

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

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Well, a lot of people said the last Dribbling Balls was the best they'd seen for a long time. Amazing really....

CYMS D Grade Ladies (Sunday, several months ago) GRAND FINAL

Uni 34 d. Footscray Redlegs 23

A game such as this deserves a match report even if it is only written by an observer. The Moses Morosoli Mean Machine put on a great T-E-A-M effort. The girls took control from the start and never looked like losing. With three of the Redlegs fouled off Cathy decided she'd like a rest and joined them for the last 10 minutes. But oh so embarrassing was the shot to remove the ball from the back of the ring which only just managed to hit the backboard. In the words of the immortal Nick Wade "Oh \*#%!!" Just goes to show that a champion team will always beat a team of champions (if there'd been one). Congrats to the coach and team, and thanks to the black and blue mascots (What's Dave Crombie's arms got to do with it? - Ed.), supporters and Ansett Pioneer who transported one player all the way from Canberra.

Cathy 9, Kim 8, Lynne 7, Sue 6, Rebena, Julie 2, Carolyn, Jo, Ann-Maree.

VBHBA C Grade Women (Thu. 19/5)

Uni 41 d. Homestead 11

This game was a bit closer than it looked, well the first five minutes anyway when we were down 7-3. After a strategic time out however and a shift to a press and a 1-3-1 to stop their shooters everything went right for Uni and wrong for the opposition. Now, I've told these girls that Uni teams do not run and gun, but do they believe me? Well, no, and so out at court 5 we have rediscovered it, much to the detriment of our set offence. Still, when has that ever stopped a Uni team? Highlights included the shirtfront one of their girls tried to give Cathy - she won't try that again, and Nicki's breaking. Now if I can just get Emma to hit a basket or two we'll be laughing (I think she got a good workout at Portland - Ed.) Dare I say, "Roll on finals"? No, maybe I shouldn't.

Nicki 10, Rebecca 9, Michelle 8, Julie 7, Cathy 4, Emma 3.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 23/5)

Kingsville 57 d. Uni 40

A reasonable effort given the debilitated and depleted state of the team. Tim returning from an ankle injury and Matt recovering from the flu., Marco absent through injury and Clarkie through academic (female?) pressures. This saw Coach Phil playing his first ever game as point guard! (I know I'm supposed to write a suitably abusive comment here but my mind's gone numb - Ed.) We started O.K. but Kingsville grabbed a few garbage rebounds and sprang away to a good lead. A superb individual effort by Scott B-W narrowed the margin at the break to 20-27. We were unable to

bridge the gap and a switch to man to man failed to bring the desirable result. Not too bad a result given the team imbalance.

Scott 13, Scholes T.L. 7, Carey 6, Phil 6, Tim 6, Mick 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 25/5)

Bulleen 50 d. Uni 45

We established a winning break at the start of this game by showing that we were clearly the more skilled and talented team. Then we lost. I still don't know how, although something tells me the fact that Nubrick wanted to sign up our outside shooters after the game may give us a clue.

Graeme 17, J.C. 10, Col 8, Les 4.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 30/5)

M.O.B. 41 d. Uni 33

This was a game that should have been won (it was, just by the wrong team - Ed.) but poor offence in the last few minutes caused a narrow loss in a game that was close for three quarters. We performed OK in the first half with Dieter passing and cutting effectively, Scott and Carey sinking a few baskets from outside, and Matt and Phil scoring inside. We led most of the first half, but the score at half time was 18-18. Lack of movement in offence with no one cutting to open up the key put pressure on the outside shooters - result, difficulty in scoring down to the wire. A lesson for future weeks.

Scott 10, Carey, Phil 8, Matt 5, Tim 2.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun 5/6)

Uni 95 d. Swann 69

Awesome performance by this team of 5 players only. More than enough. We scored 54 points in the first half against a reasonable team which had no answer to our running game. It was a spectacular contest though - between Riq and Mungus - who both played fabulous games, netting 60 points between them. The old soft touch of Les came good and it was show time on court 1. Brian played an excellent game, especially on the boards, and we might try to get him to fill in more often

Riq 32, Mungus 28, Les 15, Brian, J.C. 10.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 6/6)

Wolves 47 d. Uni 31

I like Chinese. I've even been to China. We eat Chinese Take-aways. We even have Chinese playing in the University Basketball Club. Why is it that we were crucified by a Chinese referee? I know it's an oft' used, olde cry, but Uni started with a zone press and were all over Wolves, storming the basket. Enter one small oriental gentleman and 5 or 6 incorrect decisions resulting in turnovers, frustration and tech fouls! Gone one fabulous start and the advantage in a closely contested game. Be warned, the ref's supervisor tells me there are 4 visiting Chinese internationally accredited (!!!) refs roaming Albert Park : their English is very poor and they are hopeless (vote 1 Phil for

cultural attache to Beijing - Ed.). Good game by Carey and excellent return to form by Tim after injury.

Carey 11, Tim 7, Clarkie TL, Scott 4, Phil 3, Scholes TL 2

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 8/6)

Uni 65 d. Dandenong 36

At last we found the winning formula : take one Uni team, add to it an opponent who is utterly hopeless, a dash of good luck, and sometimes we'll win. We led 29-15 at half time against a team that was so short Snow White could have been their coach. At least we whumped 'em but good in the second half.

