

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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And so to the last Dribbling Balls for 1983 (he types, wiping a fallen tear from his keyboard). The end of yet another year of trials and tribulations, highs and lows, comings and goings and whatever else made it onto these hallowed pages. Just to prove that the standard of things hasn't improved from the first edition (where is Kenny Rogers when we need him?) read on for the last time, if your tears haven't washed away the print....

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 27/10)

Uni 47 d. O.S.C.B.A. 29

After an early 12-0 blitz during which the opposition barely took the ball over the centre line, the result of this game was a foregone conclusion. Quick hands from Clarkie and Mattman at the front of the zone press and good backing up from SBW and D de V. saw turnover follow turnover as we powered to a 30-12 half time lead. The remainder of the game was a little like a Hawthorn - Essendon grand final - SBW hit a few long bombs, Digger powered in for a couple of dunks (well almost), Clarkie and Mattman grabbed the occasional layup, but basically the status quo was maintained and little else. A comfortable win against last season's runners up.

SBW, Clarkie 12.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 10/11)

Uni 33 d. Lyall 28

Revenge at last! Against the team that christened the Scott Towels in last seasons finals, we played a solid and consistent game leading throughout to win by five. In direct contrast to our previous effort, on this occasion the fast break worked well and the inside baskets dropped. Fine work between Digger and Dave on offence gave us some crucial baskets and pushed us ahead after an even first half. Although Lyall at one stage crept back to level with 3 minutes left, a couple of steals from Clarkie and a "coast to coast" by Magic (nee SBW) sealed it. D de V. contributed well as a big man after Chuck decided to challenge FF24 and collected 4 fouls in the first five minutes, and Digger and Mattman added some fine defence.

Clarkie 12, SBW 8, Dave 7.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE WOMEN (Thu. 17/11)

Construction 34 d. Uni 24

After running around wondering if there were going to be enough players, we settled down with five (these are the left players, seeing as last week we had all the right players). The game was very close, the difference being only 2 points either way. Then came the fouls. Lissa fouled off (yawn - Ed.) leaving us hopelessly trying to stop the opposition from scoring, hence losing by 10 points. We must get better. Can't get any worse.

Terry 8, Lissa 6, Lesley, Sue 4, Jannie 2.

COLLINGWOOD B GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 20/11)

Uni 41 d. St. Joe's I 14

Well we finally played a team that wasn't married to, born of, dating, or financially affiliated with the referees. Consequently we managed to score more points than fouls and were not under threat of black eyes and broken bones from enthusiastic onlookers. You couldn't choose a better team to boost your confidence and percentage 2 weeks before finals than St. Joe's. Though slow to score at first, we pulled up our socks (paying attention to this Derrick? - Ed.) to substantiate our margin in the second half. The press worked well, giving many turnovers, and we managed a few useful fast breaks despite the liberal scattering of Maori babies on the court (sounds like one of Chuck's jokes to me - Ed.). Karen and Jackie earned the score with their

good work in the key. Finals here we come.

Jackie 14, Karen 11, Ellen 8, Woody 6, Leslie 2.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 23/11)

Jetz 24 d. Uni 21

Not a bad effort against the undefeated top team, we only needed to get going a little earlier and we could have won. Both teams started with a man to man defence and we took a while to get organized and remember our offence. We let them score a few quick baskets, their 6'8" forward proving hard to stop. At half time we had only scored 7 points to their 14, and by the time the scorers and Davo had got the ref to realise it was half time they had scored another two points so we were 9 down. Our offence began to work much better in the second session and Judy bombed 3 superb 30 footers (if only they'd bring in the 3 point line for us). Our zone defence was good and tight and talking and we managed to slow their scoring down with some nice intercepts which we converted to fast breaks. An excellent second half, so we will just have to get back to playing 40 minutes of basketball and we'll be winning again.

Judy 8, Serena 7, Woody 4, Fiona 2.

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Editor, and against his undoubted better judgement we reluctantly print the following match report...

