

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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The best thing about about Christmas is everyone has a big clean up around home, and what do they find lying around? Old Dribbling Balls reports, scorelines and articles they forgot to submit during the year. Still, it gives us something to write during the quiet month of January...

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 23/10)

Uni 64 d. Yarraville 33

What a game to start the season with sports fans. With only 5 players actually present and accounted for, things looked grim for the boys from Parkville. Yarraville were looking typically Western Suburban, tatts upon tatts, but were we worried? Yes, quite a bit actually. But once the game commenced it was a different story. The big men dominated inside, and the patented Henry Cooper jumper was removed from moth balls. But the sensation of the first half was the unpatented Coops long court pass to Smith on the break and good night Yarraville. The same play the next two times down the court and Trev was off to the patent office. So at 38-23 at half time, Simon's appearance from Sandringham was not greeted with the enthusiasm we have come to expect. The second half proved to be a mere formality, with Yarraville's big blonde dude retiring from the game in shame with 5 to go. A top team effort.

Coops 18, Pendles 12, FF24, Fish 10, Trev 8, Simon 6.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (One Wednesday night in September, 1985)

Uni 73 d. Someone 27

There is one big problem associated with scoring a career high of 31 (THIRTY-ONE) (XXXI) points on a Wednesday night. One never knows how long one should wait for one's team mates to write a glowing match report, expounding, in no uncertain terms, on one's sheer brilliance and class. Superlatives like electrifying, dazzling, exhilarating, inspirational, provocative and humble spring to mind as words barely adequate to describe the most sensational display of basketball seen on court 8 in living (or Henry's for that matter) memory. Obviously a performance which defies description, especially when one considers the complete and total lack of anything vaguely resembling a mention of it in Dribbling Balls. Those lucky enough to have witnessed this historic event. Have apparently been left speechless. Either that or they just don't give a rat's! The latter I think is closer to the truth. And so it is left to me to release the details of the game to the unsuspecting public. However, modesty does not allow me to go on and on about it here. (That's what the Clyde is for on Fridays)

FF24 31, Dr. T. 18, Abba 10, Pendles 6, John, Teddy 4.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 6/11)

Uni 29 d. Nunawading 25

We went into this game against last season's semi finalists with one win and one draw. Both teams were substantially unchanged from last season, and on the last two occasions we had lost by less than two points (i.e. 1 point? - Ed.) We opened up with the man to man defence and at half time the score read 11-5 with both sides playing aggressive defence. We were losing noticeably at this stage due to an effective offence unable to shoot accurately at the foul line or rebound missed shots. We came back in the second half with Tony Lewis capitalizing with ball steals and Henry and Trevor making some nice full court passes to Pendles and Fish. Tree Andrew and Bowlesy began to add rebounding power, particularly in defence, and surprise, surprise, the scales began to tip our way. Towards the end of the game some vocal moral support from the men's firsts, and with minutes to go we hit the front with Kareem Abdul Pendlebury sealing the opposition's fate with a couple of nice baskets. Overall a great win which will help to build team confidence. Special mention

to Henry Cooper who has settled in as an effective player at both ends of the court with some great J.C. style assists and outside shooting. Game highlight: FF24 and SBG sent off for tackling (squirrel gripping? - Ed.) opposition players after Henry was roughed up (kicked? - Ed.) Next week: World Championship Wrestling at Albert Park (Be there! - Jack L.)

Pendles 9, Henry 6, FF24, SBG 4.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 13/11)

Uni 34 d. Werribee 26

Well we continued our resurgence here with another crushing win over hapless opponents Werribee. Leaping to an early lead we were never in danger from the moment the coach abandoned ship after 10 minutes. Bernie continued with her scintillating form of late, racking up baskets almost as quickly as she gets rid of tinnies in Pete's Bar after the game. Jean hit a big outside shot, must have been 35 feet if it was a mile, and apparently everybody played O.K. There's even a rumour going around that we played man to man in the second half, but I don't believe it.

