

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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In this fabulous issue of Dribbling Balls we preview some of the things appearing in the next issue...

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 5/6)

Melbourne University Beaurepaire Composers 61 d. Preston Rams Quartet 22 On the fifth of June, the Beaurepaire composers gave their first musical performance at Albert Park in a display of remarkable musicianship and competence. Two pieces were performed by this band of talented performers, the first of which was a concerto for the bassoon and clarinet in A flat andante (that's how I like my spaghetti - Ed.). This piece was performed beautifully by Mandy on the bassoon, maintaining a steady beat and rhythm to the recital which conjured up images of size and strength whilst listening. It was a delight to be present when she attacked a few difficult movements late in the piece. Tracy on the clarinet was, as usual, very smooth and clear in her performance, with a note of certainty about her playing, showing brilliant control in phrasing and breathing. This was a typical Renaissance piece, superbly performed by two dedicated artists. At intermission the score was 30-5 in favour of the composers. The second piece of the evening was clearly from the Baroque era (I didn't ber-ake it - Ed.) Impromptu in C sharp allegro non troppo (translated as "almost Steve Nolan" - Ed.). In contrast to the earlier work, this rendition was much more vivacious and lively. It began with Woody on the flute playing a series of scales and trills (specially for the trillseekers in the audience? - Ed), with her fingers moving up and down the flute with great rapidity. She was soon joined by Lissa on the oboe with a very expressive and natural display, reaching notes of a very high pitch. The performance of Pauline in this piece on the harpsichord was one of brilliance and precision, showing her ability to produce very subtle tones. Supporting both pieces were Rose and Kylie on strings providing the backbone to the evening's entertainment with their dynamic range and variety in harmonics. At the end of the performance, after encores and standing ovations the musical score read MUBC 61 to Preston Rams Quartet 22. The two pieces were composed by the players themselves in conjunction with their conductor Brian Connors and are willing to autograph copies of this edition of Dribbling Balls.

Mandy 14, Woody 12, Kylie, Lissa 9, Tracy 8, Rose 6, Pauline 3.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 12/6)

Uni 63 d. Sandringham 36

Determined not to make the same mistake as last week when we lost to the second bottom team, we lifted our performance significantly to crush the opposition here. Our combination of man to man and zone proved very effective as we held them to 13 for the first half while pouring in 31 ourselves. Bridget's long court passing against their press was outstanding all game, and she also contributed 9 points for the half herself. Spike was doing well on the boards and Anne was shooting well. In the second half our defence slacked a bit, but offence was kept moving by strong play from Gill and Carmel. A very even team performance and a comfortable win.

Spike, Bridget 13, Anne 10, Gill 9, Carmel 7, Bernie 6, Jean 5.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 12/6)

Uni 38 d. Jetz 18

Our game this week could be described as being one of two different phases. For the first ten minutes of the first half we played man to man defence, and were in "phase 1" which was characterized by reasonable defence and that's about all. With the score reading 4-2 in their favour, a change to zone defence was then sought and marked the beginning of "phase 2". This was highlighted by some superb outside shooting, particularly by Rose, and

excellent team play by all players. We ran our new zone offence much better, and scored more than a few baskets off it. In the last ten minutes of this half we scored 22 points to 4 to finish 24-8 up at half time, which was a great effort after a slow start. The second half saw us move back into "phase 1" which was disappointing after the good work done previously. The main cause of this was that we didn't run a controlled offence at all, a facet of our game which ALL players must work on. Overall we won through 10 minutes of offence and 40 minutes of very solid defence (again).

Rose 11, Mandy 9, Lissa, Kylie 6.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 19/6)

Uni 26 d. Werribee 18

We started off this game a trifle underpersonned with Kylie, Tracy and first gamer Debbie showing up 5 minutes late (it was a 5:50 game though). All were forgiven by the coach, who just happened to be late also, by the same amount of time, in fact he was the one who drove them to the stadium and was late in picking them up. Anyway, after a bit of mucking about both on the court and on the bench we had enough time to put on a full court press and lead 10-9 at half time. The second half saw us extend our lead and hold off a very determined opposition and we ended up with a convincing win. Excellent performance by Debbie Kool in her first game with the seconds.

