

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB  
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, what's happening in the world of basketball eh? How the flip would Dribbling Balls know! It probably doesn't, and to prove this, read some of these match reports...

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Sun. 6/4)

Uni 51 d. Sunbury 44

With a 0-2 game record we faced Sunbury on a warm Sunday afternoon on their home court, with a sizeable local crowd. Again we had six players, but this time we ran for 40 minutes and really played well as a team, particularly in the second half. At half time we trailed, mainly through the slight edge their forwards had over us. This trend did not continue as Pendles and Mal really started jumping and they combined extremely well in offence cutting to the basket. In the end we were really taking control with Fish and Pendles running the breaks and John McKelvie and Henry taking control in the guard positions. A great win based on team play and a great attitude (that'll never catch on - Ed.) Subsequent beers were well received in a jovial atmosphere. Special thanks to Judy and Sally (a friend of Mal's). Best players : Everyone.

Pendles 20, Henry 12, Mal, Fish 8.

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

Uni 43 d. Bayside 23

This was our first game with new coach Teddy in charge and we were hoping for a good start to the new season. We got it. The opposition had some pretty swift players and a couple of good shooters, but we switched defence and held them out pretty easily. Our tall players worked well under the boards and with good support from the guards didn't allow the opposition to make up any lost ground. Still, we shouldn't take this team too lightly next time round as they only had four players, and this was just a grading game.

Leanne 11, Lissa, Pauline 10, Linny 6, Woody 4, Rose 2.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 9/4)

Uni 39 d. Kilsyth 25

Following last Sunday's great win we tackled Kilsyth expecting a hard fought game. The first half was extremely scrappy with both sides unable to run their offences effectively. From our viewpoint, we did not combine well and had difficulty moving the ball up the court against a full court press. The second half was a different story. Pendles, Slammer and Tree got on top in the rebounding department and Simon and Henry provided outside scoring power. Surprisingly we kept running for forty minutes and our young opposition became frustrated against the great Uni combination. Our second win in a row and it's now a 2-2 record. Best players : Simon, Pendles, Henry, John and Slammer.

Simon 13, Pendles 10, Henry 8.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 27/4)

Segarwankers 49 d. Uni 47

The start to a new season could not have been much better than the first 30 or so minutes. Our offence was running well with Les and Simon scoring well all over the place and Burkie and Chris scoring easy baskets on the end of some great J.C. long court passes. Defensively we were doing well on the boards and were quite content to let their big blokes shoot from 30+ feet. After half time we came out on the court

and proceeded to fast break ourselves into a 17 point lead. But all was not lost for the opposition. They switched to a man to man and we pulled out the MUBC manual of how to lose basketball games (a very popular work, now in its twelfth edition - Ed.). Turning to Section 40, Paragraph C - How to lose against a man to man - we followed the instructions to the letter. Don't run the offence, don't play defence and let them shoot more points than you do. Yuk!! Special mention to Les though, he played well again.

Les 14, Simon 12, Chris, Burkie 7, J.C. 5, Mungus 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 4/5)

Uni 72 d. Princes Hill 68

After an inauspicious start to the season the week before, fortune changed for the luckless, fearless fighters of the Sunday Men's A team. With seven of the Ballarat Tournament Premiership players (i.e. everyone except Uncle Julio), and half the Mount Gambier team (i.e. Bowlesy and Mungus) which had a clean sweep into the finals (i.e. lost all four of their games - Ed.) the team looked ready for a win. The start was unaltered from last week with Dave Godding failing to show up after having the time printed on his forehead. But then a sudden metamorphosis occurred, and there was a big change as well, FF24 was fouled and sent to the line. "Take it from the centre line" the crowd called, but no, it was Bowlesy to the line. "Swoosh! Swoosh!" the net cried out in pain, as the big man planted two right through the high-diddle-diddle. Simon immediately called a time out so we could all help Geoff look for the contact lens he must have lost, but he assured us that all those suicides were finally paying off. Two minutes later the opposition foolishly sent our fool-shot specialist to the line again. Swoosh! Swoosh! And he was unconscious! The umpires had to stop the game to replace the net. Wow, we were so excited we let the opposition catch up 10 points and sneak ahead by a couple. The rest of the game was just your average sort of contest, with the lead changing hands about 19 times as Les Walker traded baskets with the opposition team. The ghost who walks, man who has no need to drive, must have thought that there was wet paint in the keyhole (either that or someone in the opposition was using Mal Short union carbide defensive tactics), because he hit about 24 of his 27 from a foot inside the 3 point line. Other than that, Les played great D, and J.C. threw some good assists, a couple of which I decided to drop to make him look human. The game got down to the last minute, Julio Morrey made a few foul shots, Brownie got a one and one, made the first, then intentionally missed the second (that's his story - Ed.) so that Les could rebound it and go swoosh to put us up by one. We all told him off for shooting in the key and said leave it to the guards. In the last 4 seconds SBG proved the point to Les by making a three point play, and the fearless fighters won by 4, in a good all round team performance... and Bill Curtis was at the game - but Dave G. wasn't (I didn't even know he was in the team - Ed.)

