

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, your roving editor has returned from Yugoslavia, with the good news that we are now set to expand our circulation to include that country, where a few copies of each edition will now be forwarded. This is expected to greatly relieve Yugoslavia's dependence of traditional fossil fuel supplies....

C.Y.M.S. C Grade Men (Sun. 17/5)

Uni 28 drew with RMIT 28

Needing to win to avoid staying on the bottom of the ladder, we started this game slowly to trail 11-14 at the break. Our offence improved in the second half, with Tony sinking some nice outside shots. With 30 seconds left it was all tied up - a final turnover and desperate last shot which failed to drop meant we had to settle for a draw. Highlights included Adam's attempt to shirtfront an opponent three times his size (unsuccessful) and Mark's raspberry at the ref during a tension filled jump ball decision. Oh well, at least we didn't lose.

Tony 15, Dave 7, Brett 4, Mark 2.

V.B.H.B.A. or V.W.B.C. Women ?? Grade (Thu. or Wed. ??/??)

Uni 39 d. Phantoms 34

The opposition started with 4 players and this time the coach noticed! Janet made us start in man to man, when the other team member (of the other team) arrived we kept the man to man up. With some frap doodles from Michelle, good boards from Rachel and Jack, we kept in touch for the first half. Do we want to stick to the man? Yes! Was the cry. Five minutes to go and two points down Janet calls off the man to man and back to a tight zone, concentrating on blocking out their "big girl". We cruise to a 5 point win. Good shooting Janine and Marilla. Watch out Andrew and Dragon! You never know, you may be replaced.

Janine, Michelle 8, Kylie 7, Jackie, Marilla 6, Rachel 4.

V.B.H.B.A. C GRADE MEN (Thu. 20/5)

Uni 80 d. ???? 39

We faced a difficult game against a side in the four with only one loss. Our form was not good, we hadn't won a game. New coach Rod Trevena had the unenviable task of using all 10 players who turned up. We decided on a grid iron approach, an offensive team and a defensive team (I always suspected that Rod had this deep understanding of the game of basketball - Ed.). The opposition started with only 4 players so from the tip off the coach ran the zone press. with so many players the instruction was to "run hard". New recruit (half the team are new recruits) Mark "Fall-over" Fennel took on the job of centre and won the tip-off comfortably, into offence we scored with the first forward thrust (why do I get the feeling this is going to be a very long match report? - Ed.) Players quickly set up the press and, lo and behold, the opposition passed it in to one of our guards - another two points. It looked as though the press was going to work well. Mark looked good inside and had the advantage of being the tallest on court. After 4 minutes the score was 14-0 and we hadn't let the ball past the half court line. The bench was becoming restless, everyone wanted to be in on the action. Baskets looked easy to get out there, a nice change from two weeks previously. Coach called subs to keep the pressure on them from the press and by half time we had scored an excellent 46 points. The opposition did manage to get through the press a couple of times but with only 4 players did not have much offence. Unfortunately one of their players had a few three point bombs which dropped. In the second

half the tempo slowed as the opposition tried to reduce our scoring by cutting out our fast breaks. The press was putting them under pressure but we were no longer getting easy steals. In offence the opposition were content to pass the ball around and despite pressure from the guards we didn't manage possession of the ball as often as in the first half. The final score was 80-39. We let them score a bit, but some 18 points came from 3 point shots. A couple of times the press was caught out as we tried double teaming. Highlights included Ben's first basket - steal... swish; Mark dominating the boards at both ends; Ben's second basket (almost) - steal, fumble, fumble, swish - but the ref decided to call a travel; Andrew (new recruit) working inside with good strong driving; excellent hustle by all the guards. The team (in no particular order) was Mark Fennel, Andrew Rogers, Dave Cunnington, Dieter Lim, Andrew "Sky" Larkin, Steve Muller, Ben Cheung, Greg Schumann, Cary Helenius and Mick "do not add Pearl" Johnson.