Kylie 7, Lissa 6, Tracy, Woody 4.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies B Grade (Sun. 23/6)

Rebels 30 d. Uni 21

We got off to a very slow start at both ends. They had plenty of chances to score, and we created very few. Half time score 16-5 their way. We tightened up our defence and started scoring in the third quarter, where we played some superb basketball, but unfortunately we couldn't quite catch them. A good effort, we're improving all the time.

Helen 7 (one 3 pointer), Woody, Max 6, Marilla 2.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 24/6)

??? 43 d. Uni 39

New faces featured heavily in the Uni side still looking for its first win of the season (who would listen to someone giving a rat's arse anyway). We're still looking. (Melways reference will be accepted - contact coach Phil) All jokes aside, however, it was good to see greater enthusiasm, team spirit etc. etc. as compared to previous weeks when we seemed more worried about arguing with the ref, opposition, team mates and even spectators if they wanted a shouting match. First gamers Steve Raftellis and Andrew Baker added life and a bit of spark to the regulars Mick, Warwick, Matthew, Mark and Phil. The first half we played well, and with the help of some good shooting by Mark early, we were in front at the change. Mick was rebounding well, despite the opposition being somewhat bigger and taller. About 10 minutes into the second half we were up by about 10, thanks mainly to Warwick's outside shooting (refer to scoresheet for scorer's accuracy). It all sounds too good, doesn't it? It was. They came back hard and scored quickly, mainly through their bigger men inside. I guess they wore us down in the end (and a nasty place to get worn down it is too - Ed.). the Uni team is still new, with two new faces this week and at least two others only playing their first season in A grade. Team building continues and hopefully we'll see some wins in the near future (sounds suspiciously like Ron Barassi doesn't it? It's a worry really.)

Mick 11, Mark 10, Andrew 8, Phil 6, Matt 4, Warwick 0.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 26/6)

Preston 34 d. Uni 31

This was quite an interesting game I thought. We struggled offensively a bit in the early part of the game, with only Bridget able to find the basket with some fine jump shooting. Anne helped out when she came on, and our defence was

not too bad as we ended up trailing 16-19 at half time. In the second half of the game we started badly by missing a couple of shots we should have made, while at the other end, good passing and accurate perimeter shooting from Preston killed us. They built a 9 point lead and held it for most of the half while we struggled in offence. Judy came on and did some nice things and Anne produced some good baskets in offence, however despite some desperate man to man defence near the end we couldn't get closer than 3 points. We are now a game and a half outside the four, but this was a better performance from the team this week and should be a stepping stone back into the big time.

Anne 14, Bridget 10.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 26/6)

Uni 25 d. La Trobe 23

Starting off in our usual full court press we quickly jumped to a 10-0 lead, but unfortunately we landed on the wrong foot and trailed 10-13 at half time. Alterations in both offence and defence saw a turn around in the scores, and we had a lead of 6 points with 2-3 minutes remaining. A couple of baskets by the opposition saw the scores become quite adjacent but the result was never in doubt. This was a good fighting win against a very much improved La Trobe (amazing what a few YOUNGER players can do to a team) and should consolidate our position in the four. Well done girls.

Woody, Rose, Tracy, Linny, Lissa 4.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 30/6)

Uni 70 d. Abbotsford 57

Aside from some gratuitous head beating and sendings off from the opposition, there is only one thing to say about this game, and that is - wow. A comfortable victory here for Les, who carried the rest of us along for the ride. I've seen Les play some good games in my time, but this was certainly one out of the box, where he dominated at both ends of the court. For someone who has snuck well into the thirties this man just keeps on getting better. Rebounding, shot blocking and control are the things we expect (and get) from Les every game, but a 20 point second half - fantastic. And all this from a man who is 33 and in the twilight of his career. Wish I could do that when I was 33, matter of fact - oh never mind.

Les 26, Simon 11.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 1/7)

Someone 60 d. Uni 33

This week your intrepid reporter (eat your heart out Clark) was running a bit late. In fact he arrived to find the half time scores about 8 to 24 in ???'s favour. Enough said about the first half. Rumour had it they (the opposition) had played a zone press most of the half. Needless to say, Phil referred to the fact that we have practised running offensively (pardon the pun) against such a defence before. It went something like "We've been playing against zone presses for bloody years. You're dribbling in the back court, you've got your heads down. Just think about what you're doing. You're Uni students. You're supposed to have brains. You're not playing like it." (Poor Phil, someone please let him know the real situation next time you see him). Anyway we got off to a quick start in the second half and narrowed their lead early but fell in a chasm towards the end. Our major fault was we failed to cover their fast breaks with 2 to 3 on one in most cases. The trouble here was their one big man was controlling their defensive boards and getting the ball out very quickly if not passing full court himself. In addition, our play against their zone press (even in the second half) wasn't good. We lack a settled side with players often unfamiliar with the position they're playing and their team mates. Give us time. Another new player this week : Brett Barker played well and added a bit of height to our side (badly needed).

