we were 6 down with 50 seconds to play before trying too much and got back to 51-53 before dying. All not encouraging except for Les who is carrying the team scoring and rebounding.

Les 18, J.C. 14.

VBHBA Div. 1 (Thu. 22/4)

Uni 50 d. Anonymous 38

What a ripper - fancy starting off the season with a bloody good win. A reorganised team, coach Cooper in absentia (boozing, wenching or both?) and 3 new players. Weell, the new guys, Ricky, Peter and Kerry all acquitted themselves very well indeed. A tight first half with scoring almost basket for basket saw the score at 24-24 at half time, Rod having 12 points. In the second half Uni is starting to get a few interceptions and fast breaks, but not finishing them off. With 5:20 to play acting coach (someone who trains us to act? - Ed.) calls a time out with the score at 34-34. Uni breaks away (oh my God), Tony is running hot and Andrew is throwing amazing passes. A basket, another and then another - it's all too easy. A win built on good defence - but can we continue in the weeks to come? (We need more of this good, melodramatic rubbish - Ed.)

Rod Tony 14, Phil 7.

FOUL SHOTS : Not being one to gossip, I was sitting in the pub the other week thinking it was high time something was done about it - gossip that is. I mean, there was an absolute abundance of juicy info floating around and not one iota was being recorded for posterity's sake. So I dropped the word (actually it was someone's name) and boy, did the ball rolling. Consequently here is FOUL SHOTS - an unreliable, irregular column which aims to stimulate the grapevine by offering open ended questions rather than answer them (for it seems that a characteristic of all gossip is everyone knows 'whom' we are talking about, they just don't always know why). (Doesn't who tell us what? - Max).

First and foremost, why did Peter move out of home? (Who's Peter, you ask?). Has it got anything to do with a certain young lady from Williamstown? Why was Julie so clucky in her correspondence from the U.S.A.? Is there another kiddy on the way? Whatever happened to Graeme's coathanger on the way to Yvonne's? I'll bet Punch and Judy know (note - one of the names there has been changed to protect the couple in question). What ever did happen to Jenny Robins' hand up in Wang? No Don't say "Who's Wang?", say "Where's Wang?". And finally, seeing as I stand by the gossip columnists motto "nothing is sacred", why wouldn't people believe me when I told them I was hit by a squash ball on the neck a while ago? (...would you believe a cricket ball, a soccer ball, how about the entire Newman Ball? Stubinsville, Ohio? - Max again).

Watch next week for the story of what really happened at Sale.

SALE 1982 - The Story (as it might have happened) - Friday.

Wom. 2nds 21 lots to g.i. blues 8 (or vice-versa) - The girls first game for the tournament got off to a rather slow start. Libby, posing as centre muscled her way around teh key and did a valiant job flying high with the big girls for the rebounds. Woody at high post(!) netted a couple of baskets from the top of the key to keep us in the game at 11-4 down at the half. In the second half the "Does anyone know what we're doing?" offence totally confused the opposition. Coupled with good hustling from the guards at the top, particularly Sarah, kept the opposition down to 1 point for the first 12 minutes while we soared to 8 points. However lack of subs and scoring ability got the better of us and we came in an almost close second. Scorers - Woody 4, Judy, Julie 2.

Non-wom. 3rds 18 lost to _____ 37 (fill it in yourself). The fellas started this game eager for a win Martin and Rob at the top of the press hustling well. Trevor was strong on the boards and put in some nice baskets but it was hard to keep up with the oppositions high scoring rate. We lost this one but there was a promise of better things to come (a few beers, perhaps? - Ed.) Trevor 6, Gary, Dale 4.

Wom. 1sts 49 d. Bairnsdale 23. This game with flashes of brilliance from the Uni All Stars really had the fans jumping out of their seats. Bernie and Ann hustled the opposition 'til they couldn't stand it any longer and handed over the ball. Bernie put the bionic knee into top gear and zoomed down the court for some really speco layups and the crowd went wild. Bridget's strong drives and accurate shooting were a joy to behold while Ann displayed her talent with some graet weaving moves to the basket and some very dainty long shots. Jenny Hampster leapt along the baseline as if pursued by a pack of hounds and played aggressive defence ably assisted by Marg, who didn't even giggle too much. A good win and Uni's first for the tournament. Bridget 19, Ann 13, Bernie 10

Non-wom. 1sts 43 lost to reservoir 64. After the good sound thrashing handed out by Dandenong in the first game (mercifully not reported here - Ed.) the firsts came back fighting all the way. Several accurate long court passes followed by some strong layups kept us right in the match. Jane "I want a mouthful" Graeme capitalized on some good passes and was bombing them from all angles. J.C. dusted the lights with one of his "give it some arch" long passes and was bucking for an oscar with some of his fancy passing and on court antics (???- Ed.). Rebounding was almost non-existent at times, but our shooting kept us in the game. Half time -core 35-26 down. Les hit a few shots at the start of the second half, as did Henry and Haggis later. From only 6 down with six to play we lost by 21.

