

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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If you thought bulk billing was bad for Medibank, just look what this next collection of reports and such does for Dribbling Balls. It's not often I warn people about reports in advance, but in this case, beware of overdose...

AND NOW SOMETHING FOR THE SENSITIVE

Hey, did you ever hear about the first time Ellen Maxwell met Woody Macpherson? It went like this : Oh, so you two haven't met, well I'd like you to meet Woody...Ellen, get it, Woody Allen, well I thought it was funny anyway (it's jokes like that that killed Vaudeville - Ed.). By the way, did you know that Clea's hair is naturally straight? That will teach her to get drunk at balls and give away secrets to unscrupulous correspondents like myself. For those of you, sorry, both of you that are wondering how the Teddy Boys have been going, here is a complete history of their past month's activities, including one previously unheard of joke. WOW!

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 9/6)

Uni 31 d. W.S.H. 24

Well listeners, we've all heard the old axiom that in a match a poor side will drag a good side down to the poor side's standard. You know Uni sides usually do it to the opposition. However this time, here we are riding high near the top of the ladder and playing against a team which could only be described as "extremely low calibre" and which had not actually won a game all season (no we were not playing the Uni firsts!). When we should have been ahead by about 20 points we were behind by about 5, and with only 7 minutes to go things looked grim. So adopting a man-to-man defence we showed up their lack of any real skill and won by 7 points. Everyone except for Clarkie played fairly abysmally and it was only his 13 points that saved us from an embarrassment worse than losing to M.O.B. at Portland. By the way, Scott told me that as yet I had neglected to mention him in any of my match reports, and he's absolutely right. (P.s. Geoff surprised us all by not collecting any fouls in the first half. He then made amends when he was fouled off at the 7 minute mark of the second half.)

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 16/6)

Uni d. H.A.D.A.B.Y.E.

Well listeners, let me firstly take this opportunity to thank the academy and all my loyal supporters (hope you're both well) for the prestigious award I received at the dinner and may I say that I know it will not go to my head, except perhaps when I drink it. Anyway, last week 'twas indeeed an unusual one for the Teddy Boys, as there were :

No fouls for Fivefouls and no points for Scott,
And no Mattman bombs from the car parking lot.
No rejections from Peter with muscles almost straining,
Whilst Saturday morning saw Trevor Andrew at training.
No fast breaks for Clarkie, no tech fouls for Teddy,
And no dunking for Andrew whose cup of tea was not ready.
And finally may I say, with some kind of glee,
That Chuckles for once did not camp in the key.
What could all this mean you say with a sigh,
Of course it was clear, it was the Teddy Boy's bye.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 23/6)

Uni 26 d. S.M.C.L. 23

Well listeners, sometimes in life you have to stand your ground and fight for

what you believe in, and if you happened to be S.M.L.C. you believed in fighting Uni basketballers 'til they were knocked to the ground. Fair dinkum, this was the roughest game I've ever been in, full of overt, gratuitous violence (overt to everyone except the "ref"). This gang of thugs wearing singlets had less intelligence than an I.R.A. St. Patrick's Day parade and about the same quantity of potential violence! (I hope that wasn't the joke - Ed.) However, if you think the Teddy Boys were going to be bullied then you're pretty close to the truth as we cruised to a 5 point unlead at half time. During the break Henry really fired us up (no I didn't think it was possible either) and with really inspiring play from nobody in particular, we won by 3, but to be honest there was never any doubt of a result. One highlight of the night was Chuckles, who though often maligned by my razor sharp quill, went out and scored in the first half, scored more often in the second half and then really scored well after the match. He was tough on the boards at both ends, but waited 'til the game was finished before coming on really strong. Although this game was dominated by defence (or was it poor shooting) it was a mighty victory over the third side on the ladder (yes that's right, one below us) and was certainly the most important game played by the Teddy Boys all week. It was not in my best interests to linger around the scoresheet after the game 'cause of the rather high reading on my potential-body-damage meter.

