

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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In the immortal words of Mike Gibson, "What a week!" We have four teams playing in domestic grand finals in the space of five days. This must surely be a record for the club. Not only that, a few people have submitted Dribbling Balls reports as well. Am I in a time warp? Whatever happened to the old club I used to know and love, where we lost close games, especially finals, and no one wrote reports about anything? Maybe I like the new one better...

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 12/3)

Uni 33 d. Sportsworld 24

What can be said about this champion team? Having just won the last four games in a row we entered this one at an all time high. Boy, did it show! In the first five minutes Mick shot two (!) three pointers and Dave shot one and before we knew what had happened we were up 15-0. From then on we just cruised to a comfortable win, instead of playing the catch up game we usually endure. But this was a great team effort from what can, in all modesty, be only described as a great team (I think I'm going to be sick - Ed.) Talk of finals has again emerged however, so going by our past record, this will ensure that we lose the next few games. Oh well, that's life. Oh, it was also nice to play with the air conditioner going, courtesy of no outside wall at Albert Park.

Scott 10, Mick Lewis 8, Mick S 6, Mike J (Pearl - Ed.) 4, Dave 3.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 19/3)

OSCBA ?? d. Uni ?? (Perhaps ??-*@? - Ed.)

Well, I just thought I'd write this match report to show what talk of finals will do to a team. We played a team with a big Division two player and we were already thinking about lamenting our loss over a few quiet ones at the bar afterwards. All talk of finals seemed to have sapped our will to fight and we were well beaten with no one playing at their best. Coach Crombie has threatened to throttle anyone looking at the placings on the board and if finals were mentioned all hell will break loose. I think I got out of that without describing how badly we got done. Stupid idea promising to write match reports no matter what.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 29/3) First Semi Final

Uni 75 d. Scrunters 57

Well, what a game the elimination final was. We looked to have the advantage over the Scrunters (nee Bisleri) right from the start, not only that, but we played like it for a change. First half defence was excellent with Les and Burkie doing important defensive jobs, while at the other end of the court Mongrel was taking care of business with a little help from Ruck. A spurt in the last minute of the first half saw us lead 36-21 at the change, a very dangerous position for a Uni team to hold in an elimination final. The second was amazing in its own right as we managed to stay 8 to 10 points up for most of it. When the pressure came on near the end, not only did we not fold, we extended our lead. Les played a great second half, hitting vital baskets each time things got tight and getting 12 points for the half, while Mongrel continued on his merry way grabbing another 11. Bowlesy showed great strength around the basket and anywhere else he happened to wander, and in the last couple of minutes we cruised away to a comfortable 18 point win. Next week on Disneyland, we go to Adventure Land for the preliminary final, the week after that it's Fantasy Land.

Mungus 21, Rick 18, Les 14, Paul 10, Bowlesy 9.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies' Championship (Sun. 29/3) First Semi Final

Uni d. Monash

Since no one in this team ever writes match reports I refuse to give them any credence by mentioning that they won this elimination final by 17 points after trailing by 1 at half time. I know who the best players were but I'm not telling because they shouldn't always rely on other people gratuitously dropping their names all the time. So there!

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 29/3) Second Semi Final

South Camberwell d. Uni

Members of this team never write match reports either, especially when they lose. So see if I tell you how they finished on top of the ladder then lost this qualifying final. I know, but I'm not telling. So there!

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

Uni 57 d. Monash 46 at Monash

With a string of one win in a row after last week's "at the buzzer" 2 point victory over Kilsyth we trekked down to Monash just for something to do on April Fool's Day. It's so good to play down at the farm, good floor, good backboards and rings, good lighting and good refs. Still, would we complain? Too right we would. From the start of the game we were in control with Pendles working a little scooper inside and Mal sweeping the boards. Midway through the half we had cruised to a 17-6 lead with Al making some nice baskets. Our usual pre half time slump was somewhat ineffective as basically Monash couldn't catch the ball much either and at the half we were 23-11 up with the game in the bag. The second half saw Al, Mal and Haggis continue as our main scoring threats, although Monash had a little prick out on the 45 popping up three pointers for 23 for the half (by forwards' definition, any opposition guard who stands out there and hits baskets is a prick). So we traded them three baskets for two for a while and despite a short out of control period before the buzzer where we threw the ball away a lot we managed a 57-46 win. A good showing by rookie Andrews Raselli and Worrall, with everyone else contributing for a good team win.

Al 16, Haggis 15, Mal 12, Greg 5, Andrew R 3, Pendles Smith Ian 2.

Well, Sunday night at Albert Park was big last week. It was Preliminary Final night, and we had three teams competing. A healthy number of spectators was in attendance to see how many of these teams could win through to next week's grand finals. What happened? Read on.

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

Uni 75 d. Princes Hill 70

This looked like being a fairly even game on past performances and it certainly turned out that way, although it must be said that we had the upper hand for most of the 40 minutes. In the first half our defence was quite good, and with Rick fired up and slam dunking on the break in offence we led by margins of up to 12 points. Les got us going with good touch shooting and his 12 points for the half combined with Rick's 15 saw us lead 40-32 at half time. The pattern of the second half was similar to that of the first. Mungus started the half well popping a couple of neat jumpers and when things got a bit close after 10 minutes J.C. popped in three consecutive 3 pointers to give us a cushion, while Bowlesy threw his not inconsiderable weight around on the boards and in the open court to good (i.e. awesome) effect. Things again got close in the last five minutes and the large Uni crowd was looking for the patented collapse, but such was not to be. Haggis did one of the hardest jobs in basketball, that is, coming in off the bench cold and calmly put away 2 jump shots from 2 attempts to keep us in front. Mungus also hit two clutch baskets and Les came up with an absolutely

crucial blocked shot in defence and we had possession, 3 points up with 50 seconds to play. We froze it and the crowd looked pretty worried. Never mind though, we went the whole time without even looking like stuffing up and even scored a basket with two seconds to play to zoom into next week's grand final. Good team effort.

