

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL CLUB

DRIBBLING BALLS

VOL. 16 NO. 6

19/8/88

I can't think of a clever or inspirational opening to this Dribbling Balls, so we won't have one. This is it. Or maybe that should be "This isn't it". If you know, don't write in. There. I knew I could waste the obligatory first five lines, now for five pages...

MBA B Grade (Mon. 18/7)

Uni 65 d. Injeanious 32

The presence of ex-Carlton footballer David McKay, generally makes Injeanious a tough assignment. However his absence and only four opposition made this game a virtual non-event. Thus very little to report, except the return to form of Marco (after injury) and Scott B-W. Overall a good effort by all and a good percentage booster. (I want to know how a non-Uni person like David McKay can have his name mentioned almost every week in Phil's reports, even in the games in which he doesn't play. What is going here? You wouldn't see Robbie Flower mentioned gratuitously - Ed.)

Carey 18, Marco, Scott 15, Matt 12, Phil 7, (McKay 0 - Ed).

CYMS B Grade Men (Sun. 24/7)

Uni 52 d. Jetz 49

Yes, a Uni men's team has actually defeated a Jetz side! (Sorry John, I just had to put that in.) After a lacklustre first half during which we did everything we could to throw the ball away we were surprisingly down by only 4 or 5 points, thanks mainly to Nick's outside shooting, even though he was a forward - work it out for yourself. The second half saw a resurgent Uni team however. Having gone to a press we began to get some cheap baskets. Dave L hit two three pointers in a row and suddenly we were up and looking like champions (it'll never catch on). The rest of the half was a basket for basket affair with Matt (the lesser) hitting some nice baskets and Matt Devenish driving confidently. With Nick and Dave still hot outside we managed to ride the storm and finally won a game we deserved to win, without throwing it away as we usually do (like last week, but that's another story). Although the ref did his best to aid their cause as we played the last second about three times because he wasn't satisfied that Jetz had had a fair enough chance to pinch the game from us. Oh well, dare I say, "Roll on finals"? Maybe I shouldn't, Dave M will kill me when he gets back.

Nick 19 (1x3), Dave L 16 (4x3) Matt TL 6, Matt D 6, Steve 5.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 25/7)

Elwood 53 d. Uni 39

This was the sort of game that you'd get John Campbell to write a tacit, scathing match report for! (Are you kidding, he can't even spell tactic and skating - Ed.) The young lad being so busy running the Sports Union, I thought I'd have a go. A slow start

but after applying some pressure Uni cruise to the lead with everyone contributing to a good first half of basketball. Half time score saw us leading 28-22. Eight minutes into the second half we're leading 36-28, suddenly the shots stop dropping, poor passes and shot selection creep in. We don't score at all in the fourth quarter - Colliwobbles, choking!!! (David McKay playing loose man in the back line? - Ed.) Eleven points in the second half - our worst effort for the season. Well, there's always next week, I hope.

Clarkie 9 Scott 8, Marco 7, Carey 6 Dieter 4, Phil 3 Matt 2

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 27/7)

Uni 62 d. Keilor 43

A good percentage boosting win this, against a team we struggled to pull away from early in the season. It was a good team effort, with Mark Carroll putting in perhaps his best game for the season with 14 points from some great offensive garbage (is that a crack about Dribbling Balls? - Ed.) Simon also shot well, Sloop (you work it out - Ed.) was his usual athletic self and Col chipped in with the requisite number of frap doodles and some tremendous assist passing. Greg also did well on the boards.

SBG, Xmas 14, John D 11, Col 9, Les 6, Greg, Morph 4.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 3/8)

Varpas N d. Uni N-3

Very important to win this game. We didn't. Fortunately I didn't see it because Col and I had to stay home and make sure the chicken broth didn't boil over. Apparently Dimitri played an awesome offensive game and had 19 points. I think Col and I might show up next week.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 8/8)

Uni 39 d. Albatross 33

Good to have the machine back on the rails again after 2 mediocre performances. An unbelievably good first half characterized by good working of the ball in offence. Phil and Carey being right on target. Score at half time 22-11. Basically the game was over, but the opposition have been performing well and weren't about to retire gracefully. Three 3-pointers and a few poor calls by junior referees (and a surprise appearance by David McKay? - Ed.) and our lead had been reduce to 2 points. Unbelievably we steadies and set up our offence carefully! A great rebound by Tim, two long buckets by Scotty and the result was beyond doubt.

Scott 13, Phil 9, Carey 8, Tim 4, Dieter 3, Matt 2.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 10/8)

Uni 75 d. Sunbury 40

Our main worry here was that Sunbury wouldn't show up and we'd get a walk over and lose the chance to boost our percentage. Fortunately 7 midgets appeared wearing blue and gold and we duly trounced them, leading 17-2 after a couple of minutes and never looking back. Col and I showed up this week, but Dimitri shot 19

points again in an awesome performance. We've taught him well.
 Dimitri 19 (4x3), Xmas 14, Jane 11, Col 10, J.D. 9.