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

Uni 43 d. Some bunch of Catholics from Mordialloc 41

Well listeners, the last few games had been rather close affairs, so when you're on a good thing you know what to do (marry her? - Ed.). Our opposition were firmly entrenched in second bottom spot and with a lead of 10 at the break, it was surely just a matter of going through the motions on to yet another victory. However the other side did not have the right attitude and in fact had the audacity to take the lead and keep it for most of the second half. With 10 seconds to go we were the team on the scoreboard which was not in front by 1 point and (TAKE A DEEP BREATH) then Clarkie got a steal and was about to make an open, match-clinching lay up when he was somewhat intentionally fouled, however the "ref" felt that the "fouler" had in fact chased him down the court then accidentally shoved him in the back whilst in the act of laying up, so anyway the first throw went in and the scores were tied and then the second one missed and they rebounded it and then Digger grabbed it and forced a jump ball and with only seven seconds left Digger won the jump and sent the ball hurtling out of bounds when Scott enters with a loop, a whirl and a vertical climb to flick it back to Trevor (who was under the ring but had missed his previous ten shots) and he placed it nicely in the hoop (surprising even himself) and we won. Hooray! So another close one falls our way, but if certain people such as Teddy and Trevor had hit a couple more of their easy shots (such as the open lay up) we would have won quite easily, but then again, that's no fun is it Henry?

Teddy 9, Mattman, Trevor 8, Clarkie 7, SBW 6, Digger 3, Trevor 2.

Well thanks for all that, but I'm still looking for that joke... And now for something completely different, some match reports...

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

Uni 35 drew with Lyall 35

Can anyone tell me what is wrong with this sequence of game times :

10:00 p.m. 9:10 p.m. 8:30 p.m. ?

Exactly as I thought, nothing. How is it then that when I arrived at Albert Park the game had already started, and how was it that everyone there knew about the early start except for me? Anyway listeners, I don't really know what transpired in the first half, but I think we were up by one or two at the break. Against the fourth side on the ladder our first five minutes of the second half were pretty good as we ran away to a 10 point lead. ONCE AGAIN

however, we allowed the other side back into the game, and they stole a draw. It was really nostalgic to see such a classic Uni second fadeout, but I fear that our lassitude and willingness to, metaphysically speaking, adopt a supine position, will very soon lead to a...ugh...loss! By the way, if Clarkie played as well in the first half as I saw him play in the second, then he must have played a pretty reasonable game.

Clarkie 15, Matt 6, Chuckles, SBW 4, Trevor, Andrew, Teddy 2.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Seconds - (Wed. 13/7)

Werribee 23 d. Uni 22

once again we played the first game after lunch (5:50) and started off quite well with Fiona hitting some lovely long bombs and the fast break working well off our 1-2-2 defence. We threw the ball over the baseline too often trying to hit Karen inside, but we were up at half time, although not really in a comfortable position. In the second half they improved their defence and we seemed to stand still, our offence wouldn't work and they broke through our defence, their short arse guards hitting very long shots. In the last two minutes it was 22 Uni 21 Werribee and they hit a long bomb and then we dropped it in offence. They played a stall for the last one and a half minutes and we couldn't get it off them. We need the whole team to turn up to training all the time for the last few weeks of the season because we have just dropped out of the four and we need to fight our way back up the ladder. Congratulations to Tony Lewis' Div 5 team who romped it in against St. Kilda (the top team) 41-20 - well done girls, keep up the good work.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 13/7)

Box Hill 76 d. Uni 52

This game was not as embarrassing as the scoreline might suggest. It was worse. The 9:55 game started on time at 10:20 and we were about twenty minutes behind the opposition for most of the night as well. You couldn't complain about our offence - we didn't have any, the lid was on the basket for us and except for very brief bursts our defence had more holes than a crumpet. Only a few people played well and they were all on the opposition team, although to be fair Henry and Haggis did a couple of nice things in the first half. The night wasn't a complete waste though, James Crawford did four slam dunks in the main game on court one and that was exciting.

SBG 9.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 14/7)

Forest 35 d. Uni 19

I don't particularly wish to retell this story of woe, so I will not. Suffice to say we were leading up until the five minute mark of the second half after which point I think we scored twice! Catch a falling Teddy Boy and put him in your.....nope, just doesn't sound the same does it?

