

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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I think this edition of Dribbling Balls sets a new world record for the greatest number of contributed match reports ever. This is fantastic (and saves me a lot of work) and you all deserve high praise (except for the Men's seconds and the Sunday night Collingwood men, conspicuous by their absence). As a special bonus to you for all this there's no special Dribbling Balls features this edition - see what happens when you're good....

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Thirds (Wed. 22/6)

Yewni 32 lost to The Other Side 33

When the coach finally arrived, 5 minutes late, we were managing to stay in the game with four players, one on one leg. For once we were massively taller than the opposition (the Golden Greek's Wives Club) and with the arrival of Claire and Libby we looked like we were in for a win. However the second half saw us throw some height overestimating passes and they managed to snatch the lead again. Some spectacular shooting from Carmel and tremendous rebounding all round put us back in front, then they scored, then we scored, (then they scored, then we scored)⁵. With about 30 seconds to go and one point down we had 5 shots and missed all.

Serena 14, Carmel 12, Dom 5.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 27/6)

Uni 51 d. Royal Oak 39

In our worst defensive display of the season we again had to fall back on the most powerful offence in the competition to pull us through. After a first half where we gave away 20 odd points from give and goes we moved to a zone press, unfortunately the second row failed mathematics and stood behind the third row, so we suffered the anguish of watching lolly pop passes fall safe to obese opponents in mid court. Although never in danger of losing we fell into Carlton's problem of letting teams off the hook instead of crushing them.

Gary 27, Tony 11, Phil 7.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Seconds - (Wed. 29/6)

Uni 30 d. ANZ 20

Yes there is a match report from Woody and what makes you write a report? Yes we won and I top scored! It was a tough match all through, once again we had plenty of guards and Karen as a tall player. Fiona was hobbling round the court on an injured leg and Jenny Philips with the flu was on the sidelines and Anne and Claire were God only knows where. So Judy and Woody played post players, well who needs tall players anyway?!! The offence was struggling in the first few minutes and Davo called a time out and we changed to our box and high post offence with Fiona or Meg and Julie playing the points/guards and Judy and Woody playing the second cutters. Karen did some beautiful inside drives straight through over or round the defence and Judy did hook shots over their centre player. It was pretty to watch. In the second half Davo ordered a man to - correction - person to person defence and this slowed their scoring down a lot by keeping No. 23 (the fall over foul drawing driver) away from the ball a bit more. Everyone put a lot of good pressure on them in this defence and we gradually crept away to a 10 point win. Compared to last week's dismal loss to M.G.'s (which we don't want to talk about) this match felt like a good team effort where we all concentrated all through the game. So let's have a few repeat performances for the last five matches of the season and then it's just some G & D needed for the finals.

Woody 12, Judy, Karen 7, Meg 4.

And as if that match report wasn't enough here's another one (same game)....

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Seconds - (Wed. 29/6)

Uni 30 d. ANZ 20

This was an inspiring performance in the sub-zero confines of court 4. A close first half was dominated by the offensive magic of Woody who scored baskets almost at will. Our 1-2-2 zone did nicely but we didn't stop the break too well. So it was 15-15 at half time. In the second half Davo switched to some man-to-man-to-person-to-woman defence and this did the trick as we slowed the opposition's scoring almost to a halt. Judy and Julie generated some fast breaks from steals and Karen scored some very nice baskets on cuts through the key. Davo also unveiled our new offensive tactic where you get a forward to lob a high pass into the middle of the defence to a small guard who tries to slam dunk it. Judy did it well.

Woody 12, Karen 9.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Thirds - (Wed. 29/6)

Uni 47 d. S.Y. 28

What a devastating win, even after giving them 10 points for incorrect uniform we managed to cream them. In the searing heat of Albert Park Stadium was seen magnificent rebounding from Dom and Serena, some spectacular shots from Claire, rugged driving from Carmel, solid blocking out from Cassie and lightning work from Chris, Valena and Julie. Special mention to the umpire who was in such great control that one spectator mistook the game for rugby.

Dom 16, Carmel 12, Serena 10, No. 11 (one of Valena, Claire, Julie) 5.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE WOMEN (Thu. 30/6)

Sheppards 25 d. Uni 22

After a rest last week due to a bye we were raring to go. A 10:00 p.m. game with 5 players, a good team with our best scorers Jencie and Rhian. The game could have been easily had by us but somehow we slackened in the last 5-10 minutes and managed to give away the game. Nevertheless a most enjoyable game with an evenly matched opposition. Nice to see everyone scoring in this game, keep it up girls. (P.s. A special pat on the back for Jencie and Rhian who were both injured and limping. Imagine what you can do when you're well.)

Jencie 7, Rhian 5, Lisa, Clea 4, Jannie 2.

COLLINGWOOD A GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 3/7)

Uni 26 d. 44fivers 14

An easy take with only 4 players on the opposition team. Pretty good scoring for us considering the biased refereeing that goes on there.

Teresa McMahon 8, Jannie Lay 4, Julie Ackhing, Tracy Nero, Jo Sauer, Belinda Ellis, Jacqui Marshall, Tracy Nero 2.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Sun. 3/7)

Uni 50 d. Ballarat 47

Yes indeedy, sports fans, another big win for the men's firsts, taking our tally for the season to 2 out of 12 (3 out of 13 if you count the bye). This was a good win, there's no other sort of win for this team. In Ballarat heatwave conditions (5 degrees C) we started tentatively, especially Haggis and Henry who were on a bicycle tour of North Ballarat at the time. Early breaks were nullified by our defence and a close first half resulted. Simon and Paul were going well in offence as the shuffle produced a few baskets. A couple of excellent baskets late in the half from Henry (in Cooper's Corner) gave us a very handy 28-20 half time lead. A 1-3-1 zone put the brakes on our scoring early in the second half, and fairly soon our lead was reduced to three or one or so. Haggis found the target from long range for a while and Les did plenty of work in defence, but we couldn't stop their big men. We slipped from 5 up to one up with a minute to play but some strong defensive rebounding (conspicuous by its absence for most of the half) led to J.C. hitting 2 consecutive jump shots and making the difference 5 and safe(ish).

