

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 12 NO. 2

3/2/84

Well we certainly got some reactions to the first Dribbling Balls of the year. Fortunately my reflexes were quick enough to allow me to dodge most of them. Please try to organize the law suits for May, I'm pretty busy for the next three months. Also, I still reckon it's cans on threes and bottles on sevens. Not that it matters, it could be cans on every number and Mockers would still stuff it up. What about the highlights of this edition though? You must be joking....

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 18/1)

Uni 27 d. Melbourne 15

What a wonderful start to the Happy New Season. Statistics reveal a poor percentage of shots. Not a memorable match which is why this report is so short. Highlights included * Bridget off with wounded fetlock * shooting percentage 0.5 * some classic passing * second half zone press which allowed them to score more prolifically * only won because they lost. Won through no fault of our own * opposition had two time outs in first half which threw us all in a tizz * Tracy drove couple of times into the key, got scared and missed at least twice * Anne C. (Well thanks for all that Spike. I don't know what you're teaching this year, but let's hope it isn't English - Ed.)

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 18/1)

Nunawading 89 just scraped in against Uni 49

We led this game for a large percentage of the first two minutes (1-0). Unfortunately from that time on we had a few problems. We couldn't shoot, rebound, play defence, shoot, stop fast breaks, pass, shoot, catch, run fast breaks, shoot or shoot. Aside from that we did most things right. Our shooting was not good, as about 70% of our shots were blocked, 25% were air balls, 15% didn't go in and the other 10% can't add up. Honourable mention to Brian who fought things out pretty well on the boards as our undersized "Claytons" big man. Brownie and Burkie were the only ones to show much form in offence. A little more practice all round and we'll be able to keep these games to 20 points.

Simon 14, Paul 12.

For those of you who think people naturally slow down as they rapidly approach the age of thirty, we proudly present this next match report in defiance of medical science....

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 19/1) The Real Men

Beaten by Mordi Cycle (2)

At the cessation of this game a few personal comments were passed by the coach about the individual and team skills possessed by his charges. It's great to be a good loser, but it's just not so good to be great losers. The highlight of the night was finding Pete's Bar stayed open 'til 12 o'clock, and the Universal Pizza place serves a mean spaghetti marinara. Even better was the Nile restaurant on Friday night, helped by the traditional pre-dinner drinks, the flagon which accompanied and the port which followed that. Question: What is more fun than sliding down the stairs at Karen's? Could it be being overtaken by Bridget sliding over the top..? (Could it be hitting that knob at the bottom of the staircase? - Ed.) And why does Widget wear her wicycle helmet when trying to get Drew to join the party? Apart from that Bowlesy rebounded well, and Tony and Spiros put in reasonable efforts. I think that there's a real chance that the combination of Friday nights and Saturday mornings will do irreversible damage to the body of this correspondent. God give me strength (or port) to survive this year.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 22/1)

Uni 78 d. Oakleigh (1) 73

Stunning un-Universitic performance this one, to kick off the new year of Sundays. The opening wasn't too unusual as the opposition looked like they'd spent all the break practising 30 foot bombs as they raced away to a handy lead. Simon sparked a comeback with some of the flattest baskets you've ever seen, then Haggis found the range as we raced off to lead 40-36 at half time. We led for most of the second half by about 5 points. Jane had a big half, moving well to the basket and getting into the rebounding business, and Haggis continued to score freely, but some small lapses let them back into the game at 72-71 with less than a couple minutes to play. At this stage Uni supporters put down their glasses and psyched up for another loss, but such was not to be. Les who had been quiet for most of the game (just showing Christopher a few of the finer points of big man play) scored a handy basket and J.C. also chipped in as we cruised away to a comfortable win. Amazing stuff. If we keep this up we could win again next week.

Jane 24, Haggis 20, Simon, J.C. 14, Les 6.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 25/1)

Dandenong 36 d. Uni 24

Well for 38 minutes of this game we played pretty fair basketball. Currently sixth on the list we went basket for basket with Dandenong, currently second on the list. Our defence was good, and our movement of the ball in offence was a definite improvement over the usual offering. Annette moved well in offence, Spike and Jean rebounded consistently well and Anne hustled down the court at great pace. All this meant we trailed 23-24 with two minutes to go. At this point a second Dandy player fouled out, leaving them with four only on the court. The shock of this was all too much for us as we let them outscore us 12-1 from this point, leaving Uni supporters in stunned amazement and the coach quietly banging his head against the score bench.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 25/1)

Coburg 53 d. Uni 33

We sometimes don't play terribly well against Coburg, and I think this was one of those times. Our first half was fair as an even team performance kept the score to 16-21 at the break. Chris Morrey made an impressive debut in the half, hitting his first two jumpers from the corners and boarding well. In the second half the wheels fell right off our little red wagon and as a consequence we went nowhere very rapidly. We got a bath on the boards and our offence was marginally worse than in the first half. Some slight improvement is needed before we tackle the challenge games against Dandenong. Anybody skilled in the art of miracle production please apply now.

J.C. 9, Brownie 6.

