

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Sorry about the delay in producing this edition of Dribbling Balls, I suffered a temporary loss of enthusiasm, not to mention match reports, which often happens around finals time...

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 27/7)

Uni 74 d. Jetz 64

In our last very exciting episode, you will remember that we were going through that phase all children go through, where they tend to beat the top sides and lose to the mince (little butcher's joke there, top side, mince - oh never mind). Well, we did it again. Having not beaten Jetz since Les was John Swartz's age we beat Jetz. Easily. Oh, all right, so the easily bit was a lie, but we did win. We led all the way, except for 10 minutes into the second half when we let them hit the front.

Sufficient panic on our part restored the situation though and with Les in super form only days after the birth of his daughter Laurie Jean there was no stopping us. Stewards have ordered an inquiry into the form of this team.

Les 20, Mungus 11, Burkie, J.C. 10, Chris, Ian 8.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 3/8)

Uni 76 d. Footscray 67

I don't remember much about this game, but we won and I've got the scores so there had better be a report on it. We won because we outscored them, although they didn't try very hard to stop the trend. Outstanding game from Chris Morrey, otherwise an even team performance. This is a generic match report.

Chris 17, J.C. 15, Mungus, Rick 12, Paul 10, Les 8, FF24 2.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 7/8)

Uni 48 d. Them 34

Finally the Real Men bounce back with a convincing win over a side that looked good early. A very uncharacteristic slow start saw us 6 points in arrears at half time and up against it (for a change). Coach FF24 went into overdrive during the break and the old re-sale-able Billy Mc fired 13 points for the half. Dr. T also responded to the call cleaning up 12 points worth of drives and fast breaks (at a bargain price too). The pressure was too great as the old Real Men magic returned. Sensational defence provided by the forces from the great proving grounds of C grade, Nick and Andrew, kept the opposition to a meagre 14 points for the half. the big men inside must have done something right, FF24 and Abba picked up the boards, sank a few baskets, "Not your shot Geoff" and generally made the little blokes' assists look even better (a stewards' inquiry is now underway - Ed.)

Bill, Dr. T 14, Abba 11, FF24 8, Andrew 1 (Terry M most consistent scorer).

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 10/8)

Uni 86 d. Princes Hill 69

What an awesome performance this was by the team. Good hustle and shooting from Burkie, Mungus and Chris was outshone by a couple of fairly average performances by Rick and Ian. Rick shot 16 points in the first half as we led 38-31 at the change. Ian shot 16 points in the second half as we cruised away to a comfortable victory. Ian was really unconscious as he he played the game above the ring and it was beautiful to just sit back and watch it.

Rick 28, Ian 24, Burkie 12, Chris 10, Mungus 8.

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 14/8)

Uni 49 d. ANZ (2) 43

Having won two games in a row, the real men were fired up and expecting big things against last year's grand finalists. With gun guard John McKelvie out injured and considering our policy of promoting up and coming youngsters, it was decided to give J.C. a chance to break into the big time. Now I've always said the three point rule spoils the game as a spectacle, but it does have it's moments. After 2 minutes with the score at 9-0 thanks to three of J.C.'s bombs, I knew we were in for a huge game. The trouble with three pointers is, they encourage otherwise sensible players to abandon common sense and toss up shots from anywhere. The result of this was that Bill put 2 in and the Doctor made 3 in the second half giving us our first win for quite a while (unlike what is implied by the first sentence of this report - Ed.)

Bill, J.C. 14, Dr. T 11, FF24 6, Dave 4.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 31/8)

Oakleigh 96 d. Uni 89

We seem to be having high scoring duels with Oakleigh these days, and this was no exception. With I.V.-lag in full swing we only had 6 players, and we couldn't make the finals, and it was the last game of the season, so who gave a rat's arse? Well they did, and we did a bit, especially Rick, Ian and Les who scored most of our points, although Chris did a good job of running for someone who just done a whole week of it just before. This loss meant we finished fifth, disappointing, but look at the bright side, we won't lose any finals this season.

