

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB
DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well there certainly was a lot of positive comment after the first Dribbling Balls of the year - a lot of people were positive it should never have been printed. We aim to maintain that standard of critical acclaim for the whole year so it should be big. How big? Bigger than Nick Wade's little black book

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 28/2)

Uni 74 d. Monash 56

With centres being called we had five (including Coops) while they had four (not including Coops) so they couldn't start. Nine minutes and fifty seconds later we had all put our trackies back on and were about to leave when Monash recruited some midget with the wrong coloured singlet. Consequently the game began and we received a bonus of nine points for late start and twenty points for incorrect uniform. Being ahead 29-0 before the opening tip off was sufficient to ensure we played the rest of the game like utter vegetables (although it could be said that this is unfair to several cabbages I have known). We scored 8 points in the first half, but made up for that by letting Monash score whenever they wanted to. Fortunately the final siren went before we had the opportunity to lose the game. Top effort by the lads, especially Mungus who didn't show up. He claims he forgot (which is a very plausible story) but we reckon he was probably spazzmoid after watching Melbourne win their first N.B.L. game for about 320 years that afternoon.

V.B.A. DIV. 1 (Wednesdays since Christmas)

Everybody d. Uni by margins between 14 and heaps more than 14.

Well, the scoreline says it all. We found out that Div 1 teams really build up their programs before Christmas and come out for the kill after Christmas. We got walloped by Broadmeadows and Bulleen, although in both games we were let down by one bad quarter. In our final game against Melbourne Tigers we played a very controlled game, put in our usual bad quarter and outscored them in the other three to only lose by 14. We held Andrew Gaze and James Bullock to zero points between them (okay, so they didn't play - who cares?). All in all, the season was valuable experience for those of us who decided to play and was a good warm up for Ballarat A grade and Div 2 (where maybe we'll be allowed to run and gun - maybe just a little bit??).

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 6/3)

Uni 74 d. Segarsonics 70

Every time we play these guys they line up with more first division players. This time they six. Were we worried. No way. We can rationalize defeat if we have to. Actually we started the game well and led by 8 points early, but they settled down and a close first half ensued. Ruq and Burnsy were our best in offence for the half bagging 10 and 8 respectively with some good inside work. Half time saw us trail 32-35. Eight minutes after half time saw us trail 34-50. At this stage things did not look good. Amazingly though, we came back. A J.C. three point shooting spree which saw him finish with 6 out of 7 for the game combined with Ian and Mungus both getting double figures for the half saw us streak to the lead 68-64 with two minutes or so to play. Having done the hard work we let the opposition take the lead by a point but solid defence, foul shots to Ruq and a last 10 seconds basket to Ian

saw us scramble to a 4 point upset of the top team - only their second loss in 19 games this season. We now look almost certain to make the finals. Maybe.

Ian 20, J.C. 18 (6 x 3 pointers), Ruq, Mungus 16.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 10/4)

Uni 70 d. Yaks 62

Yaks had no answer to our desperation to win this game and secure a finals berth. We also had more Uni players and won convincingly despite some of Col Wood's frap doodle lay ups and Dave Godding's ridiculous shorts. Burnsy and Ruq were great on the boards and in offence and Mungus was sweet as always. Bowlesy was ejected from the game for letting an irate Yak punch him severely around the face, head and neck. Ian 18, Ruq 17, Mungus 12

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 13/4)

Uni 64 d. Keilor 38

After last week's spazzmoid performance against Yarraville in the wilds of the western suburbs where we set up a 9 point loss by shooting 13 points in the first half, we thought we'd do a bit better this week. Fortunately for our little boy's bits we did. A slowish first half allowed Keilor to lead for most of it, until a flurry of action from Col, J.C. and Jane Graeme saw us get 6 points in the last 40 seconds to lead 28-23 at the change. In the second half we plugged away steadily, then got a bit of a run on and finally cruised away to an easy win with Graeme leading the way in offence and Col leading the way in frap doodling. All in all a very even team effort.

J.C. 13, Jane 12, Burnsy 10, Dave 9, Col 8.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 17/4) Semi Final

Oakleigh Wolves 93 d. Uni 85

So the big semi final after all those preliminary games. Wow. We lost. It wasn't a bad game but we let them jump us at the start of both halves, especially the second when our shooting touch decided to take leave without pay. Ruq had a great second half all by himself with 22 points for the half and J.C. threw in a few three pointers when things got desperate, but we couldn't bridge the gap. Will we ever win this championship????