COLLINGWOOD WOMEN'S B GRADE (Sun. 17/7)

Uni 32 d. Girlz 8

This was a great effort against the team we lost to in the semi final only 3 or 4 games ago. We played a high pressure game from the start with a zone press which was very successful. Towards the end of the game they were trying the kamikaze dribble and we nearly lost a few players at the centre line under their steamroller forward. All in all a good defensive game with lots of good position play and not too many fouls. In offence Dom made some lovely drives and cuts to the basket contributing a useful 16 points to our score. Yvonne was heard saying "Oooh, I've never got any in before" when she found 4 points next to her name on the sheet. Well done and keep up the good work. It was a good team effort with some fine assists on fast breaks and good strong defence.

Dom 16, Woody 5, Yvonne 4, Julie McM 3, Ellen, Sue 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 16/7)

Uni 53 d. Thornbury 49

In the absence of the Captian we beat one the teams we don't usually beat. It was call your own subs and away we go. The first half was somewhat lacking in highlights, but this was more than compensated for by the absence of stirring half time psyche ups. We in fact led 30-25 at half time and even more surprisingly maintained the lead for quite some time, with Haggis finding the mark well in offence and Davo being his usual (tending towards the suicidal) self. The gap was narrowed as the opposition started to get a bit aggro (we needed Tony Lewis to have a fight with his mate with the blond hair and tatts) but several key plays were made including the sinking of a left hand hook shot from Lards. Betty's rebounding for the half was excellent (wish I had a million dollars for every time I'd written that) as was Paul's, but there was no doubt who the star of the game was. Les dominated in defence as only he can. His second half especially, where he cut the opposition's star right out of the game was a joy to watch.

Haggis 12, Paul 10.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 18/7)

Uni 51 d. Hydrolaunate 35

Once again a "small" victory margin was ensured by our total ineptitude in defence. Like charges may repel (PHYSICS!!) but even repulsion forces can't explain being 10 feet from your opponent for one in two opposition offensive "drives" (gridiron lingo). The bright point was the "explosion" of Russell in the second half where he "blew away" the opposition with four in a row from outside. Phil put in well inside despite being picked on by the ref (again). Al chased around like a point guard, while the rest put in "average" games. We now have 8 wins and 2 byes from 10 rounds.

Gary 19, Russell 12, Phil 8, Alan 6, Warwick, John, Steve 2.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 20/7)

Nunawading 40 d. Uni 32

Despite losing this game it probably ranks as one of our best efforts for the season. Being short the odd player or two we struggled for most of the first half in offence, failing to score for the first 10 minutes or so. Once we found our feet we stayed in touch, albeit 10 points behind. The second half saw us close the gap gradually and draw level. Fatigue set in at this stage though and several elementary mistakes allowed the opposition to slip away, aided by some good shooting. Gillian played her best game since joining the team in the unaccustomed role of baseline player, while Jenny was really strong on the defensive boards even when pushed and shoved. Tracy and Bernie did the guard work well against a fair bit of pressure and Annette contibuted a lot at both ends of the court. The signs from this game were promising.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 20/7)

Werribee 46 d. Uni 45

Ardent followers of the firsts will recall our last meeting with Werribee where we lost by about 40 points and recognise the improvement shown in the scoreline of this game. What they won't recognise is that the opposition were without their two black men this time. Still it was a percentage saving loss. Highlight for us was Skippy fouling out in about 6 minutes flat and possibly breaking Fivefouls' record from a few Thursdays ago. The first half was even until we made a few strategic subs which allowed us to explode to a 10 point deficit. A fight back saw us trail 28-24 at the change. The second half took the same pattern, being close until a few strategic subs allowed us to break away to an 8 point trail. The last couple of minutes saw us attempt to win and baskets from Les who did well in offence for the whole game and a three-pointer from J.C. cut the score to 46-45 with a minute to play. We threw

away our first possession in that minute without getting a shot then forced an intercept with 15 seconds left but still couldn't score. We won't get many better chances than that to steal a game.

Les 17, J.C. 11.

