

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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After the unqualified success of the first Dribbling Balls what better way to follow it up than with another, and here it is. First off, thanks to all those who sat on the 0 Week table and recruited for the club. It was a gutsy performance by all concerned, especially Les (who set it up both mornings), Cal who set up and sat on it all day after somersaulting off his bike in the morning, Abba who recruited the most pretty girls and turned away the most "undesirables" (i.e. any blokes who were tall and looked like they could play a bit or steal away the pretty girls), Teddy for donating his basketball boots and Gerard for display, Carey for not getting his reflux to work properly, Hutch for being absolutely useless, Janet for taking Abba away, Graeme and David for counselling those poor unfortunates who wanted to join, the Surfriding Club for starting the egg fight etc. etc. etc...

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 2/3)

St.Kilda 42 d. Uni 39

This would have to rate as the worst game we've played since the last one. Jumping to an early lead was obviously a big mistake and layed the foundations for a good loss. The hot conditions seemed to take their toll on everybody's skill level, with half time score fairly racing along to 14 all. Highlights of the second half included J.C.'s long court pass over the top of Skippy's head (and the backboard) and a pass off the side of the hand from Henry which only missed Les by two feet (unfortunately he was aiming for Simon 12 feet in the opposite direction). There was not a great deal of basketball played in this game, and if ex-coach David was missing coaching us before the game I'm sure we solved his problem during the game. Les ruined what could have been a perfect team performance by playing very well.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 2/3) SEMI FINAL

Uni 20 d. Preston 17

Lets skip the formalities and get right down to the business end of the game. That means we're skipping the part where we get finals jitters and and the opposition takes a commanding lead, and pick up the action 17 minutes into the second half with the score at 17 all. Desparate defence is the order of the day with Woody and Fiona pressuring the ball outside and Jo, Jenny and Jacqui sweeping the boards. Jacqui gets free in offence and is fouled - "two points here", say the fans. The first shot is clean as a whistle - misses the ring, the net, was probably lucky to hit the floor. The fans hang their heads. No worries though, Jacqui is made of sterner stuff and sinks the second shot without batting an eyelid to put us one point up. In defence, Jenny's rebound forces a jump ball and we gain possession again. A shot goes up, Jenny rebounds and puts it straight back into the basket. Uni by the three as the crowd goes wild and the Gerries march on to the big one.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE (Thu. 3/3)

Uni scored a moral victory over A.N.Z. (the poor man's Westpac)

Concerned fans (both of them) have been bewildered by the Rising Stars' recent lack of form on Thursday nights. Sources close to the Matt-Stars (as they have become known) today confirmed that an extreme Lefto-rightest plot to discredit the Mattman of the moment, Bomber Wellington, has been exposed. It appears that a splinter group, in an attempt to destroy voter confidence in the club's treasurer-elect Mattman, has been nobbling the Matt-Stars. (This was detected after a post-match swab was taken in Pete's Bar last Thursday when a certainn would-be rim-hugging elevator man broke down under the pressure of a second tinnie and confessed. The name of this unprincipled shot rejector cannot be published, although he has red hair and his initials are David Crombie.) This confession goes a long way to explaining several recent phenomena : Mattman's

failure to score a 3 pointer in 2 consecutive games, Trevor Andrew's unscheduled appearance at the last 6 minutes of training, and Chuck's personal freshness problem. Coach Coop's reaction to the news was heartwarming as an overwhelming display of the sort of loyalty, unity and team spirit which has become the trade mark of this club. Holding back a tear he confided, "I thought they were just bloody hopeless". Mattman remains unconcerned about doubts regarding his election prospects and about the media's focus on the true identity of the boy wonder (Thin Arthur) and was quoted as saying that his "broad base of support across the club" would sweep him into Matt-power. Now that it has become obvious that the club's funds will need to be put under someone's bed, where better than under Matt-man's Matt-ress. (For those who are interested, I don't think they actually won the game - Ed.)

V.B.H.B.A. B GRADE (Thu. 3/3)

Uni 63 d. B.H.P. 18

We played five not so big Australians and won. And now a word from the coach...
Little boy at the foot of the stairs,
Clutched in his hand - some little black hairs,
Goodness me, think of that,
Young Abba Crombie's castrated the cat.

(I think we may have to discontinue the practice of writing match reports after a few beers on Friday night - Ed.)

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 9/3)

Uni 68 d. Sandringham 48

This was a typical firsts game in all respects except we ended up winning. Trekking down to Sandringham's home court seemed to get most people warmed up and the first half was spent running fast breaks and some three on two. Henry and Skippy scored on some good breaks, J.C. threw some good passes and Drew picked up a heap of garbage tip ins. Half time saw us 14 up. We had a bit of a rest during the middle part of the second half and let the opposition get back to 50-42 before getting back into gear and running right away with a 20 point win. Skippy showed quite a bit of shooting touch from outside and on his inevitable drives to the bucket and scored heavily, while Les and Drew played solid to spectacular at times defence. Nice to win for a change. Pity we had our game against this team cancelled in the first round.