Bernie 10, Spike 6, Anne, Tracy, Jean, Carmel 4, Gill 2.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 13/11)

Port Colts 44 d. Uni 42

Our first loss for the season. Not much needs to be said about this game. With the loss of Bowlesy and Trevor Smith to the firsts and Henry to Sydney we gained Mal, Haggis and M.I.P. John McKelvie. Right from the start we played badly to the point where our defence was ragged and our offence non-existent. On the other hand, Port Colts gained confidence although individually their skill level was well below ours. Regrouping and perhaps a rethinking to approach by older experienced players is necessary if the team is to remain competitive and continue its good form. Best players : John McKelvie gave 100% from start to finish, Simon for some nice baskets towards the end of the game until Harry sent him off. Worst players : everyone else, including the coach who told Mark Fisher he was too slow in subbing into the game.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 14/11)

Uni 52 d. Swinburne 35

Looking for a good start to the season, coach Mounas threatened us with all sorts of nasty things if we didn't give those turkey's from Swinburne a bath. So we did! Dragan, Simon and Andrew shot well from outside in the first half while the Doctor practised his guardsmanship in John's absence. Leading 29-20 at the break, the game was far from over, but some persistence with the set offences paid off in the second half, with easy baskets being set up both inside and out. Just the sort of team work which will enable us to beat any team in A grade this season.

FF24 13, Dragan 11, SBG 10, Golden 7, Dr. P. 5, Dr. T. 4, Abba 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 17/11)

Jetz 85 d. Uni 54

Question: What goes 20, 44, 20, 13, 8, 17, 25, 31? Answer: Our losing margins in our 8 games against Jetz over the past 18 months. That represents an average loss of 22.25 points per game. Whilst this consistency over a period of two years is remarkable, it has further far reaching implications. Firstly, a forward stepwise regression of game number on losing margin, taking the four games this year as the base games yields the following predictive equation : $MARGIN = 7.7 \times GAMENUMBER + 1$. This equation is statistically significant, with variable GAMENUMBER explaining 99.61% of the variation in losing margin. What this model predicts then is that in about two years time we can expect to lose by 101.1 points. I can't wait.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 20/11)

Ballarat N d. Uni N-12

I mean, what more can a coach do? I left Bridget in charge of the team with a one point lead, come back to the bar an hour later and find that we lost by 12. Major contributing factors to the loss included skill level, fitness level, player attendance reliability factor (a.k.a. the Cantwell ratio), coach attendance duration variable (a.k.a. who needs one anyway) and the age of the opposition (a.k.a. it's 7:30, shouldn't they be home in bed?). Other sensations included 10 points to C.C. who had a hot streak in the second half and a black is beautiful eye possessed by Bernie after the game. It's a good thing the bar is open after the game or we'd probably all retire.

Carmel 10.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 20/11)

Uni 45 d. C.Y.M.S. 32

This report should prove interesting as I can barely remember the details. With 9 players we tackled a pretty ordinary side and everyone played well for the first half. Henry looked elusive at both ends of the court and the three inside players Mal, Pete McGregor and Pendles combined well, Pete scoring from well outside on a couple of occasions. In typical Uni fashion leading at the change 30-8 the rot set in and a lethargic display resulted in all the good work of the first half being lost. Henry tried hard, but the rest played badly in defence resulting in a weak side looking as if it could play. John McKelvie and Tiny Lewis then came out and introduced some speed and agility and then Simon decided to hit several baskets late in the game to suggest a reasonable effort. Best players : Henry, Pete, Mal, Simon, (Tony and John second half).

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 24/11)

Uni 68 d. Abbotsford Cobras 63

This was Rick's first game as coach of this team of champignons following the resignation of our glorious leader Swami Bhagwan-Greaves, and we were ready to ditch the capitalist Rolls-Royce style of basketball for the Kiwi 250c.c. style. But where's Rick? Not here. Oh well, you're in charge Swami. After leading 10-1 we had proved our point and slumped to 17-17. Guru Rick arrived 3 minutes before half time ("Sorry lads, I was at the beach") and we snuck away to a 33-26 lead. The second half was not all that exciting, as we led by a couple of points most of the way. Abbotsford played a physical form of game but we managed to survive reasonably. Les played another blinder of a game, there's no way we would have won without him as he blocked an enormous number of shots in defence the made baskets himself in offence. He just keeps getting better. J.C. sank 5 three pointers and Rick played a good second half and we eventually won by 5 points. Attempted violence by low intellect opposition life form at the end of the game was a dismal failure. Other highlight was Harry being subbed out as the ref half way through the second half.

J.C. 17, Rick, Les 13, Chris 10, Simon 9, Paul 6.