CYMS A Grade Men (Sun. 14/8)

Uni 81 d. Footscray Yaks 80

This game was a lot closer than the scoreline indicates. I know this statement is ridiculous, but I just had the urge to type it. Come to think of it the end of the game was ridiculous too, so who cares? That story later. In the first half John Swaaartz and Les took on the opposition while the rest of us stood around and offered polite applause at the appropriate times. They did well, leading us to a 47-46 half time score, Swaaartz having 22 phenomenal points and Les 14. In the second half defence made a brief appearance before returning from whence it had come, following which, Skippy hit a couple of outside shots, J.C. hit three long 3 pointers in three trips down the court and the Swaaartz scoring machine was still churning out the points. So with 30 seconds left we lead by 4, a foul is called, we go to the line for one and one. The shot is missed and Yaks rebound. Wait a minute they all yell, the wrong guy took the shot. Okay, we say, give us the ball back and the right guy can shoot now. Wait a minute say the refs, this isn't in the book, we have to have a three minute discussion by ourselves to work this out. Okay say the refs, we've been incompetent, and we absolve ourselves from blame by awarding a bench technical foul on Uni. We are stunned. Yaks have two shots and possession. Yaks make two shots. We lead by 2. Yaks score a basket. Scores level. Yaks are fouled while scoring this basket. Extra shot. Yaks make extra shot. We trail by one. We take ball into offence, give it to Swaaartz who dribbles around for a while and shoots a basket with 10 seconds left and we win by 1 point, capping a sensational game.

Swaaartz 34, Les 20, J.C. 14 (4x3), Skippy 6.

MBA B Grade (Mon. 15/8)

Uni 50 d. Kingsville 46

You know, sometimes a trip to the University library can be quite fruitful. There I am entering the Brownless at 9 a.m. one morning last week, when who should I espy but Clarkie the Lesser studiously devouring the latest textbook on penile transplants. "Clarkie," says I, "We need your talents on the basketball court - the next three weeks will make or break our season." So he turns up for one of those pain in the arse 5.50 games, increases our number to the basic five and we play the game of the season, knocking off one of the teams above us. Clarkie, well he scores 20 points including two 3 pointers. Anyway, an even first half, with Uni drawing away before half time when we get 3 or 4 interceptions from our zone press. Scoreline 26-21. Back to a 2-1-2 zone to save our legs and the game tightens up. The opposition's superior rebounding strength is causing some problems (David McKay has arrived? - Ed.) and they go to a narrow lead. Phil mouths off at the ref and the resultant technical foul increases their lead to 6. On with the zone press, and the

opposition lacking in good guards, are forced into some errors which see us in the lead with 2 minutes to go. We hold the ball for much of this time and it's a most satisfying win.

Clarkie 20, Phil 11, Carey 10, Scott 5, Matt 4.

VBA Div 2 (Wed. 17/8)

Uni 54 d. Broadmeadows 49

The result of this game was never in a serious amount of doubt. More than a couple of times. We started in typically good fashion booming away to a 10 point lead against questionable man to man defence. Mark Carroll was doing a great job hustling around on the boards and 1 second before half time we led by 15 points. At half time we led by 12, 29-17 thanks to a miracle brick from the opposition which had the temerity to drop. In the second half we stretched our lead to 15 again with 15 minutes to play as Graeme made a couple of nice inside moves, but it was 12 with 12 minutes to play, 6 with 6 minutes to play, 3 with 3 minutes to play, and the final result was looking a bit interesting if this linear relationship persisted. Our inability to buy a basket against a zone defence was a major contributing factor, along with general relaxation in defence. With a minute to go scores were level. A J.C. three pointer and assist to Mark Carroll for the layup finally put the issue beyond reasonable doubt, and we won by 5. Pity, we should have won by 20.

Mark 17, Graeme 13, J.C. 8.

MOE TOURNAMENT : As indicated in the last edition the men won A grade down at Moe this year, but that was not the only highlight by any stretch of the imagination. The women's A grade side lost the grand final by 3 points in a hard fought game 35-32, highlighted by some fantastic long range shooting by Bernie who made 4 three pointers at a crucial time to keep us in contention and win the grand final MVP award. The women's C grade teams also played exceptionally well, making the semi finals only to lose by the narrowest of margins. But let's be fair, it was the A grade men who captured the imagination of this small country town in a rags to riches display which for quality was rivalled in degree only by the amount of bullshit contained in this current sentence.

