

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 11 NO. 15

3/10/83

So, M.G.M. have been in touch about turning the I.V. Dribbling Balls into a four part mini series, but for us it's back to the mundane world of some reasonably out of date match reports (my fault, not the correspondents'). Meanwhile, let's keep on booing Messers Aylett and Hamilton and keep the Grand Final at the M.C.G. where it belongs.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 25/8)

Uni heaps and heaps d. W.S.H. not really very many at all
Well listeners, what a really boring game. Imagine going to Albert Park at 10 o'clock at night to beat a team by almost 30 points. Highlights of this very one sided game were few, though they did score one basket in the first half (I'm not saying who was guarding him), and SBW did hit a few long range bombs (one from outside the three point line) as well as the Mattman's usual swag of points. All that remains to be said is roll on finals.

SBW 14, Mattman 10.

Collingwood A GRADE MEN (Sun. 28/8)

Uni 48 lost in a split decision to the POA brothers (more than 48)
Any game in which Uni scores an average of 9.6 points per player deserves a match report and this is no exception. As any maths major will tell you, at that rate we only needed 3 more players to win!! In a side conspicuous by its lack of Sunday night regulars (thank God for the Teddy Boys) there was no lack of star material. Michael was bombing them from all over and Steve "put in" after a slow start (9:20 is before 10:00 Steve). Scott showed what real Teddy Boys do to full court presses, Digger dominated the boards and Five Fouls managed 40 minutes of court time. A half time referendum unanimously decided on suicides for Easy and Warwick on Saturday.

O'Flynn 15, F.F. 14, Peter 10, Muller 9, SBW 25 assists.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 31/8) Preliminary Final

Uni "n+1" d. St. Kilda "n"

As you can see it was one of those games. There was only five of us Fiona, Karen, Jenny, Di and Woody (Judy and Anne were at I.V.). It's not really worth explaining anything about the game except the last one and a half minutes. We had gone from being 6 points up to 3 points down in a matter of minutes. They were trying to stall it when we got a steal and Jenny converted it to two points. Then Fiona cut off a pass from their baseline and their No. 6 fouled her on the way to the ring. So with 30 seconds to go we had Fiona at the line, No. 6 stormed off the court thinking it was her fifth foul. Fiona hit the first of her foul shots and the ref noticed that 6 had gone off and a sub had come on without notifying him or the bench. He immediately called a tech foul and awarded us another foul shot and possession from the centre. Fiona, oblivious to all this was just concentrating on her next foul shot, which she missed, but then she hit the tech foul penalty shot and we stalled the ball for the last 30 seconds which seemed like 30 days. Bring on The Big One.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 2/9)

Uni 25 d. J.E.P.S. 22

Welcome back to the Teddy Boys' continuing saga of adventure and intrigue. The story so far -

Henry, with the help of the Wicked Witch of the North, has compiled a team of alien beings opposing time honoured Uni traditions. What team bearing the black singlets of M.U.B.C. would have the audacity to win consistently? Only those such as Mattman, the Boy Wonder, Larkin, Chuck, that terror of the foul line and a mysterious ring leader known only as "Teddy" could comprise such a squad. All this plus

Digger Vader (someone who doesn't like spades? - Ed.), a hot blooded Scot, the infamous Fivefoulstwentysfour and two others who don't come to training and this could be the end of basketball as we know it.
Now read on -

In this game of two completely different halves the Teddy Boys started slowly and finished about the same speed. Clarkie's appearance before the opening jump augered well for another strong win and despite the absence of the Boy Wonder, invisible man Trevor Andrew (absent invisible) and our beloved leader, Henry's stress levels never rose above the "shit, we might lose" level. A few slick tricks from the Matt utility belt and a little bit of good old fashioned G & D (gastro and dehydration) from the others had this game parcelled up with more than one minute to go. In a game of special mentions from the referee, special mention to Clarkie's hangover, Scott's flu, Digger's glasses and FF24's fouls.

