

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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If you've just screwed up this Dribbling Balls and thrown it in the bin then you're not reading what I've written. What goodies this week then, sports fans. I'm not going to spoil your fun by telling you, you'll have to read it for yourself. But there is a big rumour going around that a new Dribbling Balls competition is being started. I'm not going to tell that you the details are on the last page either, you'll have to find that out for yourself. Isn't investigative life within a university fun? Now read on....

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 21/7)

Australia 103 d. N.I.T. All Stars 101

Well listeners, what a really terrific night. My late lecture was cancelled and Australia snuck in on the buzzer to win a fantastic ball game. Ian Davies starred, shooting 37 points, mostly from 20+ feet (as usual); Phil Smyth controlled his troops superbly and chipped in with 18, Borner and Sengstock were tough on the boards while Andy Campbell was a 7 foot tall tower of jelly. Brad Dalton even managed to look remotely interested when he was given a run. Personally though the night had one sour moment, what was it you ask? Some of the Eds seem to know (No Dams for Teddy - Ed.). Oh incidentally, the Teddy Boys were rolled by Westpac - two losses in a row, could the rot be setting in? Are we just pretenders like Melbourne F.C.? (That sort of insult will get you nowhere fast, son - Ed.) Stay tuned!

Davies 37, Smythe 18.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 27/7)

Uni 49 d. Melbourne 48

Anybody would have told you before this game that it was impossible for us (currently 12th) to beat Melbourne (currently 3rd) and received little argument. As usual though, we proved that the impossible is possible, it's just the possible that we find impossible. So what happened? Fired up by the coach to kill and run through those infamous illegal Melbourne screens we zoomed away to a 12-4 lead so fast I thought something was wrong with the scoreboard. Unfortunately we were picking up fouls with somewhat monotonous regularity and our lead was slowly whittled away. Skippy provided some offensive thrust when he came on, hitting 8 for the half and Drew also played a much better offensive game, still we managed to trail 24-25 at half time. We exploded again at the start of the second half, taking a four point lead which we held for all the half - just about. With 3 minutes to go we led 44-40 and experienced Uni supporters looked worried. I don't know why, just because Melbourne scored 4 times in a row to lead 48-44 with less than a minute to go. At this stage Drew joined Paul and Les on the bench after fouling out but the game wasn't over yet. Next time down the court J.C. who'd been hot in offence hit a three point shot to narrow the difference to 1 point. We regained possession and after a lot of work eventually drew a foul and Skippy went to the line with 20 seconds left. His two shots were clean as a whistle - Uni 1 point up. Melbourne worked for one shot but when Lindsay Gaze's shot was blocked by J.C. and we came up with the ball the game was as good as over. A sensational win, demonstrating that we probably can avoid relegation from second division if we really try.

J.C. 17, Skippy 10.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 28/7)

Uni 32 d. Stenvic 7

Well listeners, to say this game was rough would be a slight ultra-under-mega-statement. What Stenvic lack in ability and skill they make up with violence, always entertaining to watch but harrowing to play against. We played a zone press and ended a relatively uneventful first half (i.e. they

elbowed, shoved and swore at the refs) about 15 points up. It was during the second half the fun really started and here are a couple of the more memorable moments - Teddy was knocked into the next court whilst making a layup, Mattman was airborne by a friendly, face-flattening forearm while driving through the key, five of their players fouled out (leaving three on the court) due to their 16 or so team fouls for the half, twice in the last three minutes the ball leaving out front court and finally the game actually being abandoned by the refs with about a minute to play. Once again I was unable to record the individual scoring due to my potential-body-damage meter giving a reading of imminent (Simon Brown-) grievous (sorry about that last one - Ed.) bodily harm.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Thirds - (Wed. 27/7)

We needed a win here to stay in the race for the finals. However with our fourth player arriving 30 seconds too late, we gave a walkover. In the scratch match we defeated the opposition easily. Thanks to those who turned up : Clea, Dom, Serena & Jacqui.

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Sun. 31/7)

Kilsyth 54 d. Uni 30

Champions of the underdog unite! In a stirring display of ineptitude, we continued our amazing streak of losses. Despite a 30 minute warm up, a Queensland import with the right coloured shorts (Craig, Tony or 4X?) and pretty surroundings we started slowly. If only we'd kept playing at that level. No way, we wound down. We can't blame any fractures, dislocations or tissue tears, though the medical condition of the umpires (Duchenne muscular dystrophy?) allowed head beating. Probably the major reason for this loss was our inability to cope easily with a full court personal and/or half court zone press (we were never sure which was which). From being 10 points down at half time (only because Carey called a time out with 65 seconds left to stop them getting a break) we shot to about a 25 point loss. We did manage to run the offence - once - and it nearly worked. However the team seems to be stabilizing a little and if we get our training act together look out world (i.e. world record no. of straight wins following world record no. of losses).

