

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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There is very little of huge consequence in this issue of Dribbling Balls, so why waste time introducing it? I don't know...

V.W.B.C. (Victorian Wankers Basketball Council) DIV 4 (Wed. 30/5)

Oakleigh Wolves d. Uni by 2 points

After an extended lunch at Jimmy Watson's wine and food establishment, Woody decided it was about time to submit some D.B. (Drunken Balls) reports for the mighty women's seconds. This game was one of the typical Melbourne Uni matches where we could have won but didn't - not that we threw it away, we just let them catch up and sneak past us in the last few minutes, the dirty wolves.

Judy shot two 3 pointers - you beauty Judy!

And now for another contribution from Woody sponsored by the same booze session at Jimmy Watson's...

V.W.B.C. (See above) DIV 4 (Wed. 6/6)

Preston Rams 38 d. Uni 17

(N.b. All Editorial comments are banned throughout this D.B. report.) This was our worst performance all season. We couldn't pass, shoot, dribble or defend properly. We didn't play as a team except that we were all wearing black uniforms. Worst of all we were beaten by J.C.'s club. How can we face him at training next Monday? (Luckily it's a long weekend) Preston just thrashed us all over the court, offence and defence. Davo tried everything from a man to man defence to cheating from the scorebench, but they walked over and around our D and their coach must have stopped the hanky panky on the scoresheet because he was scoring too, which is good for basketball scoring fines. P.s. Jenny Philips has been absent with some sort of dental problem (she must have tried to bite off more than she could chew!) Get well and hurry back Jenny, we need you to help us back into the four.

Anne, Cathy 5, Woody 4, Leanne 2, Pauline 1.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 13/6)

St.Kilda (2) 33 d. Uni 32

As much as the weekend's win at Portland was an absolute high, so was this game an incredible low. We played badly against an opposition which were basically no good. Our skill level was down, and to be truthful, I've seen some of our players put in more effort. We were 6 points down after an abysmal first half, but improved somewhat to eventually take the lead by two points with a couple of minutes to go. We were unable to hold it though, mainly through slack defence. It was a typical post-long-weekend let down, but the sort we can't afford if we want to make the finals. It's too early to hit the panic button, but we must now beat some of the top teams as well as all of the bottom teams to get back into contention.

Bridget 8, Jean, Annette 6.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 17/6)

Bisleri Lions 70 d. Uni 51

This report could well be a treatise on why our opponents often seem to have I.Q.'s lower than their singlet numbers. Perhaps it's just a legacy of playing for Uni, that the people you play against feel it necessary to prove that they are so much dumber than us. Perhaps it's just that Peter Skadins is just a childish jerk who can dish it out but can't take it. Who knows? Who cares? I'm not going to let it worry me. We played very well for the first three quarters of this game. In the first half we had Haggis shooting well and some really excellent hustle from Burkie and Chris and we led by four or five for most of the half. A late lapse saw us at 34-34 at half time. It was still very close

midway through the second half, but we couldn't keep up the effort and numerous baskets from the opposition saw them run out comfortable winners. Highlight of the second half was Skadins tech fouling out of the game and his pathetic attempts at threats and violence after the game. I'd send him a copy of this report, but I seriously doubt that he can read, and from what Spike tells me, I don't think his wife would be able to help much either. Let's hope they never have kids.

Haggis 12, Burkie, Chris 8.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 18/6)

St. Kilda 40 d. Uni 33

The less said about this game the better - a pathetic, pessimistic and pissweak performance. Worst of the season! Uni played shocking defence against only 5 opposition players (2 so fat they could scarcely run!). The scoreline looks O.K. because St. Kilda played the last three and a half minutes with only 4 players, and Tony, Gary and Phil hustled well.

Tony 12, Gary 6.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 24/6)

Uni 82 d. C.Y.M.S. 50

Once again this competition is proving that it really is good value to get to a game early to warm up. This week's highlight was the last 2 minutes of the Jetz v. Bisleri Lions game. There was the usual gratuitous violence, but the undoubted high spot was Jetz (and Chelsea) coach Jaye Brehmer walking out into the middle of court 1 and having a stand up argument with well known dickhead Peter Skadins, then head butting him to the floor. Sensational. Brought thunderous applause from most people watching. If Jaye enters himself in the "Good for Basketball" competition he's odds on to win. Anyway, inspired by this we played a weak first half, trailing for most of it, and only a determined comeback led by the great aggressive hustle of Chris Morrey and Paul Burke who undoubtedly both play their best basketball on Sunday nights, saw us down 29-31 at the change. The second half was a different story, starting with J.C. feeding Haggis on a number of long court fast breaks and Simon hitting well from the 45, we quickly built up a 10 point lead. Instead of letting them catch up though, we rubbed their little noses right in the pooh and ran away with the game. Bowlesy and Betty made great position inside in offence and scored with ease, while everyone else continued on their merry way. The scoreline for the half of 53-19 told the story. A satisfying win.

