

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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There have been a few people out there who've been asking me if Dribbling Balls still existed. Unfortunately I had to inform them that it did. Not only that, but there would be another couple of editions before the end of the year. This is one of those editions. Apologies for the delay, but a few things got in the way, I.V., exams, sheer bone laziness, the list goes on and on (much like Dribbling Balls). Anyway, I believe we've broken the world record for the most out of date match report ever published in Dribbling Balls (6 months and one week), and my apologies to those trusting fools who've given me reports over the last little while. I only print the reports at all because I reckon people love to see their name in print, no matter how out of date or irrelevant the reports are. I know I do. Here they come...

C.Y.M.S. Ladies Championship (Sun. 24/5)

Uni 88 d. RMIT 31

The opposition was completely outclassed in this game. Leslie played her first game with us, Carmel sprained her ankle and Spike TOP SCORED! Overall it was a good game played by all.

Spike 24, Bridgit, Anne 16, Leslie 12, Carmel, Bernie 10.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies Championship (Sun. 26/7)

Uni 84 d. Oakleigh Wolves 60

Beating Oakleigh (Ugly - Ed.) Wolves is always satisfying, especially when you only have 5 players. To say we had a short side would be a little bit of an understatement. Scapini was our tallest player. However spectacular defence and offence prevailed and we managed to keep a nice safe lead for the entire second half. Quite an enjoyable game really.

Bernie 24, Anne 23, Annette 17, Bridgit 16, Tracy 4.

C.Y.M.S. Ladies Championship (Sun. 2/8)

Uni 55 d. RMIT 34

There's not a lot to be said about this game (that phrase usually precedes one of Mick "Just add water, do not add Pearl" Johnson's marathon match reports - Ed.). We had a full team of eight players and managed to keep RMIT at a score somewhat lower than ours. As far as excitement, thrills and dazzling plays go, the spectators should have been watching another court. However, we persisted and won quite comfortably.

Bridgit, 11, Carmel, Anne, Spike 10, Leslie 7, Bernie 5, Gill 4.

M.B.A. A Grade (Mon. 17/8)

C.G.'S 42 d. Uni 37

As the coach said, "We played and looked like a fuckin' University team!". Talk about a pack of faerie wankers! (I love it when Phil talks dirty - Ed.) Head coach David Crombie (nice job if you can get it - Ed.) surely needs to toughen up his commitment program on Saturday mornings. Uni started like a team in a dream - slow, predictable, telegraphed offence and after 5 minutes we were down 2-10. Things improved a little for a half time score line of 12-20 (ah, I'm not an expert in these things but that doesn't look like much of an improvement to me - Ed.). We switched to a zone press in the second half and started to get their game going. After C.G.'s scored the first two buckets, we outscored them 25-18. Somehow the team managed a

complete chameleon-like turnaround and started to perform like desperadoes. Peter and Carey were everywhere, and Mick threatened at both ends. Suddenly we were making interceptions and running fast breaks. In fact the opposition looked decidedly shaky, and it was still another game we should have won.

Peter 10, Carey, Mick, Scott W. 6, Warwick 4, Trevor 3, Phil 2.

M.B.A. A Grade (Mon. 21/9)

Latvians 41 d. Uni 38

After a promising start to the season when the team lost some six games by a few points (after that sort of start I'd be worried the season was going to deliver what it was promising - Ed.), performances have sunk to the desperate level of late. Last week's improved form was followed by an aggressive effort against Latvians (didn't the Russians have one of those a while ago? - Ed.) We used periods of zone press to force the opposition into errors. Mick and Scott B-W ran hot in the first half, but Latvians cleared out to a seven point lead, 1 minute before half time. Two quick buckets saw us with a ball game on our hands at half time, score 22-25. We persisted with the zone press after the break and actually led for a few minutes. Mick was still playing well, and Scott W was getting hungry. Latvians called a time out to regroup and straight away their big centre started to have a big influence on the game. We persisted, but in retrospect, a failure to work the ball inside in the last few minutes probably cost a well deserved victory. Overall a great effort.

Mick 13, Scott W 11, Scott B-W 7, Peter 3, Gary, Warwick 2.

M.B.A. A Grade (Mon. 26/10)

Uni 45 d. Injeanious 35

After last week's disastrous start to the season it was good to see the machine back on the rails again. Coach Phil had the troops organized and the assault started immediately (which of the Baltic states are we invading this week? - Ed.) with an aggressive zone press. Uni combined well to work the ball inside, and a long 3 point bomb 1 second before half time by Peter gave us a handy 24-17 lead. Our first 10 minutes of the second half were sensational! The new 2-1-2 offence was working well with Gary passing intelligently. With a 39-24 lead, we turned the ball over some four times in a row in a period of unimaginative, disorganized offence. Steadying the game down, we coasted to a win. Overall a disappointing effort (especially after the last report where a loss was thought to be a great effort, I'm confused a bit - Ed.), since a 20 point win would have been appropriate. But a win is a win!

