

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 12 NO. 11

15/6/84

Well sports fans, there are highlights galore in this edition (always get that first lie out of the way early, I say). For those of you who like culture, there isn't any, for those of you who like intellectual stimulation, we have twice as much of that as we do culture, and for those of you who like entertainment, you're reading the wrong journal. Still, there's the Portland report, and that's good for drink coaster makers. But first, a turd from our sponsors...

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 28/5)

Footscray 56 d. Uni 36

They say the scoreline tells it all, but not so for this game!! We probably played our best ever half in A Grade - offence was aggressive and defence determined. Everyone was industrious and played imaginatively (this is pure waffle Phil - Ed.). Our mixture of zone press and man to man had the opposition (premiers last season!) decidedly worried. John, Luke and Phil were performing positively up forward, and Steve was great in D. Let me tell you about what has to be the basket of the week (and probably the year)! Gary, under extreme pressure, whips a wild pass behind his back and in the general direction of John. As it heads out of court, John throws himself in the air and over the baseline. The ball - well, somehow John flicks this high in the air towards the basket : over the backboard it sails straight into the bucket. Pure arse!! Not a lot else to say - second half best forgotten. We led 22-20 at half time. For three successive games we've put in for only one half. Winner of the goodie-goodie of the week award - Gary, who else! Best : John, Steve and Luke.

John 11, Luke 8, Phil 5.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 30/5)

Dandenong 32 d. Uni 30

So Uni third on the ladder takes on Dandenong who are undefeated on top of the ladder, and what results is quite a high standard game of basketball. We missed quite a few easy baskets early on which allowed them to clear out to a 10-2 lead, but from there we slowly started to find our feet. We picked up defensively and some shots started to drop. Jean and Spike were both playing well on the boards and when Carmel came on she fired up the defence and threw some good passes to Annette for baskets in offence. Half time saw us trail 16-17 as Spike made two free throws after the siren for the second week in a row. The second half was basket for basket all the way. Bridget was doing a fine job in offence and on the boards, and our control all round was good. Bernie's defensive pressure caused a couple of turn overs and we eventually managed to hit the front by four. Dandenong levelled again, then Bridget made a miraculous fade away jumper from the base and we were two up with two minutes to go. From there a couple of calls went against us and they levelled from the line with a minute and a half to play. We fired up a shot with 25 seconds left which missed and they scored the winner 13 seconds before the end. It was a disappointing finish to a game where we played very well for 35 minutes. You win some of these, you lose some.

Bridget 10, Annette 8.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 3/6)

Jetz 85 d. Uni 65

Well sports fans, there's no doubt about the highlight of this game, and that was getting there five minutes early and seeing C.Y.M.S. lose by a point to Abbotsford. I laughed. This put us in a good mood for our game and we started off quite well. Our offence was performing against their zone with Haggis and Simon scoring freely and though our defence had more holes than the Australian

tax laws we were leading 25-20 at one stage. Unfortunately they decided to change to man to man defence and I don't think we actually scored very much after that. We trailed by 10 at half time and then fired up by the Captain for the start of the second half we let them score the first 10 points of the second half and it was all over, including the shouting. Haggis, who is playing very well of late, again shot consistently and J.C. with his four 3 pointers were our only avenues to goal, and our defence was abysmal in its better phases as we were killed on the boards. Chris Morrey and Pendles put in aggressively at times but basically we were shat on from an extreme height.

Haggis 17, J.C. 16, Pendles, Simon 8.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 4/6)

Princes Hill 53 d. Uni 40

This was an enjoyable close game with Uni never quite being able to bridge a 6 or 8 point gap in the second half. Much to the coach's surprise we began well and led 10-6 after 10 minutes. A slight lapse of concentration and the opposition notched up several short baseline shot to open up a small lead. This difference at half time (21-30) was to prove the match winning break. We were running our new weakside cutting offence - well at least we all knew what was supposed to happen! More concentration and improvisation needed here team!! At least there were some good cuts by Wacker and Tony, and Luke and Tony sunk a couple of jumpers from the foul line We trailed 35-41 with 4 minutes to go, and as the coach said, "It's now or never team!" We'll win one of these close ones soon! So our do or die zone press didn't work, but it wasn't a bad effort overall. Best : Tony , Luke , Wacker.