Non-wom. 2nds 32 lost to Bairnsdale 76. Unfortunately this game didn't provide too much to write home about. Cary kept the points on the board with some fine shots from the top of the key. Matt hustled hard and put up a few shots from the baseline but noone else could connect. Aggressive defence and 4 fouls from Abba within a short space of time provided some interest. He hit a couple of nice shots towards the end of the half to leave us an almost respectable 32-20 down. Second half was not very good. Scorers - Cary approx. 14, Abba approx. 6 and others approx. a couple each or something like it.

SATURDAY- Wom. 2nds 29 d. Telstars 16. 8:00 on Saturday morning 5 bleary eyed but fortunately not hungover girls hit the court in what was to become one of the finest and most spectacular wins for the tournament (well almost!). With 2 bright eyed and bushy tailed coaches on the bench, Bernie and Marg, the fantastic five swung into action and scored the first points of the match. What a display, superb some might say, perhaps incredible but there it was. Libby using footy tackles and back nudges monstered her way around the key plucking the ball out of mid air and deftly passing off to Judy who flew down the court with the speed of a thousand gazelles for two points every time. Judy and Sarah hustled and hounded the opposition relentlessly - what tenacity! Woody, Libby and Julie helped out under the boards. What a gutsy little effort. The highlight of the game came midway through the second half when Sarah, who had the crowd on tenderhooks by refusing to shoot 'til the appropriate moment, caught the ball and turned to face the ring. The spectators turned and looked pensively at one another with one thing uppermost in all their minds (apart from sex and drugs and rock'n'roll). Will she shoot? Without waiting for peer group approval she glanced to the top of the key, faking with her eyes and then back to the ring. Within seconds the ball had left her hands and went sailing towards the ring. Round the ring it rolled, once, twice and then without warning it dropped, through the net to the floor below- AND THE CROWD WENT WILD! Sensational! What more can I say. Scorers- Judy 15, Woody 6, Julie 4, Libby, Sarah 2.

Non-wom. 1sts v. Chelsea. Could this be anything but an anti climax after the previous game? Still I suppose it does rate a mention. The first half of this game saw the fellas shooting and hustling well. Refreshed after a good but relatively quiet nights drinling the players were all at ease and caught Chelsea off guard. Once again Jane was bombing shots, mostly dainty ones from all corners of the key, capitalizing on some brilliant passing from J.C., H., Haggis and Mark. Les and Jane were quite strong on the boards and they fed the guards racing down the court for some quick baskets. The guards treated the crowd to a fine display of ball handling. With 2 seconds to play Henry launched the ball from the centre line and it went straight through the ring for 2 points, and the crowd leapt to it's feet, elated, but as Libby was overheard to comment NOT SURPRISED! Half time saw us down by 32-25. The second half was a waste of time as we lost 39-64.

Wom. 2nds v. Bundoora Bullets. Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than the incredible hulk, (able to leap tall centres now playing for Diamond Valley in a single bound - Ed.) it's... Super Sarah, all psyched up to play like a champion and she did. However back to the start of teh game The first half was pretty boring. Someone woke up the cheer squad in the second half and the players were quick to respond to the thunderous applause. Judy was bombing them from the wing with a great deal of finesse and she and Sarah hustled well in defence. Libby by now a pro... fessional at the job of playing centre worked gallantly in the key for six well earned points. Woody slayed(?) slew(?) (killed - Ed.) them at high post and along with Julie once more pretending to be a forward provided some strong rebounding. A creditable loss 43-22. Scoreres - Judy 12, Libby 6, Woody, Julie 2.