Les 27!!!! Simon 12, Mungus 9, Paul 8, Haggis 6, FF24, J.C. 4, Chris 2.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 12/5)

Uni 40 d. Melbourne Croatia 38

Wacker "Calvin Bruton" Bray pops in a jumper as the siren sounds and we win by two. Not a bad effort this : a half time scoreline of 11-18 turned into a victory. We play a man to man D, which is at best innocuous in the first half and tightens noticeably in the second as most people find their man. First gamer Scott Webber, and relative newcomer Edwin Chen, put in good second halves managing 8 and 7 points respectively. Mark "Jerker" Jenkin makes a welcome return and Uncle

Phil returns (like last night's Chinese meal - Ed.) inside the key (in the absence of Mick Matejin) to play his best game for some time. Terry "Slammer" (Mudd - Ed.) Mason has a relatively quiet night, but is a veritable giant on the boards with three stuffs inside 5 minutes (keep your eye on him, Jerker!). Greg Scholes manages a tight second half to continue his improvement. Well, why did we win? Must have been the two or three fast breaks in the second half when Wacker pumped the ball up the court and Phil, Edwin or Scott scored in two on one situations. In fact Calvin Bray has started off the winter season with 3 magnificent games (so where are the reports for the other two games, or should I assume losses? - Ed.). Where does all this new found confidence arise from, my son? Must be those recent sessions on the psychiatrist's couch!!! Ah it's nice to be back writing contributions for Dribbling Balls, leaving appropriate primers for smart-arse editors to insert smart-arse comments! (Oh yeah, so who was that aimed at fossil? - Ed.) Such bliss! (They say ignorance is bliss, so I reckon Phil must be one of the happiest blokes in the world - Ed.) Anyway correspondents - raise the literary standards of this epistle high, expand your vocabulary and consult your thesaurus (Phil must do a lot of research into drugs - Ed.)

Scott 10, Edwin, Uncle 7, Wacker, Jerker 6, Slammer, Greg 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 18/5)

Oakleigh 107 d. Uni 79

As you can see from the scoreline, defence took a holiday during this game. Remember when Ivars asked "Whatever happened to run and gun?" - well we found out, it turned black and joined Oakleigh. Their two Div 1 blacks contributed 48 of their points, while our two Div 1 blacks, well, they probably haven't even been born yet, and therein lay the difference. The first half looked okay when the score stood at 8-8, but from then on we never looked like conceding less than a hundred points. Despite all this we were dead unlucky, I mean, fancy scoring 79 points and losing. The first half saw us do most things poorly, especially shoot, which was our favourite way of turning the ball over to give them another shot. From 33-55 down at half time we threw a 46 point second half, which was fairly respectable. In fact, if we had shot well in this game we would have scored about 120 points I reckon. J.C. was our most reliable path to the basket despite shooting a woeful percentage, Haggis and Chris lifted their games in the second half to score well, as did Bowlesy whose second half effort on the boards against some tough opposition was excellent. Looks like we might be struggling to finish third this season as the standard of the competition is really picking up quite dramatically.

J.C. 20, Chris 12, Simon 11, Les, Mungus 10, FF24, Haggis 8.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 19/5)

Uni 45 d. Prahran 38

Another good effort! We played man to man D and this upset the opposition from the outset. Overall a lack lustre game, but we notched up another much needed win. Not too many highlights in the first half, except Uncle Phil's missed layup from the opening tap and Slammer Mason's 3-4 missed rebounds right under the bucket (well he did have a couple of dwarves biting him on the kneecaps!) Once again the youngsters (Scott, Edwin and Greg) put in promising efforts. A few bouts of concentration walkabout. (What sort of sentence was that? Ever heard of subjunctive clauses? - Ed.) Coach Cooper also needs to work on correct defensive position for man to man defence. Wacker "Calvin Bruton" Bray's offence was obvious by its absence, but then he has played 3 consecutive superb games.

Mick 10, Slammer, Scott 8 Jerker 6 Uncle 5 Greg, Edwin 4 Wacker 0.

Dribbling Balls is now proud to present the first in what may turn out to be an irregular series of articles aimed primarily at the coaches within the club, by the man most involved with coaching around the club. There are some valuable tips for players in there as well. Henry Cooper now gives us...