COLLINGWOOD B GRADE MEN (Sun. 24/7)

Uni 28 d. Bunyip2 16

The demolition of Bunyip2 by the mighty, undefeated, all-conquering Melbourne University Sunday B Grade team brought back memories of great victorious battles of the past. This match could be compared to Waterloo, the seiging of Saigon, any Carlton-Collingwood Grand Final or similar uneven slaughters of the past. The bumbling Bunyips had no answer to the delicate artistry of Derrick "Dominator" Fung (11 points), the towering strength of Charles "Moses" Carnegie (7 points) and the balance, poise and speed of David "Bird" Jones (6 points). The other players, as Chuck would say (life's tough when you have to start quoting Chuck - Ed.), contributed yet were unable to make much of an impact on the scoresheet apart from a new recruit this week called Late Start (3 points) who played a great game. The final score of 28-16 flattered the Bunyips, due mainly to lucky shots.

Derrick 11, Chuck 7, David 6.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 24/7)

Jetz 62 d. Uni 50

This game just nicely completed a rotten Sunday. The Demons threw away a golden chance to slip into the five by playing dismally against the Swans and we threw away a golden chance of losing by less than 12 points when we missed our last shot of the game. This game was singularly without highlight, except perhaps for the refs who decided to have a mutual "spaz attack" for an hour or so. Les shot like a man possessed in the first half with 10 points from medium range while Haggis was consistent for most of the game. Davo hustled nicely and not much else happened for the rest of the game. Betty's absence was a probable reason for this, maybe. It was noted that Simon still owes us a beer from two weeks ago.

Les 14, Haggis 13.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 25/7)

Wolves 36 d. Uni 30

You may ask what we lost aside from the game. The major loss was Al's front teeth on the first rebound of the night (any one who is interested in having a mouthguard made see J.C. as he knows a good dentist who'll do it for nothing - Ed.), then you may wonder what they lost, one player for connecting a right with Gary's eye, picking him up again by the throat and about to repeat the treatment until restrained. To add to this we had fast breaks stopped by body checks, soccer tackles and any other illegal method humanly possible. Steve hit the wall when tunnelled, John slid 10 metres on a soccer tackle while Warwick was buffeted all game as our fill in low post (I love a good scientific game - Ed.) Russell had sore arms from playing guard where he received a free arm "massage". Phil put in when he could, but most of the time he was held/tugged/pushed out of the way whenever a shot went up. Where was the ref you ask (where was the ref? - Ed.) I think she was ... I don't know what she was doing. Added to all this Gary played his worst offensive game of the season taking silly rushed shots throughout the second half. Does this sound like sour grapes, you bet. The Wolves won't know what hit them next time we play. (P.s. can we borrow some gorillas for the next game?)

Gary 11, Phil 9.

WE WERE WRONG : Yes, for the first time in days, Dribbling Balls contained an

error last edition when naming the girls I.V. side. I've had a session with a clairvoyeur and this is the current prediction for the team (still in no order whatsoever) Valena Braniff, Meg Broadway, Anne Cantwell (providing she doesn't have to wash dishes in college), Lisa Evans (Q. Why has Teddy disposed of his No Dams sticker? A. Some of us know), Dom Horne, Judy Knight, Anne McGrath (who suffers from amnesia and forgets to come to Monday night training sessions), Tracy Nero, Gillian Payne and Serena Thomson (who comes last on the list due to circumstances beyond the control of the cosmos). Coach is still Bernadette Burke. Last week's error was caused by solar flares disturbing the asynchronous transmission of data on my massbus.

FIJI : Still thinking about Fiji? Well stop thinking and start filling in your form and give it (and a \$50 deposit) to J.C. We are definitely sending a team to the first South Pacific Universities Sport Championships next February, so hurry up and get in on the action.

I.V. SENDOFF : Yes everybody gets a chance to celebrate the departure of the I.V. teams for Perth when a party is held on Saturday 20 August at Les and Julie's house (37 Eddy's Gve Bentleigh). Remember last year with the guess the legs competition and subsequent auction of (incriminating) photos. What will happen this year? My money's on a guess the chest competition. Come along and see the bidding for that. All club members are welcome and encouraged to attend and see the sort of person representing you in Perth.

CONGRATULATIONS : Thanks to all those who contributed to this mammoth Dribbling Balls, especially to Woody, and even more especially to Teddy, who in one week has done more for my case of tenosynovitis than two years of keypunching has. We still have room for more reports ... Men's seconds where are you?