V.B.A. DIV. 4 (Wed. 1/10)

Uni 51 d. Yarraville 20

"Albert Park Chainsaw Massacre" or "Living Legends". There's only one thing better than losing, and that's winning, and winning seem to come naturally to this modest, unassuming bunch of champions. Today fourth division, tomorrow the world. (They should never let grown boys play with dangerous toys, like pens - Ed.)

FF24 15, Coops, Pendles 14, Tree 6, John 2.

M.B.A. E GRADE (Mon. 20/10)

Uni 69 d. Fler All Stars 28

Well, what can I say? Start off with a win and do your best was what I did say at the start. But I've never had a 41 point winning margin result come from it, might even write a book, then again maybe not. This game was great from the start, mainly because we were 12-0 in the first five minutes, thanks to some great fast breaking from Bill and some fine passes from Nick (Stud to those in the know, or as he's known down here, the three point king) All in all it was a fine team performance though as Steve shot well from outside and the big guys dominated both the offensive and defensive boards. If we can keep this form up for the rest of the year we should make the finals, which will make a nice change (sorry). Oh, I told the guys it might be a bit rough, which I'm sure Saresh appreciated, especially since the fat lip he got looked a little sore. Oh well, the pleasures of playing E grade.

Steve 19, Nick 18, Bill 16, Mick 10, Dave 4, Ray 2.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 23/10)

Uni 61 d. API 30

Now that this team has started playing as a team we have started winning quite comfortably. After a sensational win last week we followed it up quite nicely with another win this week thanks mainly to

fast breaking from Cari, boards from the better Pendlebury, namely Ian, and Steve and some consistent outside shooting especially in the second half from Dave and Brett. All in all a fine win and the three Thursday night teams are yet to lose a game which will probably explain the rash of match report which will now come in (nothing can explain some of these match reports - Ed.) The highlight of playing has to be going to the bar afterwards, and some legends are being created, especially by Michelle, who rumour has it, is anybody's after half an hour of massaging, and I think this is a good spot to finish before I really get into trouble, although I doubt that will stop Stud when his epic comes out (read the next report in this edition, if you're game - Ed.)

Cari 16, Steve 13, Dave 12, Brett 9, Ian 6, Mick 5.

Editorial disclaimer : The following 24 page match report and freelance character assassination is all Nick Wade's fault. I only printed it because I thought he deserved it...

V.B.H.B.A. A GRADE MEN (Thu. 23/10)

Uni 50 d. API "Ratpack" 28

A new look A Grade team took the court on Thursday night. What brought about this change from a lowly, struggling Cleveland Cavaliers equivalent to a respected, unbeatable (well, we have a 100% winning record) combination. Just one brilliant new tactic was all that was needed to effect this amazing transformation. What was this incredible tactic that took our unsuspecting opponents by storm? Simple, 40! yes, a whole 40 minutes of basketball. Not 32 minutes, giving our opponents and 8 minutes head start to build up an unbeatable lead, or 36 minutes with a 4 minute lapse at the end to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory, but 40 minutes running, hustling and even skillful basketball. Who knows, this tactic could bring about a change in all Uni teams, however I don't think it will catch on. We surged to the lead early with FF24 doing a job under the ring and Dragan and Dr. T bagging them from the outside. Our defence was a sight to behold (especially if you watched us last season) while FF24 and Nick were crashing the boards getting outlet passes for fast breaks galore. The half time break saw us with a handy 24-15 lead. In the second half we continued on our merry way, totally blitzing the opposition. Dragan "Get that out of here" Antolos and Dave Crombie blocked, stuffed, faced and generally rejected most attempted shots and we dragged down rebounds relentlessly. Our offence continued to be effective and even when it didn't work, sensational (?) tipins kept the scoreboard ticking over - okay so it was unintentional. I'll still take it.

Rod 14, FF24, Dragan 11, Nick 6, Andrew 4, John, David 2.

The curtain raiser matches to the A grade men were also played with the same endeavour and enthusiasm. The B grade women dominated their game so totally that the opposition shouldn't have even bothered to turn up - oh, they didn't, well, we'll give this game a miss then. The C grade men played like basketballers possessed (with what I don't know) and according to Pendles are bound for the NBA playoffs - maybe not this year Gary. But we did witness an awesome display including Brett Curry 25 foot turn around jump shot - swish! and Steve Randell fade away from the base line - swish! and a beautiful assist from Ian to Dave - clunk, swish! However I would like to recommend to Ian that in future you don't use your face to tap the ball on.