Everyone scored some and some probably scored more than others.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 3/8)

Nunawading 84 d. Uni 47

Coming off a big win the previous week we obviously took the game against the top team too lightly and put in a real shocker. Swabs were taken after the game, some of which were positive. Stewards are inquiring.

Les 12, J.C. 11.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 - Thirds - (Wed. 3/8)

Hopeful of a good turnout after last week's lack of attendance, we started late with four players. There was some gutsy play all round, we took most rebounds but didn't have sufficient players to capitalize. With Dom and Serena on the bench after running their hearts out Valena and Maggie were left to take on the opposition. They tried hard to score, but we inevitably lost. I plead for some committed players!!! (A coach's lot is not a happy one, Tony, you can come along to Royal Park with me and we'll get some really committed players - Ed.) Thanks again to those who showed up.

V.B.H.B.A. C.GRADE MEN (Thu. 4/8)

Uni 31 d. D.S.C.B.A. 29

Well listeners, I could begin this report by saying that we beat the top side who were previously undefeated or by saying that we played some damn, good team basketball. I could also say we were well coached by our stand-in, stand-up, sit-down, groan, yell, plead coach Mattman, or that Fivefouls

murdered them on the boards and that Clarkie hit well from outside. Perhaps I could start by saying that we're now out of our mid life/season crisis/slump or that this was our best performance to date and augers well for the finals. I could say any of this and it would all be true coz Teddy Boys are GO!!! (sorry about all that, I'm very drunk).

Clarkie 10, FF24 8, Chuckles, SBW 4, Digger, Mattman 2, Teddy 1 (but a very important, match clinching one).

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 7/8)

Uni 81 d. Very Little Opposition 26

Well the scoreline tells it all. Les scored the first four baskets of the game and from there on it was pretty boring. Davo offended well and would have scored 108 points if he stopped throwing the ball out of bounds or to Betty on fast breaks (same thing - Ed.). The Captain was also pretty offensive but what's new. All in all I'd rather have been in Philadelphia.

Davo, SBG 24, Burkie 13, Les 10.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 10/8)

Oakleigh 66 d. Uni 42

The first half of this game was almost a contest. Les was outstanding in keeping Kevin Boyd quiet (practising for Mr. Goatee, I hope) and our offence was mildly effective at times. We trailed 27-32 at the change. The coach warned us about playing just one half of the ball game and this really did the trick as we were outscored 15-4 in the first 6 or 7 minutes. From this point when we lost Les through an injury our defense developed more holes than Henry's teeth before he visited the dentist that day, and the game would be lucky to be rated as a non-event, with the side showing about as much spirit as the U.S. Teetotallers Convention during prohibition. Possible exceptions to this were Burkie who could have had 25 points but for a few slips and Simon who at least tried to generate some enthusiasm.

Burkie 14.

I.V. SENDOFF - Don't forget the great all-singing, all-dancing (e) none of the the above I.V. sendoff, to be held on Sat. 20/8 at Les and Julie's place, 37 Eddy's Gve Bentleigh. A wild, wild, fun evening will be had and that's the truth (probably). Come and see Tracy off, come and see Coops off and come and see Dr. Jack off. And you thought it would be dull. Busby Berkely eat your heart out!

Dribbling Balls Competition - We all know that real men don't eat quiche (and some of us have trouble spelling it as well). Well with the emergence of some self-purported Thursday night superstars it seems like a good idea to find out what real basketballers do or do not do. For example, real basketballers don't warm in winter, the sound of tearing hamstrings is music to their ears. Real basketballers sub themselves on if the coach won't, they know their value to the team. Real basketballers possess a ball for warm ups, but forget to bring it to the game, talking the ref into lending you the match ball is one of the real basketballers myriad of skills anyway... etc. etc. Does that give you a few ideas? No? Too bad. There's a magnificent mystery prize for the best contribution to Dribbling Balls on the subject of real basketballers. The competition closes when I've received an entry worthy of the prize. Give your entries to J.C. or Henry. Judges decision is final. So there!