Mattman 9, Chuckles 4, others - the rest.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 5/9)

Uni 55 d. Kingsville 39

"Yowza, yowza, yowza" at last a return to our early season form. Using the "Henry Cooper" version of the press we hustled our opponents all game, on offence we ran the ball while Gary exploded with offence reminiscent of a combination of Doctor J. and Larry Bird (how's that for an exaggeration!). Luke and Tony rebounded as only Moses knows how (?!?!), Russell, Steve and John played defence similar to that of Maurice Cheeks (sort of similar, anyway!!) and we put together our most satisfying win so far. (Some people watch too much late night T.V. - Ed)

Gary 30, Tony 8.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 7/9)

St.Kilda 64 d. Uni 54

We got stuck right into our run of games against the bottom sides by losing against St.Kilda. The majority of the game was marked by our rather ineffectual play. Only a last ditch effort saved us from losing by 20 points.

Les, J.C. 9, Haggis 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 7/9) Grand Final

Uni 34 d. Preston 16

Unfortunately I seem to have lost Woody's match report of this game. Never mind, I was there, and forge on regardless I say. Opening half grand final nerves seemed to dominate the first half, although we managed to lead by 2 or 4 more most of the time. Jenny was the driving force in offence while our defence was constantly denying the opposition any decent shots. Without incredible highlight we reached the halftime break with an 11-9 lead. In the second half Coach Davo said go on the ball and it was wham bam thank you Maam as we crushed the living daylights out of those pretenders. Fiona was dominant at both ends of the court, rebounding and scoring at will, and what she didn't pick up Anne did. Woody was unstoppable from long range, Di provided the offensive control and when Judy got the fast break going it was good night from the opposition. Holding the bounders to 7 points for the half the crowd went wild as we skipped away to a 20 point lead with not long to go and cruised to the finish line. A great effort by the team and Coach, showing the Women's association where they could stick their Division 5 competition and a few other things as well. Thanks again to Fiona for providing an after match celebration venue, we could just about turn her place into our new clubrooms I think.

Fiona 9, Judy, Woody 8, Jenny 6.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 14/9)

Uni 53 d. Blackburn Vikings 33

The most amazing part of this game was the realization that we actually lost

against this team in the first round. We creamed the opposition for the whole game and defence was tight enough to ensure that their score did not exceed their collective I.Q. A 20 point win - what's gone wrong?

Haggis 9, Les, Simon, Craig, Skippy 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 14/9)

Grading type game

Well we never really know if these grading games mean anything, maybe it's just a way of getting the \$1.60 from us at the door for another week. Anyhow we played A.N.Z. and managed to give them a hiding. We seem to be good at playing with five players. Serena stayed on four fouls all second half (perhaps she could teach Skippy a few things - Ed.) because we told her about the old club rule of beers all 'round for fouling out when there are only 5 players. Dom has her ankle in plaster and won't be with us for a while and Judy has a particularly bad bout of IVitis. Davo coached us to a good win. I don't know who scored all the points, so I'll just list the players so we can all get our name in print.

Di, Jenny, Serena, Fiona, Woody.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Thu. 15/9)

Uni 51 d. Sandringham 48

Our opposition had been going pretty well lately against tough teams so we knew we were in for a hard game. This was shown to be true during the first half as the lead see-sawed, eventually resting with them by a couple of points at half time. Skippy, Drew and Coops were our main offensive contributors but our zone defence provided a few handy gaps for the opposition tall timber. In the second half the coach had a brainstorm and we started out in man-to-man, having immediate success and dropping to 10 points behind. With 8 minutes to go we were still 12 points down. A switch to a full court zone press suddenly started to turn the game around with Brian picking off quite a few errant passes, and when J.C. hit four long range baskets in a row including two consecutive 3 pointers it was shut the gate Uni. Brownie sealed it with a fsat break basket putting us 3 up with less than a minute to go. A miraculous win in a season of mediocrity. Skippy has applied for a clearance to Sandringham because he can dunk on their low rings.

J.C. 12, Skippy 10, Coops 9.

