

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well Sports Fans and International Jet Setters, have we got a Dribbling Balls for you this week? Yes....

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 25/1)

Uni 24 d. M.G.'s 17

This was a very exciting and tough game to start the season. In the first half we had some trouble passing the ball, but Meg kept us in the game with some good bombs from the '45'. We put on a full court press in the second half which worked well, although occasionally we were slow dropping back to the zone defence. When one of their better players fouled off with a tech foul we took the lead, and with Lissa chipping in with some good baskets at the end of the game we won comfortably.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 1/2)

Uni 34 d. Tax Ramblers 8

We started with a personal defence type game and beat them all over the court but had trouble putting the ball in the hole, so at half time it was a dismal 10 points to Uni and 6 points to opposition. We tried all our offence and defence and Davo even decided to re-acquaint us with the zone press at a time out. We found this worked the best and we were able to convert many more of our steals to baskets. We kept them to 2 points for the half and made 24 ourselves - a much better effort.

Ann 12, Judy 7, Rose 6, Woody 4, Karen, Pauline 2, Jacqui 1.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 1/2)

Uni 34 d. St.Kilda 19

We started with 4 players against the second top side, 10 minutes late because the umpire didn't turn up. By the time Lissa had rustled up some tape and a blue texta for a number we were 3 points in front. With the fifth player we cruised to an easy victory. Meg and Ellen shot well, Ellen hardly missed in the second half. Belinda and Terry strongly rebounded the whole game and Lissa passed and defended superbly.

Ellen 14, Meg 8, Belinda 5, Lissa 4, Terry 3.

COLLINGWOOD A GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 5/2)

Uni 63 d. Kelly Cubs 23

This was a grading game against one of the B Grade sides and as you can tell from the scores we romped it in. Judy, Julie and Woddy running the fast breaks right from the start, Bridget played all over the place (sounds messy - Ed.) and Carol and Terry did a good job on the inside at both ends.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 8/2)

Uni 31 d. St. Kilda 18

The warm up time was spent trying to answer the following questions (a) will more than 2 of the opposition turn up? (b) will the referees umpire the game if they are observant enough to notice that both teams were wearing black? (c) can we gather together enough money to pay the umpires? (or (e) none of the above - Ed.) It must have been our lucky day because two more St.Kilda players arrived and we got 4 points for a late start. The umpires were happy that we found enough money for them and they therefore didn't notice we were both wearing black! All this mental exercise must have warmed us up because we kept them to 3 points in the first half and scored 17 ourselves. Then disaster struck and Jo Sayers had a nasty ankle while returning to earth after a rebound. So with our 'height' off the court Ann, Woody and Rose had to play inside in offence. Also the St.Kilda coach must have issued them with some fire water because their enthusiasm seemed to pick up. Our zone press wasn't

as successful as last week but we managed to hold our lead.  
Woody 8, Ann 6, Judy, Di, Rose, Ellen 2.

COLLINGWOOD A GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 12/2)  
RMCYC 55 d. Uni 25

It was four and a half of us versus all of them (last season's premiers). Terry had such a bad hangover the umpire stopped the game to see if she wanted to go off!!! We played a switching man to man/zone defence and this worked quite well except they scored twice as often as we did and at half time it was 10-20. Then the referees decided we had too many players and proceeded to make many typical Collingwoog calls, all on us and none on the opposition. Lissa was fouled off not far into the second half and Terry came off towards the end of the game. It was reminiscent of the grand final last season when the umpires won the game by fouling off everyone except Gillian.

Woody 8, Lissa, Linny 6, Julie 4, Terry 1.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 15/2)  
Uni 53 d. Eltham 34

A classic victory by the lads over a classic team of peanuts. The opposition were very good at punching the ball, getting tech fouls and being sent off, but after that their skill level dropped away a bit. I mean, what can you say when we beat them by 20 points? Captain Fiji was in fine touch at the start of the game, J.C. opened his eyes long enough to hit a couple of three pointers, Les showed a bit of form in offence and Coops hustled really well. Our first win for the summer from 5 outings, and hopefully a sign of better things to come. Two icy cold musus were in order after the win.

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As always, Dribbling Balls is committed to bringing the best in all sporting fields, not just basketball. As a part of this commitment, our first celebrated Player of the Month for 1984 is Brian Connors, who is not only a more than useful basketballer and a nice guy, but an excellent golfer to boot. What better way to get a first hand interview with the man himself than a leisurely round of golf at Brian's home club Kew. We take up the story on the first tee, where Brian has just hit his tee shot 220 metres straight down the middle of the fairway....

Dribbling Balls : Fine shot that, Brian. Don't think I'll be able to match that one.

(At this stage I was busy thinking up a convenient way to get out of embarrassing myself by actually having to attempt to hit the ball. I toyed with the idea of tripping over one of my irons, but they were all at home waiting for the shirts to be done. Forge on regardless I thought. With that I took a big backswing and drove my ball approximately 15 feet forward and to the left of the tee. Four shots later my ball was approaching Brian's first shot...)

Brian : Interesting style you have there, Ed. You might get more distance on your shots if you hold the other end of the club, though.