If you though we were fired up on the court, you should have seen us off the court. I refer in particular to a nice quiet young girl from St. Mary's by the name of Michelle who really came into her own (or somebody's) after the game. Michelle really came to play and I don't

think having a walkover was going to stop her. Michelle "massage my shoulders for 30 minutes and I'm anybody's!" - well I'm setting my stop watch. Thirty minutes and counting. Nick "Stud" Wade's hot tip, er sorry, nap bet, maybe that should be best bet for the week is Michelle for a position, sorry I mean place (her place or yours). However, Michelle's reply to that was "I'm not coming to the bar anymore". I think Michelle should get her hormones under control (look who's talking - Ed.) Only 24 minutes to go.

David Crombie came out with an interesting comment "If you're small you have to give more than an apology." (speaking from experience are you Dave?). According to Michelle though it's alright "just as long as he's a small man and not just small." Nineteen minutes, twenty-six seconds and counting!

Mike Johnson enlightened us to the fact that he found fishnet stockings quite uncomfortable. Michelle disagreed with this completely, as she found them very comfortable. Mike did admit that he didn't wear them very often (only occasionally hey Mike?). On the request of David Crombie, Michelle offered to lend Terri her suspender belt, stockings and red laced panties. Not long to go now, only 14 minutes.

Stud's column has a prediction (I think Stud's column is out of control - Ed.) Not one to spread vicious rumours, I won't mention any names, suffice to say two members left us early for a "private party" - that is what you said isn't it Ian, oops, sorry, but don't worry, I didn't mention Janine! Don't forget you heard it here first - unless of course you're displeased then Terri will accept full responsibility. The flavour of the month is M&M's - Michelle and Mick Scales that is. However we had no comment from Mick and Michelle's comment was "My lips are sealed." Need I say more? (No, but I have a feeling you will - Ed.) There's just 6 minutes to before... yes, well anyway, to continue..

What about the Clayton's relationship - David Liddle and Sue-Ellen, who starts these ugly (sorry Sue-Ellen, I was referring to Dave) rumours anyway. Dave was wondering why Sue-Ellen didn't spend the night - maybe you should actually ask her next time Dave. Dave, our elder statesman of the club (???!!! - Ed.) was due to leave his teens on the next day and stated that he thought he was now too old. According to Michelle though "Dave hasn't come of age yet." This prompted Dave to ask Michelle to "Keep my pecker up" - don't worry Dave, I'm sure you can keep the flag flying by yourself. I only have 2 minutes to wait now.

Michelle made a request that we should have a film night to see John Campbell's film. Michelle said she'd see John in the morning as "John comes at 9:01 in breakfast every morning" - any comments Max? (I have it on good authority that J.C. is going to sue the Editor of Dribbling Balls after that comment - Ed.) Michelle then proceeded to educate us with an interesting fact that chooks can be male. She then digressed to state "I won't take the floor as I might not get back up again." Down to one minute now.

I'm writing this article with a large incentive - Michelle promised me I would be dead meat if I did. Dave thought this had something to do with necrophilia, but I quickly informed him that that sounded dead boring and this looked much more interesting. I'll find out in 30 seconds.

Dave Crombie has to put his seat forward so Michelle can fit in

the back, so I think it's time to conclude this article, anyway only 16 seconds to go. This is - just hang on Michelle - Stud Wade signing off. (Please do not adjust your Dribbling Balls, the fault is in Nick Wade's mind - Ed.)

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 26/10)

Uni 68 d. Bisleri 49

It's ages since we beat Bisleri, but we have finally worked out how. Just get half the team not to show up. With the running and defensive hustle of Burkie, the passing and three point bombing of J.C., the defensive and offensive boards of Rick, the strength and shooting of Simon and the soft touch and cool head of Les the five were unbeatable. After leading by 8 at half time we withstood the man to man pressure to clear out to a comfortable and impressive 20 point victory. An even team performance which sees us consolidate top spot on the ladder after 5 rounds. Bring on the finals, only 19 games to go.

