

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, here we go again, sports fans. As we rapidly approach the close of another spin through the calendar, Dribbling Balls is jam-packed with interesting, thought provoking, brain straining, y-front busting, etc. etc. etc. ad nauseum match reports and features. There's a lot of useful stuff here. Come off it. Dribbling Balls is about as useful as a chocolate tea pot! Anyway, while we're waffling...

C.Y.M.S. B Grade (Sun. 14/10) GRAND FINAL

Geriatrics d. Port Colts

Heaven forbid that such a game should pass without being recorded in the annals of the club. The Geri's completed their march to victory in what must be the most successful season in the club's recent and not so recent history. Coach Phil Quin has been hailed as he who shall lead the club to higher things (upstairs at Toto's?). No, but seriously, Phil has a 100% success rate with the Geri's. Not bad, and not surprising with such stirring pre-game tactics "O.K., let's full court press from the start." "Piss off Phil, we'll die!" "O.K., let's not." Now to the game report. The first half started badly with Port Colts either having had a three day pep talk or they were all on drugs. Missed foul shots probably accounted for our half time deficit of 3 points, and I would mention the atrocious reffing but I won't. Still, I don't see what's wrong with taking an extra step every time you do a lay up, and Jean looks quite amusing with three people hanging off her arms every time she gets a rebound. Back to the game. Coach Phil called for a personal defence in the second half and Woody broke the drought in free shooting which gave us all the scent of victory (spelt BEER). The crowd was going wild (thanks Haggis and Foges). Were they scared of the 50 people who'd turned up to support Port Colts? Yes. Especially as the combined I.Q. of their supporters was the same as ours. Some quick baskets from Bridget and strong defence saw Port Colts move on to a personal defence at which stage we knew we'd eat them (no, not Little Red Riding Hood, John). The final siren saw a safe 10 point win (never in doubt) and Pavlov's dogs had nothing on us at the mention of beer. It was back to Bernie's with our entourage of supporters and our official scorer (thanks Brian). It's been a great season. Bernie would have easily top scored for the year as shown by the decision of the other side to pick her up in a box zone. The three point offence so often called by that king of tactics, coach Phil, saw a record end of season tally. Victorious Geriatrics were Terry Canale, Kerry Loose, Woody, Ann, Karen, Jean, Bernie and Bridget. Next season sees the return to glory (sounds like a new soap opera to me - Ed.) of Julie Walker, specially imported from the U.S.A. to join the Geri's in their attempt to defend their title.

Bridget 25, Bernie 10, Jean - I don't know (I'd say 30 to be safe - Ed.)

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 29/10)

Footscray 48 d. Uni 34

Well, another loss, but this certainly has been our best all round performance of the summer season so far. At least everyone put in for most of the game. Unlike the two previous games, where we played basketball for one half, we actually match the opposition for almost all the game. The game highlight had to be the collision between Phil and Gary when both were scampering back to set up the zone press (Phil scamper? You must be joking! - Ed.). Footscray always make the finals, and we trailed 28-34 with three and a half minutes to go, but yet again we failed in the final quarter. We've got to win one of these eventually. All played well. Gold stars to Gary and Tony.

V.W.B.A. DIV 2 (Wed. 31/10)

Uni 31 d. Knox 27

Dedicated readers of this journal will recall that the women's firsts missed out on the finals last season because of a loss to Knox. The same readers should take note of this significant victory. In a solid first half effort our man to man defence was some of the best we have played, although we gave away quite a few fouls. Gillian made some nice moves in offence to get 6 points for the half while Bridget threw some nice passes as we ran our man to man offence nicely. Highlight of the half was undoubtedly Schepini (in a slightly pissed state) whipping off the tracksuit pants to take the court with her basketball knickers on inside out. The sub was delayed to allow a quick trip to the toilets. At the start of the second half, Spike hit a couple of baskets along with Bernie, Bridget and Gil to break open a 10 point lead. All these were a direct result of excellent defensive pressure forcing turnovers. From this point we faced a fairly desperate struggle to hold on to that lead which was being steadily eroded. Apart from a few minor lapses we managed very well, and showed a lot of character under pressure. With undersized (??) Jean and Carmel working hard on the boards and late baskets from Spike and Bernie we held on for a deserved win. Even the deaf ref couldn't rob us, although he gave it a bloody good try.