V.W.B.C. DIV 2 (Wed. 27/11)

Uni 49 d. Coburg 43

The first 15 minutes of this game were probably as good as any we've played all season. Our defence was solid and our offence was on fire with Carmel leading the way yet again. She bagged 10 points for the half and was assisted by Bernie and Spike with 6 each and Jean who was playing an excellent half until foul troubles sidelined her. The last 5 minutes of the half we slacked a bit in defence but still maintained a healthy 30-15 lead at the change. In the second half we began to show a little lack of condition as the lead was gradually whittled down to 10 or so as our offence slowed a bit. In fact they rained in baskets for the last 5 minutes and things got a little tight until Spike hit a couple, Bernie hit one from long range and Jean finished them off with another one inside. We won by 6 but it was a disappointing finish to an otherwise good game. From winning the first half 30-15 we lost the second 19-28, a 24 point turnaround. Not the best, but there were some good signs.

Carmel, Spike 14, Bernie 10, Jean 7, Tracy, Anne 2.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 28/11)

Real Men 39 d. Ideal Standard (sic) 28

Well, what can you say? With all the guards missing and Trevor and Mick filling in the Real Men started slowly. No score was registered by either side in the first four minutes, 'til Abba, the biggest little man in the comp went up for the outside jump shot : "swish" and we never looked back. Defence was tight and we dominated the boards but poor passing and shooting (what would you expect from a team of forwards and centres ~ anonymous guard) saw us only 16-14 up at the break. We started the second half more confidently and some good fast breaking from Dragan gave us a lead, despite attempts to run the 1-2-2 (or was that 2-1-2?) that could only be described as laughable. With 3 minutes to go and 5 points up, a classic Uni finish looked a frightening possibility, but we kept at them with fast breaks and a left hand underarm frap doodle finally put the score out of their reach.

Dragan, Tony 14, Bowlesy 7.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 4/12)

Werribee 44 d. Uni 36

You've just got to admire Werribee. Week after week they get beaten, then along comes Melb Uni, sitting comfortably in the four with only one loss, and Uni gets beaten, no thrashed. Right from the start we played badly. (Should you warm up with a basketball? The seconds don't.) Henry and Tiny Lewis were out injured, John McKelvie was in Sydney and Pete McGregor was in Melbourne (where should he have been? - Ed.) Haggis played with a virus and tried hard. Mal showed skill and real desperation both ends of the court. Put simply we lost our teamwork and armless chickens would have been more effective against their man to man defence. (Just one question - how many arms do chickens normally have? - Ed.) Best players : Mal and Haggis (Simon 12, Mal, Haggis 8)

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 11/12)

Ajax 44 d. Uni 37

We badly lost this one and dived out of the four. It was our 3rd straight loss and no doubt team morale and team players had gone missing. Perhaps not surprising as the team changes weekly and the continued loss of Henry and Tony Lewis with injuries hasn't been compensated. We started well with John McKelvie, Pete McGregor, Haggis, Mal and Simon stretching our lead to 14-4 after 7 minutes. This in part was due to our effective man to man defence, with players actually running back in defence. At the 8 minute mark we decided to "coast" and our defence fell apart. Significantly, their centre took over on the boards and we were in trouble. The second half illustrated what happens when team confidence falls away. John showed his M.I.P. ability particularly as a team player. Everyone else tried hard every so often but individual solo efforts are not enough. There's no doubt Mark Fisher should be given more court time. (Don't tell me, do it! - Ed.) Best: John, Fish and Mal.

SWAN HILL : Just a quick word about Swan Hill. The women's team did well winning two of their three games, despite the fact they were all played on the first day of the tournament - amazing scheduling. The men's teams performed consistently all weekend, failing to win any game in which they were involved. Sebastian turned in the performance of the weekend, motorcycling up on Saturday, demolishing his ankle 10 minutes into his first game, then talking Rick into riding his bike home for him, then learning that Rick had a blowout on the way home doing 100 k.m.h. 'til he hit the ground. Rick was not badly hurt but the bike went the rest of the way home in the back of the Volvo. Spaz and Russell (Benny Oysten) then dazzled us with their prowess at cans/bottles, so much so we believe they may have transferred to Melbourne from LaTrobe at some stage. You don't reverse on 8 O.K.? Pendles had some trouble unlocking the door to the camper van after the golf club disco, but apparently he and Ron eventually found the right end of the camper and slept well together. Bowlesy's sun stroke? A game of Roman bunnies? Warrnambool may be bigger...