

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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This edition kicks off with your intrepid editor working hard in his office. He receives a visit from Abba and is furious at being interrupted (but eventually manages to get back to sleep). The news is not all bad though. Demons have won three in a row on their march to the flag. Now read on

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 4/5)

Nunawading 43 d. Uni 40

With Nunawading being one of the top three teams in Div 2 and us being one the bottom one teams, it was not surprising that they took it easy on us. It was surprising, though, that we managed to stay in touch with them during the game and fought pretty well in the second half. We lacked an effective outside shooter and really big post, and it seemed that if we had had either of these we would have won by about 10 points. As it was Skippy fired fairly well in the second half and our defence held them to 19 points for the half. We could have won, and we should have tied but J.C. missed a jump shot with 7 seconds to go. All in all an improved performance, but no one could be said to be playing up to their ability at the moment.

Skippy 12, Les 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 4/5)

Uni 36 d. Diamond Valley 19

It could be said that we were undermanned for this game, playing our first game without Bridget, and missing Jenny with an injured back. It certainly didn't look like it though as we crushed Diamond Valley. Our man-to-man defence was not effective in the first half and our offence kept us in the game to lead 17-13 at half time. In the second half the zone defence restricted the opposition the six points for the half and it was shut the gate. Jean was dynamic in offence, moving to the basket well with the ball, while Terri shot well from all over the place and Annette shot all over the place from well under the ring. Margi hustled very hard and caused several steals while Gillian showed herself to be a fine passer of the ball with several assists. A good performance.

Terri 9, Jean 8, Annette 7.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 11/5)

Uni(2) romped it in against Claytons

We started with Claire tapping the ball in from the centre jump. Then Julie stole the ball (and got arrested) but scored a basket before being taken to the clink. Next Woody did a slam dunk off Judy's shoulders (Judy claimed 2 points for the assist). Jenny did a 40 foot bomb from the bench and we took a half time break with a commanding lead. Fiona and Pauline knuckled the ref early in the second half and proceeded to score 182 points in four minutes. Nola did 8 consecutive reverse slam inverted dunk long hook shots and the crowd went wild. (P.s. We really had a bye - this is the match report you have when you're not having a match). Note also that last week we beat the Werribee Sewerage Fumettes and two weeks ago we beat the Oakleigh Warfies. (Well thanks for all that - Ed.)

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 11/5)

Oakleigh 77 d. Uni 47

Our form reversal of the previous week took another dramatic reversal in this game. Things didn't start well as J.C. busted up his thumb and Les busted up his shoes both within the first three minutes. We had learnt from our mistakes at Sale where Oakleigh made mincemeat of our zone defence and we rocketed away to a 15 point deficit as they made mincemeat of our man-to-man. J.C. sparked a

revival late in the half which saw us make up miraculous ground with Burkie and Brian contributing well to trail 26-29 at the change. The second half was an abomination, topped only by the seconds against C.Y.M.S. earlier in the evening and a couple of our efforts this season. Only Simon's consistent play and 4 baskets in a row to Les in the last 2 minutes saved us from further humiliation.

J.C. 13, Les, Simon 10.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE (Thu. 12/5)

Uni 46 d. Westpac 42

Sometimes it is hard to tell who the real men are - but the real men are back! Having moved from B grade to A grade and then having to front up to last season's A grade premiers, the boys had well and truly rationalised the expected loss. We flew straight to a 6-2 deficit in no time flat but then started sinking a few baskets. Tony muscled in for some strong baseline moves, Henry hit a couple of outside shots, Steve picked up the odd offensive rebound, enter Cary with a long bomb, then Carey initiating the odd fast break or two and we were 9 points up at half time. The second half saw some nice outside shots from Rod (following up on some excellent first half defence), excellent defensive rebounding by David and the move which only real men can make - the Spiros hook shot. Despite all this great play we were losing ground and struggling to hold a two point lead when a centre cut yielded an Easy lay up par excellence to put us 4 points up - the final margin.

