

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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I was suggesting to someone the other day that Dribbling Balls was a little dull at the the moment and perhaps I should put more fire into Dribbling Balls. They suggested vice-versa might be more appropriate. Now play on says the umpire...

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 11/4)

Uni 27 d. Coburg 26

The first game of the winter season turned out to be a little bit of a nail biter. We played strongly for the first 30 minutes or so, stretching a small half time lead to a comfortable 6 or 8 points for a lot of the second half. Annette was playing an excellent game, dominating the boards in defence especially. Jean was playing strongly in offence, but portions of our defence were a little bit lacking and we let Coburg get back into the game and take the lead 24-26. Spike hit a crucial basket to tie up the game, then Jean was fouled and given two shots with 40 seconds to go. "Here's two points," said the coach full of confidence. She missed the first then made the second to put us one point up. We regained possession and froze the ball until the nine second mark, when Jean was fouled again and awarded two shots. "Take it from the side," yelled the coach full of confidence. Jean was not amused. Jean is never amused. (Sorry Jean - Coach). Anyway, despite a turkey call from the ref which could have cost us the game, we won. A good effort, and the sort of win that makes the difference between finalists and also-rans at the end of the season. Jean was last seen inviting the coach to a game of human speed trap out on Kings Way.

Annette 9, Jean 7, Bridget 5.

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

Frankston 25 d. Uni 21

Pity we didn't win this game against our arch rivals Frankston. I don't like them, or the the V.W.B.C. for that matter. Never mind.

V.W.B.A. DIV 5 (Wed. 11/4)

Uni d. Ajax by walkover

Nobody told Ajax they put the door charge up to \$2. They were last seen heading back to Caulfield at a great rate of knots.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 16/4)

Uni 41 d. Footscray 28

So what if it was a grading game, believe it or not we defeated last season's premiers - pissed on them to coin a phrase. Surprisingly we got away to a good start with our zone press working well. Shocked at leading 23-20 at half time, we applied "bulk" pressure with all troops striving hard. Desire for the ball most impressive and rebounding very strong at both ends of the court. All played well, with Terry doing well in his first game. This seems a portentous occasion to give a brief run down on the summer 83-84 season. While a record of played 14, won 2 may not seem particularly aweinspiring (does the word "dismal" mean anything to you? - Ed.), will all please note that this was our first season in A Grade and that several games were lost by a few points. Despite such an apparently dismal record, team spirit was fantastic. A big improvement needed in defence for next season! Outstanding contributors : Gary and Tony. Most improved : John, Wacka. (Most oldest : Phil - Ed.). Your venerable correspondent would also like to point out that this is his first contribution to Dribbling Balls for some time - previous efforts being criticized for being too literate! However I was pleased to note recently that my learned colleague, the Thursday night correspondent, attempted to raise the lowly tone of this pamphlet by introducing such vivid vocab as quiddity,

chichi, eleemosynary, sudoriferous, etc. Well done, old chap (one out of two isn't bad - Ed.) - keep up the good work. Yours was a fine example of how to raise the standards of Dribbling Balls above those of your average gimcrack journal. (I'd probably object to that if I understood it - Ed.)

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Wed. 18/4)
C.Y.M.S. 46 d. Uni 37

After two almost convincing wins in our new division, we crashed harder than Bridget at a Toga Party. With regular coach Bill Riddle side-lined with a mystery illness our specialist big man coach took over, and to his delight, found that 11 players turned up to play the game. With more people on the bench than the Supreme Court, we did not play very well. Our inability to cope against a zone press was unbelievable, and almost every time we gained possession in the first half we threw it away and they scored an easy layup. In the second half things changed around, and they did it at the other end. We played better this half, though and actually outscored them, but were so far behind at half time it was a foregone conclusion. Of those who got to play more than 5 minutes for the game, Les played a fine game, Simon did well in the second half, Clarkie was a good contributor and Skippy did some nice rebounding. All in all though, you can have 'em Bill. I think it's time for the axe-wielding sub-committee to meet.

Les 12, Simon 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 25/4)
Uni 32 drew with Preston 32

This was a real grudge match, with the team keen to show the Preston people that some Uni players know something about basketball. In the first half we didn't exhibit very much to rave about in this department, and trailed 12-17 at the change due to some indifferent defence and slipshod offence. In the second half we lifted our game and although our zone didn't stop them from scoring from outside, we at least had control of the boards and cut down their inside scoring. Jean had recovered somewhat from a dismal first half and played well on the boards, while Bridget and Anne were the driving forces in our tearaway offence. The final result of a draw was probably a good one for us, considering they way we played for a fair bit of the game, and the performance of the referee (his word, not mine) whose willingness to let the play "flow" suited the hacking Preston side a little more than us.

Anne 12, Bridget 10.

SALE OF THE CENTURY

Well sports fans, what can be said about Sale 1984 that hasn't already been said? I don't know. Things started off well with the Thursday night advance party getting a nice fire going and the big tent set up, mainly due to the efforts of Haggis, Woody and Lisa. The advance party then had a party which kicked on to 4 a.m. or so.

Friday started off with heavy rain in the morning. Friday finished with heavy rain at night. In between there was non-stop heavy rain. The tent, along with Trevor's car, was abandoned in the middle of a swamp and thanks to some negotiation by Woody we moved off to a community hall north of town for the night. At this stage the stadium was almost completely surrounded by flood water as some people discovered when their cars stalled in it. Eventually we settled down in the hall with some Sandringham people and some Beena 69ers, and had a quiet game of Musu (which never got to 20), drank some beer, sold some port and went to bed, because some jerk from the opposition had an early game.