COACHES' CORNER : How many coaches out there are able to tell me what the major purpose of coaching should be? Is it to make teams win? Ralph Miller stated "The purpose of coaching basketball is to teach the FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS of basketball and related knowledge for competitive purposes." This writer would observe that too often we stray from the "fundamental skills" and emphasize the "related knowledge", but whatever the philosophy you as a coach have, you should try to determine a purpose or set of objectives to guide your coaching efforts, and regularly check that what you are practising as a coach is consistent with the purpose of coaching. The articles in this series are directed towards M.U.B.C. members with an interest in coaching, these hopefully, being the teachers (coaches) and learners (players), and will review the fundamental skills of basketball.

Fundamental number one is concerned with a player getting his/her body to the correct place on the court, adopting the correct stance and maintaining the correct level of readiness. For the coach, this means you should be able to advise the players on three aspects :

- (1) place - where they should be
- (2) stance - foot position, weight distribution, head position, legs, arms and trunk position
- (3) readiness - maintain balance, muscles ready

Whilst there are a huge number of combinations and many exceptions, the following guide is useful to remember. Essentials of an individual player "ready position" include :

- . feet about shoulder width apart in a staggered (heel-toe) or parallel stance
- . weight on the whole foot, or ball of foot, but not on the heel
- . head is up and over the body
- . trunk leaning slightly forward, and shoulders back
- . arms and legs flexed
- . maintain balance and be ready

On a social note, welcome to those who have joined the fold as active coaches this year, namely Geoff Bowles as coach of the Thursday A Grade team, and Judy Knight who has increased her activity schedule by adding the Saturday morning women's training session to her agenda.

Yours in coaching,

Coops.

PORTLAND : Our very good friends at Portland have sent us a little reminder about their tournament (to which we are sending 5 men's and 2 women's teams) which goes along the lines of : don't wear your playing shoes to the stadium, carry them in because they'll be inspected at the door and don't dunk the ball during warm up or the games or else you'll be disqualified, reported, suspended, hung, drawn, quartered, shot and then they'll really get serious. We have also had to pay \$9 per player in advance, which means nobody pays stadium entry for the weekend. We have not however, become outlandishly benevolent in our old age and will be demanding the \$9 from each player before the tournament starts.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER : Yes, it's on again. Saturday, June 21 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Large Entertainment Room of the Sports Union, then progressing. The cost is \$12 for workers, \$6 for students and half price if you bring a course. Wine is provided with the three course meal and beer will be available. See Pauline Murphy or Trevor Smith for more details. Always with a finger on the pulse, Dribbling Balls has a scoop as to what's on the menu. We can't tell you exactly, but here's a hint...

A horse is a horse, of course, of course,  
And no one would dare eat a horse of course,  
That is of course unless the horse is the roasted Mister Ed.

Go right to the sauce and douse the horse,  
It'll give you the taste that you endorse,  
You'll really enjoy the second course, fillet of Mister Ed.

People eat yakkety-yak or steak, and waste 12 bucks of their pay,  
But Mister Ed will never speak, 'cause now he's the roast of the day.

A horse is a horse, of course, of course,  
And no one would dare eat a horse of course,  
That is of course unless the horse is the well-done Mister Ed.

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MOE : What's important about Moe, apart from being the middle man of Larry, Moe and Curly Joe? Well not much to tell you the truth. There is however, a tournament there on July 12 and 13 this year. We will probably be entering a couple of teams there, so if you are interested in going talk to Henry, David Liddle, Linny Ellis, Judy or anyone else who looks like they hold some position of authority and tell them you want to go. We need to know by June 1.

INTERVARSITY : Doesn't exist by that name any more, it is now known as the Australian University Basketball Championships. Big fat hairy deal. Despite this, we are still sending a men's and a women's team to this event in Brisbane from August 25-29. As such we need two coaches and two managers for the teams. Applications for these positions are hereby called for. Written applications may be handed to J.C. or anyone else you like. Spoken applications may be spoken to J.C. if you can't write. Neatest most correctest entry wins. Judges' decision is final unless they change their mind, and let's face it, some of 'em change their minds more often than they change their socks.

DRIBBLING BALLS : If you would like Dribbling Balls to appear more frequently either seek psychiatric help in a hurry or write some match reports for it, especially if you play in a women's side or a men's team that plays on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. Give the reports to whoever is in charge of your training session or directly to J.C. Anonymity is guaranteed.

DIRECT TO PUBLIC : Well, if you thought Hi, I'm Gary was a rotten name for a band, then you'll love the name of the new version of the band, Direct to Public. No guarantees about the music, but with a name like that I'm sure Dribbling Balls will have a field day. Anyhow, the band makes its debut on Thursday 12 June at (you guessed it) the Stockade. Not only that, but they are the main act and there is a support band (who I can't wait to hear - they must be pretty amazing). It should be big, big, big, and I think I can say big.