COLLINGWOOD B GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 18/9)

Kelly Cubs 22 d. Uni 17

A pretty good effort really. We let them get away in the first few minutes when they scored 2 or 3 baskets from fast breaks. We ran our new offence, the 2-1-2, and when you consider we only learnt it yesterday, we did a pretty good job. Jacky made some superb cuts to the basket and did a good job rebounding too. Matthew put the zone press on which got them into trouble, but their coach thought it was a good idea and tried something on us too, I'm not sure whether it was a zone or man to man and I don't think they knew either. However, we crumbled a bit under the pressure and thus never managed to catch up to them. It was only 4 or 6 points difference all the way, so if we can get straight into the game right from the start we'll beat this team next time. Welcome to our two new players, Linda and Fiona. Yvonne is still nursing a bad ankle - hope it's better soon.

Jacky Lee 10, Julie McM 3.

M.B.A. B GRADE (Mon. 19/9)

Uni 39 d. Wolves 20

Well, when the going gets tough, the tough get going, and so do we. Having gained the "psychological" advantage by taking the court with mouthguards in majority, we played more desperate ball than our opponents who were in Richmond's position (just north of Toorak? - Ed.) just playing out the season. Still, everyone put in, from the hands in "let's go" prior to the game to the

"fives" at its completion. A good team effort, much needed in preparation for the semi final.

Gary 16, Tony 8, Russell 6.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 21/9)

Uni 23 drew with C.Y.M.S. 23

A great turnout of 7 players for a 5:50 game. The coach didn't know what to do with 3 players around 6 foot as well as not being able to pronounce their names. With a fairly new side we had a slow start and they jumped to a 12-2 lead, but our defence improved dramatically and we kept them down to 19-12 at half time. In the second half Anne and Chris ran riot with fast breaks, and together with Lesley and Sue took control of offence and defence. Mary, Jencie and Rhian had no trouble in controlling the boards and we managed to level the scores. Unfortunately our next 5 shots wouldn't go in and the result was a draw.

Anne 13, Chris 4, Rhian, Sue, Jencie 2.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 21/9)

Uni 48 d. Eltham 40

Riding the crest of a wave of our longest winning streak of the season (2) we surprised everyone, including ourselves, by making it three in a row. We led all the way, inspired by Coops with his two tech fouls in the space of 5 seconds early in the first half. Despite some amazingly inept refereeing we led all the way and turned a 4 point half time lead into an 8 point victory. Les was a real force in defence, keeping the opposition hot shot centre almost scoreless in the second half and our offence was consistently unreliable rather than dynamic. Another jolly good win against a team we lost to first time round.

COLLINGWOOD B GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 24/9)

Uni 23 d. ??? (black & yellow) 16

I've seen some big girls in my time, but when you see 'em at Collingwood you worry about being steamrolled. It was a real David and Goliath event. We were slow to start (perhaps we were shaking too much at the knees) and we found ourselves 4 points down at half time. In the second half our defence improved and Max, Woody and Sue ran a few good fast breaks. Max (our MUBC most improved) showed her style by hitting some fine fast, under pressure, 3 on 1 lay ups. Our press really got them into trouble once we got it under control, and then they gave up and started calling the referees names. They were sure he had X-ray vision so they named him Superman II. Meanwhile, Linda played some gutsy defence and our offence seemed to find some gaps in their zone with Jacky making some nice drives to the basket.

Jacky, Max 8, Woody 4, Linda 2, Sue 1.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 28/9)

Uni 31 d. St.Kilda(2) 29

It's good to win one of the close ones. This game was anybody's from start to finish, there was never more than 6 points difference in the score. Both sides played man to man for most of the game, and our offence turned over well except for a few forced passes to the first cut. St.Kilda ran a few fast breaks they shouldn't have got away with, and their wopper woman No. 6 was hard to stop, even though she was slow. It was a good effort by us, concentrating for the whole game and hanging on to our 2 point lead for the last minute.

Anne C. 11, Bernje 10, Annette 4.

Having cleared this backlog of reports, watch for the next edition of Dribbling Balls, which will contain a new Crossballs and the result of the competition which has generated less interest than Mattman's last treasurer's report, the Real Basketballers Competition. Whacko the zeds...