

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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As winter approaches at a great rate of knots, and the Demons march on towards that final five, we start the big rev up for Portland, the heart of the local winter seasons and I.V. just around the corner. So with all this action, it promises to be a busy time for Dribbling Balls. And for you too - there's a new Dribbling Balls competition starting this week. Let's hear from all you people out there. Remember, as the bible says about Dribbling Balls (Proverbs 29:11) - "A fool uttereth all his mind" (and with some of us it doesn't take too long either!). Anyway for this edition's utterings, readeth thee onwards...

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 2/5)

Uni 25 d. Preston R.S.L. 21

After two losses and a bye at last we've remembered how to win! Welcome to our new players Mandy Reiseger and Cathy O'Callaghan. Here's hoping we can get ourselves on a winning streak (did someone say J.C. memorial?) and advance up the ladder a bit.

Ann 6, Woody 4, Karen 3, Mandy, Cathy, Judy, Leanne 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 13/5)

Uni 78 d. Abbotsford 69

There was never much doubt that we would win our first game of the season here, just like there was never much doubt Demons would lose after being 7 goals up at the change. Although starting slowly we soon slipped into top gear with Pendles running and working hard on the boards (and mumbling something about flipping Americans), then Simon and Haggis finding their shooting touch from outside. Defence was a little slack, hence the half time scoreline of 37-31. In the second half it was just a matter of how far Uni, as Haggis scored prolifically from the wing, Skippy dominated the offensive boards and tipped in a couple, Chris was hustling, J.C. was throwing miracle passes (it was a miracle if they went where they were supposed to) and Simon was determined not to let Haggis outscore him. The result of all this was we led by 15 points for most of the half. A slack last two minutes let them catch up a bit, but Uni wouldn't be Melbourne if that didn't happen.

Simon 22, Haggis 20, Skippy 14, J.C. 12.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Women (Sun. 13/5)

Uni heaps (at least 60!) d. Newts (very little)

This was the game where all those closet guards came out and showed that it's absolutely nothing to be ashamed of (what am I saying? I'm a guard). With anyone over 5'10" (yes including jumping Jean Prior) running innumerable fast breaks we quickly showed the quivering Newts that they needed more than three players to slow us down (oops, I didn't mean to mention that). Oh well, we showed 'em all the same. Special guest appearance by Speedy Spike, thanks and welcome to the Gerrys.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 14/5)

C.G.'s 33 d. Uni 29

Crucified by the refs - yes indeed - but find me the ref who is impressed by whining, whingeing, sledging and petulance (Clark? - Ed.). After a poor first half and a very slow start, we trailed 9-14 at half time. A switch to man to man defence in the second half saw us working much harder for the ball and performing as a team. Steve, Wacka and Phil were playing great defence, and Tony was performing his Superman impersonation yet again. Despite some atrocious calls we managed to lead 29-26 with about a minute and a half to play (sounds ominous - Ed.). So we lost in the end, but the game should have been all over - for example, two opposition offensive fouls (with them over

the limit) were not rewarded with foul shots!!! In "discussions" with one ref after the game, even he admitted he'd made a mistake! What hope have you got? Well, we've got to learn to win the close ones and keep our mouths shut! Winner of the diplomat of the week award - Garry (Garry who? - Ed.)

Tony 12, Garry 6.

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Wed. 16/5)

Uni 47 d. Vilkas 30

With a lazy 2-4 win-loss record leading up to this game, the boys were supremely confident of victory - providing the Russians (well Lithuanians anyway) staged a boycott. As it transpired the virtually boycotted with 1 send-off and a handful of technical fouls. Uni appeared to have ridded themselves of a number of liabilities (no names, but do the initials L.W., J.C. and P.B. sound familiar?). Anyhow, everybody made a sound contribution in this game, with plenty of control and rebounding at both ends of the court. Let's continue in that vein.