Riq 28, J.C. 18 (3x3) Burnsy, Mongrel, Les 12, FF24 the rest.

V.B.A. DIV. 2 (Wed. 20/4)

Uni 72 d. Varpas 61

This turned out to be a tough game, tougher than many people expected. An even first half saw us start slowly, and largely unable to play sensible defence. Tim and J.C. were proving to be offensive threats while Graeme and Dave alternated in dominating the defensive boards. We trailed 35-29 or 32-32 or 33-28 or 32-29 at half time, depending on which 30 seconds you looked at the scoreboard. In the second half we dropped behind to trail 50-41 but then slipped into top gear as our fitness (??) took over. J.C. hit consecutive three pointers, Jane Graeme went back door a couple of times, Xmas Carroll put his life on the line at both ends and we cruised to a comfortable win in the final couple of minutes. The highlight - Bowlesy's head fake and drive from the top of the key to score - I haven't seen a path that big open up since Moses faked out the waves at the Red Sea.

J.C. 17 (3x3), Jane 15, Xmas 10, Tim 9, Dave 8, FF24 6, Col 4, Ian 3.

This is a very special edition of Dribbling Balls - some of Geoff's

match reports are having a birthday. He takes up the story...

Dear Mr. Ed.

Is there a prize for the oldest match report or what? (How about the oldest match reporter? - Ed.) Who said there was no value in cleaning out your basketball bag every year (whether it needs it or not). Look what I found!! Apologies to Moses for letting him trust me with the first one, but I'm prepared to split the prize with him.

C.Y.M.S. C Grade Men (Sun. 14/6/1987)

Uni 29 d. Oakleigh Wolves 28

After scoring the opening two points from the tip off the opposition consolidated and moved to an early lead. From then on both teams concentrated on defence which resulted in very few scoring shots by either side. Dave M. organized the team into a zone press but the first half ended with Uni down 15-9. The second half saw a more determined Uni team after an inspiring talk by Dave. The zone press forced a few errors by the Wolves and their lead was slowly reduced. Dave, Brett C. Mick F and Mark F. dominated the boards in an aggressive game and contributed strongly to the scoring. With 20 seconds to go and Uni one point down Adam dropped a 25 foot shot to put Uni one point ahead. In a desperate attempt to score the opposition forced a shooting foul but fortunately both shots were unsuccessful and we won by a point.

Tony P. 10, Mick 6, Mark 5, Adam 4, Dave, Brett 2.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 6/7/1987)

Uni 59 d. Scrunters 51

With both our Off and our Very-Off Guards away on holidays we were left looking a bit tall in the height department, but we figured we could make up for that with our superior ball skills. As an added precaution, we enlisted the services of ... (here ends the match report I started writing in July last year, and I've got absolutely no idea of who we got to fill in, maybe it was you. If so, just fill your name in the space below and send me a cheque for \$25 for the mention. I'll just do what I usually do with match reports and make the rest up.) Our starting (and finishing) line up of Ruq, Les, Bowlesy, Ian and <insert-your-name-here-> had them worried. They knew they would have trouble keeping up with our pace, and our only problem was going to be over confidence. What more can I say about a game I barely remember - although I do recall someone who shall remain nameless, but it was probably me, saying after the game something along the lines of "Who needs guards anyway??!"

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 17/1)

Uni 68 d. Scrunters 54

What better way to start the year than with a convincing win over our old mates Scrunters? Especially after what happened at Swan Hill. "What happened at Swan Hill?" I hear you ask. Well, if you're not going to go to the tournament, don't expect me to fill you in on everything that happened there. I'm not even going to tell you about Studd Wade and @!\$*#&#@ on Saturday night. Woops! Anyway, back to the game so far... Unshackled by our usual oversupply of guards we were able to give the normally agile ex-Bislerillions a taste of fast break showtime. Riq playing point out where he belongs (Geelong? - Ed.) got the big steal and made no mistake about the fairly high percentage dunk on the end of the break, fairly impressive (just goes to show, I mean a real