Rod 13, Gary 9, Mick 8, Peter 5, Carey, Phil 4, Scott B-W 2.

M.B.A. A Grade (Mon. 23/11)

Uni 47 d. Cazalies 45

Huge, awesome, magnificent!!! Why is it that one week most things go right, while the next week - well. Cazalies are a bunch of O.K. basketballers spearheaded by the dreaded Graeme Jane (one of the classic spearheads in basketball - Ed.) We went into this game with the specific defensive plan - minimize Graeme Jane's offensive influence. Box plus one - centre Gary Pendlebury, playing one on one against Graeme with the guard away from the ball dropping in to assist and crowd up the top of the key. Certainly it seemed to work, stopping Graeme getting the ball on the top of the key and thus considerably reducing his number of jump shots. Result - the opposition's offence generally stuffed right up! What can one say about Gary? (let me count the ways - Ed.) Huge, awesome, magnificent! (The uninitiated should be

know that Phil often tests new drugs as part of his work - Ed.) A man amongst wimps, a champion amongst mere mortals. The best game I've ever seen him play - magnificent in D, unbelievable in O. And Scott B-W, the Collingwood six footer, defensive dominator, a great defensive rebounding effort. And Rod "Cool Hand Luke" Trevena, some great fast break passes. A close game all the way. Scores at half time 23-22. Second half saw us get three fast breaks (including a great one set up by Phil pumping the ball forward) and go to a four point lead. Cazalies claw their way back and Graeme J. scores with a three point play to establish a 3 point lead. All this doesn't worry cool Rod, who promptly pops in a timely three pointer to even the scores. Some desperate D sees us come up with the ball and Rod sets up Carey for two points on a fast break. More great D and we freeze the ball for the last minute.

Gary 18, Scott B-W 11, Rod 6 (2 x 3 pointers), Carey 8, Phil 4.

And now something from Rob Sweetten and our friends the Big M girls at the Victorian Dairy Industry Authority...

DRIBBLING BALLS MATCH REPORT

Hi, greetings from the women's firsts. We've been on a holiday for a few months (well 13 actually) in sunny 3rd Division, swanning around on courts 5 and 8, with the occasional pilgrimage back to the holy land of court 2. Life's been pretty good really - premiers in summer (Grand Final MVP - C.C.), runners-up in winter, Anne, Bernie and Carmel in the top ten scorers both seasons with Anne leading all scorers in the winter. After a successful political challenge against the V.W.B.C. championship committee which involved clandestine meetings in darkened alleys with the club president and a whole heap of help & support from J.C. and Carmel, and then a successful court challenge which saw the winning basket hit by Captain Clutch (C.C.) and outstanding games by Gill and Bernie we have finally gained entry visas back to Division 2 - and by crikey it feels good to be back home.

On a serious note though folks, I'd like to thank a few players who stuck together when the going got tough down in 3rd division, and without whom we'd still be holidaying in Coventry. They should know who they are but just in case they've forgotten thanks Anne, Bernie, Carmel, Gill & Tracy. Along the way there have been important contributions from other players, including Bridget in summer, more recently Sue, Toni and Trish, and even more recently Annette. Special thanks also to Sal Bickerton for her help at training sessions before the winter finals.

So then, we're back in the Big League and with impressive debuts from Debbie Kool and Fran Maher, along with the likely return of Spike, things look promising. In fact all this team really needs is a humorous and talented Dribbling Balls correspondent, but until one comes along I've decided to sharpen the quill once again. TAFN ho ho.

V.W.B.C. Division 2 (Wed. 11/11/87)

University Angles 35(19) d. Newlands (nee Coburg) 34(21)

Thirty seconds before the game and all was calm. We had four players warmed up from basketball, Lissa, Pauline and Sue warmed up from their postmatch celebration and ready to fill in if needed and a team of young, blonde, pigtailed (just for a change!) basketballers up the other end waiting to kick our arse. Just on game time enter our remaining two players, and so it was that we began the game. When I say