Haggis 12, Christmas (Carroll) 10, Skippy 9, Pendles 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 16/5)

Uni 28 d. Melbourne 12

We were keen to do well against one of the lower teams and consolidate our place in the four here. With this in mind we played some good defence and some ordinary offence during the first half. Our defence generated many opportunities, most of which resulted in us missing shots in the key or travelling or throwing the ball out of court. The result of all this was a half time scoreline of 7-4, with Bridget being our only offensive threat and contributing 6 of our 7 points. At this stage the large crowd of Uni supporters must have been sorely tempted to leave, along with the coach and a few of the players, however perserverence paid off and we played like we meant it during the second half. Bernie and Bridget hustled hard in defence, and a much higher conversion rate in offence saw us quickly run up an unassailable (even for a Uni side) lead. Jean (who is definitely not a wimp) dominated the boards with some help from Annette and Spike lifted her game a bit as we cruised away to a comfortable win.

Bridget 9, Jean 8, Spike 7.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 16/5)

Uni more d. Broadmeadows less

We defeated the top side - say no more. But I will - don't forget this team will self destruct on June 20 when we're due to have a bye. We have yet to arrange the details so stay tuned.

We don't often get reports from the Real Men these days (and that's good for literature), but when we do they make War and Peace look like a tram ticket...

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 17/5)

Real Men 40 d. Varpas 17

The drama starts 8:00 p.m. the night before the big game. "Golden" receives an unexpected phone call from Sydney. It was the REAL MAN himself, "Coops" (first sub for God). He was in Sydney on a business trip and would be unable to make it back for the game. He kept gasping as if he was in pain. Probably due to a groin injury, as he interrupted the telephone conversation to tell Roxanne to massage his leg higher.

The following night the news of Coops' absence was broken to the rest of the team. They couldn't believe it. What were they going to do? A game without him would be like Culture Club without Boy George, Geelong without Jacko, Dean without Torvill (this should get the author into the starting five next week). Knowing that Coops was suffering in Sydney with only an unlimited expense account to get him through was enough to spur the team to greater heights.

From the beginning the REAL MEN were to play unreal basketball. We applied a "real man to man" defence. "No Damns" (?!!?@?! - Ed.) got us off to a great start with good steals followed up by baskets. Before we knew it we were 10-0 up. Easy controlled the game for us from the point with unselfish basketball, while Abba and FF24 did good work at both ends of the court. Dave "Leonardo" da Vinci played tight defence and took many rebounds. Dave was once told that because he is only 6 foot minus a lot he should not be taking so many rebounds. His reply was that his ambition was to be a slam dunking centre - good luck Dave!

The opposition at one stage thought that FF24's head was the basketball and persisted in trying to knock it off his shoulders. He pointed out to them that his head did not have "inflate to 9 pounds" stamped on it. He offered to give them a fist full of reasons why.

Our lead increased to 15 points before we realized we were playing for Melbourne University. Our lead dwindled quickly. We were in trouble. Were we to let the REAL MEN down again? No way HosB! We gathered momentum and went on to a crushing win. We'd like to say Dr. T and our newly born Nicky (who has yet to be given a Real Man name) both played absolutely fantastic games, but they didn't turn up. By the way, thanks to the Real Women who scored on the bench for us. The extra 30 points helped us a bit.

No Damns 16, Abba 10, Golden 6, FF24 5.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 20/5)

Uni 65 d. St. Albans 35

This game was a walkover. We countered the opposition's man to man by fast breaking and the game was over after about 7 minutes. With Haggis running on to the end of a heap of full court passes from J.C. we racked up point after point. The only time we didn't look like scoring was when we had to set up our offence, in which case we usually managed to throw the ball away. Half time saw us lead 36-16, with Haggis having 12 of those points. Chris Morrey and Burkie hustled well, Betty played an uncharacteristically aggressive game on the boards and almost started a fight with a minute to go, while Bowlesy played his usual consistent game (the last two guys he ran through told me they were going out to King's Way to stand in front of Kenworths 'cause they didn't hurt as much). Another second half highlight was Simon's house building performance - he threw up more bricks than Monier. An easy victory by 30 points, proving we can play when we don't have to.