Tony 15, Gary 6, Luke, Wacker, Terry 5.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 6/6)

Knox d. Uni

Fortunately I only saw the last 12 minutes of this game. I say fortunately, because they tell me the first part of the game was worse. Frankly I find that hard to believe. We were back to our old unable to score style, despite having many shots that should have been made. Endeavour appeared to be good but skills were absent. We must win a few on end now to get back into the four. We did enjoy a consolation drink in Pete's Bar afterwards though, even if Jean, Bridget and Spike wouldn't shout.

Portland 1984 : As is usually the case, Portland turned out to be one of the big social events of the year, not only that, the women ended up winning A Grade, but more of that later. To sum up the events of the weekend as only he can, a person who asked me not to mention that his name was Bowlesy has submitted the following report...

I've been to tournaments with more highlights, but I really can't remember when. You get the feeling that the tournament is going to be fun the moment you hear the club tent is stranded in Ballarat and the temperature is too low for zero. Henry was really unlucky (stiff?) to suffer from "anticipated generator failure" while passing his favourite motel in Ballarat (but was lucky to get the Honeymoon Suite at such short notice!!!) The prospect of facing Friday night in Portland without Henry's heater was reason enough to indulge in the odd port (and when I say "odd port", I mean odd) before bed.

Saturday was generally spent conserving energy for Sunday night, but it did contain a highlight or two. Mattman and Pendles exchanging underwear on court 2, Drew and Warwick lasting the whole first half and Abba's redefinition of CCs (Clayton's Coaching) were notable. Special mention to the girls' 4:32, Easy's ankle ("bring out the screens"), Barbara and Kevin and the ill-fated C.R.M.

Sunday started quietly : trying to push start Abba's car in the rain, playing "spot the oil rig" and "Tug of the century", debating the ethics of trying to get into Annette's (track suit) pants, and reminiscing about the tournament where J.C. didn't get a bench tech foul. And it seemed as if Drew's standing rebounds, Clarkie's cosmetic surgery on Mal's face (a lost cause??) and the girls' white tops were going to be the highlights of the day. But, as they say in the classics, "What you lose on the court, you find at Mac's when Stretch opens the jukebox."

Stretch turned out to be better value than two Qantas Gordons and a Wodger (there's a horrible thought - Ed.), and after producing a few slabs, turning up the juke box, roasting a few spuds, turning up the juke box, helping himself to a few (dozen) stubbies, and turning up the juke box, he proceeded to tell us how the boss would kill him tomorrow, he turned the juke box up and asked Budget if she would help him with his garbage round at six o'clock. Highlights abounded : Pauline's rap dancing, Henry's World Championship Groping, Pendles and the Partonettes (whose hands were up whose jumper?), several quiet achievements (for explanation, see the Fiji Dribbling Balls - Ed.), stubby walking and limbo dancing. But there was no doubt (or brain cells) in the judges' minds about the highlight of the tournament. After a well organised but unimpressive J.C. memorial, the crowd was treated to another club first. More spectacular than racing pyramids, more intellectually stimulating than a toilet cram, more controversial than Annette's track suit pants - MUSU ENTERPRISES (inc. in Fiji), in association with Harry M. Miller (inc. in Pentridge) present, direct from a sellout season in Portland - the Mal Short Memorial (performances nightly in the gym (matinee Saturday)).

Destined to live on in the memories of all who saw it for days afterwards, the first inaugural MSM was indeed humungus, and possibly the deciding factor and possibly the deciding factor in the girls' grand final the next day.

And speaking of the girls grand final, it was far too good a win to be classed a highlight. Not like Jean's aggressive driving on the way home, Bridget warming Foges' pizza on her lap at Toto's or Brian attempting to bribe Bowlesy with the remains of his spaghetti bolognese.