With the first round now complete it's still not too late to avoid relegation.
J.C. 12, Simon 10, Paul 8.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 4/7)

Uni 38 d. Triestina 26

In a poor game where we played badly, we won. That's all I can say, except that we need defence practice.

Gary 14, Tony 10.

M.B.A. C GRADE (Mon. 4/7)

UNI STEALS VICTORY IN LAST 30 SECONDS!

Dateline : Albert Park, court 7, 9:10 p.m. : The C grade team scored a thrilling victory in the last 30 seconds of the game. Some remarks heard after the game include "amazing", "magnificent", "they were a pack of shits anyway", "superb teamwork", "incredible capacity within the team to create the loose man" (from Kevin Sheedy), "did they really only have 4 men on the court for the last half" (from a very observant supporter on the sidelines). I wouldn't say the game was rough, but we had our 8 team fouls for the first half up by the 12 minute mark. They weren't rough either (one guy had more tats on his arms than hairs on his head). Highlights include a first up win for new coach Warwick Bray, some good defence particularly from the smaller players, a 15 foot basket from Matthew K. which levelled the score with 15 seconds to go, a technical foul awarded to us right on the siren which gave Matthew two foul shots - he hit the target with the first one and we won, 26-25. Perhaps the game was best summed up by what Lindsay Gaze said "So that's how real men play basketball."

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 6/7)

Coburg 37 d. Uni 33

Concentrating hard on our defence we managed to hold Coburg to a losing score, unfortunately they managed to hold us to a losinger score. After letting them slip away to a 20-14 lead we fought back to trail 23-21 at half time. In the second half we played tight defence and no offence to eventually hit the lead 31-29. However the pressure of two wins a row was too much for us and we were outscored 8-2 from there to sink to yet another defeat. Inability to hit easy shots throughout the game was a major contributing factor to the loss. Paul played reasonably well but everyone else seemed a bit below par.

Paul, SBG 8, J.C. 7.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Thirds - (Wed. 6/7)

ANZ 18 d. Uni 17

The only thing that lost us this game was poor shooting, mostly in the first half. You could say we dominated the game until our shots went up, they had only one player and she was kept out well by Lisa. Carmel played some penetrating offence, Valena Made some good steals and fast breaks and Serena and Cassie took almost all the rebounds in the game, but we still lost.

Carmel 7, Valena, Serena 4, Lisa 2.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE WOMEN (Thu. 7/7)

Uni 17 drew with Lyall 17

A good turn up of players (7 in all) and a good team working together. The first half was miserable @ 5 points Uni, 15 points Lyall. After a sudden change to good teamwork in the second half we scored 12 points, sorry, 10 points (two points scored for us by the Lyall players- thank you). We had a very strong defence set up in the last half, which really paid off. Very good game had by all. A definite improvement.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 10/7)
Oakleigh (1) 63 d. Uni 62

This was a game of two halves. Not that this means terribly much but I couldn't think of a better way to start the report. With Oakleigh hitting about 90% from 15-20 feet during the first half we only just managed to stay in touch, being as much as 10 points down at times. Hustle from Burkie brought us closer and when Betty told Jane to "operate" (104 times) he did well inside and we only trailed 25-30 at the long change. A second half revival was sparked by the Captain who found the range from outside and we scored the first three baskets of the half to take the lead. Said lead see-sawed for the rest of the game. J.C. worked well in defence forcing several turnovers giving fast breaks, Betty made one of his jump shots which never got more than 10'3" above the floor and we were looking good(ish). Even when Simon fouled out with minutes remaining leaving us with 4 (we'll collect the beers next Friday, mate) we were still in with a chance. At 61-61 Jane hit a foul shot to put us in front with 17 seconds to go. As you would expect from there, an Oakleigh player made a 20 footer with 3 seconds left and we lost.

Jane 17, J.C. 16, SBG 14, Paul 11.

Marathon Report : This is the match report of match reports, and I don't intend to give a basket by basket description of the whole match (the final score was Ballarat end 1902 points to Balwyn end 1902 points). Many thanks to all those who helped to play, especially those who played for 5 and 6 hour stretches and those who played the gruelling midnight to dawn shift (and both). No thanks to all those men who should have been at the 9:15 training session on Saturday morning, you should all be ashamed of yourselves, the people who had been playing since 5:00 a.m. and earlier had to keep playing because you were too lazy to show up (I heard they didn't turn up because some one had the gym booked for a marathon or something - Ed.) In any case we managed to play ball for the 25 hours and you can be sure there were a lot of tired legs and feet on Sunday and Monday (has anyone seen Cary Helenius since Saturday? Can he still walk?) All sponsorship money should be collected immediately and given to Woody, Bernie, Mattman or Henry.

INTERVARSITY : The women's team for Perth has been announced and is in no particular order (as you may expect) : Meg Broadway, Tracy Nero, Dom Horne, Serena Thomson, Gillian Payne, Cathy Livingston, Lisa Evans, Judy Knight, Anne Cantwell and Anne McGrath, with coach Bernadette Burke and manageress Valena Braniff. Congratulations girls. A note to all I.V. goers of all sexes - please pay \$115 to Matthew Wellington (or someone else responsible who'll give you a receipt) very soon. This covers your accommodation for the week (\$50), your entertainment levy (\$45) and mini-bus hire (\$20). Great value.