

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

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Thought we'd do something different for a change in Dribbling Balls, so this edition we've got a big STOP PRESS at the start of the document. Perhaps we should just stop the press altogether...

STOP PRESS : MEN WIN MOE A GRADE, WOMEN RUNNERS UP IN MOE!!

More details next edition but in a weekend of surprises the men won the A grade section of the Moe tournament by 2 points while the women were unlucky to lose A grade by 3 points.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 20/6)

Uni 44 d. Melbourne Cannons 34

A game we needed to win to keep our finals hopes alive. We started with a zone press and immediately made several interceptions. Dieter, playing like a man inspired, set the pattern for an aggressive first half. Tim, Matt and Phil kept the ball alive under the offensive bucket. Clarkie was hotter than hot from 25 feet from the basket. Halftime scoreline - (fill in your own numbers - Ed.) We maintained our lead through the second half, but Phil, Scott and Tim suffered a terrible pounding from the opposition's 6'4" 16 stone centre who somehow thought the baseline was his possession. Young inexperienced referees compounded the problem. Anyway we won, and the margin was realistically more than the scoreline. Scott and Carey took over in the second half where Clarkie left off. A good team effort. Clarkie 16, Carey 10, Scott 7, Phil, Matt 4, Tim 2, Dieter 1.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun. 26/6)

Princes Hill 61 d. Uni 60

I don't know why I even bother to write a report on this game. We trailed, we caught up, we got ahead, we got more ahead, we got unbeatably ahead, we ended up with four on the court, we froze the ball, we threw it away four times in the last minute of the game, we lost. We were quite pissed off and some of us spat our collective dummies. I know I did. Great game by Brian Connors despite all this.

Brian 20, Rick 16, Les 10.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 27/6)

Uni 47 d. Casterton Diamonds 42

A huge win over the top team to make our win loss equation 6-4 at the conclusion of round 1 - finals here we come? Diamonds' big outside gunner popped in two quick buckets before Uni realized the game had commenced! Undeterred we applied our zone press and suddenly the interceptions and baskets appeared. Dieter, Carey and Clarkie were working hard, and Scholes the Lesser was a veritable octopus (that's what all the girls say - Ed.) in the second row of the zone press. Phil, Scott and Matt were doing well on the defensive boards and were able to generate several fast break opportunities. Phil was doing unbelievably well under

the offensive bucket (this is where I'm supposed to make some ridiculous Editorial comment - well forget it, the statement speaks for itself - Ed.) Score at half time 26-21. The opposition once again started well and scores were quickly just about even. We broke away again only to see a succession of outside baskets leave them trailing by one point with 3 minutes to go. Clarkie coming off the bench popped in a three pointer and Carey scored off a fast break and then made a great interception to seal the game. Clarkie's final effort to put one of the opposition through the wall just failing as the siren sounded. Overall a gutsy effort and hopefully a sign of things to come.

Carey 16, Phil 13, Clarkie 10, Dieter 6, Scott 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 29/6)

Uni 47 d. Monash 44

Well, the first 39 minutes or so of this game was just the warm up for the real exciting stuff. Lacking our big liabilities (Jane, Godding, Dillon, Morphy) we roared away to a 10-2 lead at the start of the game, only to forget to play offence for the last 12 minutes of the first half and go to the locker rooms with the score at 15-15. Yes folks, it was a real free scoring affair. The second half consisted of us getting behind and then in front a couple of times (with Les shooting well from the corner) before finally looking like going down for the count. Down 37-41 with 40 seconds to play, we were in just a tad of trouble. Never mind, plenty of time. J.C. hits a three pointer, Les knocks the ball away for a J.C. break and we're up 42-41. Dimitri is fouled for a one and one with 30 seconds left. Side ball we think - shoot 'em says Coops. Dimitri the Iceman hits both and we lead 44-41. Oops, Monash hit a 3 pointer and it's 44-44. Wait a second, J.C. is intentionally fouled, two shots and possession, scored tied, 14 seconds left. Two bricks later the score is still tied and we have possession from the middle. Seven seconds left, Dimitri is fouled for 1 and 1. Shoot 'em we all think. Shoot 'em says Coops. Dimitri hits the first, the second bounces back and Simon rebounds. Shoot it thinks Simon. Don't shoot it yells everyone. Simon passes it out. Half a second to go and Les launches one from the wing which falls and it's a big 3 point win. So there you go, the game's never over 'til it's thrown away. Keep this up and we'll get back in the four.

J.C. 13 (3x3), Les 13, Dimitri 6 (1x3), Xmas 6, SBG 4.