After all that it was good to get back to Henry's for a quiet reunion, everyone must have been too buggered for real highlights, we had to make do with clothes dryer crams, bearded zucchinis and sixties music. All in all, a tournament which left very few stomachs unturned or questions unanswered (except why did J.C. have egg on his face at Henry's? and What is a numer 6?) and is best summed up by some of the more printable Quotable Quotes :

J.C. : "This girl is going to play with you - I don't know her name."

Receptionist at a certain Ballarat Motel : "Your usual room, Mr. Cooper?"

Mattman : "You leave your jocks on the left of the bed Pendles."

J.C. : "The ball's part of the ball, Ref!"

Pendles : "Hi, I'm Gary."

Bowlesy : "You're a good case for retrospective abortion, Pendles."

Mick Jagger : "Brian's good tonight."

Mal : "I think I've broken the elastic in my jocks, you don't want my jocks to fall down, now do you?"

Stretch : "Is the juke box loud enough?"

Pendles (during the girls final) : "I can see the cracks appearing in their defence."

Crowd (during the girls final) : "Two points, Jean Crawford."

Drew : "Lobsters."

Trevor : "Mo."

Abba (to the seconds) : "It's O.K. fellas, Dave Devries will be here this afternoon."

Anon : "Jackie's been sick, but Steve has been feeling himself."

Henry (to Bowlesy before the girls final) : "Sit behind John and thump him if he opens his mouth."

Mal : "Anyone know where I can get some party-proof jocks?"

Anon again : "Pendles must have a really clean mind - certainly uncontaminated by brain cells."

Quotable Chucks :

Trevor Smith - special mention for a classy "morning after" bark.

Max - the "Who me?" award for leaving a deposit outside her tent door and claiming it was muesli.

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, thanks for all that. A real classy finish (by the way, I know some good lawyers experienced in libel cases). I feel though, that some mention should be made of the basketball. There is no doubt that the women's A grade team provided the highlight of the weekend. After winning our 3 preliminary games, we just scraped through our semi final, narrowly defeating Try-Boys-Girls and faced Parkdale, who were also undefeated, in the grand final. Team preparation for the game was ideal, with the majority of the team getting to bed about 5 a.m. the day of the final (see above report). Warm up for the game resembled an advertisement for Berocca as there was much groaning and complaint about sore heads - things were really looking good. The game started and before we knew it we were ahead 10-0. At this stage, experienced Uni supporters rushed away to get all their money on Parkdale. Our man to man defence was proving effective and forced several turn overs, whilst in offence we ran riot against their man to man. Jean led the riot and was nothing less than devastating with her moves to the basket and screens from the high post. Annette (Carbonara??) moved well for a couple of baskets, Julie chipped in nicely a couple of times and by half time we led 26-19, Jean having 10 points and Annette 8.

At the start of the second half we went into our switching defence, and the zone press produced almost immediate results. After we got over missing our first five or six shots for the half we began to fire again. Good pressure from Bernie and Bridget allowed Gillian to pick up a heap of steals in the second row and generate many offensive moves. Jean was still firing in the man to man defence, and drew the charge foul which led to the opposition's star centre being fouled off. From here on in we never looked back. Annette went wild in offence hitting some incredible baskets and mesmerising the opposition

as we gradually extended our lead. Judy made some excellent passes to set up gift baskets and Woody was terrier in the press forcing several turn overs. We never even remotely looked like throwing the game away, and as the half progressed, it was a just a matter of how far Uni.

The final score was a massive 60-39 win. Annette had 15 points for the half to give her 23 for the game, a brilliant performance. Bridget had 10 points for half for a total of 14, in what could best be described as a typical Bridget performance - she didn't think she played especially well, but most people were impressed enough and she was awarded the player of the grand final award (lovely tea set, dear). Jean hit 7 for the half for a game total of 17 points, was outstanding in defence, and basically played the best game I've ever seen her play. Inspirational. A great victory for the team, which really played as a team, for the whole weekend. From Bernie's skyscraper rebounds to Julie's incredible foul shooting, all contributed and all reaped the reward. We must do it again some time.