Haggis 15, J.C. 10, Betty 9, Chris 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 23/5)

Uni 47 d. Sandringham 33

Currently holding third place on the ladder we did our usual trick against one of the lower sides and started slowly. From 12-10 up we let them get ahead 12-18. They were playing above themselves, but we shouldn't let sides do that to us, and we especially shouldn't let them pressure us out of possession with a zone press. A clutch basket from Bridget and four straight foul shots from Spike allowed us to level at 18-18 at half time. The second half saw our zone press tear the opposition to shreds at the start of the half, and the difference was never less than 6 from there on in. This type of game suited Anne who put in one of her best halves for a while, and Bernie's shooting was also reminiscent of some of her best. Jean ran very well into both offence and defence and ended up top scoring. Even her foul shots showed marked improvement (3 out of 8 this week). With five players scoring 8 or more points we showed what a bit of running, control and team play can do. A good win in the final analysis.

Jean 9, Bernie, Bridget, Anne, Spike 8.

V.B.A. DIV. 3 (Wed. 23/3)

Knox 54 d. Uni 36

The highlight of the first half of this game was 8 big points to Haggis. The highlight of the second half was the final buzzer to end the game. All in all we were fairly comprehensively beaten. Coops and Haggis put in up and down the court and played reasonably, but had too few teammates playing up to their ability. Pendles did everything right in offence except put the ball in the basket, while the Simon and Skippy show produced a couple of long baskets. Our defensive hustle was successful in allowing Knox many open shots and easy baskets and that was about the story of the game. If we played as well as we trained we wouldn't lose these games by as much. Enjoyed the beer at the Rising Sun after the game though.

Haggis 10, Skippy 9, Simon 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 23/5)

Uni 48 d. C.Y.M.S. 20

A game well played by all in the team. There were some very productive moves made by Ann and Judy in offence, while Cathy (3 pointer) also put up some fine shots. Our man on man had the opposition stymied for most of the game, and our switching offence has proved once again to be very confusing - for the opposition thankfully, and not for us. And the moral to the story - don't trust anyone not to foul out with 11 seconds to go in the first half, especially you Davo.

Ann 14, Cathy 11, Judy 10, Mandy 8, Leanne 5.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE WOMEN (Thu. 24/5)

Uni 20 d. M.A.B.A. 18

Things looked promising at the start when 6 out of the 15 women who have played so far this season had arrived before centres were called. The game started well with Lesley hitting a nice outside shot in the opening minutes. However, despite controlling the play for about 70% of the game we struggled to score. In the second half Sally controlled the ball well, Judy hit some good outside baskets and Kylie took some strong rebounds and made a couple of nice cuts. However we let them back in and were lucky to just hold on and win by a basket.

Judy 8, Lesley, Kylie 4, Jacky, Sally 2.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 24/5)

Finemore 40 d. Uni 34

Well, we only really lost by one point because we lost five points for incorrect uniform. However this was no excuse for our inability to defeat a team whose only strength was the ability to play aggressive hacking defence without the fouls being called. Dragon was strong on the boards both offensively and defensively and some value was derived from the press. Mick made some nice baskets but overall it was an unimpressive performance.

Dragon 14, Matt 8, Mick 7, Peter 3, Mark 2.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Women (Sun. 27/5)

Uni 45 d. Sophisticats 34

They might have had us worried for a while, only 4 points up at half time. But were we really threatened by those children? No!! The second half saw us hit the form that has spread our fame far and narrow. Phil started calling for three pointers, but no one was able to answer that call. Who cares, Woody had already bombed a beauty in the first half. Yes, the Gerrys are a force to be reckoned with. Teresa Canale made a welcome return to Albert Park and for someone who hasn't played since the birth of her baby she lasted out exceptionally well. Now just wait until we play the side that actually dares to be equal with us on the ladder. Presumptuous prigs.