Saturday it rained some more. We played some more basketball, we went to the pub. We played some more basketball, we went to the pub. We played some more basketball, we went to the pub. We stayed at the pub. We played some more basketball, but where was the coach? Abba had been carted off to the hall in the interest of sobriety to sleep off the afternoon's elbow exercise, including several humungi (tents). It was a big night back at the hall that evening, except for Jean and Matt who had a shower in town and couldn't find the place we were staying. Shuttlecock games were held, Pendles was made an honorary 69er, Bowlesy and Sandy finished the crossword. The Easter Bunny came (thanks Abba) and so on and so forth. Some sleep was investigated.

Some mention should be made of the basketball I suppose. Highlights included : the non-appearance of Bernadette, the women's seconds actually having six players for their final game, the form of Abba in the men's firsts, the women's firsts winning four games in a row before losing their semi final to the eventual C Grade winners, some ultra-violence from Michael Clarke in one game, Mike Collieau begging some jerk to hit him so he could sue him, Robbie Flower's goal in the final quarter, and not many, many more.

Whilst not wanting to promote the wrong sort of image for Dribbling Balls, the highlight of the tournament would have to be the events following the food fight at Ollie's Trolley. I didn't think that being barefoot, driving a car with six passengers, with an icecream under the windscreen wiper, down the footpath of the main street of Sale with a positive puff bag reading was particularly legal, and the policemen following David seemed to concur. Never mind, it was all sorted out at the station and a small fine was levied. Let's hope somebody learns something from this performance.

Sunday night back at the camping ground was a stirring sight. Henry asleep with legs dangling from the back of the volvo, Pendles comatose in the tent and several others showing the effects of a hard campaign. It should be mentioned that Teddy, Max, Cary, Cathy, Bowlesy and Sandy had all departed Sale, but Warwick was still there. It was a pretty quiet party by the fire.

Monday we went home. Andrew had a slight run in with the local constabulary, and didn't help his case much when he said he was a personal friend of David Crombie. Lunch at the Morwell pub was a quiet affair, so we decided to hold a Sale reunion at the Clyde that night. This was done, and following a few beers we had dinner or a few more beers and Pendles was kind enough to turn on a couple of videos for us. Thus endeth the tournament.

For those who are interested in keeping up with who is living where and with whom and why, Dribbling Balls presents the following little tit bits. Henry Cooper now lives at 20 Charles St. Abbotsford 3067 and his phone numbers are 4288619 (H) and 5791444 (W). John Campbell now lives in the South Basement, St. Mary's College, Parkville 3052 and his phone numbers are 3476404 (H) and 3417445 (W). Woody Macpherson still lives where she used to but her work phone number has changed to 3472233 ext 312. So there you go. Feel free to drop in on these people any time, day or day.

With new seasons starting up this week, it is a good time to remind people to send in match reports to Dribbling Balls. Jot down your thoughts, jokes, coach slaggings etc and give them to J.C. or put them in the basketball club pigeon hole behind the counter at the gym. It's a great way to engage in some neat character assassination, or perhaps just tell people what a great game you played. Get in now while Dribbling Balls is still being published.

The Annual General Meeting of the Apathy Association ("Don't just do something, sit there!") was held on April 14. This surprised many people. The following psychic phenomena were observed (which was easier than spelling them)..

Woody Macpherson	- President and Anti-smoking campaign co-ordinator
David Crombie	- Vice-president and PND (People with Nothing to Do) rep
Matthew Wellington	- Treasurer and Brazilian travel agency representative
John Campbell	- Secretary and chief organizer of rats deserting the ship
Bernadette Burke	- Ass't Secretary and liason with the port authority
Peter (Davo) Burns	- Social Secretary and consultant terrorist
Judy Knight	- Social Secretary and consultant terrorized
Warwick Bray	- General Representative and head of splinter removal
Bridget Grounds	- General Representative and advocate of temperance
Terry Mason	- Junior Representative and director of chip buying
Ellen Maxwell	- Junior Representative and why not

These are the people with whom your complaints should be registered (not that you'll have any, and not that anything will be done about them anyway, but it's worth a try). Do not hesitate to contact any of these people if you are desparate for a chat or something. Their names, addresses and telephone numbers will appear on the club notice board sooner if not later. Also, don't forget that committee meetings are open to all the club, please feel free to attend if you wish, just keep your hands off the Tim-Tams.

As far as I know, Dribbling Balls does not have a policy on the presentation of advertisements in this journal. As such, we now include the following, completely free of charge (just send the V.C.R. to the South Basement at St. M's, Brian)...

ATTENTION VIDEO BUFFS!

Brian Connors, in association with Sir Harry Flashman and Associates, (a division of the British Opium Trading Company), is able to offer to M.U.B.C. members, and friends of M.U.B.C. members, and friends of friends of M.U.B.C. members etc, discount prices on Video Cassette Recorders, Blank Tapes (VHS and Beta) and other video accessories (including solicitors for the breach of copyright case? - Ed.)

Top of the range VHS National VCR's, normally approx \$1200-\$1300 may be purchased from us for around \$900 (at this price we are cutting our own throats). Maxell and Fuji (Bula Fuji) blank tapes (both VHS and Beta) can be bought for \$12 per tape (\$11.50 per tape for orders of 10 or more).

So folks, the chance to catch all the excitement of your favourite shows (Pro Basketball, Minder, New Faces, Thunderbirds, Dr. Who etc) is now yours. This offer is open to anyone, see me at training, or ring me on 8595309 (the video hot line).

Brian (Mr. Video) Connors.
Note : Bartering is "frowned" upon!

Well, that brings us to the end of another exciting edition of Dribbling Balls. There wasn't very much humour in this one, was there? Don't know what went wrong really. I mean it all started well, with a blank sheet of paper, and went downhill from there. Never mind. There's always next edition. But to finish on a happy note...