

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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I apologize for releasing this edition of Dribbling Balls such a long time after the previous one. In fact, I apologize for releasing this edition at all...

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 14/8)

Uni 48 d. Werribee 27

Who says you need little guys anyway?? Here is another fine example of the indispensibility of big men and the redundance of "small-fry". After being neck and neck with Werribee for the first 30 minutes, the crowd thought that the seconds had had it when ace guard and thrill seeker McKelvie was fouled out of the game. Five Fouls was on four fouls and things looked grim. But as the going got tough, the tough got goinger and raced to an unbeatable lead. Bowlesy and Abba controlled the boards while Mungus and Tiny Tim Lewis played small men as only Collingwood six footers can. And guess who was running the fast break?? That man Pendlebury. Sixteen points for the half and he was looking good (I can believe the 16 points bit, but looking good?? - Ed.), and did I mention his defensive goal tend? No comment! Otherwise not much else happened, so I'll just stop, shall I?

Pendles 16, FF24 9, Tiny 8, Who 7, Abba, John 4.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 21/8)

Uni 33 d. Ajax 24

With a bye next game this was our lat home and away game for the season. Before the match we were delicately placed in fourth position and had to do battle with fifth placed Ajax. A win would see us in the finals, a loss could see us out (no, this isn't the match report of the men's I.V. game against A.N.U.... we won this one). Both teams were obviously nervous in the first half as a few mistakes were made. Our patented full court press was not very effective, nor was our 1-3-1 zone. We moved into a man to man with a few minutes to go in the first half and a few of the opposition knees began to buckle and we trailed by a point at the interval. We stayed with the man to man for the rest of the game and finished up winners and premiership contenders by nine points. Pauline played an outstanding game with fast defence and good control in offence in the absence of Tracy. Kylie also played superbly at both ends of the court, whilst Mandy and Lissa pulled down endless rebounds. I won't say anything about our foul shooting except that we hit 3 out of 16. With a week off next week, we should be playing Oakleigh Wolves in the semi, a team we beat by 10 points last week. This was probably our best game for the entire season.

Kylie 12, Mandy 8, Lissa 7.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 22/8)

Real Men 48 didn't do as well as ???\*@&? 49

With the end of the season rapidly approaching, this was a game we had to win. We didn't. (Now that's what I call a match report - Ed.)

No Damns 11, Dragan, FF24 10, John 8, Abba 4, Golden 3, Dr T. 2.

V.W.B.C. DIV 4 (Wed. 4/9) SEMI FINAL

Oakleigh 40 d. Uni 36

Well, we made it to the finals, but unfortunately our quest for the title of Division champions was suddenly terminated by a very determined and motivated Oakleigh, who we defeated quite easily 4 weeks ago. They came out firing on all cylinders and quickly built up a 10 point break on us. From here on in the team put in an effort which does M.U.B.C. proud. Switching to a man defence we worked hard, and then harder, and with two minutes to go in the match we drew level at 36 all. Unfortunately we let them get a few fast breaks (sniff,

sniff) and it was all over and we were out of the finals. From 15-22 down at half time to lose 36-40. It was a fine team effort, not only for this week but for the whole season, one which was enjoyed by all, even the coach. Thanks to Haggis, Tony, Bridget and J.C. for their help during the season and to the girls for their support and co-operativity. Afterwards we retired to Pete's Bar for 3 or 4 beers (or was that 4 or 5 Lissa?) then back to the Ellis abode for pizza, pancakes and I forget what else.

#### C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 8/9)

Uni 78 d. Oakleigh 76

Well sports fans, this win was not quite as easy for the lads as the scoreline might indicate. For a start, Oakleigh haven't lost a game since their new recruit was released from quarantine. He's this big black dude who likes to do Ray Shirley type impressions of a 6 foot 8 guard, you know the type, defensive rebound, dribble dribble dribble spin fake jump shoot slam score. Anyway, if you take out his 30 odd points we won easily. In an even first half we were in front then not in front at various times, depending on the score, and in fact we trailed 30-32 at half time. Special mention to Bowlesy who did some great work on the boards and snaffled a couple of very handy baskets. In the second half we had a few troubles and quickly ran up a 10 or 12 point deficit, which we managed to maintain for about 18 minutes of the half. Haggis shot some good baskets to keep us in the game when we weren't doing so well, and Les played his usual average to sensational game, even to the point of blocking the big black dude's shot a couple of times. Inspirational. Simon also fired well in offence and managed to bag a three pointer somewhere along the way. Despite all this, with 2 minutes to go we were still 9 behind. Simon was still saying there was time, and we were still laughing at him, but a J.C. three pointer and a Les basket from the corner suddenly made it a bit closer. With 11 seconds left we rebounded a missed foul shot, raced off down the other end and, you guessed it, J.C. fired up a three pointer, which rimmed and fell ... out. Les tipped it up, Simon rebounded the tip and popped the ball in the basket with one second left on the clock. Fouled in the process, he made the extra shot and we won by 2 points. What a joke. We thus finished second on the ladder and move to finals next week.