VBHBA C Grade Men (Thu. 30/6)

Uni 49 d. ??? 36

This is one of the more successful teams in the club. After winning the first seven games of the season, we suffered a slump and lost the last three. It was time to arrest our decline. The police would be proud of us. Coach T. Andrew quickly assessed the opposition as a side that would not like pressure so we ran the zone press. Johnson fired up early with a drive and 8 foot ??? (I intended a layup but somehow forgot to keep dribbling so I had to use a finger roll (?) to put the ball up - if you have a better

description for a one handed layup style push, insert it! Demonstration provided on request!) - well it went in. The press worried the opposition, and with the guards pushing wide we worked the ball inside - who says guards don't pass to forwards? Some very good passing between the posts despite a very physical defence. Half time saw us with a comfortable lead. A slow start to the second half allowed them to score a few but a time out solved the problem and we continued with the press and extended our lead. More good work inside backed up by the odd fast break and controlled passes. Highlight a very new form of "freeze". Our in ball from a very rare opposition basket, fast break down the court (ignore the bench) to the trail Larkin and swish. Then Dave Cunnington decides to steal off the in ball and drive, miss. Dave gets the boards, miss. Their centre gets the boards so Dave steals again for another drive and... miss, boards and miss, so Andrew Rogers tidies up. This used up 25 seconds on the clock, maybe Dave DID hear the bench! A good victory. Moses top scored with 13 (9/10 from the line, and don't ask which one missed), Dave C. shooting and driving for 11, Tim inside for 9, Rogers A 6, Larkin A, Johnson M. 4.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun. 3/7)

Uni 81 drew with Hawks 81

Easy win this, except we didn't. Well if you can't win you may as well draw. Keen readers will recall last weekend's dummy spit effort to throw away the game in the last minute. Well, we did it again. Sad really. Anyway, first half was highlighted by four consecutive three pointers from J.C. which caused the opposition to switch to a box and one. Rick and Les then cleaned up inside and we led comfortably 49-41 at half time. The second half saw good shooting from Morph and Haggis and some neat little reverses by Mal and then a good team effort in letting the game slip from unbeatable to a draw in next to no time. I can't wait for the next game.

J.C. 17, Tim 16, Riq, Les 14, Haggis 12, Mal 8.

CYMS A Grade Women (Sun. 3/7)

Uni 52 d. Oakleigh Wolves 31

Another 10 p.m. game! Now I know why Anne decided to hurt her ankle over the past two weeks! It's always a joy to travel down to Albert Park on a Sunday night in the middle of a Melbourne fog when the sign above the South Eastern Freeway says 6 and you've forgotten to wear your spencer. Still we had 5 players and so did they so someone was sure to get warm. Well it wasn't the blonde girl from their side who did her ankle 5 minutes into the game and left them with three...no...sorry, four. By that time we were all uninterested and the ref was letting the clock run for time outs and these were going for at least 2 minutes anyway. We had to rouse him from slumber to continue the game at times. He called one foul for the entire game and that was on Spike for having fluff on her singlet. An amazing performance. Apart from all that we actually played O.K. in patches and scored almost all

our points from fast breaks, which I suppose was hardly surprising. When they managed to get one player back in defence, we pulled it out and let Bernie shoot three pointers as she needed the practise. Carmel handed out some good assists, mainly to Spike whose shoes insisted on being on the end of some fast breaks, whether she liked it or not (sorry, private joke). Gillian was her usual speedy self leaving Tracey to clean up the boards (I'm serious... Spike and Carmel were usually down the other end of the court discussing perms and carpet shampooing!) A good team effort under adverse conditions. Special "above and beyond the call of MUBC" award to Kim for staying and scoring for us and remaining upright for the entire game, although I think being frozen in that position did help.

Bernie, Spike 18, Carmel, Gillian 6, Tracey 4.

CYMS A Grade Women (Sun. 10/7)

Uni 47 drew with St. Albans 47

Every time I ask Gillian where the team is that we are playing that night she says "Second - behind us". This of course puts the wind up us almost as much as J.C. saying he'd like to coach and we consequently play like...um...badly (Sorry, I couldn't think of anything that bad). Speaking of bad, St. Albans is a dreadful side, despite being a "Christian Youth Club" but they make up for their lack of skill with a zeal that John the Baptist would be proud of and some very attractively coloured singlets (without fluff...) We were Tracey-less but Leslie and Anne had returned from the dead, as we predicted, now that the 10 o'clock games were over, so we actually had a substitute on the bench for once, although this person had to do the scoring as well, a fact which was not utilised to its fullest as you can see from the score line. Anne had 7 fouls in the first 8 minutes, only 4 of which the referee saw so scorebench duty was looking mighty attractive to her at this point. (By the way, this was the same ref who called one foul for the whole game the previous week) We screamed away to a 15 point lead despite this, with Bernie and Anne tossing in the outside shots and everyone else filling in with the odd encouraging comment. Our defence was a rigid zone and they couldn't do anything about it. A time out and some inspirational talk from their coach (even we stopped talking about Carmel's new car to listen!) saw them come out and shred our zone to bits with some extraordinary shooting. Leslie told me "they can't keep this up" but they did and we were down by 2 or so at half time. The second half saw them take up where they left off so we bit the bullet and changed our defence after much soul searching. To keep everyone on the team happy we threw them a press falling to a 1-3-1 when we scored and a man to man the rest of the time. Consequently we had no idea what we were doing but oddly enough neither did they and we caught up a bit. In offence we drove and dumped off and missed the lay up and things like that but a couple of rebounds fell our way and we stayed in touch. A tech foul to them for kicking the ball out on the full saw Bernie put both free shots in and we scraped home with a