Simon 16, Chris, J.C. 13, Haggis 12, Bowlesy, Betty 10, Paul 8.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 27/6)

Kilsyth 49 d. Uni 34

Unfortunately, I can't think of anything funny to say about this game. After missing our first five or six attempts to score we played quite a reasonable first half here. We began to score freely against their man to man and our man to man defence was holding the satisfactorily. Spike was playing very well and Carmel did some nice work in defence especially, so half time saw us recover to trail 20-22. In the second half Kilsyth switched to zone defence and that was our signal to stop scoring. They quickly established a big lead and that was just about it for the game. Bridget dominated the second half for us, but in general mistakes abounded. Too many times we gave them the ball through bad passes, we gave them an unbelievable number of offensive rebounds (usually 2 or 3 at a time) and in general did not play well until the last 5 minutes or so when a couple of baskets from Bernie added some respectability to our score. Back to the drawing board.

Bridget 14.

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 27/6)

Uni 52 d. Varpas 23

Davo was off practising how to get married so it was thanks to J.C. for

coaching us to a resounding victory. We started off well with good rebounding from Mandy which enabled us to get a number of successful fast breaks (once our fingers thawed out). Judy bombed it from everywhere (including one of those elusive three pointers). It was a reasonable game from the whole team, but we will need to sharpen up our game a bit when we play some of the teams which are higher up the ladder. Many thanks to Gillian for being there early to score for us, much appreciated.

Judy 19, Mandy 10, Woody 8, Cathy 7, Leanne 6, Ann 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 1/7)

Uni 81 drew with Oakleigh Wolves 81

This was a typically cosmic performance for 10 p.m. on a cold Sunday night. Simon was in one of his "Inspiration Ian Bett Style" moods before the game as he told us "We know how to beat these guys - score more points than them." It worked like a charm. Betty scored our first two baskets as we opened up an incredible 4-27 deficit after 10 minutes. Our defence had holes in places we didn't even know we had places, and things did not look too good. A change from zone to man to man helped us a bit, but the turning point for the half was the appearance of Bowlesy on the court. He dominated the boards, especially in defence, and with Betty, Simon and Haggis finding the range in offence we gradually clawed our way back to trail by 7 at the change 37-44. In the second half we continued to play fairly well, eventually levelling the score. Simon and Pendles were our main contributors in offence, aided by Chris Morrey who scrapped impressively on the boards. We let them slip away in the last couple of minutes and things didn't look very promising, but a foul shot from Pendles, a three pointer from J.C. and a rebound basket from Chris all in the space of a minute tied up the ball game with 35 seconds left. Desperate attempts to foul them and give them two shots in the dying seconds failed and the final result was a draw on 81-81. Just another Sunday night at the movies. Although if you picked our top scoring trifecta you would have won big money!

Simon 18, Pendles, Betty 12, Bowlesy, Haggis, Paul, J.C. 8, Chris 7.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 2/7)

Latvians 45 d. Uni 38

Altogether a much improved effort compared to our last game. Uni began O.K. with the score being 8-8 after 5 minutes, but slack D enabled the opposition to notch up several easy fast breaks. Half time 14-26. The second half - well that belonged to us. Positive aggressive defence, with everyone looking for fast breaks, saw Latvians making some errors and Uni narrowing the gap. We switched to a zone press and everything was going well. Alas the deficit was just too much. Yet another of those 5-7 point losses in which we specialize! But we outscored Latvians (currently top) 24-19 in the second half. Let's hope this optimistic, positive approach can continue. Best Gary, Tony and Terry.

