

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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For those of you with suicidal tendencies and all those manic depressants out there I suggest you avoid this week's batch of game reports. All bar one tell tales of pain, agony, misery and woe (and we haven't even received a report from the V.B.H.B.A. B GRADE (Thu.) team who lost their semi final last week against a team they beat by 30 points a couple of weeks ago). If you enjoy a good cry, read on about how we've made two clean sweeps in a row on Wednesday nights at Albert Park, 5 losses from 5 games one week and 3 from 3 the next week. And as if all that wasn't enough, Footscray beat Melbourne at the Western Oval. Is there no justice in life?

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 23/3)

Uni 39 d. S.Y.'s 23

Well what can I say? A team of stars has appeared! They almost didn't get a chance to display their skills and prowess as the opposition were 9 minutes late. With only 10 minutes to go on the clock the girls sprang into action with a couple of easy baskets. Dom screamed down the court on a couple of fast breaks but someone kept moving the ring while she shot. Julie hustled well all game and hit a couple of "very dainty" long bombs, and Serena sliced them up in offence and rebounded well. Carmel did about everything possible on a basketball court for a terrific 16 points and Gen's sharp passing and good rebounding were too good for S.Y.'s. Jan and Tanya hustled well in defence and all round it was a pretty terrific effort. Do I sound like a proud (and biased) coach?

Carmel 16, Julie 6.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 30/3)

Nunawading d. Uni by 2 points

An almost new look women's firsts lined up for their first game of the winter season and performed reasonably well against one of the teams which finished in the four last season. Terri's move to the forward position went well and she was our top scorer for the game, while she and Jean did well on the boards too. Bridget bore the brunt of the guard work with Woody adding some enthusiastic support. A couple of easy baskets missed in the final minutes eventually cost us the game.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 6/4)

Coburg 72 d. Uni 45

The first half of this game was quite reasonable as far as we were concerned. With Skippy and Les going nicely on the boards and J.C. hitting in offence we managed to keep the scores close, even level a few times. At half time it was 26-30. We immediately jumped to 9 points down, and except for one brief burst were never in the game again. As the half progressed we made more mistakes than the Liberal Party in the last election, and had just about as much chance of winning. Our defence would, in general, have to improve to be non-existent, and our offence was worse than that, witness the fact that Coburg scored 42 points in the second half - only 3 less than our output for the entire game. Our endeavour needs great improvement or it will be a very long, hard winter.

J.C. 14, Les 11.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 6/4)

Eltham 27 d. Uni 25

For 38 minutes of this game we played quite well. Bridget and Bernie were effective guards while Jean and Terri did well in the ruck. Margi hustled very well in the zone defence, and the man-to-man offence was fair. The result of all this was a 26-21 lead with 2 minutes to play. Several world famous Uni kamikaze type mistakes at this point made it very easy for the opposition to win the game. Having Jean off the court at this stage was very bad coaching, and not having a scoreboard/clock didn't help either, and it's back to the drawing board for all concerned after two consecutive two point losses.

C.E.B.A. D GRADE (Mon. 11/4) SEMI FINAL

Uni 49 d. Dochers 35 (or thereabouts)

After a very slow (and rather nervous) start the first half passed uneventfully with us grabbing the upper hand and leading by about 5 points at half time. The second half saw an amazing display of long shooting which put us approximately 15 points up. We held on to this lead for the dying minutes/hours to take a quite comfortable win. So next week it's the grand final. Hope to see a few more spectators than usual. (does the number "two" mean anything to you? - Ed.)

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 13/4)

Box Hill 38 d. Uni 26

It's hard to know what to write about a performance like this one. One doesn't want to dwell on the mistakes and bad points, yet there was an absolute dearth of good points to talk about. Still we try. The defence was okay, I suppose, especially in the opening and closing stanzas (the middle 38 minutes wasn't too hot). The offence was very close to being totally non-existent. We didn't get enough shots away, and of those we did only about 10% contributed to wear and tear on the net. We should be throwing 30 points a half not 26 cfor a whole game. The only highlights I can recall were Henry opening our second half scoring 7 minutes into the half with 3 consecutive baskets and Abba nearly standing on top of the ring to take a spectacular defensive rebound (one of our few for the night). Heaven help us when we play the strong teams.

Henry 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 13/4)

Bendigo 35 d. Uni 23

As you can see from the scoreline, we've cured that bad habit of losing by two points all the time. Our first half was not a spectacular success, especially from a defensive point of view. We were so slow even Harry the wog ref almost appeared to be moving in comparison. Bendigo blitzed our man-to-man and didn't seem too worried about our zone, going to a 21-10 half time lead. Terry, Jenny and Annette were the only ones on the scoresheet in offence. The second was made bearable by only one thing, that being Bridget's performance. Suffering the loss of an arm after getting O.S. shots that day she played a lone hand in offence scoring about 13 of our 13 points for the half. Our defence had improved marginally, but we have a long way to go. Gillian deserves a mention. for performing quite well in her debut with the team.

RACE RESULTS : An 11 event meeting was held on 9/4 at the Board Room. Track was slow, weather overcast, and the tipsters were not predicting any record times. The following results were recorded :

Race 1 : Presidential Cup (over 3200 meetings for 9 year old mares) won by Julie Walker by 23 lengths.

Race 2 : Vice-President's Plate (2400 metres for colts) won by Paul Burke by a short half head.

Race 3 : Treasury Welter (over 1200 balance sheets for horses that can add up) won by Matthew Wellington by rigging the race. Stewards are investigating.

Race 4 : Secretarial Hurdle (over 2000 decisions for geldings) won by John Campbell who fell at the first hurdle, broke a leg, was destroyed, but won on protest.

Race 5 : Assistant Secretary's Progressive (over 1000 minutes for fillies) won by Judy Knight in a one horse race.

Race 6 : Social Club Stakes (over 800 barbeques for horse meat steaks) won by Chris Macpherson by no lengths.

Race 7 : Social Club Stakes (Division 2) won by Woody Macpherson by a long nose.

Race 8 : General Rep Handicap (over before you knew it) won by David Crombie despite losing his jockeys in the stalls.

Race 9 : General Rep Handicap (over and out) won by Bernadette Burke by a long neck.

Race 10 : Junior Rep Barrier Trial (over 1000 metres for untried maidens) won by Belinda Jacobs who was almost scratched in the mounting yards.

Race 11 : Junior Rep Barrier Trial (Division 2) won by Gary O'Brien racing in blinkers for the first time.

In case you couldn't work all that out, the above people were sucked in (never could spell elected) to be this year's basketball club committee. If you have any comments, queries, ideas etc. please talk to one of these people. If you have any criticisms please shut up (only joking, scratch scratch, we can take it - tell us your criticisms before they become major problems).

A quick note about match reports to appear in Dribbling Balls, please start writing some. No experience necessary. They don't have to be at all funny (but sometimes it helps). Give them to J.C. or put them in the basketball club pigeon hole behind the counter at the gym. It's a great way to get your name in print, and I'm running out of jokes (as of about three years ago).