Spike 10, Gillian 8, Bernie 6, Bridget 5.

V.B.A. MASTERS (Wed. 31/10)

Demons 74 d. Uni 30

There may be the odd hundred or so people in the club who aren't aware that Uni has a team in the Masters' (Over 35) competition, but nevertheless, we do. This game was not one of our more devastating performances though. We missed the youthful exuberance of LarDs, and despite scoring the opening basket of the game we never looked like doing much dangerous (except perhaps collapsing). Bowie led the scorers in the first half with 5 of our 16 points, but our defence was a little suspect as Demons put on 39 behind the golden arm of Tony Holden (once respected player, who has since joined La Trobe as coach and blown that theory). In the second half Bowie and Alby (the Developer) provided most of what scoring there was with a little bit of help from new boy Phil Beart. John "The Rat" Ludlow was dynamic around the court, using his speed to thwart a number of fast breaks and was close to the best player on the court (when they shook hands after the game). Mike "Bonzai" Sobel also got in the act with the odd basket off a rebound and lasted out the game well. (Bonzai because he's got legs like tree trunks). Not a good game really, but who cares, everyone had fun. A bigger squad next week and we'll be in business (unless Alby buys us out).

Bowie 11, Alby 10.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 4/11)

Uni 64 d. Jetz (2) 52

There is little doubt that the refereeing was the major highlight of this game. The jerk (penalty point Mr. McEnroe) was either cross-eyed, stupid, incompetent, inept or (e) all of the above, as he let some amazing contact go unpenalized. Violence has not been so imminent since that last second division (ends with a bang) game in Ballarat. Head beating, bone crushing, insult hurling non-stop action was the order of the day, and that was during warm up. Jane and Richard periodically had their arms ripped off for trying to take rebounds (serves them right I suppose), Chris, Simon and Burkie were frequently assassinated and J.C. was brought down by a few well timed head high tackles. Despite this we got an early 20 point lead and held it comfortably for most of the game. Comment of the week came from the ref after the game "Sorry about that call in the second half there."

V.W.B.A. DIV 4 (Wed. 7/11)

Uni 46 d. CYMS 16

We romped it in! The opposition didn't put much pressure on us and our shots seemed to find the basket quite easily for once. We also played a good, solid defence with Mandy, Linny and Lissa collecting heaps of rebounds. A good effort.

Judy 12, Kylie 10, Linny, Woody 8.

COLLINGWOOD A GRADE WOMEN (Sun. 11/11)

Uni 48 d. The Team That Cries 16

Well the supporters were treated to a great game of basketball here at the home of first class competition, Collingwood. With Judy bombing a few in the first half we struggled along to a 16-12 half time lead. Coach Gillian tore strips off the team at half time for their slackness, and phrases like "That's not too bad" and "Keep it going like that" rang out across the stadium as she urged the team on to bigger and better things. Well, whatever she said, it seemed to work as we outscored the hapless opposition 32-4 in the second half. Linny scored 16 points in the half, mainly off about 20 offensive rebounds, Judy ran more fast breaks (but didn't wear her left hand out shooting layups), Sue, Lissa and Gill just kept on feeding the ball (when they weren't getting fouls) as we cruised on to an easy win. Only one question remains unanswered - why was Pendles there watching the game? What happened on Saturday night that I don't know about? That's two questions isn't it? Never mind.

Linny 18, Judy 16.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 11/11)

Jetz 67 d. Uni 54

We trailed by a comfortable margin of 10 to 15 points for most of this game and were never really a serious threat. There was no violence like last week and our 9 players all behaved very well (I think my nose is getting longer). Haggis and Jane Graeme did well in the offensive business during the first half and Jane continued this in the second half. Lot of sloppy play though.

Jane 14, Haggis, J.C. 8.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies A Grade (Sun. 11/11)

Bisleri some d. Uni some minus two.