J.C. 18, Graeme 12, John D 11, Dave, Col 8.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 15/6)

Melbourne 72 d. Uni 59

I hate Mungus. Where's his sense of club loyalty. I mean we was his family, we raised him, sang Elmore James tunes to him, and what does he do? Comes out shoots 26 points for the opposition against us. And Matt Killer Miller wasn't much better. They must have got 8 tip ins and we must have missed about 100 open shots. Graeme played another consistent game with about 20 points, but the rest of us went missing, especially Junk Yard Dillon who exited early after trying out an illegal manoeuvre (the brain duster, I think) on the Melbourne centre. I'm sorry I poked Mungus in the eye. Max had to stay and fix it up and we didn't get home 'til late.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun 19/6)

Uni 73 d. Monash 51

We cleaned up our old rivals pretty easily in the end after a dour struggle at the start. Three three pointers from J.C. kept us in it in the first half, and we led 29-26 at the change. The second half Mungus went spazzo again and hit 15 for the half and new recruit Tim "Morph and the Magitones" got 11 as we cruised to a good win. Les and Ruq were consistent while Brian again filled in very nicely. Mungus' eye is to be getting better.

Mungus 17, Ruq, Les 14, Tim 13, J.C. 9, Brian 6.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 22/6)

Uni 54 d. Blackburn 48

Coops told me this was going to be a tough game and he was right. For all but the last two minutes of the first half we had more team fouls than points. We had a lot of trouble scoring against an effective man to man, but then again, so did the opposition. Four foul shots to Graeme in the last minute or so saw us lead 17-15 at half time in a game which was not doing much to keep the crowd at Albert Park. In the second half the game continued to be a very close, hard fought affair with neither side able to break away. At least some points were scored this half. J.C. and Dimitri hit 5 three pointers for the half (J.C.'s first nearly breaking the backboard) and Graeme continued to do well in offence and "on the swat". This gave us a 9 point break with

about 5 minutes to go, most of which we managed to hold on to. A real gutsy win actually. Team spirit was excellent, with great noise coming from the bench. With about half the season gone this wins we are still somewhere on the ladder.

Graeme 20, J.C. 15 (4x3 ptrs), Dimitri 6 (2x3 ptrs).

PORTLAND : I thought I should say a few words about Portland. Not the town Portland but the tournament Portland. I'll tell ya 'bout the town Portland some other sixty seconds. The tournament was good fun. Just ask anyone who was at Pino's Pizza parlour on Saturday night (as long as they were with the Uni group). Marvelous singing and non-stop entertainment 'til 1:30 a.m., the staff left us in charge to lock up when we finished - all good clean fun. What about all the gossip? Well, I'm still waiting for the Studd report, something tells me it might not be coming this time. We wait in hope. The games? Well there certainly were plenty. On court the men's and women's first teams made the semi finals and lost. Simon and I discussed the format of the match reports and decided that we should mention that he averaged 20 points per game over the weekend including 29 against Cheetas, and I shot 5 three pointers against Yaks and 5 more in the semi final against Bulleen, but I told him that that's just boasting and we should just say that everyone played well, especially Bowlesy who didn't get reported for dunking during warm up. All in all, I think we should go back next year, although Dimitri's girlfriend Kristen (Kris-10) made me promise we wouldn't sing all those old T.V. themes again. Nah...

PROGRESSIVE DINNER : What a rage! We all had a ball. Which was just one of about 24 million words which start with "b". That wasn't the silliest competition I've ever seen but it was flippin' close. People would never enjoy something like that. By the way, Janet wants her little furry "bat" back, and Mick would like his pantry contents returned so he can have dinner. Well done Cathy, medium rare Trevor and Judy on the side.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Last edition's classic quotes were sensational and some will no doubt feature in the big end of season "quote off". It will be big! Stay tuned, and here's some more possibles. First from the North Melbourne - Sydney game...

Bill Palmer - "Reverse English of the glass - he liked that" (Carfino on the drive)

Bill Palmer - "Coach says "Oh no Bruce - Good shot Bruce - just like I taught you"" (Bruce Hultgren basket)

Bill Palmer - "You give him a little head and body fake"

Bill Palmer - "He must have a big down comforter he sleeps in- he likes that close sensation" (David Graham in traffic)

Bill Palmer - "You made that up Graeme - that's real cute"  
(Graeme McNaney's little rhyme)

Graeme McNaney - "Dillon won't miss from there - he does"

Bill Palmer - "Little backhand flipper that time - don't see many  
of those" (Ray Gordon lay up)

Bill Palmer - "I don't know how to describe that one - blah blah  
blah" (Tim Dillon basket)

Now three classics from the North Melbourne - Canberra game...

Bill Palmer - "Not a good percentage shot - unless it goes in"  
(Cottrell goes one on three)

Bill Palmer - "His hand would be up there another foot" (Willie  
Simmons skyhook)

Bill Palmer - "Bruce Palmer throwing a bit of spaghetti on his  
chalkboard there" (during a time out)

Bill Palmer - "He rebounds like a vacuum cleaner" (Tiny Pinder)

Finally from last weekend, Adel v. N Melb and West v. Sydney...

Graeme McNaney - "Couple of itty bitty little steps there"  
(Fisher travels)

Bill Palmer - "We saw a lot of jacks in the box there" (Dillon  
fakes out several people)

Bill Palmer - "The stats man fainted on that" (Wayne Carroll's  
block, steal and 3 pointer)

Graeme McNaney - "You can almost guarantee there's a fair chance  
these'll go in" (Al Green at the foul line)

Bill Palmer - "They're flying nothing but Lead Zeppelins from  
outside" (North Melb's shooting)

Bill Palmer - "That was another frap doodle - little hooker from  
behind the board" (Bennie Lewis basket)

Bill Palmer - "Talk about 8 foot fingers" (Alley oop to Ridlen)

Bill Palmer - "X ray eyes there - we don't know what he had a  
hold of" (Carfino fouls)

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Well that's all for this Edition. See you next time I get 10  
minutes and 20 match reports to kill...