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 23/11)

New Lyons 22 d. Uni 18

I was contemplating writing a match report about an Australiana party I was in attendance at on the 26/11. But then I thought if I was to mention how Jenny Philips left with a mysterious man from FF24's work, how Trevor Andrew and Belinda Ellis had a long deep and meaningful conversation and how Terry MacMahon left with another mysterious man from FF24's work, then I'd also have to mention catching the sister of a person previously mentioned dancing very close to a certain well known member of the basketball club, in which case this wouldn't get printed in Dribbling Balls. So instead I will tell you about last week's game (you seem to know a lot for a person who slept through most of the party - Ed.) We had a good turn out of 9 players (surprising after the number that turned up to training). Once again our start was slow with the opposition getting many fast breaks but fortunately missing most. Our full court man to man worked well in keeping their score down, but we couldn't score enough baskets to capitalize. With 5 minutes to go we put on a desperate effort, getting within 3 points (I think), however they steadied to win comfortably.

Ann 6, Ellen 4, Sue 3, Terry, Rhian 2, Pauline, Linda 1.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE WOMEN (Thu. 24/11)

Uni 37 d. Bleakhouse 14

What a game. With a new coach to break in (break down? - Ed.) and all, we were great. We started off playing man oops, woman to woman. Then the opposition also had a go at the same type of tactic. So smart coach Matman advised half court press, which again worked well. The shooting wasn't too bad, the rebounding great, so after some stumbles and falls a great score held. Up until last week we were fifth on the ladder, not a bad position to be in.

Terry 9, Belinda, Lissa 8, Jannie 6, Rhian 4, Sue 2.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 24/11)

Uni 40 d. Westpac 30

In Teddy's comeback game, we overpowered Westpac, who until then had been in the four, and consequently rolled right up to the top of the ladder. Our normal zone press under the tutelage of Mattman proved too tough for the opposition and with Clarkie finally finding the range after shooting 0 for 10 in the first half, we kept a comfortable distance ahead for the whole game. Digger powered in for a few spectacular baskets and then to top it off, hit a

three point turn around fade away jump shot whilst being double teamed to leave the Westpac centre totally bewildered. With little left to gain we slowed to the now customary walk for the last few minutes and coasted in. The Rising Stars/Teddy Boys/Scott Towels now have a 6-1 record (looks a little better than the other Thursday night men's team).

Clarkie 11, Digger 9, SBW 6, Chuck, Mattman, D de V 4, Teddy 2.

Just in case you didn't read that last match report, here it is again in cinemascope, sensurround, Cecil B. de Milne and so froth....

#### V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 24/11)

Uni 40 d. Westpac 30

At last the match report that you've all been waiting for (no, not a win by the men's firsts), the fourth part of the trilogy, the square turned a full circle and other meaningless drivel, yes that's right it's the RETURN OF THE TEDDI - dum de de da dum dum de de da dum etc. etc. Well I suppose you're sick of all this self indulgence so I'll tell you about the match : against a side rumoured to be strong, skillful and quick, as well as possessing Pava(who cares how it's spelt anyway)rotti's slightly fatter younger brother, we played rather well. We led for almost the entire game and managed to hold up against everything they threw at us (except Pav-etc's brother) and stormed home in the finish to win by ten points.....(but not those ten points). During the game there were fine displays of good inside work by Digger, Chucko (no seriously folks) and our smallest big man Dave de V. There were also the now perfunctory (I looked it up in my Funk and Wagnall's - Ed.) long bombs from Mattman and SBW, with some even scoring, as well as some good breaks from Clarkie and Teddy. There you go now everyone got a mention except Henry. So with the worry of studies now well past us it is time to dominate this competition and make amends for last season's woeful performance in the finals! (to be read forcefully and with conviction).

Clarkie..... Digger..... SBW..... Chucko Mattman Dave Teddy....

#### C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 27/11)

Uni 55 d. Abbotsford Cobras (1) 46

Another good win for this aging team of champions. Good skill, determination and stamina shown by Pistol, whose wife gave birth to their fourth child that morning, and Davo was dominant around the packs shooting with what may be called Browngreavesian accuracy. Unfortunately Simon shot with Davoian accuracy, but none of this mattered because we had Les in defence and the opposition didn't, so we won. Quite comfortably as these things go. If we keep performing this well we may finish in the mid-to-lower-upper-middle region of the ladder.

Davo, Les 10.