draw. I've actually made this game sound more exciting than it was for some reason but then who ever tells the truth in Dribbling Balls?

Spike 13, Bernie 11, Anne 8, Leslie 7, Carmel 6, Gillian 2.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 11/7)

Uni 51 d. Powerhouse 30

After a slow start our zone press forced powerhouse into numerous errors and we drew away to lead 21-10 at half time. Poor mental attitude saw Powerhouse cream us in the first 7 minutes of the second half. Slack D and wasting the ball on offence resulted in our lead being reduced to 24-20. Clarkie decided to win the ball game himself and went on a one man scoring spree (much like his trip to Europe by all reports - Ed.) We steadied and generated a few fast breaks to stretch the lead. A hot night for Clarkie with Dieter continuing his recent good form.

Clarkie 25, Phil 11, Carey 8, Dieter Marco Matt 2, Scott 1

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 13/7)

Nunawading 62 d. Uni 60

I wasn't going to report on this game but my psychoanalyst tells me that it's not good to keep these things bottled up inside me. Stuff him, I just went home and sulked for 5 days.

Graeme Jane 20, John Dillon 12.

FISHSHSH : Yes, well Fish isn't here with us any more, but sometimes I get the feeling he isn't with us any less either. We received this correspondence in the mail recently....

Dear B'ball Club,

Well here they are, all 7 final NBA games. Hope you enjoy them. I've taped some 'bits and pieces' onto the ends of most tapes to fill them in, which I hope you like and if you don't there's not much you can do about it. So there!! A couple of games come complete with adds but that shouldn't matter too much as you can always edit them out, oh Fish! Right! Yeah no problem. I wasn't able to tape the episode with the money song in it as it was on at the same time as game 7 what a bummer still I don't doubt that you'll be able to improvise in its absence. I've got ninety thousand pounds in my pyjamas.....STOP IT!! Anyway I'd best get these off I had a half written letter but I left that at home so I'll send it on soon. Hope everyone is well, I actually miss playing B'ball on cold winter nights and doing silly things with young gherkins. But maybe it's all for the better. Love to all,

Fishshshsh.....

New address... 611 D Lewis Rd.  
King of Prussia  
PA 19406 U.S.A.

Phone.... (215) 2657889 (H)  
(215) 9626200 (W)  
(Smith Klein etc)

Write ya bastards!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : Well, the finals of this competition approach with McNaney-wit-like speed. Here is another collection of classics. First from the North Melbourne v. Eastside game...

Bill Palmer - "Horrible shot that by Lucas, that was a prayer."

Bill Palmer - "Sharpe with one of his lateral jump shots."

Graeme McNaney - "Margin 14, no, 38-26, margin 12."

Bill Palmer (in reply) - "Arithmetic zero."

Bill Palmer - "Duncan with one of his flying frap doodles."

Graeme McNaney - "He's inside the basket and on his own"  
(Wayne Carroll in the key)

Bill Palmer - "Eastside beating themselves a bit." (a turnover)

Graeme McNaney - "A ground level 360" (Uthoff's spin move)

Bill Palmer - "He's had a good game - he hasn't done much" (Mark Griffin's contribution off the bench)

Bill Palmer - "The adrenalin starts pumping away and the blood goes into your ears. (the up tempo game)

Bill Palmer - "There's the pass, it's a lead Zeppelin though."  
(Uthoff to Lucas - almost)

Graeme McNaney - "Last time they met it was a big one point win to the Spectres."

And from the Brisbane v. Sydney game, some classics from Brisbane's Glen Palmer and co...

"He hit his head hard - it's padded though." (Carfino slides into the basket support)

"If this was rugby league he'd be in the head bin" (same play)

"Still no score, could be the lowest scoring game in NBL history." (after 1 minute)

"Three seconds left, they'll look for one quick shot." (Bullet's side ball at end of game, up by 15 points)

INTERVARSITY : Dribbling Balls will have all the low down on this year's teams and championships in the next edition. If we can get one out before going north and I can think of something to write. See you then...