Les 18, Simon 16, J.C. 14, Rick 11, Haggis 9.

#### M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 9/9)

Uni 41 d. Someone 38 (or was it 32?)

At least another win to finish off the season! A game highlighted by shithouse reffing - how do you play a further 20 seconds when time has elapsed? After a slow start Unis led all the way, but in both halves we managed to blow big leads to turn this into a close contest. Anyway, we won didn't we!

#### M.B.A. A GRADE Monday Night End Of Season Report

With the winter season finished, it is time for the coach to replace regular correspondent, Mark "Herald" Jenkin (nice turn of phrase this lad, except when he belittles the coach!) and to wax on philosophically about the maybes and might-have-beens of the recent season. The team was a pot pourri of club elders and first year players, with the addition of Mick Matejin. In all five new players were tried - Hugh Sandie (rapidly promoted), Brett Barker, Andrew Baker (Betty Joan Booker, Bobbie Jean Parker, Billie Jane Baker - Ed.), Stephen Raftelis and Chris Bryce. At various times all demonstrated sufficient talent to indicate we need them in the club (what's that mean? They turned up? - Ed.). Not surprisingly, zero games were won in the first half of the season (despite several close losses) as the team blended. In somewhat of a minor triumph, 4 of the last 8 games were won. Mick played a few outstanding games, and everyone began to perform with confidence and verve. Mark and Wacker Bray being particularly serviceable as short forwards, wing players or point guards. Anyway, the goal next season is the finals! Coach's nominations for the season were as follows : Most Influential - Mick "The Penetrator" Matejin

(runner up Justice Murphy - Ed.), Most Consistent - Mark "Jerker" Jenkin, Best Newcomer - Brett "Bounteous" Barker (is that as in Mutiny on the Bounteous? - Ed.)

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 15/9) SEMI FINAL

Bisleri Lions 72 d. Uni 63

I don't know that we've ever beaten Bisleri, and we managed to keep our record in tact in this game. Having stunned most observers over the previous two weeks to snatch the double chance in the finals, we proceeded to waste the first. At half time it was 32-32 and it's hard to get much closer than that. In the second half we started well and opened up a 10 point lead, and from there the result was never in doubt. They switched to man to man defence, we gave up and they won by 9 in a canter. Shocking finish to the game. Les played well, most others couldn't get out of their own way.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 22/9) PRELIMINARY FINAL

Jetz 71 d. Uni 46

I don't know that we've ever beaten Jetz, and we managed to keep our record in tact in this game. It was perhaps the biggest mass dummy spitting performance in recent memory (which, it must be admitted, only spans 10 years). I except Les and Rick from this, because they played good games, but the rest of the team played like... well I've just thought for three minutes and can't quite think of the words to adequately describe it. It was not a good way to end an otherwise good season. Our thanks go to Simon for doing the thankless task of coaching the team they said couldn't be coached (well, they said it after they stopped laughing).

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 6/10)

Uni 80 d. Abbotsford Cobras 78

After a one week break from the dog eat dog world of Sunday night basketball, it was back for the first game of the new summer season. And what a game. We didn't have Les so we couldn't play defence, and the score at half time was 41-40 our way or theirs, I don't really care. We only had five players, but our offence was loosely based on the Pendles fast break, of which there were many, and the Driscoll frap doodle, of many there were which. Bowlesy dominated the boards but we didn't play defence during the second half either, and it was only when Rick, Simon and J.C. all hit form in offence together that we started to catch up from the amount we had managed to slip behind in the second half. Unfortunately, with three minutes to go, FF24 for FF24, leaving us with four players only. Fortunately Simon was firing well. Unfortunately Rick started throwing air balls. Fortunately J.C. made a three point play with 5 seconds left to give us a five point lead. Unfortunately they made a three point basket on the buzzer with the scoreboard showing 77-75. Fortunately it was wrong and we won by two, 80-78.