Gary 16, Tony 10, Luke 6.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 4/7)

Uni 40 d. Stuart's All Stars 33

Our first 30 minutes in this game were good. Defence was aggressive with Bridget pressurizing the ball and Jean denying the pass well. At the other end of the court Bernie was dominating the offence scoring from outside and a couple of garbage rebounds. Jean also did well in offence and at half time it was 26-14 our way. We continued on merrily in the second half, with Spike doing very nicely on the boards and Anne showing a return to form, and we built up an 18 point lead. At that time mistakes crept into our game at a great rate of knots. We refused to run into defence as a team and our shot selection and execution were poor. We eventually won by 7 points, but should have won by 27. Still, it was good to have another win, and as Jean told me, the 3 most important points in a basketball game are the three that you get for winning. So, cop that all you philosophers out there.

Bernie 10, Jean 8, Anne, Spike, Bridget 6.

Dribbling Balls is almost proud to announce that we've had our first report from our roving (raving?) reporters, Tony Lewis and Graeme Jane, who are currently stuck somewhere in outback Footscray I think...

Dear Dribbling Balls,

In case the readers didn't know, we are travelling around Australia visiting the universities to check out the standard of the teams they will be sending to I.V. this year. Our first stop was A.N.U. where they have a scrimmage on a Saturday afternoon. After Graeme had dunked over two of their players and Tony had rebounded frequently we knew they weren't much chop. However they had one good player who managed a few three pointers so Tony put a stop to him by sticking a finger in his eye.

Next it was off to Newcastle for a scrimmage on Monday evening. Boy! What a bunch of amateurs. It was like playing basketball with bowling pins, they were falling over left, right and centre. Even the Teddy Boys would beat this side.

U.N.E. didn't even have a training session, so our next stop was Queensland. Eager to get revenge for Fiji, we trained like mad men. They were the best club we trained with so far, but they had one problem, their average age was five years less than Henry Cooper's (a real bunch of Grandpas).

So that's the story so far. Congratulations to the girls in Portland (and Brian). Tell Annette you can pick up cheap tracksuits at Dimneys in Richmond for \$5.

Keep dribbling,

Tony and Graeme.

P.s. Australia is humungus.

And while letters to the Editor is running hot, we have this little contribution, regarding Sunday night at Portland...

Dear Sir,

I feel it is my duty to bring to your attention, and perhaps the attention of your reader, the dismay I felt in witnessing some of the "goings on" at Portland '84. Far be it from me to cast dispersions on my fellow club members but I am convinced that some of the actions witnessed on Sunday night at "Mac's" LEAVE A LOT TO BE DESIRED. For instance -

- Did those enjoying a raucous beer at the pub really need exposure to no less than three (3) J.C. Memorials? (I can think of 3 people who didn't - Ed.)
- Was a tangled mess of gyrating bodies on the floor so necessary for entertaining those at the pub?
- Is a pair of jocks hanging from the light fixture funny? (only if some one is in them - Ed.)

I honestly believe that cheap laughs are bad laughs and that the club has many genuinely funny people as members so this type of behaviour is not warranted.

I was indeed surprised when the night that promised so much (with perfect surroundings, good company and unlimited supply of beer) delivered so little. I enjoyed Portland very much, but I would be disappointed if this type of rarely seen behaviour became the norm.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Prior. (Donations of \$2 and up are tax deductible)

So cop that little lot. All things considered though, I can't help but agree with most of Jean's sentiments. Some of the activities on the night were more akin to the sort of low brow acts I've seen some lesser lights at LaTrobe and Monash perform, than the sort of entertainment usually associated with Melbourne turns. Never mind though, I enjoyed the night, and the grand final the next day, and the party back at Henry's the next night too. Winning grand finals is good for partying.

Now on a more ridiculous note, Bowlesy gave me this following paper clipping from some obscure publication, so I suppose I should print it, although it doesn't seem to say much. It purports to refer to Dean Martin...

"And we're still having fun! If it's not about having fun, I ain't about to do ANYTHING. You know, we've been together 30 to 35 years, banging away..."

Martin turned 66 on this movie, surprising those who, years ago, said he had lived too fast, too long; this man who once claimed : "I only drink moderately, you know. I've got a case of Moderately in my dressing room."

The only other piece of useful information in the article was that Martin was working in a steel mill when he was 16. Guess where. Would you believe, Steubenville Ohio?

The GOOD FOR BASKETBALL competition will close this Friday the thirteenth, which seems to be an appropriate date to do it. If we don't get any more entries by then I won't be surprised. Never in the course of human endeavour have so many done so little for so long.

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The women's A grade team made it two tournaments in a row when they won Moe at the weekend. Full report next Dribbling Balls...