point guard would have stopped 24 feet from the hoop and nailed a three pointer - Ed.), as we raced to a 10 zip lead after about 2 minutes. Needless to say the Scrunters were more than a little distressed by this sort of behaviour and we granted them a few token baskets towards the end of the half and retained a modest 34-35 lead at the break. But it was the second half which saw the real excitement. With only 5 players on each side, some people were destined not to spend a complete 40 minutes on the court, but at least I wasn't the first to depart the scene. Lester picked up his fifth with about 5 minutes to go and a lead of 10. Were we worried? At first. Then their big guy departed, closely followed by FF24 in one of the most controversial blocking fouls ever seen in any basketball stadium anywhere in the world. On paper we were now a man short, however the guy I barely mad contact with played no further significant part in the game so I didn't feel too bad about it (and he's almost out of hospital now anyway - Ed.) This sort of behaviour continued until we were down to two on three with a minute to play and still with a handy 12 point lead. No problem as we won by 14 pulling up. Roll on finals!!

Ruq 22, Huge Mungus 15, FF24 15, Chris Bjelke-Morrey 11, Les 6.

C.Y.M.S. Championship (Sun. 7/2)

Uni 59 d. Bundoora Bullets 51

This game was a long time ago but I do seem to have some recollection of Mungus getting lots of steals, Riq frap doodling quite a bit, Skippy dropping the odd turn around jumper, Bowlesy inflicting an injury or two, Mr. Walker dusting off his soft touch jumper and young Clarkie remembering what the game was all about by half time. At least I remembered to write down the scores...

Ruq : Heaps, Mungus : Lots, Les : Bulk, FF24 : Huge amounts, Skippy : Plenty, Clarke the Lesser : Loads.

Pssst... Wanna buy a dirty basketball ticket? Our next story comes from the Chuck Carnegie school of financial empire building. Just what is Andrew Rogers doing? He's explained this Tigers ticket selling deal to me about ten times and all I can see is that it costs me two dollars to see a game I could generally see for free and the bonus I get is that I get to buy a T-shirt for ten dollars later on. Talk about an offer good enough to refuse. Still I suppose his heart's in the right place - raising money for Melbourne Tigers, after all, they do have more Melbourne Uni undergrads (5) in their first squad than we have in our firsts and seconds combined.

Classic Commentary : The competition continues, and the comments get worse. Please forward all entries to J.C. Just pick the silliest comments from the Channel 7 NBL match of the day (Sunday 12 noon), and I'll give you the tip - it's not difficult. A selection follows (compiled with the help of Bowlesy) :

Bill Palmer - "He should have tapped that in - he was about 12 feet above the ring." (comment on James Bullock)

Bill Palmer - "He's a well articulated man - as far as muscle tone's concerned." (on Bullock again)

Bill Palmer - "Hey, I'm not that stupid."

Graeme McNaney - "It's a one point game, 94-91."

Andrew Kay - "John Rashid - nice looking shot for the slim boy"

Andrew Kay - "He has the worst crew cut I've ever seen" (referring to Scott Ninnis in the Adel v. Eastside game)

Lyn Parnell - "Like father like son, his father had a similar head job" (also on the Ninnis family, same game)

John Casey - "Their shooting percentage is so low it wouldn't register on a breathalyzer" (on Eastside, same game)

Bill Palmer - "He's big enough to play where ever he wants"

Bill Palmer - "That's what you call an up in the air and what do I do now mum?"

Graeme McNaney - "He has abused the ring"

Bill Palmer - "Four foot long fingernail shot, that one."

Graeme McNaney - "What happened to the Geelong side?"

Bill Palmer (in reply) - "What happened to Cal Bruton's hair?" (on the shaven Cal in Perth v. Geelong)

Bill Palmer - "That's a lay in for Darryl Pearce" (after a long three pointer under pressure)

Bill Palmer - "It's the reverse telescope - the more you think about it the further away it gets" (the philosophy of foul shooting)

Bill Palmer - "He won't have the speed to stick with Gaze but he'll have the quickness" (on Dave Nelson's defence)

Graeme McNaney - "That's off the glass - and an air ball in fact"

Graeme McNaney - "I don't go that far on my holidays" (on a very long three pointer by Andrew Gaze)

Bill Palmer - "He's surrounded on both sides."

Bill Palmer - "He got about 6 points nearly in a row."

Well that's it for another edition. Keep sending in those match reports and classic quotes. Perhaps next edition we'll have some reports from 1988. Perhaps Moses Morosoli could give us a report as he seems to know so much about them. Until then, in the immortal words of Terry Wallace mmmmmmmn mmlbn lmmnbn