#### COLLINGWOOD B GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 27/11)

Uni 50 d. St. Joe's II 10

A game a little marred by the fact it was scheduled for 5:50 and played at 9:20, and that we, coincidentally, were the only team not notified (sounds like what used to happen at Collingwood - Ed.) Having known for a month of the change, the referees were at least considerate enough to put a notice on the board at 6:00. Needing the points to maintain our position at second we were forced to bite our boot laces and comply. Unfortunately this not only meant we lost Woody and Julie, but our coach Mattman for a prior engagement at Albert Park. Ah, this really is the true Collingwood form we've grown to know and would love to forget. To be confident of a win before the centre toss was perhaps a little presumptuous, but we all presumed correctly, and it was amazing how a winning attitude managed to lift our standard of play. Pressure off there were no reckless fouls, and we were throwing them in from everywhere, not just the sidelines. Karen in her debut as coach was merciless bringing the opposition to an even more stationary stand still with our zone

press, embarrassingly effective against a team reminiscent of our calibre at the beginning of last season. In offence most anything we tried worked with the help of snappy ball passing and strong rebounding. A good team effort to be maintained for next week's semi final (whenever that will be, and if we get notified!).

Ellen, Jackie 16, Sue Harman 6, Yvonne 5, Karen 3, Sue Hallahan 2 and 2 for good measure.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 30/11)

Uni 63 d. Sandringham 59

Well it appears that Sandringham is becoming our favourite court. Having won three games in a row there over the last 8 months, I think we try to make it our home court. Although slightly undermanned due to sore toes, clutches and nurses in France we played an uncharacteristically controlled game. No one was threatened with ejection, no one got any tech fouls, no one abused the opposition, you'd have sworn it wasn't us. The whole game was reasonably close. From 30-28 up at half time we built an 8 point lead which we threw away as our offence stagnated. Sandringham levelled the score but we rallied, with Les holding the defence together and J.C. hitting 16 points for the half. Haggis made some nice baskets from offensive rebounds and worm manouvres and Paul's contribution was built on some spectacular drives. Brian contributed very well in offence and defence, while the Captain was just the Captain. Six points up for most of the last three minutes, we never looked like losing.

J.C. 20, Haggis, Paul 10, Les 9, Brian, Simon 7.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 30/11)

Uni d. Oakleigh Wolves

After getting all the results, and after assuring the coach that I'd write the goddamn report, I went and lost all the details. Actually, I think I handed them over to Mattman with the \$610 I was holding for him. So I'm going to have to make up this report (never stopped anyone before - Ed.) I do remember a few things though - we won; they were taller than us; we were better looking; we both wore black; we travelled a lot; they travelled a lot; the ref travelled; the coaches travelled; the score bench travelled; in fact we all caught the No. 15 tram and travelled down to St. Kilda and back at half time just so we wouldn't lose touch during the break; Tony's heart stopped beating when the forwards tried to dribble, and he had to be revived by a St. John's Ambulance Officer, who just happened to be travelling through court 4 at the time. Ann played her usual game of excellent basketball; Max bombed a few; Terry made some great moves under the basket; Lesley and Linny played well under the boards; Chris and Sue made a number of productive moves around the key; Pauline fouled out with 2 seconds to go thank you very much. Hold on, what's this I've just found in my track suit pocket? Well it seems the match details were all I gave to Mattman. I think I'll travel to Fiji this summer. Bye!

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 1/12)

Uni 36 d. Pier Hotel 21

After this game the boys from the pier may as well have jumped off it. After taking 30 minutes to score nine points they put on a spurt to make their score slightly respectable at the end. Fine defence from Clarkie and Teddy and a good effort by Digger on their centre made up for some inadequacies in our offence in the first half. teddy with some fine baseline moves hit the target in the second half and the question now is can anyone stop the Teddy Boys? Even the non-appearance of the much feted Teddy Boy T shirts failed to prevent the lads from cruising to another comfortable win.

Clarkie 12, Teddy 8, Digger 7, SBW 4, Mattman 3, Dave 2.

C.Y.M.S. B GRADE (Sun. 4/12)

Uni 40 d. Sth Melb 30

Well folks, it was just like the old days (i.e. last season) down at good old

Collingwood with just a couple of minor differences. We didn't trail for the whole game, we didn't fall apart under pressure, we didn't pass the ball to the opposition, FiveFouls didn't, and we didn't come from ahead to snatch a convincing loss (all that and you still have the temerity to call yourself a Uni side? - Ed.) In fact the only resemblance to a Collingwood Sunday night was the number of threats of violence during and after the game (if you don't count the Neanderthal referee). Luckily, I had borrowed Teddy's potential body damage meter for the night, which enabled me to measure both degree of peril and predicted life span for each player. Some new personal bests were recorded, but unfortunately Clarkie's reading of 9.9 for impending peril was disallowed because of a negative reading for predicted life span. Violence and terror aside it was a gutsy performance especially from the guards and outside shooters.