Intersarsity 1984 : This is being held at LaTrobe during the week 27/8 to 31/8 (Monday to Friday). Applications for the positions of Coaches (one men's and one women's) and Team Managers (one men's and one women's) are now called for. If you are interested in coaching or managing either of the teams or want more information on what this involves then contact John Campbell before June 26 which is when the committee will be making the appointments. It is anticipated that training sessions will start soon after the appointments are announced.

Intersarsity 1985 : We are still planning on holding Intersarsity here in 1985, so many helpers are required. Haggis has the job of I.V. Convenor and would be very interested in hearing from anybody (male, female or Boy George) who wants to help on the I.V. Subcommittee or with the organization of the event. Let him know quickly because he wants to have a meeting soon.

Intersarsity 1986 : There are no announcements regarding Intersarsity 1986 but we've mentioned every other year so I thought we may as well give 1986 a go as well. Sorry about that. Waste of space really.

Windcheaters : Yes, it's the moment you've all been waiting for, the release of new season's Melbourne Uni Basketball Club windcheaters. How much are they? Don't answer! These high quality designer garments (well, if you're going to tell a lie make it a whopper I always say) are available in your choice of blue with a white logo or white or grey with a blue logo. How much? Don't answer. Order now and you won't get a free set of foam rubber steak knives and a diesel powered pocket handkerchief. How much for the lot? Yours for the unbelievably unbelievable price of \$13. But act now. Phone 500-0-500 and place your order. Bankcard welcome. Bridget and Warwick will be accepting orders (state your size and colour - no, not six foot four and black, girls) up until June 30, so if you hand over your money before that date you'll get your windcheater for \$13. A limited supply will be for sale after this date at the price of \$15, but no guarantee can be given that your preferred size and colour combination will be on hand at that time. So come on, call TeleVend now, there's someone waiting for your call. How much? Just shutup and order!

T Shirts : If you thought the last paragraph was just too much, wait 'til you read this one. Believe it or not, the Melbourne University Basketball Club will soon be selling new club T-shirts. This release will probably be better quality than the last lot (i.e. might survive three washings) and are available in your choice of blue logo on white shirt or a white shirt with a blue logo. These are the OFFICIAL club warm up top, so everyone should possess one and wear it to games so we look like a team, even if we don't play like one.

That's Good For Basketball : Well, let's keep the entries rolling in for the brand new Dribbling Balls competition. We haven't actually had an entry yet, unless you count that tram ticket I was given in Pete's Bar (and that won't win even if there are no other entries). Just write and tell me what you think is "good for basketball". There are fantastic prizes for the winning entries and the competition can't go on for ever, so send in your entries now.

Progressive Dinner : Everyone should know about the Progressive Dinner by now. If you don't, you may actually want to come along. It's on next Saturday, June 23, and starts at 7 p.m. in the Large Entertainment room of the Sports Union Building with soups, sherries, savouries and a discussion of the Demons' win that day. It then progresses to to Leslie's place for main course, then after a short intercourse journey Bernadette's place is the scene for dessert, which will be followed by a party at a mystery venue somewhere near Bowlesy's place (if his house mates don't evict him first). Cost is \$12 for workers and \$6 for students, with discounts applying if you bring some food. Remember that University tests prove that 9 out of 10 people surviving last year's dinner couldn't believe it. Come along to the event where you'll hear people say things like "Careful, you'll get some of that in your mouth" and "Where's all the frog gone?" How could you miss an evening like that? Anyone who knows is welcome to submit their answers to the "Good For Basketball" competition.

That's All : Well, there's not much left to be said after all that, and as you should all know by now, if there's not much to be said, Dribbling Balls will take six pages to say it. So we'll finish off with the most popular feature of the last edition of Dribbling Balls....