Les 18, Rick, Paul 14, J.C. 12 (all 3 pointers), Simon 10.

M.B.A. E GRADE (Mon. 27/10)

Uni 49 d. Suez 11

Another fine win by the boys, but a lacklustre game except for Steve's fine outside shooting and Saresh's breaking. I mean we played terribly and still won by 38 points, how can you criticize that? Still, our harder games are yet to come, so the coach has taken the next two weeks off, for exams he says, but probably just afraid of ruining his three game winning streak (including a bye). The only interesting thing of the night occurred after the game when Dave called the umpire a f---ing idiot and got reported. He must have been right though, because Stud called him the same thing and got reported as well. Ah well, the pleasures of playing E grade continue...

Steve 16, Saresh 11, Dave 8, Nick 7, Mick 5, Ray 2.

SOCIAL DISEASES : Should be avoided at all costs. This has nothing to do with this report but it might attract some attention. On Saturday November 15 we are organizing a cultural outing to the Loaded Dog hotel (on the corner of Holden St. and St. George's Rd Brunswick) and all are welcome. It will take the form of gathering at the Loaded Dog at about 1 p.m. and spending the afternoon listening to jazz and other cultural happenings. It should be mentioned that this outing has nothing to do with the 47 different home brewed beers served at the Loaded Dog.

IF YOU SURVIVE : your exams and the trip to the Loaded Dog, you'll be pleased to know that the club's annual end of year Christmas breakup is being held once again in the Trophy Hall (i.e. upstairs at the Beaufort). It will be on Friday December 12, and will feature the disco man who was so spastic at the Annual Dinner and will cost about five dollars, BYO. It will be a theme night, with the theme to be announced as soon as the committee and the social secretaries stop arguing about it. Should be great fun, so keep that night free.

UPS AND DOWNS : We all know that life is full of these, and the Melbourne University Basketball Club is full of it as well, if not the club then certainly many of its members are full of it. Recently the women's firsts experienced a bit of a down, being relegated from Division 2 after a torrid 5 team qualification series. It's bad luck for the team, but it's not the end of the world. In some ways it may even be a good thing. With the loss of several key players during the season, before the season and now after the season, it is clearly a

time for rebuilding. New coach Robert Sweetten has the job in front of him, but has the nucleus of a tough team to work with. New blood is required to give a bit of spark to the team, but they are already showing that they will be a power in Div 3, with a view of getting back up the ladder as soon as is practicable.

The men's firsts also had a bit of a down, after making the division three finals they were bundled out to finish a disappointing third. No doubt IV-lag had a bit to do with the performance in the finals. The bright news is that we have challenge games for division two in January. New coach Rick Driscoll is building the team gradually to hopefully what will be a peak for the three games against LaTrobe. The games won't be easy but I believe we have a big talent edge, despite the possible loss of Mungus to Melbourne, Chris Morrey to Knox and Mark Carroll to retirement (well, he is 23). Rick has been cleared from Melbourne to us, overseas travellers Simon and Haggis are back to bolster the shooting and the awesome Ian Burns is back after resting those knees. With a month or two to go before the challenge we're not looking too bad.

COMPETITION : Is not a dirty word. In light of this we're going to have one. I mean it's been ages since we had a competition, and even longer since we've had an entry for one, so here's your big chance. The committee in its undoubtedly infinite wisdom has decided to invest in some club stationery (i.e. letter head writing paper). What we want you to do is design it. It is part of our celebration of becoming incorporated, which Mattman tells me is almost upon us. I'm not sure what the prizes will be, but it will be something awesomely fabulous, perhaps a bottle of port autographed by the entire committee, except for Tracey who's forgotten how to sign her name, but apologises. Closing date for entries is December 15, with a decision to be made at the next committee meeting after that. Judges decision is arbitrary, no correspondence is likely and no entries are expected, so if you put one in you stand a very good chance of winning. Give your entries to J.C. or any other committee member.