

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL 14 NO. 7

8/8/86

The highlights of this edition include some match reports which have been submitted, and letters from people in far flung and obscure corners of the world as the Scottish Highlands and Adelaide...

M.B.A. D GRADE (Mon. 30/6)

Uni 25 d. RWH Stocks 21

Well, what can I say? After some recent bad luck (we kept losing) the boys jumped back with a vengeance against some fairly tough opposition. As RWH Stocks got lower ours got higher. Sarish got the call of the season when he ran right through a guy who had been standing in the same position for 5 minutes waiting for him to arrive and ended up getting a push called against him! Boy was he surprised - so was I, but I wasn't telling, although he was. The game was basically won and lost on the boards where Mark "Fallover" Fernell dominated. but all in all it was a good team effort, sure to be followed up next week as we play the bottom team, and no, we aren't the bottom team, so there.

Mark 12, Michael 6, Bill, dave, Arko 2, Sarish 1.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 3/7)

Uni 29 d. Westpac 28

Westpac, equal first on the ladder versus Uni, outright eighth. Were we confident? Well no, actually we weren't, but that didn't stop us from stepping on the court. This game was full of highlights, notably Coach Crombie getting up from the sideline and telling off one of the refs, just after Scott had told off the other one! Scott was tech fouled but Dave got away with it as the other ref must have lost the pea in her whistle as she didn't blow it once all night. Beside this everything went right for us. The press, despite the coach's disbelief, gave us some easy baskets and our own offence worked quite well (i.e. we bombed away and they nearly all went in for a change). Mick Lewis dominated on a wing for about 3 minutes when he hit all shots, but died out after trying to shoot three pointers. Serves him right, that's my job! The final minute was close though. Mick and I passed the ball between us as we thought we were up by a point, when in fact we were losing by a point. I did wonder what all the hair pulling was about on the sidelines. Anyway, with 10 seconds to play Dave got the ball, Lord knows why, and was about to pass it off when they said "Let him have it" and peeled back in defence, so he let 'em have it. Swish, and that was the end of the ball game. Finals here we come....?

Scott 8, Dave, Mick 6, Brett 3, Ben, Kari, Steve 2.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 3/7)

ANZ ?? d. Uni ?

A spectator's view... Can't remember the game all that well after a sensational win (see above - Ed.) but just thought I'd drop in a quick note about a strange phenomenon. With 15 seconds left in the first half the ref holds up play with Uni in possession to tie his shoelace up and that was the end of the half. Boy were we surprised, not to mention the opposition, although it probably saved us from letting them get some more quick baskets (cynical, aren't I?). Anyway, the second half was better when Bowlesy called a man to man and Bill MacNeill went wild. Otherwise a lacklustre game on our behalf, although Bowlesy did get sent off - who said big men lacked aggression? No one to Bowlesy's face probably, except maybe Jean... (Knock knock... who's there? Jean. Jean who? Ah, that's basketball - Ed.)

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 6/7)

Uni 50 d. Bisleri Lions 49

8:48 on Sunday night and things were looking bad. Not only did we have a severe deficit in the player under 6'6" category, but Harry "the Bastard" Fowler was about to inflict another dose of what can hardly be described as reffing upon us. All was not lost as the stragglers rolled up and Riq was elected substitute coach in a bloodless coup. I had complete confidence in Riq's game plan, as soon as he said Ian was to play point, after all, Bisleri haven't got any guards to speak of and just because we haven't beaten them since Henry was a first year, doesn't mean tonight couldn't be the night. We always start well against Bisleri (until they score) and tonight was no exception. We raced to a several point lead courtesy of some handy fast breaks from Chris and Burkie and a lot of tight defence. Thanks partly to an uncharacteristic non-interventionist reffing policy from Harry, we made it to the break with a slender 27-23 lead. So far so good, but rather than letting them get away at the start of the second half as usual, we kept them fairly quiet offensively and managed to stay just in front. With 5 to go it was looking dangerous, but a couple of casual baskets from Riq and Haggis kept us in the game and then the ice-man Mr. Walker plugged 2 of his patented top-of-the-key-turn-around-soft-touch jumpers to make the result almost certain. I say "almost certain" because we still had a 10 seconds to play with only 1 point in hand. We had possession, and Burkie put a sleeper hold on the ball with 6 to go when one of the Lions got him in a bear hug. the noise from all this woke up Harry who called a jump ball of all things, and muttered something about the game being basketball! (Not that you'd know it from his reffing) Lucky J.C. wasn't there because it was a definite triple tech foul with 8 free shots and possession possibility. Anyway, Burkie won the jump, Les swallowed the ball and we did it by won point.