Clarkie 13, Mattman 10, Tony 7, Michael, Steve 4, FF24 2.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 7/12)

Oakleigh 49 d. Uni 37

The first half of this game was almost worth mentioning. Well, it was more worth mentioning than the second half. We led 21-20 at half time, mainly due to the bad play of our opponents. When this stopped in the second half, so did we. Spectators were constantly amazed by our inability to produce anything which even vaguely resembled basketball. Our offence relied solely on Haggis to hit points which he did with face saving regularity in a one out effort. Drew played quite well for some one who's done less training than Steve Crabb during the transport strike, but all in all it was another woeful performance from our team of liberals - they promise everything and deliver nothing.

Haggis 18.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 7/12)

ANZ (2) 23 d. Uni 21

This was a typical Uni loss, leading comfortably until 5 minutes to time, we snatched defeat from the jaws of victory and lost by 2 points. Our defence was once again solid, however we threw too many bad passes in offence. Of some consolation were a few nice baseline drives and some good fast breaks. Special mention to the numerous spectators, mainly from the women's and men's seconds. Which reminds me of the tremendous win the men's seconds had on Wednesday. Playing one of the older and wiser teams of the division [average age of 14] § Ed. please notice I'm not using round brackets (saves confusion - Ed.) We tore through their defence, fast broke them off the court and stuffed their shots down their young little throats (this is beginning to sound like a Teddy report from Collingwood - Ed.). Second half coach Woody made some inspiring speeches and tactical subs. I won't mention who scored 21 points 'cause it might be considered egotistical.

Mary 8, Chris 7, Terry, Belinda, Jackie 2.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 8/12)

Uni 35 d. Willows 14

Well listeners, on the surface this may appear to be a fairly comprehensive thrashing, however one slight point I am loathe to mention is that they only had 4 players. After jumping to a good start, we led 13 to approximately zero after 9 minutes. At the 19 minute mark of this first half we scored our next basket, finishing the half 15-4 up. This slight lapse did not impress coach Coops at all, so in the second half we really lapsed badly (almost professionally - but nobody seemed terribly interested in having a prolapse) (how long have you been saving that one up for? - Ed.) Once again we showed we have the most remarkable ability to play only as well as we see fit, i.e. with the least amount of good basketball to win. Welcome to debut player Brian (Question: Why didn't Teddy throw him a pass?) and to the now famous Teddy Boys T-shirt, we're all terribly impressed down here I can tell you, and no Trevor and FF24, you can't have one. This being my last report for 1983, I

would like to thank the Ed for not adulterating too many of my reports (it wasn't easy - Ed.), so a very Teddy Christmas to you all.

Mattman 13, SBW 10, Teddy 6, Digger 4, Dave 2.

#### COLLINGWOOD A GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 11/12) GRAND FINAL

Someone d. Uni

Collingwood outdoes itself in honour of the grand finals. At 6 p.m. Coach Coops drags himself out of bed after a 4 a.m. effort at Abba's the night before (explaining the Best Of Dribbling Balls). At 6:20 the team is warming up enthusiastically under the snoring nose of Coach Coops. At 6:30 the game is due to commence, but there are no refs. At 6:50 half time is due, but there are no refs. Crowd becomes restless. J.C. and Haggis the Hobbled retire to the car park for a quiet medicinal ale. At 7:15 someone finds two blokes wandering the streets of Collingwood and gives them each a black and white shirt and tells them they're reffing the game. J.C. and Haggis return from car park. Game commences. Slow start for Uni. Comeback inspired by the superb rebounding of Belinda. Scoring maintained by the excellent work of Terry. I don't care what Coops thought about the refs, I thought they were dreadful. Hustle of Julie providing much drive into offence. Even at half time. Second half sees Uni hit the front. Second half sees Uni hit the opposition. Second half sees Linny foul out. Second half sees Terry foul out. Second half sees Julie foul out. Rear guard action fought by shot rejecting Teresa "Green" Pong and the tireless Brown Cow Kid Gillian who fought magnificently. Pongy eventually fouls out. Final score for Uni : 5 players 24 fouls. Gillian wanted to keep playing one out against the opposition, claiming last man gets her tucker (?) but the refs had to get back on the streets and make another score. Fine effort girls, maybe next year.