that we began the game, all we really were was spectators as Newlands hit a couple of three pointers and the odd fast break to put us down by 10 or so after only a couple of minutes. After a quick timeout we switched to a M2M defence and gradually tried to get back into the game. Their M2M defence had unsettled us but we began to slowly get the scoreboard moving, with a combination of our new and old offences. Our real problem was our defensive rebounding which was subliminal at best, and although our offence was getting into gear through Carmel, Bernie and Scheps, we had to bridge that ten point gap. In the last five minutes of the half we kept them scoreless, as we picked up our rebounding, and began to fast break against them. Baskets to Bernie, Carmel and a couple to Fran saw us end the half down 21-19 in what had been a good fightback after a lousy start. The first five minutes of the second half were fairly even, as defences were dominant at both ends of the court and the margin stayed between 2 and 4 points. Bernie picked up her fourth foul and then Carmel picked up her 2nd, 3rd and 4th foul in quick time and we reverted to a zone defence. The zone defence which had been murdered in the first half, proved a winner in the second half, as Newlands had trouble getting off anything but pressured shots. Offensively we were keeping in touch through Anne and Carmel, and when Fran nailed a jumper off a screen and roll we were down by 1 point with about three minutes to go. After an opposition timeout the scores were adjusted to show us three points down, and we went back into a M2M. Our defence worked hard, especially Anne and Gill who shut out the opposition hotshots, and we caused a few turnovers that enabled us to hit the front by a point after baskets to Carmel and Fran. They hit the front again though after a quick basket, but Anne put us back into the lead after a top move to the basket. Carmel fouled out with about fifteen seconds to play to give us our seventh team foul for the half and me a substantially reduced life expectancy. This last little bit of play saw our M2M defence at its best as they didn't even get a shot away, and we romped it in by a whole point. Apart from the first ten minutes of the game this was a superb effort, with contributions from all and sundry especially in the G&D dept.

CC 10, BB, Fran 8, Anne 6, Scheps 3.

V.W.B.C. Division 2 (Wed. 28/10/87)

University Mongrels 51(24) d. Sunbury Jets 24(8)

Q1. Why was the team that we'd beaten in a challenge game 4 weeks ago still in Division 2?

Q2. Why had there been 4 weeks between us winning the challenge game and actually playing our first game in Division 2?

Answer: The Championship Committee is really fxxxxd!

Still here we all were again, complete with a "They said you'd never make it T-shirt". The team was ready for a decent game, and for a couple of minutes it looked as if that would be the case as Sunbury hit two three pointers against our man to man defence. In offence we were given a good start by Anne who hit a couple of baskets and when Bernie completely shut out their long range shooter it quickly dawned on everyone that Sunbury really weren't very good at all. We started running breaks through Bernie and Gill (sounds painful - Ed.), and Carmel was scoring from our half court offence and from offensive rebounds. In defence we were hitting the boards really hard, especially Trish and Toni, and we kept Sunbury to 8 points for the half, whilst notching up 24 for ourselves to hold quite a comfortable lead at the break. In the second half our defence became a little slack as we racked up 12 (twelve) team fouls, and as a result they scored 9 of their 16 points from the stripe. Apart from that little problem the

game was no more than a fast break session, in which we demonstrated that at our best we can run the best fast breaks around, and at our worst we put our heads down, don't pass when we should and miss many opportunities. Anything that wasn't scored on a break by Bernie and Gill this half was snaffled by Fran and Carmel as our offensive rebounding was the best that I have seen for a long time.

BB, CC 11, Fran 10, Anne, Gill 7, Trish 2.

V.W.B.C. Division 2 (Wed. 4/11/87)

University Axe-handles 49(19) d. Geelong Cats 19(6)

After last week's fouling extravaganza we were keen to play tough but fair defence, you know sort of naughty but nice. After three minutes and about as many fouls I was worried, but all for nought as the girls really turned the screws in defence, especially Anne who quickly adjusted her defensive game and totally shut down her player. The Geelong team rapidly lost patience against our defence which incurred only another two fouls for the half, only conceded 6 points and forced numerous turnovers. We picked up where we left off fast-break-wise from last week and missed too many opportunities, largely through undisciplined play. We were certainly getting the chance to fast break but not finishing off, and thus wasting our good defensive rebounding, that was led by Carmel, Fran and Scheps. At the end of the first half we were up 19 - 6, and had wasted about as many chances as we had converted. If we could get going in the second half we would wipe the floor with Geelong, and that's exactly what we did! We reverted to a zone for the whole of the second half, and showed that not only could Geelong not shoot from outside, but that they couldn't even pass the ball properly. Bernie, Anne and Gill picked off passes by the score, and converted these turnovers with some excellent running and fast-breaking. Our defence for the whole game had been excellent, and had committed only 5 fouls in each half. We even tried to run our new 'gadget' offence near the end of the game with limited (for 'limited' read 'no') success.