Les 12, Burkie 9, Chris, Riq 8, Haggis 6, Ian 5, FF24 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 13/7)

Oakleigh 102 d. Uni 92

Defence n. Defending, protection, resistance to attack; defendant's case in law suit; (games) (players concerned in) preventing opponents from scoring; (pl.) fortifications, military &c. resources of a country. So says my pocket Oxford dictionary. Unfortunately, nobody on either side here had a copy of my pocket Oxford dictionary, so we couldn't work out what defence was, consequently, none was partaken of, with the possible exception of Burkie, who has probably had a better education than most of us and learnt the word at a Catholic school somewhere. Just ahead at half time we did our usual tricks and choked when we needed baskets in the second half and lost. Black a. dark skinned; dusky, gloomy; wicked, monstrous; dismal, threatening, sullen; scorer of humungus number of points for opposition. White a. what we've got; with the possible exception of Riq (and why have we started spelling his name with a "q"?).

And now for the theorists of your out there, Henry has produced another informative dissertation, aimed primarily at coaches, but with more than a little application to players as well...

COACHES' CORNER : The second article in an irregular series.

We will start this article with a little poser for the players. Think back to the last basket you can remember scoring. this may take a little effort, but the image is recorded by some little neuron.

Question : Who passed the ball to you?

Answer :

For the coach, do you have a tough game coming up that you want to win? One of the things you can do to help your chances is to watch the other team (either prior to or during the game) and work out how to beat them. The following is a checklist of some of the aspects you should consider :

The Players :

- . Who are the key playmaking guards?
- . Who is their best post player?
- . Who is their best outside shooter?
- . Who is the weakest offensive player in their first five?
- . For each of the key players
 - How do they score their points (set offence, rebounds, fast breaks etc.)?
 - What are their favourite offensive moves?
 - Are they left or right handed?
 - Are they scorers or passers?
 - Do they drive or stay outside?
 - Do they rebound?
 - What are their defensive weaknesses?
 - Who is the best person to play defence on each opposition player?

The Team :

- . What is the continuity pattern of the team's man to man offence?
- . What is their zone offence pattern?
- . How do they run a fast break?
- . What are they doing to beat our defensive press?
- . What defences do they play?
- . When do they switch defences?

Winning :

- . What are the key elements to beating this team?

It is your job as coach of the team to analyse the opposition, determine who will match up in defence, and tell your players of the key offensive and defensive elements to beating the opposition. Guiding your team to a win by strategically "out thinking" the opposition is a very satisfying achievement.

Intervarsity 1986 : The teams to compete in this year's Australian Universities Championships in Brisbane have been selected. Competition for places in both teams was intense, but the coaches (Mal Short and Robert Sweeten) have made the following selections :

MEN : Mark Carroll, Hugh Sandie, Andrew Parkinson, John Campbell, Chris Morrey, John Swartz, Peter McGregor, Trevor Smith, Mark Sheehan, Trevor Andrew, Mark Fisher and Matt Miller. Manager is Geoff Bowles and assistant manager is David Liddle.

WOMEN : Sally Bickerton, Lissa Evans, Michelle Gadd, Dom Horne, Jackie Lee, Tania Luders, Samantha McLeod, Sue-Ellen Turner, Tracy Nero, Kylie O'Brien, Andrea Parnell and Janet Nicolson. Manager is Julie Lane.

And now, a word from our continental Europe correspondent, specially dispatched two months ago to cover the world basketball championships. We haven't had a report up until now, but perhaps this one will explain why...

Greetings M.U.B.C.,

I'm sure this letter would have contained another "world first" for Dribbling Balls, a match report from Bonn, if only there was a match for me to report on. So instead I will give you a report on the pubs and their beers in the British Isles where I spent 2 months prior to arriving in Bonn.

England : The only time you want a beer in England you can't get one because the pubs are shut. Very strange trading hours which prevent one having a good ol' session. This is probably just as well, as although the beer is served in quite reasonable volumes (i.e. pints) the beer itself leaves a lot to be desired. In general the beer is not very strong (I now know the full meaning of the phrase "As weak as piss!"), and is served up to you at a beautiful, thirst quenching, luke warm temperature (???? Uhhh). My suggestion for the traveller in England is to drink lager (preferably one of the imported ones e.g. Heiniken) and to bring your own bucket of ice. For the more adventurous drinker, the bitter, which tastes like watered down Golden Syrup!! (Yuk). One must be wary not to be lured into establishments which advertise "Cold Beer" as this is a misnomer and should really read "Old Beer".