Rick 24, J.C. 20, Simon, Pendles 15, FF24 6.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 7/10)

Uni 48 d. Country Raiders 46

An essential win in the grading game. Strong performance with everyone putting in. Strong work in the zone press by Steve Carlisle and Chris saw us begin each half well. Good rebounding by Mick, Brett, Phil and Terry (good return to form by Mudd!) enabled us to nullify their big centre. "Guest" player Tony Lewis added 12 points and experience. With a 7 point break in the second half things were looking good, until the opposition switched to a 1-3-1 defence and upset our rhythm. Everyone a few points! Summer season here we come. (Who was an unfortunate member of the losing team? Alex Markwho? - Ed.)

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 9/10)

Uni 27 d. Sandringham 26

I've seen the team play worse than this and win. Wait a minute, no I haven't.

Again we tried hard, perhaps too hard, and had trouble scoring. Our defence was reasonable although we fouled too much, and our offence suffered through the missing of easy baskets. We led 12-11 at half time. The second half was a little better for the first 15 minutes and we led by 5 or 6 points for most of this time. Then for some unaccountable reason we went into self destruct turnover mode and decided that instead of playing offence in the front court we'd hand the back to the opposition after gaining possession in the back court. This tactic proved successful in getting us 3 points down with about 30 seconds to play. At last we decided the joke had gone far enough and fought back to snatch a thrilling (read face-saving) victory as Spike calmly slotted in a shot from the baseline with not enough time left for us to throw it away again. Carmel, Bernie and Spike played servicable games, Jean shot 100% from the foul line, and Anne deserves a special mention for skipping Newman Valedictory Dinner to play. Despite all this, highlight of the game was the reffing. Coach was speechless as every time he tried to argue a stupid decision (or non-decision) he had to change course to argue another one. It was all we could do to force down the odd beer after the game and plan the season's social calendar.

Spike 9, Bernie 6, Carmel 4.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 13/10)

Bisleri Lions 64 d. Uni 63

Well sports fans, there's always fun and games when we play (or watch) Bisleri, the team we laugh at when we're sponsored to laugh at them. A good performance on the boards from Bowlesy, Pendles, Rick, Les and Burkie was witnessed, but overall, we weren't desparate enough to snatch a win in a game I don't think we ever led. Oops, nearly forgot some exclusives from the radio commentary of the game... "Skadins drives into the key, puts up the shot... SLAM! Rejected by Les Walker.... Skadins spins, drives to the hoop, shoots... Slap! Rejected by Les Walker... Surely he's not going to try it again, oh he is... Splat! Rejected by Les Walker... Will it be fourth time lucky for Skadins, up goes the shot... get that out of here, that's too lightweight... Rejected by Les Walker... What's this Skadins has gone nuts. He's standing under the basket abusing referee Harry Fowler. He's still going.... Tech foul! He's subbed himself off. He's still abusing the official... Give him another one! Tech foul on the bench... This is what I call entertainment..." Top slanging match after the game too, with Skadins demanding that Harry take his clothes off for some weird reason. Talk about the match of the giant intellects. We were there helping... "Head butt, head butt..." Yes indeed, Harry's done for reffing what the Hindenberg did for dirigibles, and what can you say about Peter Skadins' ears? Next to nothing. Oh, by the way, we lost by a point somewhere in there.

Les 14, Rick, Simon 10.

ANNUAL DINNER : The Annual Presentation Dinner was once again a great success for the club, and a triumph of organization for Bowlesy and Judy, who had an extremely difficult job with the huge number of awards to be presented. On the subject of awards, congratulations to all the recipients of individual awards and team awards for premierships and runners-up.

And while on the subject of award presentations and the post dinner gathering, I would like to make a few comments to those people who made comments to me during, after or about the awards and basketball life in general, to clarify my views if nothing else. In fact, I wrote myself a very heated letter for publication in Dribbling Balls, but I later met with the editorial board and we decided not to print the letter. Suffice then to say, I do not retract anything I said at Studley Park or the clubrooms. Dribbling Balls welcomes any further correspondence from people with views on any of these controversial matters I am refusing to specifically name in order to avoid being inflammatory. Have to go now, I'm getting mad again...