Rick 19, Mungus, J.C. 16, Les 14, Haggis, Bowlesy 4, Burkie 2.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies' Championship (Sun. 29/3) Preliminary Final

Uni 54 d. Jetz 50

Another prelim final win following the men's A grade. Again no details are available because nobody writes them, and see if I'm going to mention any of the highlights or players, like who rejected 3 shots in a row or who shot two 3 pointers. I know, and they know, and it looks like being just our little secret.

C.Y.M.S. B Grade Men (Sun. 29/3) Preliminary Final

Uni d. Swann (2)

Was this the awesome, showtime type of game we have come to expect from this team? I know, and if someone from this team writes a report, we'll all know. Again, I'm not mentioning who threw the best touchdown pass on Court 9, or who caught it, or who had the worst warm up shorts and why. What a meanie I am.

For those of you who have trouble counting, that makes three wins out of three, or three teams into their respective Grand Finals next week. An excellent effort by all involved. It would be good to see a few more spectators down at Albert Park next Sunday, April 12, to lend a bit of support. The standard of play is high and I think we'll see three very close and exciting games. The three big games are :

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*   MEN'S B GRADE   : 6:15 COURT 1   *
*   MEN'S A GRADE   : 8:35 COURT 1   *
*   WOMEN'S A GRADE : 9:45 COURT 1   *
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Who knows, there may even be a bit of a celebration organized afterwards. I don't know for sure, but I know where the smart money is.

COMMENCEMENT TOURNAMENT : Well, what an outstanding success this was. Six teams of men, four of women and a plethora of basketball for 5 hours. The highlights? What about Bowlesy's refereeing debut - decision by collective bargaining will never catch on. And that hat Pendles was wearing. Sorry I think I got my punctuation wrong there, should have been a full stop after hat. What about Doctor T's clutch foul shot to win the tournament, what about all of the girls in one of the grand finals forgetting to stay around for it. What about the talent displayed by the new club members. What about being so desperate to win you try to run through a brick wall and break your wrist. The highlights? Almost too many to mention. Beers at the barbecue? Almost too many to mention. Controversy? Nothing worth mentioning at all. What's that? The phone's ringing... click... "Hello, oh it's you Dragan..." I put the receiver down gently on the desk and go and make myself a cup of coffee. Fifteen minutes later I return and pick up the receiver to hear Dragan yelling something about an intentional foul. I assure him the matter will be investigated to the fullest and most appropriate length before hanging up. I made a mental note to check the gym for dummies next time I was there.

THESE PEOPLE SHOULD BE COMMITTED : In an extraordinary display of

ordinariness, the club A.G.M. was held last week and the following people were elected to the committee (i.e. committed) for the next twelve months (their diagnoses are also listed) :

President : Geoff Bowles - delusions of grandeur, thinks he's Napoleon, wants to organize the next pub crawl to march across Europe.

Vice-President : Judy Knight - delusions of grand marnier, a complaint which is treated by drinking champagne and wearing leather.

Secretary : David Liddle - manic depressive, has the ability to depress any manic by talking to them in those reassuring tones.

Treasurer : Matthew Wellington - obsessive compulsive, characterized by expressions such as "You can never have too much money" and "Ask not what your club can give to you, rather, how much in material terms you can afford to give to your club?"

Assistant Secretary : Pauline Murphy - aggression frustration complex, is frustrated by the fact it only took one punch to resolve her last personal conflict

Social Secretary (Female) : Jackie Lee - hydrophobia, has a morbid fear of water, especially if it gets into her drink.

Social Secretary (Male) : Mick "Pearl" Johnson - inferiority complex, is worried by people constantly telling him he hasn't got a complex, rather he actually is inferior.

General Representative (Female) : Janine Claxton - angoraphobia, she has a morbid fear of long haired goats.

General Representative (Male) : Mick Scales - Korsakoff's disease, characterized by severe anterograde amnesia, can't remember the last time he wasn't classified as a waste of space.

Junior Representative (Female) : Sue Ellen Turner - sane, someone has to be able to work out how to open the packet of Tim Tams.

Junior Representative (Male) : We don't have one yet - if there are any lunatics reading this who would like this position and the cosy straight jacket which accompanies it, please let us know.

Such were the results of the elections. More interesting were the results of the Pub Crawl held after the AGM. Much stamina was displayed by those who partook of the delights of Nth Carlton and surrounds, with special mention going to Carolyn, who not only went the distance, but didn't fall into any of those holes a certain club elder statesman's groundwork was creating. Come on, get those bulldozers out of here. Speaking of which, the night ended well, when an inebriated FF24 was called to the clubrooms phone for a chat with the police. After opening the conversation with "Yes Commissioner," he found out that Sandy's car had been stolen from outside the Clyde that evening and that he could reclaim it from the Flemington Police Station, and the damn fool kid did. Ah just another day in the life of a President. I wonder if Richard Nixon started this way?...