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Well sports fans, it's time for another Dribbling Balls all-singing, all-dancing devil-may-care COMPETITION. Who can forget last year's big "Real Basketballers" competition which attracted a mammoth two entries? Well, just to prove a fool never learns from his mistakes, we're having another competition. The phrase "GOOD FOR BASKETBALL.." has become quite popular around the traps recently, done to death almost. Well here's your chance to finish it off for good. All you have to do is write in to Dribbling Balls and tell us what is good or bad for basketball. For example :

"J.C.'s lost his voice, that must be good for basketball" or perhaps

"Warwick's gone home early, and that's good for tournaments" and who could argue with

"There's a party on at Bowlesy's and that's bad for basketball" or

"I'm in a shout with Jean and Bernie and that's bad for your health" etc.etc. ad infinitum. Get the idea? Well quickly write down your ideas, or even better still, have a think about it first, and send them in to Dribbling Balls. As always there will be a fabulous mystery prize (not necessarily a bottle of port) for the best entry (should there happen to be one). Let's make this a big competition, and really eclipse last year's non-effort, perhaps we can get 3 entries this year.

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Portland 1984 : Just a couple of notes regarding the Portland Tournament for those attending. You must give Mattman \$7 as soon as possible to cover your entrance to the stadium at Portland for the weekend. The Portland stadium has brand new playing surfaces so NO PLAYER OR COACH IS ALLOWED ON THE COURT UNLESS THEY ARE WEARING REGULATION PLAYING SHOES WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED INTO THE STADIUM WITH CLEAN DRY SOLES AND HAVE BEEN CHECKED AT THE DOOR. Please comply with this rule or we mightn't have enough players for a game. Also note that DUNKING or RING HANGING is not permitted in warm up or a game (you get disqualified and reported for this - not that it affects too many of our players). So there.

Progressive Dinner : On Saturday June 23 the club is holding its annual Progressive Dinner. Yes, the event that makes Meals on Wheels look stationary, college food look edible and MacDonalds food look like food is on again. For an amazingly paltry sum of money you can be a part of the event which in the past has given rise to such questions as "What the flippin' heck is that?" and the ever popular "You're not going to eat it are you?". But seriously ladies and genitals, this is always a great night, it'll start with soups, sherries and savouries in the Large Entertainment Room of the Sports Union Building at 7 p.m. and as the doctors say "That's good for business!"

Trash and Treasure Report : It was a cold day in Camberwell and 3 men (and Woody) sat on a stall. And one man said to the other, "Bloody hell it's cold, let's send Abba to the coffee and donut stall!" (was that supposed to be a poem? - Ed.) Many thanks to Henry for organizing the stall and storing all the junk. It was 7:30 when we set up and Henry sold things right from the start. The 10 cent moustache combs arrived by the dozen (thanks to Bernie) and we sold them as dog combs, under arm combs and even pubic hair combs. All in all it was a successful and amusing experience, thanks to Henry, Haggis, Abba, Judy, Bernie and Andrew for their assistance and also to everyone who dug out

their trash and treasure. We'll have another one in the sunny spring time, so don't throw out anything.

Moe Tournament : A tournament is being held in Moe on Saturday and Sunday July 7 and 8. Men's and Women's A, B and C grades are available and perhaps we might enter a team or two. If anyone is interested in going please see J.C. or Henry or Woody very soon because entries close before you read this notice most likely.

Solution to Crossballs : Across : 1. Double dribble 7. Nadir 8. Fans
9. Game 10. Free 12. Slow 14. Ties 15. Ignite 16. Second 18. Stress
24. Basket tending Down : 1. Dunk 2 & 2lac. Under hand 3. Large 4. Referees
5. Banks 6. Elbow 10. Flight 11. Excite 13. Open 14. Tiers 17. Chased
18. Swab 19. Rims 20. Side 22. Down 23. Net

Dribbling Balls - We need correspondents from several teams now that winter seasons are well under way. You don't have to use big words like Easy and Phil, be hysterically funny like Bowlesy or spell like Bridget, just jot down your thoughts or whatever else pops into your brain and give them to J.C. or Henry or put them in the basketball club pigeon hole behind the counter at the gym. We need reports from Monday D Grade, most Wednesday night teams, most Thursday night teams and all Collingwood Sunday night teams, that is, just about everyone. So get off your bums and contribute, you slackers.

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Well that's all for this edition of Dribbling Balls, and wasn't it a beauty. Sort of makes you wonder what we can do next edition to top it. Oh well, we'll wait and see. Until then, keep working on what's good for basketball. Also please note that the following space has been intentionally left blank for your enjoyment...