WINE AND CHEESE WINE AND CHEESE WINE AND CHEESE WINE AND CHEESE WINE AND CHEES
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Yes sports fans, Dribbling Balls is fabulously proud to announce the return of one of the most famous annual events in M.U.B.C. history, the Orientation Week Wine and Cheese Tasting. In the dim dark past of the club which only people like Henry and Haggis (and some others) remember, there was always a Wine and Cheese function for new members to the club to meet the more established (read that as old) members of the club. This was eventually thought to be not such a hot idea, and when you think who the old people were back then (Dave Keogh, Kerry Lewis, Spewin' Ewan Lockie, Henry, Haggis...) it's not surprising. But now your committee in its almost infinite and infallible wisdom has decided to revive it because the old people we have now form a much better class of drunk and the committee felt like a booze up during O Week. So what that all means is all club members are welcome to come along to the large entertainment room of the sports union building (down near

the squash courts) on Wednesday 29 February any time between 3 and 7 p.m. for a wine, beer, cheese, port, muscat, (e) all of the above. Come along and sus out the new talent that's going to be after your place on the team. Ah yes, I remember back in '76, the wine and cheese function I went to during my first 0 Week, two weeks later it was Sale, then it...

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Well I don't know what there was about the first Dribbling Balls for the year, but in an unprecedented display of initiative, two people have actually written letters to the Editor, and one of them actually signed his letter. Nothing like this has ever happened before so I'm at a bit of a loss here. Never mind, I can take constructive criticism. See if I ever give either of these two people another mention in Dribbling Balls....

To the Editor,

Despite your unilluminating chides at my ability at Bottles, I would also like to point out that yours is also lacking. Bottles is always "3's". I think that you ought to pay penance by sculling the mistakes that you have made from 1 to 1000. Yours,

David Mockeridge.

Dear David,

Thank you for your most illegible letter. It's so nice to see writing from someone who thinks that calligraphy was a Roman emperor who had lots of orgies. I would disagree with your brilliantly postulated theory about threes being bottles, but make the point that even if threes were bottles your performance at the game would not have improved significantly. For instance, three may be bottles or cans, but it definitely isn't "three, oops". As for doing all that sculling for those mistakes (sic) between 1 and 1000, there's no point me doing in practice what you've already done in a game. I remain yours in what will probably amount to utter confusion,

Ed.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir, I am not entirely pleased about the number of times my name has appeared in the last edition of Dribbling Balls. Where has all the subtlety and innuendo gone? Where is the implication rather than the statement of fact? (I forgot, subtlety has never been your forte) Anyway, statement of fact is probably less damaging than innuendo, so maybe I should thank you instead. So thank you instead Editor. (What happened to my scathing report?)

Yours,

Hopefully Anonymous.

Dear Bridget,

Thank you for your most grammatical letter. I have taken the liberty of inserting some punctuation in what I hope are the correct places to attempt to make this tome partially readable for the purposes of publication. I'm sorry to hear that you haven't had any in your endo recently, but don't tell me your troubles. As for subtlety, I gave that up when nobody understood my jokes. Now at least I do. Sometimes. I would suggest that if you wish to be mentioned less frequently in Dribbling Balls in the future that you follow one of these four alternatives : (1) drink less (2) drink more (3) join a nunnery (4) slip me \$20. Thank you again, and here's hoping you can remember your name one day. I subtly remain yours innuendo,

Ed.

Great stuff all that. Still, I think Letters To The Editor should be a regular feature of Dribbling Balls. You send 'em in I'll answer 'em...

Well, we haven't heard much from those of you out there interested in going to the Ballarat tournament this year on the 10,11 and 12th of March. Does this mean that nobody wants to go? Should we not enter any teams? Should we enter teams but not bother to go just to save ourselves the trouble? How the hell should I know! Perhaps if everyone made up their mind soon and let us know we might have an idea. How's that for getting heavy?

If all you masters of foot in mouth out there can keep up the good work then Dribbling Balls will try to include a Quote Of The Week section in each edition. Keep your ears to the ground and let me know if you hear anybody spout something worthy of publication. For example, Woody was heard to remark 5 minutes into the first training session of the year..."I think it's time for another pub crawl..." or perhaps you prefer Spike's offering from the tent late Sunday night at Warrnambool..."I'm at my best when I'm horizontal..." We might even run a competition, then again, judging by the response to the last competition the whole club might lapse into complete and utter silence. Good for basketball.

Speaking of what happened at Warrnambool this year, do I hear you asking "What happened at Warrnambool this year?" I do. I thought as much. Well flipping heck, how should I know? What do I know about Friday night's 4:32, or why the women's A reserve side wiped themselves out on Saturday afternoon, or how come Bowlesy and Sandy were drinking champagne in the tent on Sunday night or who taught Pendles and the Moron Tabernacle Choir to sing (and I use the word "sing" loosely), why the shaving cream fight started or how Abba came to be standing naked from the waste down in the middle of the tent. I am awaiting contributions from those of you out there who may have further information on any of the above incidents or anything else that may have happened. Write now or be somewhere else. Makes sense to me.

Speaking of making sense to me, all your favourite Dribbling Balls features will return over the next couple of editions, now that T.V. ratings are with us again. We'll have our first Player of the Month for the year, we'll bring you Dribbling Around (the gourmet guide to basketball eatery that makes the Age Good Food Guide look like the menu at Twins) and a new Crossballs will almost certainly appear. Not only all that we're going to have a number of match reports, articles contributed by specially selected people within the club and a whole lot more. How's that for ambitious! 'Til then, break out the sun tan lotion, F-one-J-one here we come....