Dieter 16, Mark, Andrew 14.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 15/6)

Uni 49 d. EEAMA 42

Huge! Huge! Huge! (and I think I can say big - Ed.) What else can one say when the boys get their acts together and play some competitive basketball. Surprise also that we didn't play our usual 5 minutes of poor basketball per half! We started with a zone press, but failed to show the benefit on the scoreboard because Mick couldn't put the ball in the bucket. An even first half, with a few basic errors keeping the opposition midgets in the game. Score at half time 25-24. We continued to pop in a few outside baskets, with new recruit Peter Shires and newly promoted Scott B-W contributing 3 pointers. These kept us narrowly ahead - and just as well, because everyone seemed to have forgotten about running the "Mounas" zone shuffle. Shock of shocks, when Uni produces a steady last three minutes! A good team effort.

Scott W. 10, Mick, Scott B-W. 9, Peter 7, Tony 6, Phil 4, Warwick, Carey 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 21/6)

Uni 79 d. Swann 65

This performance was not only bad it was mediocre. We were expected to win by two or three (hundred) and in fact trailed for most of the first half. If it wasn't for Les and his 5 or six jump shots in offence we would have had the loss secured by half time. The second half saw Rick come good and dominate the boards with Ian while J.C. went on the three point spree and we ran out comfortable winners in a game that could best be summed up in the immortal words of Kevin Bartlett "It was a quarter of two halves." No, I don't know what it means either.

J.C. 24 (7 three pointers), Rick 22, Les, Ian 14.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 22/6)

Melbourne Latvians 45 d. Uni 34

Despite the actual scoreline, the game was actually closer than it seemed (Huh? Nice opening sentence Phil - Ed.) Examination of the scoresheet revealed that at least 7 points had not been recorded by Uni. Well, you can't blame the scorers when they're your own players! Remedial classes begin next Saturday morning to explain that a basketball through the hoop equals 1, 2 or 3 points on the scoresheet! Nevertheless, a good effort this against a team that beat us by 35 points some two months ago. Uni started well, with Phil, Mick and Scott huge on the boards (is that like "big in Biddleonia"? - Ed.) In fact, the opposition were having trouble scoring against our tough defence. Unable to get the ball inside they attempted a few long, outside bombs - the result, and the match winning break, a 7 point half time lead

21-28. Latvians extended their lead to 10 points, but a switch to M-T-M (Mary Tyler Moore? - Ed.) defence with some good hustling from Carey, Warwick and Peter, saw the lead cut to 5 points. At this stage it might have been useful to know the real scoreline! We started to get into foul trouble and Latvians popped in the last two baskets. Pleasing effort overall, with continuation of good defence and determination.

Scott W 9, Phil 6, Warwick 5, Mick 4, Carey, Scott B-W 3, Tony, Peter 2.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 29/6)

Injeanious 34 d. Uni 31

Thank god, defeat rescued from the jaws of victory yet again. A definite should've been win rather than a might've been or never've been! In short, a much squandered loss where a win would have been the appropriate result for a good defensive effort. We started well with our zone press confusing the opposition. Warwick and Scott B-W were running the new double screen offence well, with Peter distributing the ball skillfully. Scott B-W was hot, hitting 4 buckets in the first 10 minutes, Warwick popped in a couple and Peter hit a long three pointer. We led 17-11 after 16 minutes, suffered the inevitable vanishing trick and failed to score in the last 4 minutes! Half-time 17-16. Once again we applied the ol' zone press and headed off to a 6 point lead after a couple of good interceptions. Injeanious were having trouble penetrating our defence and if it wasn't for ex-Carlton footballer David McKay (19 points) and his powerful rebounding, would've been history. We continued to waste the ball taking senseless outside shots (typical of the sort of comment one expects from a post player - Ed.) and not working the ball around for the easy bomb - any idea of passing inside seemingly forgotten! Suddenly 5 minutes to go and injeanious have a 5 point lead, we switch to a general ball offence, passes inside to Mick and Phil, who quickly score 6 points and we have a ball game for about 2 minutes. Oh well, we have 65% of the play, 2 match winning breaks and still lose! Good defensive effort Mick (was he on McKay? - Ed.) Quiet nights by Carey and Scott W.