Skippy 20.

As you should be able to see from the preceeding match reports, no great skill is required to write for Dribbling Balls. We are always on the lookout for new contributors of match reports or special features, so if you have something to say (or even if you don't - see V.B.H.B.A. B GRADE report above) jot it down on paper or a table cloth or something and give it to J.C. or Henry or put it in the basketball club pigeon hole behind the desk at the Beaurepaire Centre. After all, it's a great way to give yourself a terrific write up. Remember, Dribbling Balls is your magazine, so it's not (always) my fault if it's full of mindless rubbish and drivel.

Speaking of mindless rubbish and drivel, some very worried people were asking last week whether that all too infrequent Dribbling Balls feature "Player of the Month" will be returning this year. I'm very sorry to have to report to these people that it will. I'm even sorrier to say that it starts in this edition, and you just can't imagine how sorry I am that Charles Carnegie is the Player of the Month (after all, I had to interview him, you lot only have to read this). A transcript follows..

Dribbling Balls: Well Chuck, are you happy to be our first POTM for 1983?

Charles: That all depends on how much I'm getting paid for it.

Dribbling Balls: Ah well, you know how tough things are financially these days, Chuck. Unfortunately our budget doesn't actually stretch to paying our interviewees.

Charles: Too bad. Don't expect too many good tips for the stock market then.

(At this stage Chuck's business manager intervened and despite several hours of tough negotiating, arguing and begging we still had to continue the interview. Rats.)

Dribbling Balls: Seriously Chuck, what ambitions do you have in the basketball club?

Charles: To tell you the truth, I'd like install a sport sock vending machine in the foyer of the Beaurepaire Centre. I'd make a packet out of dumb basketballers who forget to bring their 6 pairs of socks to training.

Dribbling Balls: Don't you want anything more noble from your sporty pursuits?

Charles: Actually, I wouldn't mind installing a jockette vending machine as well, it would be a top money spinner, what with all these people having to wear wet jocks to the pub every Friday when they forget to bring a change.

Dribbling Balls: Is that all you think of - money?

Charles: No, not at all. There's also stocks, bonds, real estate, securities, the futures market, gold... the possibilities are only limited by your bank balance.

Dribbling Balls: I hear that Henry has put you on a new training schedule. Would you like to tell us a bit about it?

Charles: Yes I would. It is a great training schedule, and has increased my standing jump by about 5 inches. It involves 5 minutes a day jumping backwards and forwards over my wallet. By the time the next dividend on the Western Mining shares comes through I should be able to dunk with my armpit.

Dribbling Balls: Speaking of blue ribbon mining stock, how do you feel about being nicknamed Conzinc-Riotinto-Chucko?

(The interview finished at this point while I tried to retrieve my pencil which was lodged in a rather embarrassing place. Lucky I wasn't using a typewriter!)

On a more pleasant note, the club social secretaries wish to remind you all of the Pub Crawl to be held on Saturday March 19, starting at the Clyde Hotel at about 1:30 p.m. (or earlier). They tell me the pace will be very leisurely and that all club members are welcome including toeteetlers. A cultural extravaganza and morally uplifting afternoon is not (really) on the cards at all.

On a less pleasant note, the club secretary wishes to remind you all of the club Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday April 9 at 12 noon in the Board (sorry Mrs. C.) Room of the Sports Union building. If you thought filling in the senate ballot paper was a waste of time, wait 'til you see our elections. It's a good idea to be there in case you get nominated and want to decline. Presentation of the Ian Bett Memorial Golden Scissors Award for constitutional reform and amendment should also be a highlight. Guest speaker won't be Malcolm Fraser. The meeting will adjourn to a suitable place in preparation for another glorious Demon victory.

As predicted last week in Dribbling Balls the date for the club tennis day has been changed, due mainly to the fact that nobody thinks they'll be able to hit the ball after the previous day's activities. Also influencing this decision is the news that the men's firsts will be playing an exhibition match at Ballarat on the 20th March. The new date for the tennis day is April 10, one week after Easter. See Les, Julie or Woody for more information.

Speaking of Easter, several teams have been entered in the (almost) world famous Sale Easter Tournament, to be held coincidentally in Sale at Easter. This was a big weekend for the troops last year, and most political observers are predicting a repeat performance this year. Several people are hoping they are wrong (like Dave, Bernie, Bridget...) Please see J.C., Henry or Bernadette if you are interested in hopping along this year, but hurry - the Easter Bunny drops his bundle on April 1,2,3 this year.

Not to be missed in next week's Dribbling Balls is the all-singing, all-dancing Ballarat Tournament report, a blow by blow report on the V.W.B.A. DIV 5 grand final and Maximillion Welch's basketball club election predictions. Will we see the biggest swing since Mal Short turned around quickly in the showers one Friday night? Not to be missed (i.e. it wouldn't be missed if it wasn't written).