Well, I wasn't going to report on this game, but there was a bit of blank paper and I couldn't resist. It was slightly unfortunate for the team that they had the same ref the guys had in the previous game, and even more unfortunate for everyone that some of the guys came out to court 9 to watch this game. After the first two warnings they adjourned to the other side of the court, well away from the players' bench. This didn't seem to help much though, as the referee kept threatening to make the team forfeit the game, bringing back fond memories of Neville, George, Portland and headbands. Barracking for Bisleri didn't seem to help either. Some ref's are just thin skinned. Imagine getting upset with "Excuse me, sir, I don't entirely agree with that last call" or "Do you think there's room for interpretation in that situation?" or "I'm sorry, my mistake". Pity that's not what was being said. Special gold star to Phil for staying around after this game and trying to get a tech foul for one of the sides in the next game. That's what I call a dedicated coach.

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DON'T  
TURN  
OVER  
THE  
PAGE -  
UNLESS - YOU  
ARE  
A  
BROADMINDED  
ADULT

CROSSBALLS : Well, didn't we have a terrific response to the last Crossballs. No. Never mind. Apparently, these are the solutions (complete with intentional spelling mistakes - very tricky these lads)...

Across : 1. Side line 5. Game 8. Screen 10. IV 11. Magic  
12. Lindsay 14. Abba 16. Session 18. Hi I'm Gary 20. God 22. Center  
24. Pryor 26. St. Mary's 29. Adidas 31. Uniform 32. Diadora

Down : 1. Suicide 2. None 3. Imagination 4. Trevena 6. Pendles  
7. Intention 13. Singlet 15. Bomber 17. Easy 19. Applaud 21. DC  
23. Earvin 25. Old Ed 27. Shot 28. Gym 30. Sir.

SATURDAY MORNING : If you're reading this on Saturday morning then you probably didn't go on last night's pub crawl, which started at the Clyde at 6 p.m. On the other hand, if you're reading this on Friday night, then you're already at the pub crawl and know all about it. If you're reading this before Friday night then you're probably me, and I already know about it too. Thus it's not really worth mentioning that the pub crawl is on, is it. I don't know why I bother sometimes. I need a drink. When's the pub crawl start?

APOLOGY : Dribbling Balls wishes to apologise for the previous article. The fault was not in your set. Please do not adjust your brain. The person responsible for hiring the mooses has been sacked.

HI, I'M NOT GARY : As you would all be well aware after reading the last Dribbling Balls. Despite this, the fabulous M.U.B.C. Christmas Party is still on December 8 in the trophy hall. Tickets are \$3 and Steve Crabb has promised public transport fares won't rise for at least 12 months. It's a B.Y.O. bash and it is going to be big. Invite all your friends, Pendles has booked a table for two in case all his come along. What a night it will be. The soon to be up and coming legends in their own lyric books, Hi, I'm Gary are providing the (almost) live music for the evening, and there'll be entertainment as well. You must be there, or Judy and Davo will beat up on you. So have your three dollars ready when they try to sell you some tickets. (By the way, I hear on the gossip line that Judy is trying for the job of Hi I'm Gary's head groupie. Anybody like to confirm that Pendles?) As added extra incentive, you can dress up as your favourite rock star. See Henry do his Buddy Holly, see Abba dress up like (his) twisted sister and see Pendles do an impressionation of Pendles. Other highlights to be missed if at all possible include Dave DeVries and his (hey man, wanna) smoke machine, Mal Short or Cab Calloway doing Minnie The Moocher, Gene Kelly doing Singing In The Rain and SBG doing that sensitive ballad, I Used To Kiss Her On The Lips But It's All Over Now. Be there, Kulture vultures.

ENOUGH, ENOUGH : As Maggie Tabberer's arm chair was once heard to squeal. And that's all there is in this edition of Dribbling Balls. I think it's almost time for another "Best Of.." edition (and you didn't know there was a first). Unless I get sufficient requests to the contrary watch out for BODB2, coming soon to a rubbish bin near you.