Scotland : Whilst trading hours are much more sensible in Scotland i.e. 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. the quality of the beer is still in the amateur league. But they do have quite a good substitute which FF24 would be pleased to know - WHISKY. Whether it be a traditional, foreign or home brew, it gives the throat a nice tickle and gets the mind off its longing for a nice, long, cold one... Fosters (Ahhh). I thoroughly recommend a weekend in the Scottish Highlands drinking copious amounts of whisky and savouring the unique flavour of haggis (not you Haggis, but the food which is named after you!?!). One could do a lot worse, and the scenery is also worth a mention.

Ireland : The home of Guinness. A well poured Guinness takes about 5-10 minutes to be served, but the wait is worth it. A truly excellent ale which will start a night out on the right foot. A few pints of Guinness early in the evening puts a sharp edge on one's appetite. Thus, the next step is a hearty Irish stew with mountains of spuds, and one may devour this with a few beers, if careful. At the end of the meal I suggest a cleansing of the palate with a few stiff whiskies. One should then seek out the nearest pub which has the illegal practise of "after-hours drinking" and proceed to get oneself locked in (quite easy). Those with staying power can then drink whatever they wish, for as long as they wish, any night of the week, with Sunday being the big one, and starts as soon as the locals arrive from church. Ireland would be a good venue for the social aspect of any I.V. (now there's a good thought for the next time we host - Ed.)

Your humble correspondent is now residing in Bonn and is eager to hear from anyone with a moment to spare to write a letter. The temperature is around the 30 degree C mark every day and the food, beer (cold) and wine excellent. But I still get the urge for, that feeling coming on, a hard earned thirst, a bitter that sure tastes good, a flavour that makes life worth living... a long, cold Vic. Ahhhh..

Yours in high spirits, Brian (BP, Nails, Quiet Achiever) Connors.

So there you have it. We now know why we have had no earlier reports, he's been too pissed to find the hole in the letter box. Anyway, if you want to write to Brian, his address is :

C/- Dr. Ulla Eckerskorn
Herzogsfreuden Weg 20
Rottgen.
5300 Bonn 1
West Germany

(And whatever you do, don't mention the war - I did once but I think I got away with it).

While we're on the subject of expatriate players, a couple months ago I lent Andrew Mounas my oldest joke book and sent him off to Adelaide. Here's his first Dribbling Balls report, apparently written at 2 a.m. with a few glasses of wine under the belt...

Hello basketballers,

This migrating Greek thought it was time to drop you lot a line. Adelaide's a top place with a lot to offer (plenty of pubs). Surprisingly the people are very much like those in Melbourne, but it's taken me a while to understand their language. They also speak so much slower here. I don't mind that, as inbetween words it gives me time to go to the bar and get another drink.

Before I came here I was told Adelaide was a little backward. They told me it had only one government television station which shut down at 8:30 p.m. That certainly was not true - they have two government stations.

I've started playing basketball with Adelaide University. When I first went to training, I mentioned Mal Short's name, as he once played with Adelaide Uni. It seems his name is taboo here and they weren't going to let me join. I told them I had only heard of Malcolm and had never actually met him. It's good to see that some rituals are practised over the border too. Particularly that of going to the pub after training (the British Hotel) and after every game.

The other week I went to see the men's firsts play in a Division 2 semi final. I had a sense of deja-vu as they trailed by 17 points at half time and were playing badly. Their supporters although vocal didn't appear to be over worried. Justly so, as they ended up winning by 10 points. Apparently the last time they played, they won after being 19 points down in the second half! In the following week they lost the grand final to Murray Bridge thanks to Al Green and Dwayne Nelson.

Adelaide Uni has more geriatrics than Melbourne Uni! Spider is still around and is even enrolled to play Intersvarsity in Brisbane (of course he hasn't attended a lecture).

Anyway, so long for now. Best regards to you all (see you at Adelaide Intersvarsity?).

Andrew Mounas.

What is it with all these ex-MUBC guys? Why is it that all they ever write about is pubs and drinking? Oh well, it could be worse. Still, if you want to write to Andrew, his address is 3/36 William St Clarence Park S.A. 5034. In fact, that's his address even if you don't want to write to him.

The next Dribbling Balls will probably be the Intersvarsity report, which should be something to keep you amused. It should be, but going on oast form, who knows...