#### COLLINGWOOD B GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 11/12) GRAND FINAL

Someone d. Uni

After finishing the first grand final an hour late, the Collingwood admin boys decided to make up time by delaying the start of this game for another half hour. J.C. and Haggis repaired to the car park again. Close game all the way this one when it finally got started. Our shots just wouldn't quite drop, but a few of the opposition did when Jackie fixed them up. Max, Woody, Sue, Sue, Lesley, Julie, Yvonne (or was it Pauline? They all look alike to me) and Mattman put in well and gave a fine display, although noone fouled out, but we sank eventually by some mediumish number of points. Oh well, back to the BBQ, after all the night is yet but young, despite the efforts of the Collingwood "brains trust", who are again winners of the Collingwood Memorial Gold Medal for Organization.

#### V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 14/12)

Uni 31 d. EEAMA 27

I have to get this report in tonight otherwise it won't make the final Dribbling Balls for 1983. We led all the way due to some more solid defence, some good fast breaks and some excellent boards in offence. Terry and Mary scored well from inside, and when they didn't Julie and Belinda chipped in for a basket. Ann and Ellen each played another excellent guards game and Pauline stole the ball numerous times in defence.

Terry 11, Mary 10, Ellen 4, Ann 3, Julie 2, Belinda 1, Merry Xmas.

TRAINING 1984 - Yes, it's on again. Twenty minutes of layups, 40 minutes of three on two, followed by 30 minutes of five on five. The first training sessions for the new year will be commencing on Monday 9/1/84 for both men and women. From then on Friday, Saturday and Monday sessions as usual except for the 13 and 14/1 where there is a prior booking for the gym. Note that games commence on the 18/1 for Wednesday night teams. Other teams check your fixtures (unless you play at Collingwood in which case you probably don't have a fixture, but it doesn't matter anyway because they probably don't have any

refs so I'm going back to the car park to have another beer. Collingwood won't start until February).

YARRA BANKS BBQ - The traditional end of year BBQ on the Yarra banks will be held on Sunday 18/12. Assemble near the Anderson St. bridge or any available BBQ. Volunteers needed to reserve a BBQ at about 3 a.m. Sunday morning. We had a big turn out last year and everybody is welcome this year too.

OOPS - Apologies to Mrs. Crombie for leaving her out of the Best of Dribbling Balls last week. It was completely unintentional. It was Abba I meant to leave out.

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#### EPILOGUE - by Sir Eric Pearce

As many of you would be aware, this year's Dribbling Balls has been the biggest, if not the best, in living memory. With 21 editions, averaging over 4 pages each, it's been great reading, and as I always say, if you can't have quality you may as well have quantity. The congratulations for this go to the many of you out there who contributed to Dribbling Balls throughout the year. It was a pleasant change to be able to rely on receiving some match reports to print, a trend that hopefully will continue next year. Special mention for contributions above and beyond the call of duty go to Teddy (for innumerable attempts to revive Vaudeville), Woody (for writing match reports covering about 5 different teams), Gary (for Monday night correspondence), Tony (for the continuing saga of the women's thirds) and everybody else who contributed an article or articles. The Editor also wishes to thank those of you who bothered to read what was written (both of you will receive special gifts in the mail), and for humouring him in his parenthesized fits of madness.

Dribbling Balls also wishes to present a great big thank you to the unsung hero of Dribbling Balls, a person without whose efforts Dribbling Balls would not have appeared as frequently, punctually or probably at all, Jenny Baxter - this is your strife. For those who may not be aware, Jenny at the Sports Union spends hours roneo-ing off all the D.B.s, often at very short notice, so we can all read and enjoy on Friday night. Thanks from all of the Basketball Club for a job well done!

All that remains to be said is thanks for all that. See you all at Swan Hill, Warrnambool, Fiji, Ballarat, Sale, Portland, I.V., Albert Park, Collingwood and stopping all stations to the Clyde. Have notebook, will travel. Thanks again, and roll on 1984 - let's be under it....