Non-wom. 1sts 38 lost to Eltham 66. Once again another good first half from our team of stars. Henry and J.C. surprised Eltham (and themselves) by stealing the ball and hitting some layups. We trailed 34-18 at the change. In the second half we did O.K. for a while with some good shooting from Jane, Henry and Haggis. Mark Zipped in and out of the key and put away a couple of nice ones (you can take that however you like), but we lost by 28. One consolation - Sarah was heard to say, "Well at least we've got the best looking side here." (Well, when the girl is right she's right - Ed.)

Wom. 1sts v. Maffra Eagles, Uni, with Ann-Marie, a Sale ring in, waltzed up to this game quietly confident but still eager to improve on the last performance. Bridget sprained her ankle early in the gam- but Ann-Marie filled the gap with good strong defence and beautiful shooting. Jenny hustled her way round the key, making some good cuts and a couple of nice baskets. Marg wove her way into the key, shooting with either hand while Ann and Bernie put in some nice baskets from the wing. The refs didn't know what a foul was (other than something you keep in a chook pen) but the girls battled on for an 8 point win, 37-29. At least that is probably what the game would have looked like if I had actually seen it. Scorers - Everyone scored some and some scored more than others.

Non-wom. 3rds 18 lost to ??? 43. This 11:00 p.m. game after several hours of elbow bending was bound to produce some interest for the spectators. Maynard, much to the delight of the extremely inebriated cheer squad, found form early in the game, hitting 6 of the first 8 points. Trevor was erbounding well and when Allan connected with a dainty shot from the edge of the key, your corresponent found it hard to write because of the stamping feet of the Cheer Squad. The Squad, with lots of cheer, managed some thunderous bursts of applause whilst tinnies were being copiously consumed (stadium's fault - they told us to get rid of them - Ed.). J.C., Marg, Haggis and Trevor were in fine form but by half time the director, Bernie, had flaked. Meanwhile, back at the game, Allan was rebounding well, the guards were handling the ball well but we ewre still running 12-21 down at half time. After the break we had a little trouble keeping the opposition's score down while trying to put on some points. Doug under the watchful eye of Marg scored 2 lovely baskets (and put on about ten pounds) and once again The Squad went wild. However the opposition was too skilled and we went down 18-43.

Wom. 1sts v. Werrabee. Sunday morning (groan - Ed.). The first half of this match saw some great shooting, dribbling and driving work by Ann. Marg and Jenny played good position in defence, while Bernie, a little green around the gills (she made the Incredible Hulk look like a white man), was more quiet than usual but still hustled well. The game was fairly even for most of the half and Ann-Marie's accurate shooting from the wing kept us in the match. Bridget came on late in the first half and sprained her other ankle within minutes. Diagnosis - jaundice of the ankle (nothing to do with the pineapple icy-pole shoved down her sock in lieu of a lemonade one). Half time score 23-24 down. The second half saw the girls work a bit harder. Everyone pulled together, the cheer squad got it together and the result was a good win for us, 44-36. The 2 casualties for the match were Bridget and J.C., the coach, who was reported to have died from the effects of too much alcohol in the blood stream (or vice-versa?). Scorers Ann Marie and Ann scored quite a few, while the rest got a few.

Non-wom. 1sts v. Knox. The men excelled themselves in this game. After the usual lukewarm-up to confuse the Knox boys, they sprang into action from the first jump ball. J.C., Henry and Haggis dribbled, passed and shot like men possessed (of at least 4 tinnies each) and Jane was virtually unstoppable as he flew towards the ring with all the grace of a lame emu. J.C. hit some great long bombs and Mark and Les delighted the crowd of thousands with some very timely baskets. The Knox boys were taller and stronger but we finished a creditable second, 40-63.

Wom. 1sts v Heyfield. Semi Final. With Bridget sidelined and the girls facing some tough opposition, the fans were notably concerned and the cheer squad was out in force. Heyfield started the fast breaks from the word go and were hard to stop. Bernie, Ann and Ann-Marie kept the bombs coming but at half time we were 14-20 down. Jenny came out fighting with a fine shot from the base and a 3 pointer from Ann-Marie made the score almost level. Ann's great foul shooting (9/10) helped us to take the lead with 11 minutes to play. Unfortunately, Jenny fouled out and despite a valiant effort by the remaining 4 players, we lost 38-30. A good effort by the team all weekend.

Well, thanks for all that. A very comprehensive report if I ever read one. Although the contribution was anonymous I suspect, Julie, Judy and Les deserve the credit for it. Watch next week, when Walt Disney presents a report on what really happened at Sale, and our first ever Player of the Month. I can hardly wait.....