BB 18, Anne 12, Annette 7, Carmel 6, Fran 4, Gill 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 22/11)

Uni 83 d. Jetz (1) 59

Keen observers will note that there has not been a Dribbling Balls report on this team since the winter finals series. This is for good reason. We lost two finals in a row to miss out on a grand final appearance. Then we had two losses, a draw and a bye to start the summer season. So who wants to write about that lot? Not me. So what's changed this? We beat Jetz (1) for the first time since dinosaurs ruled the earth. We raced off to an 8-0 lead and were never headed. Our patented Sunday night offence of throw it to the big boys inside and watch them make baskets worked to perfection in half number one as we led by 44-18 at the change. Burnsy was dominating inside (Jetz used up all their Kryptonite in the semi final last season) and Ruq was doing a passable job as off guard. In the second half we concentrated on playing stay ahead basketball, which we managed to do through the agency of Les with some touch baskets and Bowlesy with an awesome display of sheer strength around the hoop. What he lacked in finesse he made up for with utter brutality in offence, and played an excellent game. Fancy winning by 24 points eh. Perhaps next time they'll think twice about beating us in the finals.

Ian 21, FF24 19, Les 16, Riq 11, J.C. 9.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 29/11)

Uni 78 d. Swann 77

This game was probably closer than the scoreline indicates. We started slowly and were behind two and a half black men to nil before the opening tip off, then trailed by 6 or so (points) for a while. then our offence got into the groove and we snuck ahead. J.C. was firing great assist passes and top spin lobbs over the defence inside to the big boys who didn't let us down. Burnsy came out of his phone booth and dominated as he hoovered above the ring and on the occasions he jumped too high to catch the ball, Ruq grabbed it and finished the job. We led by a couple of points at half time. In the second half Ronnie Ryer decided to play one on five against us for much of the half, quite successfully. Swann also played a box and one defence on J.C. to stop the passes inside. Despite all this we managed to stay in front, mainly through Ruq and Les who was having a fine shooting game. With less than a minute to go and a four point lead our way we were home and hosed. I hate it when they say that. A wild pass then a missed lay up and we were 1 point down with 20 seconds to go and looking pretty bad. Things improved slightly when Les hit a turn around jump shot from the foul line with twelve seconds left and was fouled in the process. We were one up with a bonus shot. "Take it from the centre!" we said. "Okay," said the ref. "You can't do that!" said the opposition. After some discussion we could and did do that. Five seconds and 1 foul later we were doing it again. We got the ball in court and into the safe hands of FF24 who was mauled by three players who jumped on his back, front and head and managed to knock the ball away. Their last second shot never looked like going in from the moment it missed and we won convincingly by one point. Must just about get us off the bottom.

Riq 26, Les 22, Ian 18, FF24 7, J.C. 5.

IMPORTANT NOTICE : Are you a current Sports Union member? Are you a current Basketball Club member? (And by this I mean "financial") These questions may not seem important to you at this time, but next year under the new Sports Centre membership checking policy (affectionately known as the Reign of Terror) it is vital that you be able to answer "Yes" to both those membership questions. The following policy will apply within the Basketball Club from the beginning of winter championship seasons next year (i.e. late February) :

1. To play in a team you must be a member of the Sports Union. Currently enrolled students of this University are automatically members by paying the Administration and Services fee upon enrolling in their course. Those who are not enrolled students must pay the fee applicable to graduates wishing to join the Sports Union. In 1988 this will be \$75. This fee must be paid at the Sports Centre (not to the Basketball Club), although it can be done by mailing the appropriate form to the Sports Centre with a cheque. It must be noted that those who are eligible to join the Sports Union are graduates of this University, graduates of any other University with which this University has reciprocal rights (i.e. most Universities around the world) and members of residential colleges affiliated with this University. Also, students of this University are eligible to maintain their membership for up to 4 years following termination of their studies (e.g. if they don't graduate).

2. To play in a team you must be a financial member of the

Basketball Club. This means you must pay the club membership fee according to whether you are a student or a graduate. To join the Basketball Club you must be a Sports Union member.

So made simple, you are responsible for joining the Sports Union, and before you can join the Basketball Club or play in a team you must show us proof of Sports Union membership, that is, a current University of Melbourne student card or Sports Union membership card.

Sorry for all that, but it has to be said, and the committee said I'm the one who has to say it and cop any shit which may arise. Consequently, if you have any questions about the policy, its implementation and implications, please contact me (John Campbell on 3447445 at work, or in person) and I'll be happy to cop your abuse. Love and kisses for now. J.C.

Well, that's all for now. A few things to look forward to in the coming weeks include the I.V. Dribbling Balls which is "Out now!" as we say in the newspaper game. Hopefully, ther'll be a few other surprises and another Dribbling Balls before the end of the year as well. If not, then remember - you didn't read about it here first....