Brett, Matt 7, Steve 5, Phil, Mick, Mark 4, Andrew 2.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 3/7)

Werribee 32 d. Uni 29

Another disappointing loss here against a team we beat in the first round. Lack of speed up and down the court seems to be part of our problem, inconsistent shooting is another part of it, lazy defence is another part of it and the coach forgetting to pick up one of the players for the game is also an extremely stupid and unfortunate part of it. We only really played the first 5 minutes of the game where we ran up an 8-2 lead, and the last 5 minutes of the game where we caught up from 10 down to lose by only 3. We seem to insist on making it hard for ourselves to make the finals, then again, perhaps it's the challenge we enjoy. Who knows? Certainly not me.

Spike 14, Anne 12.

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

Jetz 79 d. Uni 62

It was just as well we always lose against Jetz, because half the team was fairly rooted after playing six games for the weekend down at Moe and under these circumstances we could have lost without much effort or any thought to a team we usually beat. As it was, Jetz beat the crap out of us in the first 15 minutes using a zone press to run up a handy 20 point lead. Hitting 123% from the floor was also an advantage as they led 49-32 at the change. In the second half we played man to man and amazingly managed to stop them scoring a few times, in fact we actually got the difference back to 10 points before the old brain damage set in and they skipped away to a comfortable break. Not a great game this one, we should have stayed at Toto's.

J.C. 15, Rick 13, Les 10.

WHAT'S IN A TOP? : A rose by any other name would still smell like it had prickles, and similarly, a top by any other design would still smell like a sweaty armpit. Notwithstanding this piece of information, the committee in its undeniable and somewhat infinite wisdom spent a similarly undeniable and infinite time discussing the issue of new singlets and tops at its last meeting. But wait a minute - didn't they do that at the meeting before that? You're only guessing, but what a lucky guess. Never mind though, this time for sure. Hey Rocky, watch me pull a singlet out of my hat. But that trick never works. This time for sure. Presto! Oops - don't know my own strength. Now here's something you'll really like. A nice black singlet with a blue stripe down the right hand side front, trimmed in white, with blue numbers stitched in white, then on the back the word MELBOURNE curved around the top of the number and the word UNIVERSITY curved around the bottom of the number in white. Sounds great right? And all for the price of \$15. You'll see this final, last, no more, ultimate design in a couple of weeks (unless the committee meets before that and changes its collective mind again).

PORTLAND : Well, I can't remember what remember what happened down at Portland, at least not after we were politely asked by the Caravan Park owner to move our party to the foreshore reserve, or the constabulary to move from the foreshore reserve to the beach, or the fishermen to move from the beach to the moon, or after Human Waving in the Rain, or after the FF24 memorial (the cold weather will ruin your reputation every time Geoff), or after the musical port gargling, or after Carmel jumped through the (closed) window at Mac's, or after Jean politely, calmly and without the slightest hint of impending violence suggested that the label on the new port bottles was perhaps not in the best of taste, or after several other things. It is probably worth mentioning though that Uni defeated Uni in the B Grade men's final and Uni defeated someone else in the C Grade men's final and two other teams (for a total of 5 teams out of 8 entered) made the semi finals. A very successful tournament. The only unanswered question is "Was it a quinella, trifecta or quaddy?". Don't know what I'm talking about? That's O.K. neither do I.

THE GOOD OL TRIVIAL BLUES BROTHERS BOYS PURSUIT : Almost live in concert, appearing at a venue to be kept a secret 'til after the event. But as they said about about Mark Carroll's teeth, watch this space for further details. Yes, on Sunday July 21 in the afternoon, this big club function gets underway and every childish player wins a prize. No experience necessary, just a warped sense of humour, and a frontal labotomy (I'd rather have a full bottle in front of me). Be there ~ it just might be fun.

STOP PRESS : The women won A grade down at Moe for the second year in a row, with a 52-38 win in the grand final last Sunday. More details when I've had a good night's sleep....