Scott B-W 10, Peter, Phil 6, Warwick 4, Mick, Scott W 2, Carey 1.

M.B.A. A GRADE (Mon. 13/7)

Mavericks 46 d. Uni 36

Riches to rags in one quick week! A quick recap on last week - we scored 76 points in wiping Andrew Gaze and troupe off the court, and scarcely missed an outside shot (why do I think I'm going to keep hearing about this game? - Ed.) This week we were in the game all the way, but when a couple of outside shots were desperately needed we couldn't have bought them. Nevertheless, yours truly the coach is not depressed - we are playing the best basketball the Monday night A Grade team has ever seen and pushing every team. Defensively this was a great effort. An even first half saw us 3 points behind with 2 minutes to half time. Two minutes of bad basketball later it was 15-22. We made a few good interceptions from the zone press, but our outside shooters were cold, cold, cold. Strong rebounding and inside work by Mick and Phil kept us in the game (oh, I see, it's all the guards' fault again is it? - Ed.), but even a switch to man to man couldn't bridge the gap. Good return to some form by Carey. Pity two of us had the flu (bet they were wimpy big players - Ed.) Thank god Mick didn't catch AIDS in the Phillipines!

Mick 10, Warwick 9, Carey 6, Phil 5, Scott B-W 4, Scott W 2.

SOCIAL NOTES : Thanks to all those who turned up to the Progressive Dinner, and especially those who bought meals (there are apparently still some trolleys to be collected from the Clubrooms - Ed.) If any of you have any ideas for film nights, other sporting events, or if anyone would like to organize a ski weekend, please let Mick "Don't Call Me Pearl" Johnson or Jackie "Don't Call Him Pearl" Lee know about them. The next few social events are as follows :

August 18 (Tuesday) : Dracula's has been booked. A deposit has to be paid to Pearl (oops, it's so easy to forget - Ed.) and it's first in, first served (there's an offer you can't refuse - Ed.).

September 13 (Sunday) : Golf Day. Warburton Golf Course has been booked for a golf and picnic day. See Jackie if you want to play (there's another offer you can't refuse, and I'd like to know who's writing this garbage - Ed.)

October 9 (Friday) : Annual Dinner at the North Melbourne Social Club. Further details later.

November 14 (Saturday) : Bush Dance at the Brunswick Town Hall. Due to popular demand (!!! - Ed.) Think about organizing a table.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAP TRAP : I will leave it to your imagination to work out where this next gem came from....

Phil Beart notched up his highest personal tally in 25 years of competitive basketball in a game during January - 30 points! Weak opposition you say - not really, they included Andrew Bett and Paul Burke. All of this just goes to prove that old basketballers don't fade away, they just get stuffed more often!

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS : Are coming soon to an Adelaide near you. Dribbling Balls will have a report on both Melbourne Uni teams before departure (probably) and a comprehensive report on the week's activities when we return. Stay tuned to see how badly we kick Queensland arse this year....

STOP PRESS : The AUC teams have been announced. The men's team looks awesome, even when basketball ability is taken into account. It comprises the following personnel :

Warwick Bray, John Campbell, Mark Carroll, Brett Currie, Matt Miller, Andrew Parkinson, Hugh Sandie, Greg Scholes, Trevor Smith, Nick Wade, Andrew Warrell and Scott Webber, with coach Richard Driscoll, manager Geoff Bowles and under-manager Dave Liddle.

The women's team looks about half as awesome (well there are only half as many for a start). It comprises :

Sally Bickerton, Debbie Kool, Tania Luders, Gillian Payne, Sue-Ellen Turner and Donna Watt, with coach Robert Sweetten and manager Annette Schepisi.

Dribbling Balls wishes both teams the best of luck, and by the look of some of the personnel lining up for the trip, we should probably wish the City of Adelaide the best of luck as well.