Highlights for the A grade men included sensational shooting by Haggis in our opening game against Sixers which we lost by about 2 points. Then in our second game rout of Floaters (CYMS A Grade team) there was an omni-dimensional, rim hugging, sky walking, take off beyond the foul line, through traffic slam dunk from Bowlesy that they're probably still talking about in Moe to this day. Then in our third game when all was lost as we were 4 down with less than a minute to play J.C. hit 2 three pointers to snatch victory and a chance of the semis. Then we scraped into the semis by less than 1 percentage point as the two other teams involved kept a 4 point split in their score line - a 5 point result and we were out. The semi final saw us heavily favoured to

lose against a hot Waverley side, but steady play saw us defy the odds and win convincingly by a point or so. The grand final we faced Sixers, our conquerors of the first round, and were widely tipped to be creamed. A close first half saw Haggis again shooting well for 8 points and Brian crashing the boards. We also had Nick "A Grade" Wade hitting two clean outside shots keeping us in the fight to only trail 22-24 at half time. The second half was a tight contest and could have gone either way. Dragan continued his good shooting form with good work outside, Bowlesy was awesome around the boards and J.C. had some shooting touch again hitting a pair of three pointers to put us in the lead. Rick who had been quietly amassing 4 fouls came off the bench with a couple of minutes to go to hit 7 points, including a three point play off a set move for a side ball to put the result beyond doubt. Great win for the team 53-49, with J.C. winning the grand final MVP award by sucking up to the refs more than anyone else. Top coaching effort from Henry who never gave up on us, even when most of us had.

J.C. 14, Haggis 12, Rick, Dragan 7, Brian 5, FF24, Nick 4.

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS : Or what was known in the good old days as Intervarsity (or nicknamed I.V. after the most effective way to get alcohol into your system) are on in a week's time. Sydney are hosting in Port Macquarie (where did they get an idea like that?), and I was going to write a big expose on it in this edition. But I've run out of time. So here's a brief precis. The men's team is Trevor Andrew, Scott Blair-West, Warwick Bray, John Campbell, Tim Morphy, Mark Sheehan, John Swaaaartz, Dimitri Taylor and Scott Webber. Henry Cooper is coach and Dave Liddle is manager. Hugh Sandie has a broken arm and Matt Miller has a broken foot. We won't start favourite to win, but who gives a rat's arse? The women's team is Sally Bickerton, Fiona Bird, Narelle Frohling, Rebecca Isaacs, Kim Jachno, Debbie Kool, Tania Luders, Sam Macleod, Joanne Storer, Lisa Swaaartz and Donna Watt. Robert Sweetten (three e's two t's) is coach, Gillian Payne (no t's) is manager, and Jackie Lee tells me that Melbourne and NSW will playoff in the women's grand final. So there. More details when it's all said and done.

CLASSIC COMMENTARY : The NBL finals are upon us, so we expect some pressure comments to go with the basketball. The first selection is from the North Melbourne - Perth semi...

Bill Palmer - "That looks promising - it isn't - it is - it is."
(Pinder's move to the hoop)

Bill Palmer - "Cal caught in the land of the giants." (Bruton)

Bill Palmer - "Pinder with another vacuum cleaner rebound."

- Graeme McNaney - "Mr Electrolux - sweeping it off the boards"
(Another Pinder rebound)
- Graeme McNaney - "They've got to get the margin back under
single figures" (Perth at half time)
- Bill Palmer - "Three on two - they practise it a million times
in training." (North Melbourne fast break)
- Bill Palmer - "When I played it was illegal for guys that big to
shoot from out there." (Dillon long bomb)
- Graeme McNaney - "Torrance - nice shot - missed"
- Bill Palmer - "This'll be a slam - do it James" (Crawford)
- David Christison - "There's not much you can do about that
without a shotgun" (Another North basket)
- And now from the grand final, North Melbourne vs. Canberra...
- Graeme McNaney - "Bit of a frap doodle there by Dalgleish"
- Bill Palmer - "He was up there skying towards the basket"
(Cottrell on a tip in)
- Bill Palmer - "It was Dufelmeier's really pressure cooking
shooting" (that won game one)
- Bill Palmer - "The chemistry is a bit ragged at the moment"
(North's offence breaks down)
- Graeme McNaney - "Willie Simmons was back under the basket, he
hasn't been that far on his holidays" (Dillon
makes a long 3 pointer)
- Bill Palmer - "Fairly difficult to be not impressed by that"
(Crawford's dunk in the slam competition)
- Bill Palmer - "That's been their last 3 trips down the basket"
(North fails to score)
- Bill Palmer - "That was a real ugly shot" (Dillon's 3 point
attempt)
- Bill Palmer - "Willie won't miss it - yes he does" (inside shot)
- Graeme McNaney - "A scramble of arms and legs and things like
that" (holding foul on Graham)
- Bill Palmer - "Going for the digitalis" (Bruce Palmer's last
time out)