VHBABHBBVAHBBABA C GRADE (Thursdays, by appointment only)

Uni 38 d. Stenvic 25

The story so far... the Teddy Boys (ex-Rising Stars, ex-Matt Stars, ex-cetera, ex-cetera) having won 66.67% of their first three games, were challenged by a team of "Stenvics" (i.e. spiteful, talentless, evil, nasty, vociferous, insidious cheats). Utilising their physical play and expletives, Stenvic finished a creditable second, enabling us to double our winning streak. We have now won 75% of all our matches! Special mention to Peter for turning up in white shorts and certain unnamed newcomers who seemed to do more travelling than Cliff Young's gumboots. And now a parting quote from Ernest Bramah : "He who can predict winning numbers has no need to let off crackers." (Dribbling Balls is getting a bit philosophical for me - Ed.)

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And now a few friendly (but somewhat pointed) observations from your friendly (but somewhat pointed) coach - Henry Cooper :

(1) If you are lent a singlet in which to play a game it is your responsibility to return it to the lender IMMEDIATELY the game is finished.

DO NOT "Take it home to wash it..." DO NOT "Forget...."

(2) If you want to play basketball but don't know the rules (75% of the club??) try reading a book with a title similar to "Basketball - Rules Of The Game".

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While everybody should be busy saving up to go to Perth I.V. in August this year, comes an offer too good to refuse. We have the chance to attend the inaugural South Pacific Sports Championships, to be held in Fiji in February 1984. Several men have expressed interest in the trip and I would like to hear from any women who might want to go. As only three men's and three women's teams from Australia will be accepted (on a first in basis) it is important we enter quickly if we are going to enter at all. The cost is \$640 per person, covering air fares, all meals and accommodation (7 nights). Let J.C. know in a hurry if you are interested in going. Note that an as yet undetermined number of graduates will be allowed to play.

Haggis claimed the prize for the first, neatest correct entry to last week's Crossballs (he beat Woody by spilling beer all over her copy). He wins a fabulous no expenses paid trip to Sandringham basketball stadium on June 1. Teddy also gets an honourable mention 'cause he told me he deserved one. For those of you who may still be looking for a three letter word starting with "w" and ending with "n" meaning something the Wednesday night men's teams can't do here is the solution to the first Crossballs :

Across : 3. Hook shots 7. Take the court 9. Ten to ten 10. No score
15. Sport 17. Hot 18. Nimble 19. Nike 20. Team work 23. Erred
26. Umpire 28. Press 29. Dope
Down : 1. On the wing 2. Fake 3. Hits 8. Hope 9. Turn over
11. Outside 13. Rim 14. Cheer 15. Slam 16. Time 21. Ease up 22. Tops
24. Rued 25. Tip off 26. US

Everyone stay tuned for some new MUBC marketing products. Windcheaters, T-shirts, scarves, beanies - you name it - we'll flog it. We also had Chuck (looks like "No Mess Charlie" in those nice new overalls - not new overalls - new Persil) working a deal on some club socks. He got us a terrific price if we bought 150 dozen pairs or more. That's only about 15 pairs each for every club member. Now according to the Janet Crombie Scale of Basketball Brilliance the number of pairs of socks worn is directly proportional to the ability of the player wearing them (paying attention, Derrick?). This explains a number of things, including why Abba is only 5 foot 7 in bare feet. We had to tell Chuck to tell his uncle thanks, but we can't afford \$5000 for socks at the moment. He's working on a new deal now where he's trying to import 30 Taiwanese who can knit quickly.

Are you going to Portland? Don't forget to pay \$7 to Matthew as soon as possible. This will pay your stadium entrance for the entire weekend. If you need transport then tell somebody (Henry, J.C. and Julie are a good place to start). Don't get left behind and miss what is sure to be one of the wildest events of the year - the Eighth South-West Classic.

Remember last year's Progressive Dinner? Galloping gastronomy, Mattman! It's on again this year, on Saturday June 18, starting somewhere, then moving somewhere else, finishing at an as yet unknown destination. Watch this space for more details. Eupeptic epicure not to be missed. As a special added attraction we're not telling Jan and Davo where the first course is.

You should also keep the following weekend free (i.e. 24 & 25/6) 'coz everybody's favourite event, the Marathon is on. Twenty-five hours of fun, games and exhaustion. Stay tuned for more details.

Keep those match reports flooding in. As a special incentive, Dribbling Balls is offering a magnificent mystery (i.e. I haven't thought of one yet) prize for the best contribution between now and the progressive dinner, to be presented on that night. WOW! What excitement. See you next edition, buried in a pile of stuff fit to win the Nobull Prize for Literature.