(Now if there's anything I can't stand it's a smart arse. But, it is his course I 'spose, and they probably have strange rules an so forth, like that sign in the change rooms saying "Members must not wash their balls in the hand basins". I mean, you wouldn't find me doing it. Brian's second shot was a 80 metre 9 iron shot which finished up about 3 inches from the hole...)

Dribbling Balls : Fine shot that, Brian. Do you think I could play a shot like that if I had a nice set of clubs like yours?

Brian : No.

(I somehow suspected that he was right, as my approach shot scudded 20 metres along the ground, dribbled into a big sand pit and buried itself like a homesick crab. At this stage I was beginning to wonder about the wisdom of playing this round of golf for a beer per hole to the winner. After three (unsuccessful) attempts to hit the ball out of the bunker I resorted to my plastic bucket and spade, dug the ball out, threw it up on to the green with a handful of sand, made a very nice sand castle and took my putter from my bag. Brian putted straight in for a birdie three. Now it was my turn...)

Dribbling Balls : Fine shot that, Brian. But just watch this. Damn. Okay, this time. Rats. Getting closer. #@\$##@\*\*\*#. There you go, tap in for an octuple bogey twelve. Your honour on the next tee I believe.

Brian : This is going to be a long afternoon.

(At this stage I think Brian was beginning to wish I had tripped over an iron on the first tee, and was probably contemplating hitting me over the head with one on the second tee. I looked down the fairway but could not see anything that vaguely resembled a green. This could make it difficult, I thought...)

Dribbling Balls : How do you play this one, Brian?

Brian : Easy. You see that forked tree out there?

Dribbling Balls : No.

Brian : Here, try these binoculars.

Dribbling Balls : Oh yeah. What about it?

Brian : Well you should aim to leave your tee shot about 40 metres short of it.

Dribbling Balls : Right.

(With that, Brian crunched his tee shot straight down the middle. It came to rest 40 metres short of where I guessed the forked tree would be if it wasn't too far away to see...)

Brian : The only thing you want to be careful of is that clump of trees on the left there. It gets a bit hairy in there.

Dribbling Balls : Right.

(With that, I crunched my tee shot straight into the clump of trees on the left. About 400 metres short of the forked tree...)

Brian : Fine shot that.

Dribbling Balls : Right.

(I took my machete from my bag and after half an hour of hacking found something that vaguely resembled my golf ball. Using the old Navajo indian trick of yelling "Hey look over there!" I distracted Brian and threw my ball 50 metres back onto the fairway. My next shot was a beauty, almost reaching Brian's tee shot...)

Dribbling Balls : Bet you weren't expecting that, hey?

Brian : That's for sure. Not many people carry a cricket bat in their golf bags.

(One shot later for Brian and six shots later for me, we were both on the green. I was determined not to five put again. Taking my billiard cue from the bag I played a brilliant in off the white, scoring two points and knocking Brian's ball off the green. He respotted his ball and calmly rendered my billiard cue useful for firewood. He two putted for a par 4, while I admitted to 9, a figure which bears little resemblance to the number of shots I took for the hole. This continued for most of the afternoon. I think I slowed Brian down a little as we had to stop and fish my shots out of lakes and rivers and fetch them down out of trees and apologise for hitting people three fairways away from the one I was playing. It wasn't too bad though, we were only overtaken by three ladies' foursomes. We eventually reached the eighteenth tee...)

Dribbling Balls : Well Brian, according to my reckoning, if I birdie this hole and you take 137 for it we'll be all square for the day.

Brian : Well I guess I could manage 137 but I don't think you could birdie the hole if Jack Nicklaus played the first four shots for you.

(I'll show him, I thought. And with that, I hit my longest drive for the day, as I hooked the ball out onto the Eastern Freeway where it conveniently lodged in the back of a passing semi trailer last seen in Bairnsdale. Not bad, a 350 kilometre drive. I conceded the hole...)

Dribbling Balls : Well thanks for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon Brian. What do you think the is biggest advantage golf has a game over basketball?

Brian : You only have to play with one idiot when you play golf.

I left Brian as he was mumbling something about retiring to the clubhouse for a medicinal beer or ten.

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As you are no doubt all aware, the club is organising a Bush Dance on the fourth of May this year. The band and the venue have both been booked (Bandicoots at the San Remo Ballroom) and the cost is \$15. This has to be a big fund raising event for the club and every one out there in player-land has to get behind the effort. All you have to do is get a table of your friends together and come to the dance. If everyone does this the thing will be a success. Start now and avoid the Christmas rush. If you don't help, your committee will have a collective nervous breakdown. This might not worry you in itself, but if we do kark it you'll all have to take over. How's that for incentive.

Don't forget the Annual Commencement Tournament on Saturday, 24/3. If you'd like to play or ref or coach or make hamburgers or generally help out then see Uncle Henry before he sees you.

Watch out for the next bumper edition of Dribbling Balls, featuring the Fiji tournament report. Not to be missed, especially if you were there. Also, if you missed out on Volume 12 Number 2 of Dribbling Balls and you're interested in some of the most entertaining material ever written then you're wasting your time with Dribbling Balls. See J.C. if you want a copy. Keep sending in the match reports and Letters to the Editor. Until next time, keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the musu....